

CONTACTS

Church of England at St Mary's.

Associate Vicar: Rev Annie Gurner, 824167,
revgurner@btinternet.com
Parish Office, 1 Castle Street TA14 6RE
website: www.hamhillchurches.org

Due to current 'lockdown' restrictions the church is closed, and services will be held virtually.

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 Training Band - Thursdays at Band Room, 7.00pm - 7.45pm	Gill Robins 01935 329904 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 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 881718
VILLAGE AGENT - Cluster SS2 Cath Holloway	cath@somersetccc.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

Stoke sub Hamdon Parish Council

NEWSLETTER

February 2021

PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE PRECEPT UPDATE

At January's meeting, the Parish Council agreed its Precept (Budget) for the coming financial year. This is the "proportion" of your Council Tax managed by your Parish Council and represents a small proportion of your overall Council Tax charge.

For 2021/2022 our Tax Base increases from 732.08 to 736.27, meaning there are more "taxable" properties in the parish. This could be due to new builds or a reduction in the amount of properties that are either exempt from Council Tax or who are entitled to a discount.

For next year's Budget we agreed that the Precept needed to increase by 2% from £68,471.20 to £69,840.62; this puts the Band D equivalent up by £1.33. More money is being allocated to keep the village environment better maintained. We now employ a Parish Ranger to help with work normally covered by County and District Councils.

Significant progress has been made with the refurbishment work at the Hamdon Youth & Family Centre over the last couple of months, this should mean that by the end of March we will have two large open spaces in the building that are more useable and fit for purpose with improved flooring, heating, and lighting.

Hugh Donovan – Chair of Finance Group

CHAIR'S UPDATE

Help keep our village tidy!

Keeping our streets and green spaces litter free is something that each village is responsible for now as it is no longer possible to be included in District and County budget plans. Our ground maintenance contractors pick up litter each time they cut grass and verges and the Parish Council organises a Litter Pick just before the May Fayre each year. However, litter is still a problem all year round and we understand that one of our lovely villagers has kindly offered to set up a volunteer group to do regular litter picks to keep our village looking clean and tidy. This is absolutely fantastic – thank you so much! You are a star. Would YOU like to join her on a regular or occasional basis? (And walking is so good for your health!) Please contact our Parish Clerk on 822455.

Allotments

Were you one of the people who started growing vegetables and fruit for the first time in the lockdown last year? Thinking of doing it this Spring and Summer but on a bigger scale? There are still a few allotments available in the village going at very reasonable rates. If you are interested, please contact our Parish Clerk on 822455.

Thank you Stoke!

A big shout out again this month to our lovely Community Shop volunteers who continue to help those with deliveries, prescriptions etc during the lockdown; to our hard-working teachers who continue to school the children of key workers whilst also organising online regular lessons for the rest; to

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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carers, NHS staff and all key workers living in Stoke who are doing such valued and appreciated work; and to everyone who is quietly and compassionately looking out for their neighbours. Awesome.

Beware of scams!

We have been alerted by the police and the NHS to a number of scams going round in these uncertain times, so please take care! One example is where someone calls you or emails you asking for confirmation of your personal data such as bank account details, passport data etc. If they claim to be from your regular organisations like your broadband, TV Licensing or your bank please don't just give them the information over the phone - make sure you contact the company direct and check with them to see if the request is genuine. Another example is where a non-existent job is posted on a genuine recruitment site: and then the fake company advertising the job asks you for payment for a 'registration' or 'DBS check' etc. Check them out first to see if they actually exist. Never give in to pressure from doorstep salesmen to sign and agree to something there and then. All these scammers will take your personal details and sell them on to the 'dark web' to be used to commit fraud for their own benefit.

And finally, if someone comes knocking at your door and offering to vaccinate you there and then for cash - please just say **NO!** The NHS will:

- **NEVER** ask for payment – the vaccine is free
- **NEVER** ask for your bank details
- **NEVER** arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- **NEVER** ask you for copies of your personal documents such as your passport

The COVID-19 vaccine rollout

This is well under way in Somerset with many over-80s, care home residents and health care workers in the first group already having had their first vaccination. We will all be contacted by the NHS when it is our own time to have an appointment, so please don't contact Hamdon Medical Centre direct. And at long last cases in South Somerset are gradually beginning to come down and there is light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccine. But we still all need to keep to the rules to avoid cases going up again.

So, in the meantime, Wash Hands, Cover Face and Make Space and take good care of yourselves!

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

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 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



STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP: YOUR VILLAGE – YOUR SHOP

We'd like to wish everyone a very happy – and safe – 2021.

Thank you to our Volunteers: It's been a challenging first 10 months for Stoke Community Shop, with the pandemic hitting within weeks of us opening. The dedication of our Volunteers has been – and continues to be – what makes running the shop possible, so a big thanks to you all for your hard work.

Looking for a new challenge? Why not join our friendly volunteer team? Pop into the shop and speak to Lyn Foley; or email volunteers@stokeshop.co.uk; or find out more at stokeshop.co.uk/volunteering

Lord's Larder: The shop received many donations over the festive period as well as during the year, and the Lord's Larder have been overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness of our village. They have asked us to say thank you to everyone who contributed and helped to make it a happier Christmas for those in need.

Secret Santa: We piloted a gift scheme for Christmas 2020 enabling customers to send small presents anonymously to spread a little festive cheer. We aim to make it bigger and better for Christmas 2021, so keep an eye out for news of our plans later in the year.

Home deliveries: Our home delivery service is here for you if you're unable to get out and about. Call us with your order on 01935 509100 between 9am and 4pm on weekdays and we'll arrange same-day 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

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.

STOKE CHARITY SHOP

Valentine's Day offer: We've put together a special meal deal for Valentine's Day so you can celebrate in style at home during the latest lockdown. Meat and vegetarian options are on the menu as well as wine, beer or a soft drink of your choice. Drop into the shop or give us a call on 01935 509100 to find out more and place your order.

Christmas raffle winner: Congratulations to Denise Burton who won our super hamper of shop treats plus the beautiful Christmas cake kindly baked for us by Annie Ellis.

Volunteering: If you've a few hours to spare and fancy getting involved in the community, why not join Stoke Community Shop's friendly volunteer team? Pop in to the shop and speak to Lyn Foley; or email volunteers@stokeshop.co.uk; or find out more at stokeshop.co.uk/volunteering

Home deliveries: Don't forget that our home delivery service is here for you if you're unable to get out and about. Call us with your order on 01935 509100 between 9am and 4pm on weekdays and we'll arrange same-day or next-day delivery.

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STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDENING CLUB

Regretfully, but not surprisingly, we have had to postpone our AGM which was due to be held on Wednesday 24th February, and also the meeting planned for the 24th of March. We will restart as soon as guidelines allow, and everyone feels safe in doing so.

The committee is still convening monthly via Zoom and will post updates as the Covid situation changes via Newsletters & www.facebook.com/StokeGardeningClub

