

CONTACTS

Church of England at St Mary's.	The Rector Rev. Nick Clarke. Tel 07842 192402, revnickclarke@gmail.com
<i>Due to current 'lockdown' restrictions the church is closed, and services will be held virtually.</i>	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 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
"EVERY STEP COUNTS" - 9.30am & "HEALTH WALKS" 10.30am. Meet outside the Lighthouse	Penny on 822208 or Mark 07496 148756
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	Ashleigh Bussell 07969 106205
FOOTBALL - YOUTH TEAMS - Training weekday evenings. Matches Saturdays & Sundays	Kim Campbell 07973 630121 email kimcam73@me.com
FOOTPATHS - problems and issues contact the Parish Clerk	Sarah Moore, Clerk 822455
GARDENING CLUB - Monthly - Fourth Wednesday 7.30pm (Memorial Hall)	Ruth St John-Murphy 01935 829408
'GET FIT WITH SUE' - Mondays - Fitness Pilates 5pm (call first), Aerobics & Toning 6pm. Thursdays - Fitness Pilates 6pm	Sue Menzies 01935 829632
HAM HILL COUNTRY PARK - VOLUNTEER RANGERS - Weekly Wed. 10.00am - 3.30pm (Ranger's Office)	Paul McNeill 07973 3887129
HAMDON BRASS BAND	Sonja Hellier 01460 241297 email pipershaunt@hotmail.com
HAMDON MEDICAL CENTRE	01935 822236
HAMDON PLAYGROUP - Monday - Friday term time, 8.30 am - 3.30 pm. 2 years old, 3/4 years old and 30 hours funding available.	Ann or Karon 01935 826832 Email: hamdonplaygroup@btinternet.com
HAMDON COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECT -	Maria Eames 01935 824064
HISTORY GROUP	Carol Parker 825393
LIGHTHOUSE CAFE - Monday & Thursday 10.00am - 1.00pm	Sarah Russell 826355
MAY FAYRE - Annual Event for Sports & Recreation Trust	Denise Burton 827793
MEDITATION GROUP - Tuesdays at 8.00pm in the HCAP building (URC)	Emma Herrod 01935 829443
MEMORIAL HALL BOOKING SECRETARY	bookings.stokememorialhall@hotmail.com. Mary Steel 01935 508996
PARISH COUNCIL - Monthly First Wednesday 7.15pm (Memorial Hall)	Barbara Brooks, Chairman 824432 Sarah Moore, Clerk 822455
POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER	Carole Brown email: carolebrown@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)	
SEATED CHAIR EXERCISES - Friday at 10am in the All Saints Hall	Sue Menzies 829632
STOKE AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION	Derek Goad. 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 - 4pm; Saturday 8am - 4pm; Sunday 8.30am - 12.30pm	01935 509100
STOKE LUNCH CLUB FOR OLDER PEOPLE. Lighthouse Café last Wednesday of the month.	Lyn Foley 01935 823051/07714 005265
STOKE SUB HAMDON BAND - Monday & Thursday 8.00pm - 10.00pm Band Room, back of URC	Gill Robins 01935 329904
Training Band - Thursdays at Band Room, 7.00pm - 7.45pm	Jane Herbert 01460 419317
STOKE PERFORMING ARTS GROUP	Jeanie 01935 579592 or Moira info@stokeperformingartsgroup.co.uk
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
TAI CHI - Weekly - Thursday 4.00pm - 5.00pm in Memorial Hal	John 07721 060901
TINY TURRETS (Castle Primary School) - Foundation Stage Unit for children aged 2 - 4 years	Castle Primary School Office 01935 822342
Two daily sessions 9.00am - 12 noon and 12 noon - 3pm. Extended provision available from 7.45am - 5.30pm ages 3+	
TRIANGLE TRUST - Raising funds for Hamdon Medical Centre	Jennie Harris 881718
VILLAGE AGENT - Cluster SS2 Cath Holloway	cath@somersetcc.org.uk Tel: 07968 521746
VILLAGE ARTIST GROUP - Monday 10.00am - 12.30pm, Friday 10.00am - 12 noon (Memorial Hall)	
Thursday 7.30pm - 9.30pm (Memorial Hall)	Malcolm Uhlhorn 01935 829513
WORKING MENS CLUB - Daily - Lunch times & evenings	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: clerkshpc@hotmail.co.uk



CHAIR'S UPDATE

Allotments

We had a good take up to our advertisement last month and more of you are now growing your own vegetables and fruit! We now have a waiting list for the North Street site, but there are still 3 allotments available at Stonehill and 1½ at Furlands. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you would like more information and she will be pleased to help.

Speed Indicator Device

The Speed Indicator Device we ordered back in November has frustratingly been caught up in the Customs delays caused by Brexit - but we are delighted to be able to report that it is now due to be with us mid- March. The Parish Ranger will fit it at one of his usual monthly sessions at the end of the month. One of our councillors has been on a Chapter 8 training course so that the SID can be moved every fortnight to a new location.

Grit Bin

A new grit bin has now been purchased and filled by the Parish Council and placed on the grass verge outside the Co-op in East Stoke for the use of villagers living in the general area. It will be topped up each year by Highways from the County Council as part of their street responsibilities.

Village Litter Pick

Several people have come forward since last month to offer to be part of the regular Village Litter Pick team - so a big thank you! Depending on what social distancing restrictions are in place, Cath Frazer hopes to start this in March. Thanks Cath! The Parish Council will be purchasing all the equipment needed for the team - grabbers, gloves, black bags, first aid

Stoke sub Hamdon Parish Council

NEWSLETTER

March 2021

kit etc. and providing the risk assessment document that is legally required to be done.

2021 Census Day

Sunday March 21st is Census Day. Every 10 years the Government issues a Census document to each household which by law we must all complete. But there is a very practical reason why we all should fill it in as best we can.

Why?

The census helps Governments understand what our society needs now and what it's likely to need in the future. The information it collects helps plan and fund services. This could include transport, housing, education, hospitals, mental health and social care. Businesses use it to decide where to set up, which creates job opportunities. Charities also use census information to help get the funding they need.

This year the Government also wants to obtain fresh information to improve our understanding of the 2020 pandemic and how it affected people in practical terms which might influence decisions in a future pandemic.

We are all being encouraged to fill in the form online this year, if possible. If you can't get online or need help completing the census online, there'll be Census Support Centres across England and Wales, and help will be available by phone, webchat, email, social media or text message.

Census Officers wearing PPE will knock on the doors of those households at the end of March who have not submitted a form to provide support. They will not enter your house.

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.

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Beware Thieves About!

We've been given several reports that thieves are actively working in our village and the surrounding areas. Houses are being marked (on gates/fences) if there is a dog there, or if there are known valuables and cars are being tagged with a note being put under the windscreen wiper. There have also been attempts to seize dogs from people walking their dogs up on Ham Hill. So please take care and be on the alert. If you see something suspicious, please make sure you report it to the police and alert the houseowner. We can all do our bit to support each other and make it as hard as we can for these criminals to be successful.

Want to learn new skills?

Fancy a new interest or hobby, want to learn how to sing, increase your wellbeing, upgrade your maths knowledge, or get a taster of skills for a new job? The District Council are partnering with Somerset Skills & Learning who offer online courses at <https://www.sslcourses.co.uk/courses/>. The Community Learning courses are free of charge. Well worth a look! Somerset County Council at Step Up Somerset also offer links for more formal job training at <https://www.stepupsomerset.org.uk/skills>.

*Cllr Barbara Brooks, Chair
01935 824432 chairsshpc@hotmail.com*

POLICE INFORMATION

For any advice and further/up-to-date information on incidents please go to the website: www.police.uk. If you are a witness to or the victim of a crime, then it is imperative that you report it to the police immediately whether it is during the day or at night. When reporting an incident please telephone either 101 for non-emergencies or 999 for emergencies only.

VILLAGE LITTER PICK

I would like to start a bi-monthly litter pick. I propose meeting outside the All Saints Hall early on Sundays as the traffic is quieter. I will provide litter pickers, bag hoops, fluorescent tabards and bags. Please come with gloves and walking shoes or boots as appropriate to the weather. The first date is March 14th at 9 am. There will be vouchers for a free coffee at Priory Coffee Shop distributed to all attendees after the litter pick. I hope it will take around 2 hours. There will be no need to walk with anyone other than your own household, so we don't go against any lockdown regulations. If you are interested in taking part, please either contact Sarah Moore on 822455 or myself Catherine Fraser via email at helivet@msn.com

Thank you and let's hope for a dry morning.



STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP: YOUR VILLAGE – YOUR SHOP

Celebrating our first year: Stoke Community Shop opened its doors for the first time on 2nd March 2020. Since then, we've had an incredible year, thanks to the support of our members, volunteers and customers. To celebrate our first anniversary, we're running a free tombola from 1st to 6th March with lots of shop goodies as prizes. So, pop in and make a purchase for the chance to win!

Easter fun: We're holding a family Easter Egg Treasure Trail on Easter Monday (5th April) together with Priory Café. Free entry and Easter goodies for all kids.

Easter treats: We've a great range of Easter eggs and goods in stock as well as all the ingredients you need to bake a wide range of traditional Easter fare.

Home deliveries: We carried out an amazing 150 home deliveries in January to villagers who were shielding or unable to get out and about. This wouldn't have been possible without our delivery volunteers – Colleen Sperrick and Mike Foley – so a big thank you to them. If you'd like a home delivery, call us with your order on 01935 509100 between 9am and 4pm on weekdays and we'll arrange same day or next-day delivery.

Volunteering: The shop is always looking for new volunteers to join our friendly volunteer team. Drop by and speak to Lyn Foley; or email volunteers@stokeshop.co.uk; or find out more at stokeshop.co.uk/volunteering

TRIBUTE TO THE POP IN

The 'Acorn Pop-In' at Oak Tree House sadly discontinued from 1st December 2020 due to dwindling numbers and the lack of younger volunteers to help out. The group was formed in 2005 and was the idea of three ladies; Jennifer Kerr, Rosemary Egerton and Helen Rose, and together with a small flexible committee provided a social group at Oak Tree House for both the residents and any elderly people in the village and surrounds who wished to attend.

At first about 40 people attended, then settling down to about 25, and there were varied activities each week, with homemade cake, a cup of tea and plenty of time to make friends, laugh and chat. Margaret Trotman always greeted people as they arrived and collect the small fee. Michael Kerr audited the accounts, and a chairman was elected annually.

The mainly indoor winter activities ranged from visitors giving talks, demonstrating skills or showing films of village activities, local history and projects, to a variety of board games, quizzes or carpet bowls. Hinton St George Village Singers came twice a year and people readily joined in with the singing of old favourites, folk songs, old ballads and Christmas carols whilst joyfully shaking simple percussion instruments.

As the better weather came, the group went on coach trips to garden centres, the seaside for cream tea or to local craft centres. Sometimes to Shepton Mallet for a Fish and Chip lunch. Also, Jennifer always welcomed members for an annual summer BBQ at her house and each Christmas everyone went to a local pub or restaurant for a full Christmas celebration meal. Occasionally here was a trip to the theatre but access became a little more difficult for the very elderly as time went on.

I picture so many faces over the years: the two 100-year-old ladies, Kathleen and Eve, Judith Toff, Stella, the Minister, popping in, Eileen, Doreen, Dick and Joan, Reg, Hilary, Paul, Ian, Bill, John and my Mike, Flossie, Patience, Gwen, Mary and Jo, and so many others. Jennifer always organised the activities with such skill. I learned so much about the village and its history from listening.

The three ladies, Jennifer, Rosemary and Helen together with the helpers they gathered, saw a gap in peoples lives in 2005 and as a member I should like to thank them on behalf of all who came and enjoyed a few hours of 'Popins' over the 15 years, for all the selfless time and kindness they devoted to it and the pleasure given to so many. I am sure it will be missed.

Shelia Webb

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 3RD MARCH 2021 AT 7PM

The Parish Council are now holding their meetings via the virtual meeting platform Zoom. The basic package is free to use and can be accessed at <https://zoom.us/>. If you would like to attend our virtual parish council meeting please contact me at clerksshpc@hotmail.co.uk for the ID link by 3pm on the day of the meeting. If you do not have access to the internet but would still like to listen in on the meeting please telephone me on 01935 822455 for the telephone conferencing number so that you can dial in.



If you would like to participate in the public session, please email/phone through the subject/question you wish to raise with the council when you asked for the ID link/telephone number.

If you are accessing the meeting via the internet:

- Click on the link given to you in the email
- Download the Zoom app, if not already done so

- Test your speakers and microphone on your device (you will be prompted to do this)
- You will then be put in a 'Waiting Room' until you are invited to join.
- Once connected, you must click on the video camera icon at the bottom left hand side of the screen to enable the video. This is so that councillors can see who is attending the meeting.

If you are accessing the meeting by telephone:

- Dial the number given to you by the Clerk.
- Once connected you will be prompted to type in the meeting ID plus #, then #, then the password plus #. You will be placed in a 'Waiting Room' until invited to join.

All microphones will be automatically muted from the start of the meeting. If you wish to participate in the public session your microphone will be unmuted when you are invited to speak.

Sarah Moore, Parish Clerk