



CONTACTS

Church of England at St Mary's, Church Services: 1st Sunday 11.00am Cafe church in All Saints Hall 2nd Sunday 11.00am CW Holy Communion 3rd Sunday 11.00am Morning Praise 4th Sunday 11.00am CW Holy Communion 2nd and 4th Wednesdays 9.00am BCP Holy Communion	The Rector Rev. Nick Clarke. Tel 07842 192402, revnickclarke@gmail.com The Vicarage, 1 Castle Street TA14 6RE website: www.hamhillchurches.org
ALL SAINTS HALL BOOKING SECRETARY	Ann Davison 07709 609488
BOYS BRIGADE - Weekly - Thursday 6.00pm - 7.30pm (now at Martock Christian Fellowship)	Ian Rumbelow 01935 881712
BRIDGE CLUB - Weekly - Monday starting at 8.30pm (Working Mens Club)	
BROWNIES - Weekly - Every Tuesday during term time (Hamdon Youth & Family Centre)	Jackie Poole 01935 823606
CRIME & MYSTERY BOOK GROUP	Kathy Smith 07366979178
FLEXERCISE FOR FUN - At Oak Tree House every Monday at 2.30pm	Di Ramsay 0845 6434702
FOOTBALL - SENIOR TEAMS - Training Tuesday evenings 6.30pm. Matches weekend	Steve Deane 07881 464280 email: stevekatherine@hotmail.co.uk
FOOTBALL - YOUTH TEAMS - Training weekday evenings. Matches Saturdays & Sundays Stoke Youth Football Club www.facebook.com/groups/184504791723630	Contact: Steve Arnold (Chairman), email: stokefcchair@gmail.com & John Elliot (Secretary) 0775 562122, email: stokefcsec@gmail.com
FOOTPATHS - problems and issues contact the Parish Clerk	Sarah Moore, Clerk 01935 822455
GARDENING CLUB - Monthly - Fourth Wednesday 7.30pm (Memorial Hall)	Secretary: sec.sshgardeningclub@gmail.com. Tel : 01935 823691
HAM HILL COUNTRY PARK - VOLUNTEER RANGERS - Weekly Weds 9.50am-3.30pm (Ranger's Office)	Paul McNeill 07973 887129
HAMDON MEDICAL CENTRE	01935 822236
HAMDON YOUTH & FAMILY CENTRE - West Street	Contact: www.hamdonyouthcentre.co.uk email: hamdonyouthcentre@gmail.com
HISTORY GROUP	Carol Parker 825393
LIGHTHOUSE CAFE - Monday 10.00am - 1.00pm	Sarah Russell 826355
MEDITATION GROUP - Tuesdays at 7.30pm at Priory Coffee	Emma Herrod 01935 829443
MEMORIAL HALL BOOKING SECRETARY	bookings.stokememorialhall@hotmail.com. Mary Steel 01935 508996
PARISH COUNCIL - Monthly First Wednesday 7.00pm, The Hamdon Youth & Family Centre Website: stokesubhamdoncouncil.com	Lyn Foley, Chairman 01935 83051 or 07714 005265 Sarah Moore, Clerk 01935 822455
POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER	Abby Linaker email: abby.linaker@avonandsomerset.police.uk
POST OFFICE COUNTER (INSIDE STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP) OPENING TIMES Monday & Friday 9.00am to 12 noon, Thursday 1.00pm to 4.00pm (excluding Bank Holidays)	
STOKE AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION	Derek Goad 01935 824337
STOKE BABY & TODDLER GROUP - Memorial Hall. Thurs.9.30am to 11.30am in term time	carolyn_lefley@hotmail.com Facebook: @StokeBabyAndToddlerGroup
STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP OPENING HOURS - Monday to Friday 8am - 4.30pm; Saturday 8am - 4pm; Sunday 8.30am - 12.30pm	01935 509100
STOKE STOKE AFTERNOON TEA CLUB FOR OLDER PEOPLE. Lighthouse Café, every other Wednesday at 2.15pm	Lisa Wenborn 07515 489587 or Kay Clamp 01935 822468
STOKE SUB HAMDON BAND - Monday & Thursday 8.00pm - 10.00pm Castle School Training Section Mondays 7:00-7:45pm at Castle School	Gill Robins 01935 329904 Jane Herbert 01460 419317
STOKE SUB HAMDON SPORTS & RECREATION TRUST - www.stoke-rec-trust.co.uk email info@stoke-rec-trust.co.uk, Secretary - Peter Hulett 01935 824784, Fundraising Co-Ordinator - Denise Burton 01935 827793	Contacts: Chairman - John Allen, Denise Burton 01935 827793
STOKE PERFORMING ARTS GROUP	Contact Jeannie 01935 579592 or info@stokeperformingartsgroup.co.uk
STOKE WALKING GROUP, every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month	Penny on 822208 or Mark 07496 148756
TAEKWONDO & LITTLE DRAGONS - Mondays 5.00pm - 5.30pm Little Dragons; 5.30pm - 6.15pm Taekwondo beginners; 6.15pm - 7.00pm Taekwondo Adults (Stanchester)	Jennie Clark 07921 393425
TINY TURRETS (Castle Primary School) - Foundation Stage Unit for children aged 2 - 4 years Two daily sessions 9.00am - 12 noon and 12 noon - 3pm. Extended provision available from 7.45am - 5.30pm ages 3+	Castle Primary School Office 01935 822342
TRIANGLE TRUST - Raising funds for Hamdon Medical Centre	Jennie Harris 01935 881718
VILLAGE AGENT - Cluster SS2 Cath Holloway	cath@somersetccr.org.uk Tel: 07968 521746
VILLAGE ARTIST GROUP - Tuesdays 7.45pm- 9.45pm & Friday 10.00am - 12 Noon (Memorial Hall) (during school term times only)	Ali Dunford 01935 823394
WORKING MENS CLUB - Daily - Lunch times & evenings	secretary@stoke.club and www.facebook.com/stokeworkingmensclub Mark Greaves 01935 823297
YOUTH CLUB - Weekly - Monday 7.00pm at Hamdon Youth & Family Centre	Youth Worker Lou on 07402 987921 or email lou.chant@cyp.me.uk

PARISH COUNCIL CLERK: MRS. SARAH MOORE, 24 HIGH STREET, STOKE SUB HAMDON TA14 6PS
TELEPHONE 01935 822455 E-MAIL: clerksshpc@hotmail.co.uk



Stoke sub Hamdon Parish Council

NEWSLETTER

November 2022

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

Congratulations to Hamdon Youth and Family Centre Committee for attaining The Charity Framework Excellence Mark. There has been a lot of hard work gone in to achieving this.

As you may also be aware, the Parish Council are concerned about the volume of traffic, and the speed at which the traffic travels through the village. At the last Parish Council meeting, concerned residents asked if we could do something about this. In an effort to enhance our data collection which is required to evidence our concerns to the Highways Section of District Council, the Parish Council would like to resurrect the Speed Watch scheme in the village. We are therefore looking for as many volunteers as we can muster to coordinate and monitor the speed of vehicles in the village. All volunteers will be trained in using the equipment, and a rota will be established. If you are interested, then please contact cllr.pgoulder.sshpc@gmail.com

Also, last month, three Councillors attended a conference looking at Local Community Networks (LCNs). As you may be aware, in April 2023, the County of Somerset becomes one large unitary authority area. In an effort to localise some services, the County Authority is looking at ways in which this can be managed. They are thinking of splitting locality areas into smaller bite size pieces, either depending on geography, or on per capita population. More information on this can be found at www.newsomersetcouncil.org.uk/local-community-network

New Visitor Centre on Ham Hill, very exciting, it's going to be built in the Lime Kiln car park, it is in the planning stage now. You can have a look using the link below or going onto the village website www.stokesubhamdoncouncil.com and click the planning tracker button top right go to 22/02539/FUL.



Interesting... in principle it will be brilliant, but we are having trouble coming to terms with the increase in traffic through Stoke sub Hamdon. SSDC are putting in planning through Norton sub Hamdon, the consultation was through Norton sub Hamdon, but the visitors will come through Stoke sub Hamdon from the A303 via West Street or North Street, through the centre and up Ham Hill Road. A traffic survey has only been done through the Country Park, so what worries us is the

centre of Stoke sub Hamdon is very busy at the best of times, West Street and High Street is a through road, and cars go through at speed. Now with cars parked opposite the Stoke Community Shop and Charity Shop it pushes moving vehicles to go very close to the shop doors, also here the pavement is very narrow. We would welcome ideas and comment on how we can address this.

If you would like to help the Parish Council by joining a Transport Working Group, you would be most welcome.

You can contact the Parish Council through emailing Sarah Moore, our Parish Clerk, at clerksshpc@hotmail.co.uk or drop a note to her door 24 High Street, Stoke sub Hamdon.

A BIG shout out for the Stoke Sports and Recreation Trust and The Stoke Charity Shop. The Stoke Sports and Recreation Trust (SSRT) manage the Big Rec on behalf of the Parish Council. The Stoke Charity Shop, which is part of the SSRT, takes our unwanted clothes and bric-a-brac and turns it into cash. This money is given to help local causes and to help the SSRT achieve their goals.

You may have noticed in the Big Rec the resurfacing on the car park and the new flood lights in the training area. Both of these projects were arranged and completed by the SSRT - the car park this year and the floodlights in 2019. The Parish Council gives their sincere thanks to the hard work done by the Charity Shop Committee and the Sports and Recreation Trust Committee, AND all those who volunteer with these particular groups. Projects like this cannot come to fruition without the efforts from a tremendous band of hardworking volunteers from the community.

Ultimately, a significant portion of the total costs will be covered by the S106 monies that have been agreed to be released to the Trust by South Somerset District Council. Our thanks also go to them for their help and assistance with this matter, thereby enabling the Trust's hard-earned funds to be ploughed back into future projects for the community's benefit.

Note: S106 is money set aside by a developer for the benefit of the community, and in this case from the 'West Street Development'.

Lyn Foley
Chair of Stoke sub Hamdon Parish Council

STOKE WALKING GROUP

November Walk dates: 14th and 28th November. Walks start at the Lighthouse Cafe at 10.00, last about one and a half hours to finish in time for a cuppa and a chat at the cafe.

Come and discover more paths around Stoke. New walkers always welcome. Dress for the weather, stout footwear is recommended. Well behaved dogs on leads are also welcome.

The Stoke Walking Group is affiliated with the National Health Walk programme. The guided walks are led by trained walk leaders. Come and join us.

Articles for the Newsletter, or to advertise forthcoming events: please email or post to Sarah Moore by 16th of previous month. Contact information is on the bottom of the back page of this newsletter.



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

The annual Remembrance Service will take place around the Monument on Ham Hill on Sunday, 13th November at 10.45am, where we will be honouring the servicemen and women who have given their lives for our country and for today's servicemen and women who are currently in action and stationed around the world. You are all welcome to come to this poignant service. There is vehicular access available if required.

Jon Moore, Poppy Appeal Organiser

HAMDON YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRE

We've won an Award!

Everyone using the Hamdon Youth & Family Centre in West Street is chuffed to bits! The Centre has been awarded the Charity Excellence Framework Quality Mark! This is in recognition of all the hard work the volunteers who manage the Centre have put in to ensure there are good management practices and policies in place to support and protect our young people. Our fantastic new venue is available to hire exclusively for children's supervised activities - groups, classes and one-off hires. Like to know more? Head to our new website www.hamdonyouthcentre.co.uk for a sneak peek inside the building and all the details of how to book.

MARTOCK U3A

You are invited to the Martock & District u3a meeting on Wednesday 9th November for a talk on 'Climate Change - what we need to do' at 2.15pm at Martock Parish Hall. All welcome to the talk, to enjoy a chat over refreshments and to find out about the learning, hobby and interest groups you can join through Martock & District u3a. More information about Martock & District u3a: email martocku3amembership@gmail.com, telephone 01460 240788. website www.u3a.org.uk. The Christmas Jamboree is being held on Wednesday 14th December.

STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP: YOUR VILLAGE – YOUR SHOP

Volunteers wanted: Many of our Volunteers have now returned to work so we're looking for some new faces to join our friendly team. Not only will you be helping to keep our village shop up and running, you'll also get a chance to attend our Volunteer events, such as our recent food and drink tasting evening. The main shifts that need covering are weekday late mornings and afternoons. Want to find out more? Pop into the Community Shop for a chat with one of our team or email volunteers@stokeshop.co.uk. You can also find out more – and download an application form – at stokeshop.co.uk/volunteering

AGM: A reminder that our second AGM is in the Memorial Hall on Friday 11 November at 6pm. It's open to all Members of SSHCS Ltd, who will have received notification of the event by post or email.

BBC Children in Need: We're holding our annual cake sale in aid of this charity on Friday 18 November, so pop into the shop for some super homemade treats.

Festive home baking: We sell all the ingredients you need to make a home-baked Christmas Pudding on Stir Up Sunday, 22 November – the traditional day when family and friends get the chance to give the batter a mix and make a wish.

Get ready for Christmas: We're now stocking a range of Christmas gifts, festive goodies and hamper fillers, along with shop-branded jute bags, pens, travel mugs and gift vouchers – ideal for Xmas presents for friends and family.

Free home deliveries: We deliver grocery orders to your home if you live in Stoke-sub-Hamdon and are unable to get out and about. Please call us with your order on 01935 509100 between 9am and 2pm on weekdays and we'll arrange same or next-day delivery.

For more information about the shop and how you can get involved, visit stokeshop.co.uk or www.facebook.com/stokecommunityshop

CLOSURE OF HAMDON PLAYGROUP

Hamdon Playgroup has now sadly closed permanently after 48 years due to URC South Western Synod wanting to sell the building; this meant we would have to accept a new tenancy agreement. This was offered but we were unable to accept it due to the cost being beyond our means and financial commitment. The conditions were £10,500 a year rent, not including utility and insurance costs which brought our monthly rent payable to around £1,500 per month, this being unachievable.

An Extraordinary General meeting was held on 14th June 2022, where a vote was taken by the Committee and parents with support from Somerset County Council that Playgroup would have no option but to close at the end of July 2022. The Committee then had to put into place the closure and secure funds for the staff redundancy payments. All assets and equipment had to be sold to fund this. Sales were advertised by Somerset County Council to Preschools and Early Years settings. These took place in August. Somerset County Council supported us with a sustainability grant, plus funds raised by the Committee although we still have a shortfall of £1,600 to complete all redundancy payments.

I would like to thank Committee members, parents, villagers and staff for their support in this mammoth task to sell everything and empty the premises by 14th September when the keys were handed back to the South Western Synod and our tenancy ended. A very sad day for all concerned.

We would like to thank everyone over the years, the Stoke Sports and Recreation Trust, the Charity shop, Derek Goad, Derek Morris at West Street Farm, HCAP, Stoke Working Men's Club, the Co-op Community Fund, Castle Primary School and Stoke Parish Council who have supported us and, of course, all the people and parents of Stoke Sub Hamdon over the 48 years we were open. Thank you to all of you.

Jayne Clements, Chair of Hamdon Playgroup and all Committee members and Staff.

THE VILLAGE ARTIST GROUP

The venerable Village Artist Group established in 1996 remains a small but friendly group of people, of all ages and abilities, who meet weekly - Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm and Fridays 10.00-12.00 midday during term time at the Memorial Hall, Stoke Sub Hamdon, West Street, TA14 6PZ. We practice all forms of the visual arts in a relaxed atmosphere and have a pool of incredibly talented and sociable people, who would always welcome new members joining us. If you are interested in venturing out once or twice a week and are looking forward to a very rewarding and affordable pastime, please contact Malcolm on 01935 829513 malcolmuhorn99@gmail.com or Allison 01935 823394 alidunford101@outlook.com for a chat and free introductory session.

LITTER PICK

November's litter pick will be on Sunday 20th November to avoid Remembrance Sunday. Meet at 9am outside the All Saints' Hall opposite the Fleur-de-Lis. Wear sensible shoes and stout gloves, all else will be provided. We meet back around 11am for our Priory Cafe coffee courtesy of Paul and Mandy and the community shop. Contact me at helivet@msn.com if further information required. See you there.

Catherine Fraser

STOKE HISTORY GROUP

Stoke History Group is looking for pictures of Fred Small. Fred Small owned the Butcher's shop in West Street. Today the Butcher's shop is a residential property next to the recreation ground. If anyone has any old photos in their family albums that might be of interest to the History Group, please contact Carol Parker on 825393 or email cep@talktalk.net.

NOTICE FROM SSDC - COVID-19 AUTUMN BOOSTER AND FLU VACCINES FOR CARERS

The Covid-19 Autumn Booster and Flu vaccine programmes are now well underway and Carers in South Somerset are being urged to take up the offer of immunisation, to protect themselves and those they care for. This year anyone aged 16 and over who receives carer's allowance, or who is the main carer of an elderly or disabled person who is at increased risk from flu or COVID-19, is eligible for both vaccines. This includes people who provide unpaid care, for example as a family member, close friend or neighbour.

It is hugely important that all those who are eligible, especially unpaid carers, take up the offer of both the COVID-19 booster and flu vaccines as soon as possible this season. The risk of COVID-19 and flu remains significant, and vaccines remain the best defense against them.

Carers who are known to GPs and who have a 'carer's flag' on their primary care record will receive invitations to book both their COVID-19 booster and flu vaccines as soon as they are eligible. Carers can also self-declare and book their COVID-19 booster vaccination via the National Booking Service on the NHS website (www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/), by calling 119, or by finding a walk-in appointment through the online vaccination walk-in finder, and should approach their GP or pharmacy for further information about how to access the flu vaccine. There is no requirement to provide proof that a person is a carer when attending vaccination appointments.

Those who have newly taken on caring responsibilities may not yet be known to their GPs or Local Authority. All carers are encouraged to find out if they are eligible for a vaccination – especially those who are unpaid. If you are a carer or know of anyone who is, do consider approaching your GP to record your status on your primary care record.

Further information about the COVID-19 autumn booster is available online via www.gov.uk/government/publications/, and separate flu vaccination guidance for social care workers and carers has also been published.

AFTERNOON TEA CLUB

Just a short article to let you know the Afternoon Tea Club is under new management. The lovely ladies who have helped me for years initially running the Lunch Club (prior to covid) and who now help to run the Afternoon Tea Club are taking over the responsibility of running and managing the club. I am very grateful to all of the volunteers involved with this worthwhile work. I know the Club will go from strength to strength under their leadership. Please note the new contact details on the back of the newsletter. Dates of the club should be included in the diary of events so keep your eyes open for them. November dates are Wednesday 2nd, 16th, and 30th. The Club is held in the Lighthouse Cafe from 2.15pm. Transport can be arranged by contacting either Lisa Wenborn or Kay Clamp. I have loved every minute of working with you all, I wish you all well and don't forget to save me a sandwich.

Lyn Foley

STOKE BAND NEWS

Our Christmas concert is on Saturday 10th December at the Memorial Hall. As usual tickets will be £6 and will include pies and puds. Please phone Jane Herbert on 01460 419317 to book tickets, moneys payable on the night. We are planning to accept cards as well as cash (signal permitting).

On Saturday 17th December, we will once again be playing carols outside at the Prince of Wales from 2:00pm until 4:00pm. Please come and sing along with us. We are looking forward to seeing everyone again this year.

VILLAGE AGENT

Village and Community Agent News – November 2022 Staying Warm and Well this winter -

This year, more than ever, many people will be extremely concerned about the rise in fuel costs and the coming winter months. Please do get in touch if you are struggling with fuels costs – we want everyone to be warm and well this winter! Alternatively, you can contact the Centre for Sustainable Energy and their Home Energy team on 0800 082 2234. They are on hand to deal with fuel debt, help find cheaper fuel, aid in switching suppliers and much more. Watch this recent Talking Café for fantastic tips and advice for saving money on your fuel bills and keeping a warm home:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7FsnSrjAow>

Are you over 60, or rely on electricity for medical or mobility reasons or have a hearing or visual impairment or a long-term health condition? Sign up for the priority services register here: <https://www.nationalgrid.co.uk/customers-and-community/priority-services/priority-services-register>. There is advice on the website for registering with your other utilities too such as water and gas. Hundreds of older people in Somerset are forced to choose between heating and eating every winter.

Village & Community Agents will be able to help with keeping warm by distributing Surviving Winter grants to those most in need. Funding comes from people who are financially able donating their winter fuel payment to SCF – if you are able to do this please visit: <https://www.somersetcf.org.uk/special-projects/surviving-winter>

Crisis Fund Appeal

The CCS Crisis Fund is distributed by our Village and Community Agents to help people in crisis situations. A small grant can make a huge difference in a person's life – *and we need your help now more than ever!* We are asking YOU to get involved anyway you can with sponsored runs, bake sales, walks - setting yourself any kind of #CrisisFundChallenge – or by simply and very kindly donating! Please visit www.somersetagents.org/crisis to find out more. You can donate to a county-wide 'pot' <https://localgiving.org/charity/somersetcrisisfund/> or text CRISIS to 70580 to donate £10. You can also donate funds directly to South Somerset - Text SOUTHSOMERSET to 70470 to donate £10 or visit.

<https://localgiving.org/charity/somersetcrisisfund/project/southsomersetcrisisfund/>

If you think your local CCS Village Agent help you in any way, please call 01823 331 222 or visit www.somersetagents.org/agent-call-back and request a call back or email info@somersetcc.org.uk.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOVEMBER

2nd	Afternoon Tea Club
11th	Stoke Community Shop AGM
13th	Remembrance Sunday
14th	Stoke Walking Group
16th	Afternoon Tea Club
18th	Children In Need Cake Sale
20th	Litter Pick
22nd	Christmas Pudding on Stir Up Sunday
28th	Stoke Walking Group
30th	Afternoon Tea Club

DECEMBER

10th	Stoke Band Christmas Concert
11th	Stoke Band Carols outside the Prince of Wales