

Limpley Stoke

December 2023



Issue No 65

news

MAJOR GAS PIPE UPGRADE

Residents and motorists can expect months of disruption in the New Year, when Wales & West Utilities start replacing Lower Stoke gas mains with long-lasting plastic piping.

Phased closures are due to take place over a five-month period and work is expected to continue until the end of May 2024 as follows:

PHASE 1: JANUARY 2 – JANUARY 26

Between Winsley Hill (B3108) and Woods Hill junctions

PHASE 2: JANUARY 27 – MARCH 8

From Woods Hill junction to outside 7 Crowe Hill

PHASE 3: MARCH 9 – APRIL 19

From outside 7 Crowe Hill to junction with Cliffe Drive

PHASE 4: APRIL 22 – MAY 24

Woods Hill (no longer a through-route for motorists)

Traffic management will be in place and access for residents and businesses maintained, where possible.

All Lower Stoke residents should by now have received a Wales & West newsletter outlining the closures.

Wales & West will also host a drop-in event at **Limpley Stoke Hotel on December 6 between 9.30am and 5.30pm** to provide the local community with the opportunity to ask questions and voice any concerns about the closures.

Maps and plans showing the phasing and works involved will be on display.

More information available at <https://one.network/?tm=135383213>

Customer Services: 0800 912 2999 / enquiries@wwutilities.co.uk

PROJECT UPDATE

Thank you...
...for your patience and understanding. We're doing our best to upgrade gas pipes in your area as smoothly as we can.

It's time to **upgrade** the gas pipes in your area

For a clearer picture of what we've got planned, you can watch the video on our website.

Smell gas?
Call free on 0800 111 888
All calls will be recorded for quality control.

Facebook.com/wwutilities
www.waleswest.co.uk

YOUR GAS EMERGENCY AND PIPELINE SERVICE

WALES&WEST UTILITIES

94 bus still running – for now



The No 94 bus has been given a lifeline by Wiltshire Council, allowing the service to continue beyond its current Christmas deadline until at least April 2024, Councillor Johnny Kidney has confirmed.

As a cross-border service, funding previously came from both Wiltshire and B&NES Councils but its future was thrown into doubt earlier this year by the sudden withdrawal of B&NES' share of the money.

Since then, Wiltshire has continued to provide the service, enabling it to carry on serving rural villages both in the county and B&NES. Meanwhile, negotiations continue for the reinstatement of funding from B&NES via the West of England Combined Authority. **PLEASE NOTE:** the 94 route will be affected by the Lower Stoke road closures starting in January.

£50k but still a way to go

The scaffolding has gone, the roof is on, the building is watertight and the windows are being fitted.

Phase 2 planning permission and listed building consent have recently been granted, meaning internal works and services can be completed on the Hop Pole.

Since the recent release of a second Hop Pole share issue, the £50k mark has already been exceeded, with investments coming in from both existing shareholders and new supporters.

However, the financial target for completion still stands at £300k and, if that figure cannot be reached, the Hop Pole team will have no option but to abandon the project, so it's crucial that people invest now with any amount they can spare.

If you'd like to support the campaign, you can find all the details in the new share prospectus and updated business plan, both of which can be found at

<https://www.limpleystokecbs.org/useful-documents>.

To help with fundraising or to buy shares, visit

<https://www.limpleystokecbs.org/get-inn-volved>.



Save the Hop Pole team members show the total reached so far

Gordon Tucker

Gordon Tucker of Cleeve Farm, Midford Lane, died in October aged 83. He was a well-known and popular character, both in the community and further afield, who will be much-missed.



Gordon was Limpley Stoke Parish Council's longest-serving member (2003–2019) and could be relied on to bring his rural expertise to every meeting.

He built up an impressive collection of vintage farm machinery over many years, while at the same time working as a lecturer in horticultural machinery at Bath University from 1966 to 1991, followed by Radstock Technical College and Lackham Agricultural College.

Gordon made an appearance as an extra in the Ealing Studios comedy, *The Titfield Thunderbolt*, filmed in the local area in 1953. As the steam train trundled through the valley, a young Gordon could be seen playing cricket on the field next to the track.

Visitors to Cleeve Farm were guaranteed a warm welcome from Gordon and his wife, Kathy, whose cakes are legendary.

Church Lane closure

A reminder that part of Church Lane will be closed to all traffic on **Tuesday, December 5** for 3 days to enable Wessex Water to carry out urgent stop-tap repairs and associated works. Access will be maintained for residents and businesses where possible.

For more details, contact Wessex Water 0345 600 4600 or visit <https://one.network/?tm=135988025>

Christmas and New Year recycling dates

Waste collection dates relevant to your address can be found by visiting Wiltshire Council's website at

<https://ilforms.wiltshire.gov.uk/>

[WasteCollectionDays/index](https://ilforms.wiltshire.gov.uk/WasteCollectionDays/index);

by phoning 0300 456 0102 or emailing customerservices@wiltshire.gov.uk.



Stay safe with Bobby

The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust (WBVT) is looking for volunteers for its **Stay Safe Online Service**. Online exploitation and fraud are the fastest-growing areas of crime, with elderly people a particular target.



A reliable person is required who can commit to roughly one day a week to visit and work with individuals in their own homes, providing advice and guidance.

WBVT is a charity working in partnership with Wiltshire Police to provide a **free** home security service for elderly and vulnerable people throughout Wiltshire.

Its mission is to help people who have been victims of, or are at risk of, house crime, hate crime, domestic abuse, or fire.

For further information, contact Toni Evans, WBVT Stay Safe online manager at Toni@wbvt.org or visit <https://www.wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/stay-safe-online>.

£2 bus fare runs on

The £2 bus fare promotion which began in March has been extended. Wiltshire bus users can now travel on most routes in the county for just £2 or less for a single fare until the end of December 2024. Most services are included in the promotion, including First Bus and Libra Travel.

The fare price reduction, for both adults and concessions, has been funded by the Government and is aimed at getting more people to use buses across the country during the current cost of living challenges.

<https://www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk/getting-around/bus/>



A reminder that copies of the 2024 Freshford and Limpley Stoke calendar, featuring images of the local area, are now available to purchase from the Galleries shop, price £6. Stocking fillers for friends and family, perhaps? Envelopes can be purchased separately, if required.

Dorothy House **Christmas Fair and Coffee Morning on Saturday, December 2** is the perfect way to get into the seasonal spirit while raising vital funds for the community's local hospice charity.

Shoppers can enjoy delicious refreshments and there'll be a range of retail stalls, including Christmas trees, cards and decorations, tombola and raffle, and lots more besides.



Blocked drains

Limpley Stoke Parish Council has made several requests to Wiltshire Council for gulleys to be cleared, particularly where flooding has occurred recently.

To add your own comments or request action, click on the following link to register your comments:

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting>

Wishing you
all a happy
Christmas
and peaceful
New Year



What's on

Film Night

Wednesday, December 6
Limpley Stoke Village Hall

7.00 for 7.30pm

Orlando

by Sally Potter, 1992

Billed as a British period drama fantasy film, loosely based on Virginia Woolf's 1928 novel.

Licensed bar, friendly atmosphere and parking available near the hall.

For Film Club details, email

limpleycreative@gmail.com.



© Marianne Majerus

Horticultural Society talk

Wednesday, Dec 6, Freshford Village Hall, 7.30pm

National Garden Scheme

Dave Moon, who has been opening his garden at Catherston Close in Frome for many years, has put together a digital audio-visual presentation on the National Garden Scheme set to music, songs, poetry and narration. Short sequences look at some of the 3,800 gardens open around the country under the NGS 'Gardens Open for Charity' scheme.

Members free

Visitors £3.00

Everyone welcome



Sunday, December 3

Sign-in from 9.30am
Race starts at 11am

Annual festive fun run open to all ages takes place along a 2.5km course through the grounds of Dorothy House at Winsley (BA15 2LE) and beyond.

All paying entrants receive festive attire, followed by yummy refreshments after the run. Adult entrants are asked to aim for sponsorship of £30 or a suggested donation of £30 instead.

<https://www.dorothyhouse.org.uk/get-involved/events/santa-elf-run-2023/>

Pop-up pub

Friday, Dec 15, 6.30–10pm
Limpley Stoke Village Hall

Food, drinks, music, and board games. Cash or card.

Buffet-style supper with various platters and salads (£8 per plate), followed by chocolate and meringue or fruit crumble (£2.50).

To book, email oramorish@gmail.com.

Profits to 'Save the Hop Pole' campaign.



Mobile library monthly visit:

Thursday, December 21
10.00 – 10.25am

Uplands Close, Midford Lane