



Oyez

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Village Website: www.west-stafford.com



Introduction: Your village needs you! As mentioned in previous newsletters, there are a couple of items which we need to bring your attention to. They are shown below under “Neighbourhood Plan Open Session” and “Village Parish Meeting and CIL funds”. Neither of these should take up too much of your time, but both are your opportunity to shape the look and feel of the village for future years, so deserve attention and input. Please take time to have a look. Welcome to April’s newsletter!

Future Events:

Saturday, 13th April - Bockhampton and District Horticultural Association (BDHA) Spring Show: The BDHA Spring Show is always a good indication that spring has finally arrived (famous last words!). The show will be open between 2:00 and 3:30pm for members and non-members to view entries and to see the prize giving. However, for those members submitting entries to the Show, the doors will open for staging between 9:30 and 10.30am. Members will also be able to collect their plug plant for the Castle Gardens growing competition. If you need a schedule of the show please contact the Show Secretary, Jeanne Mousley at jeannemousley@aol.com. If you would like to become a member or need to renew membership, then please contact the Membership Secretary, Linda Kemp on 01305 753639 or lindakemp6251@hotmail.com. Full membership is still only £7.50 for the year.

Saturday, 20th April – Neighbourhood Plan Open Session in the Village Hall: A reminder that you currently have until **Friday, 3rd May** to make any comments on the proposed Neighbourhood Plan. Hopefully, you will have seen notices regarding the consultation period, including the banner outside the Village Hall and a flyer through your door. As previously mentioned, there will be an Open Session on Saturday, 20th April where further details / information can be obtained about the Neighbourhood Plan. So far, there have been *very few responses*, so please make every effort to either attend the session or respond to the Plan.

Friday, 26th April - Village Parish Meeting and CIL funds: This will be held from 7:30pm in the Village Hall. The Village Parish Meeting will offer the only opportunity to vote on how the remaining Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds are spent. As a reminder, we currently have over £1,100 of funding available to us to use for projects within the village. If you have any suggestions on how this remaining CIL money could be spent, no matter how small, then please email them to Jen Scarff (West Stafford Parish Clerk) at mutley177@gmail.com, prior to the Parish Meeting. Please include how much the suggestion would cost and please provide more than one estimate.

Needle Felting Workshops – Dorset Falconry Park: A reminder of the Needle Felting Workshops being held by Coralie (“Cogs”) McGown at Dorset Falconry Park. The themed workshops are priced at £60, available for over 14-year-olds and include a sandwich for lunch, drinks and access to the Park. The themes and dates are:

- Owls – Saturday, **20th April**; Birds – Friday, **31st May**; Woodland animals – Saturday, **29th June**; Unicorns & Dragons – Saturday, **20th July**; Halloween – Saturday, **19th October**; Christmas – Saturday, **26th October**.

Additionally, there will be 3 x 3-hour sessions for 10–13-year-olds on 29th May, 14th August and 24th August. These sessions are £40 and allows an adult entry to the Park (additional children from the same family are £30). Themes for these are to be agreed but will be of a cute / trendy nature. For more details including how to book, please contact Cogs on cogs72@btinternet.co.uk or [07971 923396](tel:07971923396) or contact the Dorset Falconry Park at enquiries@xtremefalconry.co.uk or [01305 250710](tel:01305250710).

Saturday, 6th July - West Stafford Summer Fete: This will be held in the grounds of Talbothays Lodge, with the kind permission of Jeanne Mousley, running between 12 noon and 4:00pm. Music will be supplied by 'Milk & Two', with food and bar facilities provided by The Wise Man Inn. There will also be a dog show. We already have some volunteers, but more are needed. If you could spare some time to help during the afternoon, then please contact Jacquie Walton on 07968 633834 or jacquie.walton@outlook.com.

Other news:

Knightsford Parish Council (KPC): Further to my notice in last month's newsletter regarding the lack of West Stafford Parish Councillors currently; if you are considering this role the website below may be of interest. It will provide you with details on what the role of Councillor typically entails and the commitment expected. Hopefully you will find this useful: <https://www.local.gov.uk/be-councillor/becoming-councillor-0>.

Housing Development off Wynd Close - Update: As mentioned last month, the Planning Appeal for 14 homes accessed off Wynd Close is ongoing. The Planning Appeal Reference is APP/D1265/W/23/3317274 and can be viewed on the Planning Inspectorates' website. However, please note that there will no longer be a Public Hearing, instead the decision regarding the Appeal will be made following written representation.

Pilates Classes, West Stafford Village Hall, Thursday evenings between 6:30pm and 7:30pm: Please see the below from Angela Cuff regarding Pilates classes in the village:

I have practised Stott Pilates for almost 20 years and have a passion to pass on my love of these highly effective exercises to anyone I can! I am qualified to Level 3 mat Pilates instruction with full insurance cover. When going to the gym fills you with dread and you keep putting it off, small, focused, professional local Pilates mat classes are the answer. Pilates is the perfect balance to other forms of exercise such as gardening, walking, running or cycling. It provides a low intensity workout which mobilises your joints, producing a larger range of movement. Pilates focuses on problem areas such as tight hamstrings and quads, weak glutes and inflexibility of the lower back, thoracic (upper back), shoulders and neck. I'd love to hear from you if you are considering a class, if you want to know if it's for you or you have any questions about the classes. There will be a solution for everyone so get in touch now and take the first step to better posture, increased mobility and a toned profile. Please contact Angela at Angela.cuff@outlook.com or on 07869 515519 if interested.

St Andrew's Church news:

The Church AGM is on **Wednesday, 17th April** at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church; refreshments will be from 7:00pm and all are welcome. There are vacancies for Churchwardens and an Electoral Roll Officer as well as committee members. Please contact Revd Cora or Janet for details. The Church thanks Jill Shepherd who, after many years, is retiring as Electoral Roll Officer.

Also, please help yourselves to the **hedge prunings** in the graveyard at the top of the village, before they are disposed of. They would be ideal for pea or bean sticks in the garden.

April's Services:

Coffee will be from 10:45am, with services starting 11:15am.

- **Sunday, 7th April** – Matins
- **Sunday, 14th April** – Holy Communion
- **Sunday, 21st April** – Matins
- **Sunday, 28th April** – Holy Communion

The next **Coffee & Chat** will be on **Saturday, 20th April** from 10:00am to noon. All are welcome.

Home Communion: If you are unable to go to church and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact Rev. Cora Yarren on 262421 or email revd.cora.yarren@gmail.com.

Morning Prayer: is every Tuesday at 9:30am. All are welcome.

Private Prayer & Reflection: the church is open every day from 10:00am – 4:00pm.

Church Contacts: Team Vicar - Rev. Cora Yarren (Tel: 262421), Secretary – Janet Ranger-Dennis (Tel: 07752 634773)

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