

Limpley Stoke

March 2024



Issue No 68

news

Funding success: Hop Pole future looks rosy

The Hop Pole team are delighted to announce the second share issue rolled over the finishing line just ahead of the deadline, raising over £150,000. As a result, the management committee have declared the share issue live.

A huge thank you to everyone who invested in this important second round. Special thanks to all those people in the USA, Australia, elsewhere overseas and across the UK who may not be able to visit the Hop Pole but still got behind the campaign.

The team are now as confident as they can be that the Hop Pole will reopen in 2024. Some pop-up events are planned in the pub for the spring and summer, ahead of, hopefully, its autumn reopening.

Spreading the word: leaflet drop volunteers needed

Invaluable support has already been received from neighbouring villages, but willing volunteers are also needed to deliver leaflets to houses in Bathampton, Combe Down, Westwood and any other suggested local communities.

If you'd be happy to get involved in helping out with leaflet-dropping, please email volunteers@savethehoppole.org.



Meet Michelle Donelan, MP

Our local MP, the Rt Hon Michelle Donelan, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, is holding a 'Meet Michelle' event on **Friday, March 22** at **Limpley Stoke Village Hall** in Middle Stoke from 4.30 to 6.30pm.

Michelle intends these events to be a useful opportunity for her to hear your thoughts and concerns directly. If you would like to come along and raise an issue with Michelle, please do drop in.

National Highways address A36 safety issues

A public meeting was organised by Michelle Donelan MP in September 2022 in response to the many complaints she had received about local A36 traffic issues. Wiltshire councillor, Johnny Kidney, was also in attendance.

National Highways officers agreed at the meeting to investigate the provision of a safe pedestrian / cyclist crossing on the A36 at or near the Midford Lane junction.

Residents had also called for a reduction in the A36 speed limit from 40mph to 30mph to prevent drivers speeding between Brassknocker Hill and Church Lane / Midford Lane junctions.

Ms Donelan has now submitted the following update.

“Last Friday [Feb 16], I met with National Highways again following the public meeting I organised in Limpley Stoke Village Hall, where residents voiced their

serious concerns about pedestrians being able to cross the A36 at Midford Lane, and this is something I have been working on with Cllr Johnny Kidney.

National Highways took me through three proposals for a better, safer crossing. I urged them to now work at pace to finalise details



and costings of the proposals with a quantity surveyor, and I hope that some solid proposals will be available to share with the community within the next few months.

This is a step forward for the village, it has taken some time and there is still work to be done but I will keep pushing to see what you asked for delivered.

If you would like to arrange a surgery appointment with me or need my help, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me by email at michelle.donelan.mp@parliament.uk or by calling 01249 704465.”

*The Rt. Hon Michelle Donelan MP
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture,
Media and Sport*

Church Lane speed limit

A review of the 30mph speed limit on Church Lane has now been completed and permission given to reduce it to 20mph. The total cost will be £5,500, with a contribution of £1,000 from Wiltshire Council.

A traffic regulation order is the next step, on which the public will be able to give their views. If no substantive objections are forthcoming, the alteration can come into force. All roads in Limpley Stoke and Freshford will then be covered by 20mph speed limits.

Road closed by flood damage

Staples Hill / The Hill in Freshford is closed to all traffic due to the road surface having been badly damaged by flood water.

The road, which is closed from outside The Inn at Freshford, is due to reopen on Saturday, March 2.

The No 94 bus route will be disrupted while the road remains closed. For temporary timetable details, contact Libra Travel on 01373 812255 or email info@libratravel.co.uk

Canal closed for repairs to leak

The Canal & River Trust has closed a section of the Kennet and Avon Canal between Limpley Stoke Bridge and Elbow Cottage at Winsley Bridge in order to carry out emergency repairs to a significant leak.

The work requires a section of about 100m of the canal to be closed for about several weeks.

However, contractors have agreed to keep the towpath open while the work, which is due to be completed by Friday, March 15, is in progress.



Gas works continue

The **third phase** of Wales & West Utilities' gas upgrade work through Limpley Stoke – from outside No 7 Crowe Hill to its junction with Cliffe Drive – is on schedule to begin on **March 9** and expected to take until **April 19** to complete.

Four phased closures will take place over a five-month period and work is expected to continue until the end of May 2024.

More information at <https://one.network/?tm=135383213>. Customer Services: phone 0800 912 2999 or email enquiries@wwutilities.co.uk.

Brew with the Air Ambulance crew

Back by popular demand is a chance to enjoy a cuppa and cake with the Wiltshire Air Ambulance pilots, doctors and paramedics.

The event is being held during the Easter school break on **Wednesday, April 3** between 11am and 1pm at the airbase in Semington. Children's activities will also be available.

Also in attendance will be the Freewheelers charity with one of their 'blood bikes'. Freewheelers work closely with WAA, providing blood for the crew's life-saving missions.

Visit <https://www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk/news> to book your place.

More hands needed at Galleries café

The Galleries is looking for more volunteers to help out in its popular café. Time slots can be on a regular or 'as needed' basis. Training will be given and support is always on hand from a supportive team of colleagues.

Working in the café requires a reasonable level of fitness, as standing and lifting are involved.

Why not get in touch for a trial and see if it's for you? It's a great way to connect with the community, both locally and further afield.

Phone 01225 723249 or email manager@galleriesshop.co.uk for more details.



Wiltshire Council has launched a campaign to help reduce littering in the county. *Don't Mess with Wiltshire* focuses on littering in towns and parishes, plus hotspots, for example lay-bys and main roads such as the A36 and A303.

The campaign will be seen on buses, social media posters and on-demand television. It will be backed up by more enforcement of litter offences – including CCTV cameras in lay-bys on main roads – along with more community litter collections, litter picks on main roads, and educational resources to encourage behaviour change. More details at <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/dont-mess-with-wiltshire>.

Tackling river pollution

Wednesday, March 20, 7pm
Freshford Memorial Hall

Freshford Lane, BA2 7UR



James Wallace, was a co-founder of Beaver Trust and is now CEO of River Action, a small charity with a large mission: to rescue Britain's rivers.

He will be joined by Chloe Peck, River Action's communities co-ordinator, in a talk about the challenges our rivers face from industrial agriculture and sewage pollution and how communities and nature can help solve the problem.

They will share a story that combines exposing the polluters, helping local citizen scientists, mobilising public opinion, advocating regulatory enforcement and scaling natural solutions.

From corporate dirty deeds and taking legal action, to the ecosystem engineering of beavers and riparian buffer zones, they will face the gloom and raise hopes for the future.

James and Chloe will show how, by collaborating now, we can secure clean water, our most valuable natural resource, for the next generation and restore rivers as nature recovery networks.

A healthy debate will follow about what we can do together in our community to hold polluters to account and clean up our rivers.

**Free entry,
donations welcome**

Free paint at local HRC

According to research by the Royal Society of Chemistry, 50 million litres of paint goes to waste in the UK each year, enough to fill 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools. In Household Recycling Centres in 2021 alone, 365 tonnes of paint was deposited, with over 50 per cent still in a useable condition.

Wiltshire Council's community paint re-use scheme aims to give individuals and community groups an opportunity to collect free, water-based paint which would have gone to waste.

Alternatively, if you have any surplus water-based paint you're unsure how to get rid of, take it to your nearest HRC (Trowbridge), making sure your tin is over half-full and in a useable condition.

Find local HRCs and more details at <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/6321/Paint-reuse-scheme>.



Carer Support Wiltshire

Carer Support Wiltshire is a registered charity which supports unpaid carers who look after someone that could be suffering from, for example, dementia, physical disabilities, or mental health challenges. Do you care for, or help to look after, someone who couldn't manage without you?

You might be helping with household tasks, administering medication, organising and transporting someone to medical appointments, or providing personal care or emotional support.

If you look after someone you care about, you may not consider yourself a carer. You could be doing it once a day, a couple of times a week or all the time. Many people may be unaware they are eligible for attendance allowance.

Find out how you can be supported in your caring role by visiting the website at <https://www.carersupportwiltshire.co.uk>.

Fitness trackers on loan

People aged 16 and over are being encouraged to stay healthy and active with tracker watches, available to borrow from Trowbridge library and mobile libraries. A mobile library visits **Limpley Stoke** each month (see *What's On*, page 5 for details).

Activity trackers enable people to track their steps, heart rate, sleep quality and much more. Also available to anyone aged 18+ are blood pressure monitors, which can be loaned for up to six weeks.

To borrow a tracker or monitor, you must be a library member. Sign up for free at <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries-join-the-library> or pop into any Wiltshire Council library. More details at <https://wiltshire.gov.uk/wearable-wellness>.

Waste and recycling

Find waste collection dates relevant to your address at <https://ilforms.wiltshire.gov.uk/WasteCollectionDays/index>; phone 0300 456 0102; or email customerservices@wiltshire.gov.uk

What's on

Film Night

Wednesday, March 13
Limpley Stoke Village Hall
7.00 for 7.30pm

Embrace of the Serpent

A Columbian film from 2015 which tells the story of the relationship between Karamakate, an Amazonian shaman and last survivor of his people, and two scientists who work together to search the Amazon for a sacred healing plant.

Licensed bar, friendly atmosphere and parking available near the hall. For Film Club details, email limpleycreative@gmail.com.

Pop-up pub

Friday, March 22
Later start time of 7–10pm
Limpley Stoke Village Hall

Food, drinks and live music. Cash or card. Profits to Hop Pole campaign.

This month's food choice is Guinness stew (£8), followed by walnut and raspberry tart (£3). Veggie option

available. Email your choice to oramorrhish@gmail.com by **Wednesday, March 20.**



Mobile library monthly visit:

Thursday,
March 14
10.00 – 10.25am
Uplands Close,
Midford Lane



Horticultural Society

Wednesday, March 6
Freshford Memorial Hall, 7.30pm

AGM and Mini Show

Classes:

Bowl of bulbs
Three stems of flowering shrub
Arrangement of spring flowers and foliage
Largest number of flowers in your garden
Photograph: A hint of Spring



Come along and bring your garden treasures. There'll be wine, nibbles and a quiz.

Members free Visitors £3.00 Everyone welcome

History Society talk

Wednesday, March 27, 7.30pm
Freshford Memorial Hall

Mining and the Somerset Coal Field by Shane Gould

2023 marked the 50th anniversary of the closure of the last colliery in Somerset and with it the end of a long history of coal mining in the area. Shane Gould's grandfather was a Somerset miner, which influenced his interest and passion for this subject. He has



dedicated many years to researching the history of Somerset coal mining and the industrial archaeology of the area. His talk will take a journey through history, from Roman times through to the height of the coal industry and up to the closure in 1973 of the last coal mine, Kilmersdon Colliery.

Members free Visitors £3.00 Everyone welcome