



Village Preservation Society

A year in Winterbourne Stoke 2021

The Winterbourne Stoke Preservation Society was set up in March 2020 at the start of the COVID 19 pandemic as a means for providing self-help for the village and the villagers. It was formalised in November 2020 and since then has expanded to try and unite the village community, local businesses and organisations and to provide the village with facilities, activities and entertainment for all.

Its aim is to keep the village spirit alive, to preserve village life, it's heritage
AND make it a great place to live.

January

UK in Lockdown Again!!!

Once again lockdown was upon us, schools, churches, pubs, restaurants, campsites, hotels all close for lockdown. People stayed at home, didn't go out except for essential shopping and for daily exercise. Once again the Village pulls together during lockdown to look after their friends/family and neighbours: seeking alternative shopping arrangements, finding local companies that can deliver fruit, vegetables, meat and other groceries, as supermarket deliveries are hard to find/book. The Village attempted to create a little jollity and fun, all within the lockdown rules, trying to find things to do, some interesting and maybe obscure customs and festivals we can celebrate.

Wassailing

A number of people across the villager took part in this ancient tradition, banging and clanging of pots and pans and loud singing could be heard throughout the village, with many, children in particular, putting their heart and soul in creating as much noise as possible.



February



Village Bunting

The Village Bunting was started during Winter Lockdown as a community project. Anybody could contribute by creating a triangle of bunting by whichever means ie painted on paper, cross-stitched/appliquéd, standard fabric triangles or even a photo

printed and triangled. The bunting is displayed in the Church and can be used for any village events.

The pebble trail dotted about the village, provided a little entertainment for children walking about the village as the pesky pebbles love playing hide and seek

The Village Telephone Box Book Swap

The book swap was introduced during last year's lockdown months . It was thought that recycling within the community, may be of help to one another and keep goods which are still fit for purpose but not longer needed out of landfill. It was very popular over the lockdown weeks and had a steady turnover of Books, CDs, and DVDs and it still continues to please



March

Candlemas The Church delivered bags with the ingredients for the children to create christingles during their time at home



Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Flip

Videos were uploaded to the facebook page of attempts to flip a pancake as many times as possible within a minute. The winners were awarded a Golden Frying Pan Trophy which will be passed on to future winners.



Mothering Sunday Workshop

With the lockdown rules relaxing a little and small gatherings allowed outside, Angie and Olivia



were able to hold an outdoor workshop where the village children could make fresh flower posies and cards for their mums as a Mothering Sunday gift. The village bunting had its first public outing.

Stonehenge Campsite appeared on the popular daytime TV show "Escape to the Country", which was shown on BBC1, Monday 23rd March

April

Easter



A large wooden cross was erected at the entrance of the Church which was decorated by a wreath of spring flowers, beautiful drawings, glass art, homemade Easter decorations and Easter pebbles decorated by the children.

On Easter Monday in between the rain, sleet and snow flurries we managed to catch some sunshine to hide more than 100 eggs in the churchyard for



our **Annual Easter Egg Hunt** and over 20 village children came to run about and find them, making new friends in the process.

May



Plant and Vegetable Starter Packs

With the increase of people interested in growing their own produce, VPS put together plant and vegetable starter packs, containing popular and easy to grow vegetables and bee loving herbs and flowers.

The Village held its 2nd Plant Swap, during May and June. Spare plants were put at the bottom of their drive or advertised on facebook for rehoming. It was a chance to swap flowers and vegetables amongst ourselves for the garden, with many donations for plants being given to local charities.

June

Scarecrow Trail

Our 2nd Village Scarecrow trail with a theme of "Characters from a book" was a great success with Super heroes, A Gruffalo, Harry Potter characters, tin men and Percy the Park Keeper. It was certainly a talking point in the village.

Make, Meet and Mend

Had its first meeting where people interested in crafting or just meeting up could come and chat, share techniques or just eat cake.



The Summer Solstice Festival

was a 4 day event held at Stonehenge campsite, with live Music, Healing, Henna, fabulous face painting and children's' entertainment it was a great day out for all the family and just on our doorstep.

July



St Peters Church launches its "Raise the Roof" initiative to help raise £45k for the much needed repair to the Village church roof.

Harry Bucknall, journalist author of "Like a Tramp, Like a Pilgrim" and retired Army officer came to St Peters church to talk about his experiences on his pilgrimage to Rome in

2012. Tickets were sold to help with the Church's appeal.

August



The Pilgrim Route

Jonathon Dutton started the first leg of a sponsored walk, a journey of 1,500 miles from St.Peters in Winterbourne Stoke to St Peter's Rome. Staying in pilgrim hostels, monasteries and camping en route. All in aid of St. Peters Church "Raise the Roof" fund to help make the Church a better building for the Village to use. Jonathon will be completing his journey spring 2022.

Village Hub

As the village has no village hall, the VPS and the church have been working closely together to convert the Church Vestry and Kitchen area to a place that can be used by the village. The Vestry has been cleared to make a snug with furniture and furnishings donated by people in the village and the kitchen area is being made into a more user friendly area. It gives the village a comfortable place to meet for Book Club, Make Meet and Mend and Workshops etc



September



Harvest Produce Share -August /September is a time to bring in the harvests from our gardens. Produce share was bought about as many had a glut of excess fruit or vegetables which we were happy to share and leave out for people to help themselves

October

Harvest/Autumn Celebrations



The Village came together to enjoy a weekend of celebrations with something for adults and children alike.

A workshop was held where families learnt how to make corn dollies and kids made hand prints which were used to make lovely leaf decorations for the



autumn tree in the kitchen area.



The Church was beautifully decorated with flowers and home grown produce, the Make and Mend group created a lovely autumnal garland

for the snug, all of which created a beautiful setting for the evening bring a platter party. People bought some delicious food, recipes were shared and lots of fun was had with the chocolate fountain.



St. Peter's was awarded a grant from the **National Lottery Community Fund** and **IKEA UK** for £5,000, in order to refurbish and improve the Village Hub.

Halloween

Trick or Treating - Every year the village children go Trick or Treating about the village. Many people took part, leaving a decoration outside to show the children it's ok to knock or by leaving treats at the end of the drive or on the door step

December

Christmas is an exciting time of year and we have tried to bring the festive feeling to the village throughout the month in lots of different ways from events to little things like decorating the book swap and stocking it with Christmas reading.



Olivia held the villages second **Christmas Wreath workshop** where we could make our own Christmas wreaths. Last year's was such fun it was great to be able to do it again with many more people joining in and learning a new skill.

Angie organised the **Christmas Craft Bags** full of new ideas and Christmas decorations to make over the Christmas holidays and the **Children's Tasty**



Treats Workshop which was held at the Village Hub with children making edible Christmas themed treats, cookies, decorating cupcakes





Carols in the Village

This year's carols in the village was a huge success with the village carol singers being joined by many village families. The children dressed up and told the Nativity Story as they processed about the village. There were mince pies, sausage rolls and mulled wine to look forward to in the church yard at the end of the evening.

Father Christmas's Annual visit.

This year the village children had the opportunity to visit Father Christmas in his beautifully decorated grotto where presents were donated to all village children by the VPS and Stonehenge Campsite.

On Christmas Eve many children took part in the **Worldwide Christmas Eve Jingle** coming outside and ringing a bell for 2 minutes to spread Christmas Spirit and to help Santa fly his sleigh. Helping to create a wave of bells across the world. After a tough year it was a lovely memory for the children and community and we ended 2021 with a bit of magic, hope and togetherness.



**And so the year ends on a happy note despite all the hardships and uncertainty
and we can look forward to better times.**

Until then we will carry on and have some fun doing so!

We Remember

Ed Horne, January 2021

Barry France, January 2021

Karen Carmen, July 2021

Thank you to Debbie Coleman and Andy Shuttleworth for providing us with Village Memories and titbits from the Village past in the Parish Magazine.

Church Raise the Roof Appeal

if you'd like to make a donation <https://justgiving.com/fundraising/johnathondutton5>

"Sell it Saturday" was introduced to the WS Notifications group, villagers were invited to post any items they'd like to sell or rehome on that day to others in the village. Sometimes you may be in need or want something only to find a neighbour had one to rehome. It was felt that it was easier to give locally and people would prefer to give their unwanted items to those in the village first before advertising further afield.

For Further Information

If you'd like more information about the VPS, or would like to become more involved, help out or have any ideas email us on: winterbournestokevps@gmail.com

Village Preservation Society Committee Members

Teresa Pywell - Chair

Angie Carr - Secretary

Jim Carr - Treasurer

Olivia Dutton - St Peters Church Warden

Jeff Bruce - Stonehenge Campsite