

AUTUMN 2001

The Chairman of the Parish Council is Simon Cross Telephone Number 462232, Vice Chairman Barry Quinn Telephone Number 462623 and the Clerk Sue Barrett Telephone Number 481097. We welcome Sara Grayson of Manor Farm Barns to the Parish Council this year

THE HAWKINS TRUST

As usual with this letter you will be receiving a form concerning annual gifts by the Trust at Christmas and Easter. If you are eligible by age for either of these gifts please complete the form and return it to Sue Barrett by 21st November. This year we are again giving the option of a bottle instead of a hamper at the Christmas distribution.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

We remind you that at the beginning of each Parish Council meeting there is a quarter of an hour allocated for any members of the Parish to raise issues of concern. The meetings are usually held on either the third or fourth Thursday of the month and start at 7.30 for this discussion time.

HIRE OF VILLAGE HALL

If any person wishes to hire the hall please contact Pam Shipton Telephone No. 462865

BUS SERVICE

Did you know a bus service (First Southern National) 102 runs from Dorchester to Wareham Station. It goes through the village about ten past the even hour - 10.00 am until 4.00 p.m. and then departs Wareham Station 28 minutes past the even hour.

CHURCHYARD

Wessex Water have at last connected mains water to a standpipe in the Churchyard. Also the fence is now completed, with many thanks to the Axon family who gave their services free of charge. All materials have been paid from the funds raised to save St. Mary's Church, the remainder of the funds have been passed to the Parish Council for the upkeep of the water supply.

WOOL PARISH NEWS

Our Parish Councillor, Sara Grayson has recently taken over the distribution of this magazine to some of the houses in East Stoke. She would welcome any memories of "old" East Stoke from any people in the village. If anyone would like to jot down their memories please forward to Sara at 4 Manor Farm Barns.

RUINS OF OLD ST. MARY'S CHURCH

We are making some progress concerning the preservation of our crumbling Heritage site, i.e. the ruins of the old St. Mary's Church and graveyard. A representative of English Heritage visited and they are keen to stop further deterioration. A professor from Bournemouth University's Archaeology Dept. Dr. Ian Hewett has also visited the site and agrees that it is of great interest, as is the field in which it is situated. A mature student has now been delegated to photograph and map the area as a project and it is hoped that a colleague of Dr. Hewett will look at the site as being of environmental interest also. Thus some sort of management plan can be drawn up between English Heritage and the University to protect the site on an ongoing basis. This will increase the chance of getting some funding for fencing the area. We approached the church in America, St. Brendan's Episcopal Church, Franklin, Pennsylvania, who now own the East Stoke font (previously in the old and more recent St. Mary's) to tell them of our project. Not only did they send us pictures of the font in its new home but gave a generous gift of \$300 to help with the fencing.

FLOODING

The council has been investigating the ongoing flooding problems that primarily have affected the area between Binnegar Lane and Middlefield Cottages. Whilst concerns have been raised that these problems are attributable to the Hines Pit landfill site, our investigations indicate that this does not appear to be the case. It is a little more complex in that there are a number of contributory factors:

- The water table in this area is very high following a number of very wet winters.
- Old natural springs may have been activated.
- The drains and ditches in Binnegar Lane and the A352 are often blocked and not being cleared regularly enough.
- The field drains behind Middlefield Cottages are not working efficiently enough to cope with the surface water run off.

Our representations to the local authorities have led to short term actions being taken to clear the drains on the A352 more often, repair of broken drainage pipes and the installation of a new gully by the old garage to drain the surface water from the A352.

We are continuing to lobby the local authorities on your behalf to get improvements to the land drainage system. It is hoped that this will deal with the water run off from the fields more effectively and prevent problems with the adjoining properties. We will report on progress in the next newsletter.