

Limpley Stoke

news

Issue No 24

March 2020



Hop Pole news from LSPC chairman

As many of you may be aware from reading my recent piece both here and on the website (limpleystoke.org), the Hop Pole has been put up for disposal by the Wellington Pub Company. So far, I have had lots of interest from people who want to support our community attempt to run the Hop Pole. Offered skills include: solicitor, architect, accountant, quantity surveyor, IT expert, pub management ... and more.

All this is really great news in that a core team can be developed going forward. However, we still need someone to take the lead and act as chairperson of the Hop Pole initiative. As chair of the Parish Council, I have asked PC members to lean in wherever possible, but sadly we are not well-placed to take the lead as we have numerous other tasks across the village and beyond. **Therefore, it is essential that we find someone who is willing to take this on.**



This will not be an easy task and will require considerable leadership and organisational skills, real drive, fundraising capacity, managerial expertise, organisational excellence, marketing skills, a willingness to learn the circuitous route to pub success and, most of all, I would anticipate, a sense of humour and enormous patience. The challenge should not be underestimated but, if we want a working pub, then we really do need someone to volunteer to lead the charge.

The Parish Council will make sure that our nomination is put forward by **March 6** but after that (preferably before) we would really like someone to have taken on the mantle to put a deliverable bid together

with appropriate funding and planning.

This will be required by July 24, so time is short. As a parting note, we really do need someone to step forward to take charge of our drive to secure the Hop Pole for Limpley Stoke. The Parish Council will support whoever does so and lend a hand wherever it can. We also know that Wellington Pub Company is keen to work with the village as a bidder and will make sure the building is structurally sound before the sale.

Please contact me directly on antgennard@icloud.com if you think you have the skills, drive, time and patience to lead the Hop Pole initiative.

*Anthony Gennard, Chairman,
Limpley Stoke Parish Council*

Mini show & AGM



Freshford & District Horticultural Society AGM and Mini Show on Wednesday,

March 4 promises a warm welcome, wine, nibbles and a quiz. Mini show classes include: bowl of bulbs; spring flowers and foliage arrangement; selection of garden vegetables; and photograph under the heading of 'weather watchers'.

Freshford Memorial Hall, 7.30pm.
Members free / visitors £3.

Making our village a safer place



Following a meeting in January where I discussed options for Woods Hill with hill residents, the Parish Council is pursuing a plan to achieve the permanent closure of Woods Hill at its junction with the A36. We have considered all sensible options: from one way up, one way down, limited closure, residents' access only, better speeding restrictions, traffic calming, and measuring traffic every day.

However, none of those solutions will prevent the possible serious injury or death of somebody turning right or left either into or out of the junction from Woods Hill to the A36.

This has to be a priority, followed closely by the quality of life of those people living on Woods Hill, who are now facing **over 900** cars, vans, trucks, lorries, caravans, and even a coach, **a day** traversing up and down the hill. The option to do nothing is not considered sensible.

So far, the majority of people have been really supportive of this initiative. However, we understand that for some it will be a bit more inconvenient, meaning a few extra minutes to travel to Bradford on Avon when going down the A36 or coming from Lower Stoke/Bradford on Avon and having to turn left at Brassknocker lights. We think this is a price worth paying to save someone's life or to save people from serious injury at the A36/Woods Hill junction, or indeed from traffic speeding up or down the hill, particularly at night when it is very difficult to see people walking along the road.

As a Parish Council, we are now seeking to achieve an initial temporary closure to enable us to measure possible increased traffic flow along Lower Stoke. However, costs may preclude this option. We do anticipate some more traffic in that area but have already put in place plans to mitigate it and have asked Wiltshire Council and Highways England to support us in:

- changing the timing of the Brassknocker Hill traffic lights to allow more time for traffic turning right towards Winsley Hill
- our traffic calming and prioritisation initiatives along Lower Stoke, including by the old station and along Crowe Hill/Crowe Lane
- traffic calming in Upper Stoke on Midford Lane
- our plans to install village entrance signs/gateways.

Ultimately, we have three outcomes we want to secure by closing the Woods Hill/A36 exit permanently:

- preventing any potential loss of life or serious injury either at the A36/Woods Hill junction or as a result of speeding through-traffic traversing Woods Hill
- creating a much calmer, tranquil area from the top of Woods Hill all the way down past the park to the Hop Pole
- in the longer term, securing a beautiful village centre at the Hop Pole that we can all be proud of.

“ This is a price worth paying to save someone's life ... ”

During the proposed temporary closure (if achieved) and the period from now, we of course welcome additional views. If we achieve a temporary closure first, we will collate and share the data that we observe regarding any increased traffic along Lower Stoke.

At the same time we will be pursuing the mitigation measures and driving towards the really positive outcomes that will change this village for the better when it comes to traffic.

*Anthony Gennard, Chairman,
Limpley Stoke Parish Council*

Recycling collection changes

Wiltshire Council is changing the way recyclable materials are collected so that more can be placed in the blue-lidded bin.

Look out for a letter in the post early in March about the changes and new collection day.

Collections will remain **FORTNIGHTLY** but from **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11:**

- blue-lidded bins
- black boxes and
- garden waste (*chargeable*)

will be emptied on the same day, using new recycling collection vehicles.

Download a **collection calendar** and **check dates** online for your postcode area at wiltshire.org.uk/rubbish-and-recycling.



From **MARCH 11**, you can recycle: cans, tins, aerosols, paper, cardboard, cartons, clean foil, plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays in the **blue-lidded bin**



Black box: glass bottles and jars, and bagged textiles only

DOMESTIC WASTE will continue to be collected fortnightly on **Mondays**

Climate Emergency Meeting

You are invited to attend a **community meeting on MONDAY, MARCH 23 at Freshford Memorial Hall at 7pm**. The objective of the meeting is to build community-defined local initiatives in relation to addressing the climate emergency. The point of the meeting – to be facilitated by the BANES sustainability and community teams – is to identify community projects that can be taken forwards with the community working together, supported by Parish Councils.

The purpose is:

- to allow everyone to have a voice
- to consider all associated matters, such as the local environment
- to define local projects to take forwards
- to work as a community across parishes, not just in Freshford.

Climate crisis talk

The informal **'Climate Crisis'** chats (*supported by Limpley Stoke Parish Council*) continue this month at the **Inn at Freshford's upstairs room** from 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25
Local solutions to reverse ecological decline, by the aptly-named ecologist, Dave Green.

If you'd be willing to share your expertise at a future talk, email environment.lspc@gmail.com.

WASTE COLLECTIONS

Plastic / cardboard:
Monday, March 2

Domestic waste/ black box:
Monday, March 9

From March 11

Plastic / cardboard
Black box
Green waste

Wednesday, March 11
Wednesday, March 25

Domestic waste only
Monday, March 23

Door-to-door callers

Wiltshire police are warning residents to beware of door-to-door callers, known as 'Nottingham Knockers', who arrive in a group by minibus and stay in local hostels, before targeting a specific area. They sell household items but their ID is fake, which means they are peddling without a licence. The concern is that they may target vulnerable elderly residents.

Should you receive a visit, police advice is to politely decline to buy anything, close the door and dial police non-emergency number 101.

An update from our local MP

Often there are issues that arise around the country that, despite not being within the constituency, will have a significant knock-on effect. Last month we heard that the controversial Bath Clean Air Zone (CAZ) has now been approved, which will undoubtedly improve the air quality within Bath city centre.

However, I have been contacted by a lot of constituents about the fact the clean air zone does not necessarily reduce emissions as a whole but simply changes where they are emitted and has a 'redistribution' effect on the traffic that would otherwise travel through Bath. This is a concern for villages and towns in close proximity to the city and also on major arterial routes which avoid Bath.

Having met with residents of Limpley Stoke at the end of last year and been shown the existing traffic issues the village faces from the A36, I am determined to ensure that in both the short and long term, villages like Limpley Stoke are protected from potential increases in rates of traffic. I will be working closely with local councillors to ensure that Bath's clean air zone does not have an adverse impact on Limpley Stoke residents.

We all have a duty to commit to doing what we can to assist with climate change but holistic solutions for everyone which do not simply move the problem I am sure are the answer.



Photo © Chris McAndrew

Michelle Donelan
FOR BATH AND THE VILLAGES OF LIMPLEY STOKES & FRESHFORD

Support available for carers

Carer Support Wiltshire is a local charity which supports unpaid carers. Becoming a carer can affect personal finances, social life, education and employment, as well as general health and well-being. If someone relies on you for help with household tasks, administering medication, providing personal care or emotional support, find out more about how Carer Support Wiltshire can help you in your caring role by visiting www.carersupportwiltshire.co.uk or calling 0800 181 4118.



Urgent call for tree planting space

The Woodland Trust is offering free saplings for delivery in November. However, as there is no available community space in Limpley Stoke, the Parish Council is asking whether you have any spare land which could be reforested to help the planet. Additionally, if every household in Limpley Stoke and Freshford were to plant one tree, there would be 530 more trees in the valley.

Why plant trees/native hedges?

- To replace our local ash trees, **70 per cent** of which are now threatened by ash dieback. The character of the Limpley Stoke valley will change forever as trees die.
- To encourage wildlife: native trees/hedging support many birds, insects and mammals threatened with extinction, such as hedgehogs.
- To preserve our rare species of bats: our valley supports seven species and is a designated EU special conservation area because of these endangered mammals. Each tree is host to an important ecosystem which provides habitat and food.
- To help combat the climate crisis. Due to massive worldwide deforestation, and the rise of fossil fuel pollution, it is important to plant trees to absorb CO₂. Climate change exacerbates pests and disease.

If you can take a pack of trees or native hedging, please contact environment.lspc@gmail.com. Volunteers can help with planting, if needed.

What's On



Village social hour

Friday, March 20
Limpley Stoke Village Hall
7.30-8.30pm

Pop along for a catch-up and a game or two. Bring your own booze.

That's all folks!

Limpley Stoke's season of film nights has now come to an end but will return in the autumn.

Useful numbers

Transport Link 07714 16 92 16
Power supply emergency 105
Police (non-emergency) 101
Bradford on Avon Police:
Andrew MacLachlan
0752 897 2236
andrew.maclachlan@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

Wiltshire Unitary Councillor:
Johnny Kidney 07805 236 480
johnny.kidney@wiltshire.gov.uk

Editor: Limpley Stoke News
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LSPC Clerk: Bryony Kohn
01225 723749
bryony.kohn@gmail.com

MyWiltshire app: potholes, road issues, blocked drains, grit bins
www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywiltshire-online-reporting or
phone 0300 456 0105



Mobile library monthly visit:
Thursday: March 19
10.00-10.25am
Uplands Close, Midford Lane

Website: www.limpleystoke.org

 [limpleystokeparish](https://www.facebook.com/limpleystokeparish)
 [@LimpleyFolk](https://twitter.com/LimpleyFolk)



Sunday, March 8 at 10am
Wiltshire Music Centre, Ashley Road,
Bradford on Avon, BA15 1DZ

FREE family event with hands-on workshops, demonstrations and activities that explore the links between music and science to engage and inspire young minds.

www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk/mysciencefair / 01225 860 100.

Conserving Pele's football boots

Wednesday, March 25
Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre, 10.30–11.30am

If you're a football fan, you may be interested to learn that the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre's conservation lab looks after more than just books and paper.

Conservator Kayleigh Spring will talk about the rare opportunity she had to work on a pair of football boots worn by Pele, one of the world's greatest footballers. Admission £4. Booking advisable.



Photo © WSHC

Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre,
Cocklebury Road, Chippenham, SN15 3QN
01249 705500 / localstudies@wiltshire.gov.uk.