

Endon with Stanley

Autumn Newsletter 2010

Parish Council



GRATEFUL THANKS

The Parish Council wishes to thank all the people in the parish who have helped others, and continue to do so, during the pandemic. There is a large number of you who have selflessly given your time and effort to make life more comfortable and easier for your fellow residents by running errands, shopping and generally keeping an eye on the vulnerable. Without your assistance life for many would have been more difficult and stressful.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

At the time of going to print it is planned to mark this day by an open air, socially distanced, nondenominational ceremony, coronavirus guidelines permitting, on Sunday Nov 8th at the Station Road Memorial Playing Field at 10.45am. Local organisations will be invited to send a representative to place a wreath at a poppy display, followed by the Last Post and two minutes silence. Unfortunately due to restrictions only invited representatives will be allowed on the field. Afterwards all wreaths can be taken to the War Memorial in St Luke's Churchyard when convenient and safe to do so. Likewise poppies and crosses can be placed in the Staffordshire Knot Bed at the War Memorial when appropriate. There will be no seating and there is no provision, at the moment, to transfer to an indoor space if there is bad weather. There will not be a formal collection but British Legion collection boxes will be available. Event updates will be posted on the Parish Council Facebook page and also on the Station Road notice board.



STATION ROAD MEMORIAL PARK

The Parish Council has unanimously agreed that the park in Station Rd will now be known as Station Road Memorial Park. The park was gifted, in 1922, to the Parish Council for the benefit of the community as Memorial to those who fought in the Great War. A plaque will soon be erected explaining the details and requesting that all who use the park will do so with respect.

To add to this an order will soon be placed to completely refurbish the Junior play area. The total cost of the project is £41,000(+VAT, which is reclaimable by PC). To date £28,000 has been raised by the Endon Park Regeneration Project, the rest being funded through the Parish Council reserves. The Council gratefully applauds EPRP's magnificent efforts in raising such an impressive amount of funding, together with the support of the local community who have contributed so generously over the last two years.

The final design of the playground is the result of a lengthy period of collaboration between the Parish Council Liaison Group (Cllrs S Carey, C Jebb, V Harris, J Sambrook & S Sillitoe) and the EPRP Committee (J Barnett, H Bull, Z Carrier, L Jennings & D Porter-Hargreaves). The design illustrations can be seen in the display unit in Station Rd and on the Parish Council and EPRP Facebook pages.

We all hope that our young people will protect and enjoy the new, inclusive play facilities.



LITTER

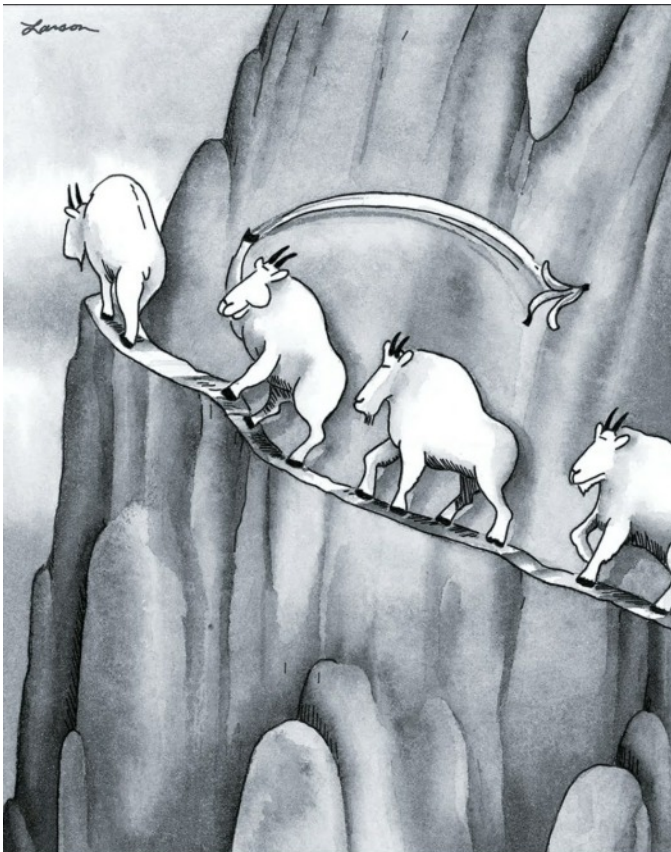
The Parish Council wishes to thank the many residents who quietly and consistently regularly pick up litter, some on a daily basis, and in particular young people like five year old George Willis who regularly lends a hand in keeping Endon tidy. Well done George!



The Lengthsman has been given extra hours for litter picking in litter hotspots and he has noticed that discarded face masks and rubber gloves have been added to the items found. He has also cleared drug paraphernalia from Hillswood Playing Field and we have informed the police who will patrol the area.

Endon is now recycling litter mainly deposited from vehicles using the A53 but also from people gathering at local picnic areas. The Lengthsman is reporting increasing amounts of cans and plastic in his daily litter collection. The Parish Council has therefore purchased a 360 litre comingled recycling container which will be emptied on a regular basis. Parish Councillors felt that to continually deposit large amounts of recyclable litter into general waste was contrary to the Green principles they endeavour to adopt.

THE DANGERS OF LITTER



Irresponsible mountain goats

MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS

During Lockdown.....

Your Council has been operating, as far as possible, 'business as usual'. Every month Parish Council meetings have taken place via Zoom with excellent attendance. Our County Councillor Keith Flunder has been a welcome presence at all our meetings and has kept us well informed and up to date at both County and District level.

Our Clerk, Dennis Boulton, initially worked from home but has now gradually manned the Parish Office, operating within the safety limits which the government allowed.

Both parish council playing fields were allowed to open during the summer holidays with safety notices posted to highlight COVID restrictions. This gave residents of all ages a much needed opportunity to exercise and enjoy the pleasant weather.

During the summer months your Council has undertaken a lengthy maintenance programme.

Work has been completed as follows:

Fence and handrail repair between Hillswood playing field and Clay Lake.

Clapper Bridge repair.

Additional security fencing between the Village Hall and playground.

Refurbishment of Lutyens benches and the Interpretation Board at the War Memorial.

Replanting of the Staffordshire Knot Box Garden at the War Memorial.

Refurbishment of the lectern Interpretation Board at Stockton Brook Gateway.

Repair to 'Stalwarts Bench' at the Fountain after it was damaged by a road traffic incident.

Fence at entrance to Hillswood playing field repaired.

Three Parish Council notices boards have been refurbished and one in the village relocated.

Work planned but not yet completed:

Benches opposite Endon High School and at Queen's Cross to be repainted.

Reinstatement of willow edging at the War Memorial.

Refurbishment of benches at the Lawn Cemetery and redesigning of Memorial Garden with seasonal planting.

BLUE BADGES

These can now be renewed at Leek library.

RATS

There has been an increase in rat sightings. If you are concerned about rats on your property you can phone SMDC Pest Control on 0345 605 3014. This is a free service for householders. Rats are attracted by bird food and food waste.

VOLUNTEERING

If you wish to do volunteer work for any organisation and would like to find out more then go to www.staffordshireconnects.info for opportunities in Staffordshire or Do-it.org for UK.

FLOOD ISSUES

As most residents will know from previous newsletters the Flood Action Group, including Parish Councillors, secured in September 2017 a European funded grant of £450,000 to provide flood defence measures to some properties in the Village and to provide natural flood defences located in various places upstream to prevent the Brook flooding the Village. In addition some members of the Flood Action Group consider that lack of any form of maintenance to the Endon Brook is also inherent in aggravating flooding problems in the Village. In the 1980's the whole of the Endon Brook was widened and deepened so that it was 24 feet wide at the top and 12 feet deep at a normal level. Unfortunately maintenance of the Endon Brook ceased in the mid 1990's so what we have now is a "mained" brook course which in many places can be crossed in a single stride. The bed level has risen, the sides have slipped, vegetation has grown on the banks and in some places substantial trees, many of them now 18" in diameter, grow in the centre of the brook bed. At times of heavy rain small branches shrubs and other vegetation lodge against these trees and create temporary dams that get swept away creating very serious problems with flooding downstream of Endon.

In Endon itself the rising levels of the floods now causes flood damage to residential and commercial

properties on a scale that we have never seen before. The restoration of the "mained" course of the Endon Brook to its correct profile is essential if the domestic and commercial flooding is to be prevented. The Government has recently announced the allocation of 104 billion pounds to be spent on infrastructure, four billion pounds of this money is to be directed into measures to reduce flooding.

As a result of this money now being available for maintenance and a total lack of action by Staffordshire County Council on the Village Brook issues the Parish Council has written direct to Karen Bradley asking for her assistance in resolving the two issues. She has responded by confirming that she will discuss both issues with John Henderson, the CEO of Staffordshire County Council and report back to us.

A meeting finally took place on 7th October with County Cllr Keith Flunder, Jamie Cooper from Staffs CC, two representatives from Trent Rivers Trust, Cllr John Sambrook and Alan Williamson. The officials were shown the proposed flood storage areas and went away to prepare a scheme which would then enable a discussion to take place with landowners. An open meeting for residents would then be arranged to discuss the issues. It is anticipated that this would take about six months.

CROSSING CONTROL WARDEN

St Luke's Academy is looking for a new, permanent, crossing warden. Malcolm retired in the summer and was replaced by a relief warden who was unable to commit full-time. Despite the advertising the post it has yet to be filled. The Academy has been advised to use the crossings at the High School, which is unsatisfactory. If residents know of anyone who would be interested in the post please contact the Academy or Paul Hankey, at Staffs County Council, on 07966 328833



RESILIENCE FUND

The Parish Council has secured funds from the County Council Resilience Fund to help open venues and to assist community groups to stay connected. To date a "deep clean" for Endon Scout Hut has been fully funded and sanitising and cleaning products have been purchased for Endon Methodist Church. If other groups or organisations wish to apply for funds please contact the Parish Clerk.

BONFIRE NIGHT

The Stockton Brook bonfire will not be held this year. There is some concern in the Fire Service that householders will instead host their own displays and use fireworks normally reserved for organised displays. Unless handled correctly these fireworks are extremely dangerous to people and property and so householders are warned to take extra care on bonfire night.

VILLAGE HALL

We are planning to be open after half term. Check Facebook for latest information or contact Linda for bookings on 07783357454. This is for regular users only - we won't be reopening for parties etc for now.

EVENT UPDATES

PILATES

The very popular Pilates classes (Mondays and Fridays) have resumed in October at Stockton Brook Scout Hut. Due to Covid 19 security measures there will be no walk in classes and people will need to book and pay for the month ahead. For further details and booking telephone Marie on 07769 693390

FLOWER & CRAFT

While we are still unable to run St.Luke's Flower and Craft Club we are knitting squares at home to be made into blankets. If any readers would like to get involved, the only requirements are:-

A pair of size 6 or 7 needles

Any colour of double knitting wool

Cast on 32 stitches and continue knitting until you have a 6 inch square.

Please contact Sue Gibbons, 07854 043187, to arrange collection or they can be brought to St. Luke's Church on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings where there will be a box to put them in.

ENDON COMMUNITY CHOIR

Although unable to meet and sing together at present, the choir members have been staying in touch and are meeting up on-line fortnightly, in what our choirmaster Dan Hollingshurst has cleverly named "End-on-line Sings". Although singing on your own at home can never replace the pleasure of singing together in the village hall, at least we get to see each other, have a chat and can sing with gusto, knowing that any mistakes we make will not be heard by others! Normally we would be gearing up to Harvest Festival and practising for our traditional Christmas concert, but instead we are already looking forward to this time next year when we hope to be back performing in the village once again and welcoming new members who might wish to join us.

ENDONIAN SOCIETY CONCERT

The Audley Brass Band Christmas Concert due to be held on 12th Dec, organised by the Endonian Society, has been cancelled.

St LUKE'S CHURCH

The church is open every Mon, Tue, Thurs and Fri from 10 to 1 for private prayer, the church office will also be open. Every Wednesday there is an ecumenical service alternating between worship and communion at 9.15am. Every Sunday at 9.15am there is a morning service. Since reopening there has been an increase in worshippers.

METHODIST CHURCH

We are delighted that the Methodist Church is now open for worship every Sunday at 10am.



The first service was held on 6th September and we have been encouraged by those able to come to worship and see friends for the first time.

We are fortunate to have an excellent audio-visual system so we can enjoy watching and listening to groups singing even

when we cannot sing ourselves.

We do not need people to 'book a chair' before the service as we have plenty of room.

Please contact Rev Eleanor Smith if you need any more information.

Eleanor.smith@methodist.org.uk , 01782 503228



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and at www.endonwithstanleyparishcouncil.co.uk