

VILLAGE WORKDAY

The Village workday - scheduled for 14th Feb - has been postponed. We hope to plan another Workday in the summer, so don't put those wellies away just yet!

A Cycle Way for Sticklepath

You may have seen in the local paper my idea for a cycle/shared way between Sticklepath and Okehampton. This is in the early stages of development at the moment. I have asked for a feasibility study from Sustrans, the national cycleway development charity, which will look at the various options and give guidance on how to achieve this. We have been lucky enough to be given a grant from Okehampton Primary Care Group to fund the feasibility study. I will need to set up a working group to further this project. Anyone interested can contact me on Cllr.Lynn.Daniel@westdevon.gov.uk

STICKLEPATH PARISH COUNCIL

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NEWSLETTER— 2021

Although 2021 hasn't been the start we anticipated (what with lockdown 3.0), it's wonderful to be able to live in a village and still be able to get out in the great outdoors and explore the beauty that surrounds us. The increased sense of community that's been experienced, not just here but throughout the country with so many people stepping up to help each other has been tremendous.

Please take a minute to read through our little Newsletter which will hopefully bring you up to date with plans and general info for Sticklepath in 2021.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As we all continue to persevere through the third lockdown, I would like to highlight the availability of the Sticklepath Hardship Fund which can offer financial support to those in need of some help during these tough times (details overleaf).

Following the closure of the Finch Foundry, I can report mixed news; the National Trust have confirmed it plans to reopen from 1st April but without the shop and café which will unfortunately remain closed.

The National Trust have also committed to looking after the Foundry and the machinery irrespective of income from visitors and members.

On a more personal note I'd like to commend the excellent work being done by Cllr Lynn Daniel in promoting new cycle links in the area.

The Parish Council has created a schedule of all its green spaces, including all the verges around the village. We will shortly be launching a village consultation on how we could improve and manage these spaces so that we can adopt a Management Plan. There are many factors to consider including effective weed control, maintaining visibility splays, taking opportunities for flower planting and re-wilding where possible, looking for environmentally friendly solutions and ensuring there are cost effective maintenance regimes. There is a balance to strike between ensuring the village is well kept while taking opportunities to improve biodiversity through, for example, re-wilding and flower planting. Consultation Boards will be erected in the village hall and posted on the village website and social media; we hope to start the process in early Spring with a view to adopting the Management Plan by the summer. **Please do get involved and have your say.**

Cllr Peter Grubb

BEATING THE BOUNDS

Is it really 7 years ago since we last walked the 8-mile long Parish boundary of Sticklepath?

Plans are underway for this 7-yearly event to take place this summer, on a date to be confirmed (and Covid restrictions allowing).

Would you like to be involved? We are looking for as many people to help out with tasks before, during and after the event. There are numerous roles, such as: publicity, refreshments, advance preparation of the route, group leaders.

Please contact us if you are interested in being part of the team or are curious to find out more about the event. In the meantime, look out for updates on the village website (www.sticklepath.org) and The Beacon.

Neil and Lois Rowlands 01837 840367 or loisneil98@john-lewis.com

Don't forget to check out the village website at

www.sticklepath.org

where you'll find lots more information about what goes on in the village

St Mary's Sticklepath – a Heritage Centre

The redevelopment of St Mary's to provide a Village Heritage Centre is about to happen. The church will remain in use but some pews are being removed to provide flexible space and Heritage displays. St Mary's will become a place of interest, education as well as worship.

When it is completed, later in the Spring, visitors will be able to hear an audio presentation of what the very first priest may have thought when he came to the small hamlet. Visitors will also hear from one of the commissioners who was responsible for closing of the chantry in 1548. There will be a local lady who was a Quaker but who had been 'convinced' by Rev John Wesley on our White Rock. The visual displays will also show the village through the ages, and will reflect the religious themes emerging alongside local agriculture, industry and the village as it is now . The garden will be redeveloped to be both attractive and inspirational

We can't complete the project without a lot more help. In fact, the small grant we have thus far was dependent on community involvement…. and then came Lockdowns !

So, how can you get involved and help ?

We need people with even more ideas as the project can develop further. We need 6 local people to record the scripts. We will need people to help with the physical work inside and outside. However, owing to the restrictions we will have more costs. So we are looking for donations – another £4,000 is a realistic target.

If you can help in any way contact Carol Johns 840822 or Derek Moore 840316 or if you fancy joining a Zoom talk on Thursday 25th Feb at 6.45pm contact them. You could make a donation (for example, through: **justgiving.com Sticklepath**)

By way of another taster. We've looked at old plans and there used to be buildings and a pig sty in front of St Marys; hiding it from the road. The Diocese and Dartmoor National Parks now want us to organise test-pits in the garden before we develop it. There might be interesting historical features or artefacts which add more understanding of the village through the ages. Test pit digging can be really exciting, taking maybe a day to complete. We welcome any support given to the whole St Mary's Project as we emerge from restrictions.

STICKLEPATH LOCKDOWN

Sticklepath Parish Council would like to remind residents that we are available to help out during and after this latest lockdown. If you need help with shopping, to collect medicines, or have a specific need caused by your lockdown experience please get in touch with a member of the Parish Council and we will assist where we can. Councillor contact details can be found on the back page of this Newsletter.

We also continue to run the Coronavirus Hardship Fund – a fund available for those in financial need where problems have been caused by Covid 19. The fund can help towards, for instance, buying groceries, feeding children at home during lockdown, and fuel costs. If you have any other need which we may be able to help with, it's worth discussing it with us. For any questions concerning this fund or to apply, please contact Councillor Ali Cruse on 840070

Please respect social distancing when you are out and about. Sticklepath has been able to remain relatively safe during this past year – let's not put that at risk. Stay home where possible and remember

FACE-HANDS-SPACE.