

Limpley Stoke

news

January 2024

Issue No 66

Months of disruption on A36

Motorists using the A36 between Bath and Warminster could face long delays in the New Year as National Highways embark on a major drainage scheme, due to start on **Tuesday, January 2** and expected to last until **the end of July**.

Last year, National Highways announced plans for a new retaining wall on the A36 at Dundas and drainage works to alleviate the risk of flooding and surface water between Bathampton and Brassknocker Hill at Monkton Combe. The works are part of a £167m investment to repair and maintain the road network in the south-west of England.

A National Highways spokesman said: "Work will involve excavation, pipework replacement and lining, and resurfacing, and will be carried out in phases between January and July under temporary traffic signals, largely during the daytime but with some full overnight closures. Access will be maintained for residents and businesses at all times."



A36 junction with Brassknocker Hill

Source: Wiltshire Times

Major gas works due to start in village

A reminder that Wales & West Utilities are due to begin work on a major gas main upgrade through Limpley Stoke, also due to start on **Tuesday, January 2**. Residents and motorists can expect months of disruption as four phased closures will take place over a five-month period. Work is expected to continue until the end of May 2024.

PHASE 1, between the Winsley Hill (B3108) and Woods Hill junctions, is due to start on **JANUARY 2** and continue until **JANUARY 26**.

PHASE 2: JANUARY 27 – MARCH 8 from Woods Hill junction to outside No 7 Crowe Hill. Traffic management will be in place and access for residents and businesses maintained, where possible. More information is available at <https://one.network/?tm=135383213>. Customer Services: phone 0800 912 2999 / email enquiries@wwutilities.co.uk.

Deadline looms for Hop Pole target

The Hop Pole's plight made the local ITV news in December, thanks to reporter and Limpley Stoke resident, Victoria Davies, who has previously covered the campaign. You can watch the broadcast at

<https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2023-11-19/villagers-in-tragic-fight-to-save-historic-pub>.

A second share issue has been released, highlighting the urgent need for more financial support to complete the project. The £100k mark has now been exceeded, but there's still a long way to go to reach the £300k target, so please keep your funds coming in.

All money invested in this second share offer will be secure and ring-fenced until the minimum hurdle of £150k is reached by the end of January 2024. If not reached, the share issue will be deemed a failure, all monies returned and the project abandoned. To help with fundraising or to buy shares, visit <https://www.limpleystokecbs.org/get-inn-involved>.



Local band, **The Limpley Strokes**, have recorded and released a single, *At the Hop (Pole)*, to raise awareness of the pub campaign. Listen to it on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/e14nmBHZNkY>.

If you'd care to make even a small donation, click here: https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=WWACTT-CBYMZSY.

Not every council faces bankruptcy

A Wiltshire councillor has hit back at a claim by B&NES leader, Councillor Kevin Guy, in the Bath Chronicle that "every council in the UK faces going bankrupt ..."

In a letter to the paper, Wiltshire councillor, Nick Botterill, said he wanted to reassure any readers who live over the border in Wiltshire that this is certainly not the case here.

"Wiltshire is forecasting a modest underspend on a total net budget of just short of half a billion pounds for 2023/24 and a balanced budget for the next two years", he wrote.

"While nowhere is immune from the financial stress caused by current high inflation, it is possible for local authorities to manage a way through current difficulties.

"In this, as in life in general, all organisations, including local authorities, are not equally effective", Councillor Botterill concluded.

Open gardens event

Calling residents of Freshford and Limpley Stoke! Would you be prepared to open your garden for a joint Nature Chain and Freshford & District Horticultural Society event on **JUNE 1, 2024?**

All types and sizes of garden are welcome. The plan is for Freshford gardens to open from 10am–1pm, Limpley Stoke from 2pm–5pm. Refreshments will be available at the end of the afternoon at Riverbank House, bottom of Winsley Hill. Ticket price of £5 covers admission to all participating gardens.

If you're interested in opening your garden, contact either **Anthea Norman-Taylor (Limpley Stoke gardens)** on 01225 723256 / email anthea@antrus.co.uk or **Steph Jenkins (Freshford gardens)** on 01225 722270 / email freshfordsteph@gmail.com



Dorothy House Hospice's annual Christmas tree collection service is running again, in partnership with the Just Helping charity.

More than £274,000 has been raised in the past seven years. In 2023, 5,200 trees were collected from homes across Wiltshire and Bath, with the help of over 200 volunteers, raising a total of £75,000 for Dorothy House.

Book your tree in at <https://just-helping.org.uk/register-tree> and, for a charitable donation, volunteers will collect it from certain postcode areas (including BA2) from **January 12 to January 14**. If preferred, **leave your tree** out for collection with your (pre-paid) **green waste bin** in **January** (see below).

Waste and recycling collections

Waste collection dates relevant to your address can be found on Wiltshire Council's website at <https://ilforms.wiltshire.gov.uk/WasteCollectionDays/index>; by phoning 0300 456 0102; or emailing customerservices@wiltshire.gov.uk.

If you've signed up to garden waste collections, you can leave your real Christmas tree next to your green bin on your first scheduled collection in **January** and it will be collected for composting.

Milestone for Link

Limpley Stoke and Freshford Transport Link will celebrate its 35th year of existence in 2024.



The charitable organisation, which was started in Limpley Stoke, is unique in Wiltshire for its cross-border service, as well as being one of the smallest self-financing groups. More volunteer drivers are always needed, especially from Limpley Stoke. If you can spare a few hours, please phone 07714 169 216 for details.

At the Link AGM last month, thanks were given to all the volunteer drivers, especially Pam Cobb for her long service both as a committee member and co-ordinator.

Tributes were also paid to the late Gill Lamey from Limpley Stoke, and Freshford's Peter Vincent and Stuart Campbell. All, in their various roles, gave so much of their time to the villages.

What's on

Film Night

Wednesday, January 10
Limpley Stoke Village Hall
7.00 for 7.30pm

Do The Right Thing, 1989

Director Spike Lee's tragi-comic film explores racial tensions in New York, where hate and bigotry smoulders before exploding into violence on a Brooklyn street.



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

For Film Club details, email limpleycreative@gmail.com.

Pop-up pub

Friday, Jan 26, 6.30–10pm
Limpley Stoke Village Hall

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

This month there'll be a fun quiz with prizes for the winners. Anyone can enter, solo or part of a team. £10 per head.



Food served at half-time: choice of charcuterie or cheese plate, with accompaniments. Email your choice to orlamorrish@gmail.com

Horticultural Society talk

Wednesday, January 10
Freshford Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
Cornish Seascape Gardens

This talk by Richard Harvey will follow a virtual tour of 10 Cornish seascape gardens, where sub-tropical plants thrive. The tour begins at Hidden Valley Garden near St Austell and ends in Tresco Abbey Gardens on the Isles of Scilly.



Richard Harvey's passion for capturing bespoke images is rooted in a family background of growing and exhibiting plants with his parents from an early age.

Horticultural Society annual subscriptions, which remain at £10 per person, will be due at the meeting. This entitles you to free entry to eight meetings and priority booking on one of two garden outings.

Members free Visitors £3.00 Everyone welcome

History Society talk

Wednesday, January 24
Freshford Memorial Hall, 7.30pm

Gold from the time of Stonehenge by David Dawson

Wiltshire Museum in Devizes is the home of the best Bronze Age collections in Britain. This talk will outline the remarkable craftsmanship and stunning objects found with the burials of chieftains, important women and priests who used Stonehenge for ceremonies.

David Dawson is Director of Wiltshire Museum and a trustee of Wessex Museums Partnership.

Members free Visitors £3.00
Everyone welcome



Mobile library monthly visit:

Thursday, January 18
10.00 – 10.25am

Uplands Close, Midford Lane