

Limpley Stoke news

June 2023

Issue No 60



Nick Stevens

It was with great sadness that we heard the news of the death of Nick Stevens on May 7.

Nick served on Freshford Parish Council for 14 years, many of them as chairman.

For several years he also chaired the Friends of Freshford and Village Hall committee.

One of Nick's many notable achievements – together with his opposite number in Limpley Stoke – was in bringing about, in 2015, a joint Neighbourhood Plan for the two villages, the first cross-county plan in the country. He was also instrumental in bringing The Tynning into community ownership.

Donations in memory of Nick may be made towards Freshford Memorial Hall.

Volunteers and first-aiders are still needed on fête day.
Email orlamorrish@gmail.com if you can help.

Volunteers Gary Parker and Ian Sharp will be out and about in the villages collecting donations for the tombola stall. Wine bottles, jars, and toiletries will be welcomed. All proceeds towards village halls.

Church Lane to close for resurfacing work



A section of Church Lane, from its junction with the A36 to its junction with Crowe Lane, will be closed temporarily to all traffic between 7am and 6pm from **Monday, June 5 to Friday, June 16.**

Planned works include carriageway resurfacing, replacement of road markings, adjustments of ironworks and other associated works.

Alternative route via New Road, Dark Lane, Freshford Lane, Park Corner, Abbey Lane and A36.

(<https://one.network/?tm=132602328>)

New constituency seat for local MP?

Michelle Donelan is to fight the new parliamentary constituency of Melksham and Devizes for the Conservative Party at the next General Election.

The new seat, which will have a prospective electorate of 71,823, has been created under a Boundary Commission Review, after Ms Donelan's current Chippenham constituency was subjected to a 50:50 split. The review will be finalised by July 1 and the constituency will include Bradford on Avon, Devizes, Melksham, and Winsley and Westwood (which takes in Limpley Stoke).

Ms Donelan, who is currently on maternity leave from her role as Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology after recently welcoming a baby boy, told the *Wiltshire Times*: "Under the Boundary Commission Review, there have been some quite radical changes in Wiltshire to accommodate a new MP. It is all based on making their numbers even. We had constituencies where there were massive numbers of electors.

"It has been a very difficult choice between the two because it has been a 50:50 split and these are the areas that I have represented for over eight years now. But I also live in this constituency of Melksham and Devizes and it felt like the right decision for me", she added.

<https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/>



Funding cut puts 94 bus under threat

Councillor Johnny Kidney has expressed his concern that the future of the No. 94 bus service into Bath from the villages has been thrown into uncertainty by the unexpected withdrawal of funding.

The 94 is a heavily-subsidised, cross-border service covering rural communities in Wiltshire and Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) and currently funded by Wiltshire Council and the West of England Combined Authority (WECA). WECA receives funds from three local authorities (B&NES, Bristol and South Gloucestershire) and central government to provide transport services.

From July, there appears to be no funding from WECA for the 94 service and funds from Wiltshire Council would be insufficient to run the service as it operates currently.

To express your views about the withdrawal of funding for rural bus routes, contact Michelle Donelan at michelle.donelan.mp@parliament.uk and Dan Norris, West of England Metro Mayor, at Mayor@westofengland-ca.gov.uk.



Bath tops the list

Bath has been chosen by tourism website *Big7 Travel* as the UK's most beautiful city. The judges commented: "A charming Somerset dream of Georgian architecture and Roman history. Widely regarded as one of the most beautiful cities in the UK, it's not hard to see why it's such a popular destination for tourists and Brits alike."

£50k traffic scheme for Bradford on Avon

Work aimed at ridding Bradford on Avon of some of its long-standing traffic issues has begun. Wiltshire Council and the town council are working on a £50,000 modelling scheme with highways consultants Atkins which should take around six months to complete.

The objectives of the scheme are for increased pedestrian and cyclist safety, reduced traffic volumes and improved air quality.

The results of the project will be shared with the community at a future consultation event.

Bus fare cap extended

The £2 single bus fare promotion has been extended to the end of October, with the cap then remaining at £2.50 until November 2024. First Bus and Libra Travel are included in the promotion, should the latter still be operating by then, that is.



Pearl takes tea at the Palace

Limpley Stoke resident, Pearl Mills, attended a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on May 9. In attendance were the Prince and Princess of Wales and other members of the royal family. Pearl was nominated by the Department for Business and Trade in recognition of her work for the Civil Service over many years.

During the pandemic, Pearl managed a team at the West of England Combined Authority supporting thousands of businesses in the region, helping them access information and support in order to continue trading during very difficult times.

Pearl said her visit to the Palace was a day to remember for a long time. Congratulations to her on such a well-deserved honour. I hear the marmalade sandwiches were exceptionally good!

Pearl Mills with her husband Simon outside Buckingham Palace

Wildflower planting

Freshford Beaver Scouts recently teamed up with Nature Chain's Chimene Roberts for a fun and productive evening in Limpley Stoke park.

The Beavers were working towards their World Challenge badges and one of the modules required the youngsters to help out in their local community.

It was the perfect opportunity to work with Nature Chain members to plant a wildflower border along the path in the park. Look out for the colourful results this summer.



Photo: Sam Fairley

Plant sale success

A plant sale last month raised just over £500, which is to be split between the Horticultural Society and Freshford Village Hall.

The horticulture team will be setting up another plant stall on **Saturday, June 10** at the village fête. Any (labelled) plants you'd like to donate would be welcomed. Please take them along to the village hall on the morning of the fête.

Sponsored walk

Thanks to a 5km sponsored walk last month and a generous £1,000 grant from FLISCA, Freshford School reached its target for funding some new playground equipment, which will be installed during the summer holidays.

Celebration picnic captures Coronation mood



Nearly 300 folk from the Freshford and Limpley Stoke community joined together on the Memorial Hall playing field to celebrate the Coronation Big Lunch with a 'bring your own' picnic.



The field was decked out in red, white and blue, tables were laden with delicious-looking spreads and celebration fizz, and the Terry Hill Big Band Jazz Quartet judged the mood perfectly for a sunny afternoon.

Well done to everyone involved in organising such a memorable occasion, with special thanks to Peter and Sue King.

Photos © Sheena Broadhead

What's on in June

The Galleries extension provides plenty of wall space for hosting art exhibitions and the current one features Jessica Palmer, a landscape artist who finds the natural world a source of wonderment and inspiration and is working in support of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

Jessica, whose art will be exhibited at the Galleries until **July 16**, works from a studio at her home in Widcombe, Bath. She also has an Open Studio on the weekend of **June 17 and 18** as part of the Widcombe Art Trail.



<https://www.jessicapalmerart.com>

BIN COLLECTIONS

Blue-lidded bin
Black box
Green waste
(chargeable)



Wednesday, June 14
Wednesday, June 28



Mobile library monthly visit:
Thurs, June 8, 10.00 – 10.25am
Uplands Close, Midford Lane

Pop-up pub

Friday, June 16, 6.30–10pm
Limpley Stoke Village Hall

Drinks, snacks, music, and board games. Bring cash or card. Profits towards hall.

Freshford & District Horticultural Society

GARDEN VISITS

£10 per person, to include refreshments. Contact Penny Jones on 01225 723447 to register your interest. Everyone welcome.

Tues, June 6, 2.30pm

COLEFORD HOUSE, Radstock

Georgian house situated on River Mells, with herbaceous borders and arboretum. Ornamental lily pond, walled garden and orangery. Art display.

Wed, June 21, 2.30pm

CORTINGTON MANOR, near Warminster

Classic English garden with four acres of wild and formal gardens surrounding 18th century manor house. Herbaceous border, cutting garden, vegetables, walled herb garden and orchard. Lime avenue leads towards river through wild area and pond.

History Society

Wed, June 21, 2.00pm
Wed, June 28, 2.00pm

Guided tour of Hinton Priory

Members free / visitors £3. Everyone welcome. Contact Penny Jones on 01225 723447. Everyone welcome.

<https://www.freshford.org.uk/community/>

Limpley Stoke News is an independent publication produced and edited by Sheena Broadhead. To submit an article, email sheena.broadhead@tiscali.co.uk