



VILLAGE NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2026

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The Parish Council met twice in January – the ordinary meeting on the first Wednesday of the month as usual, followed by an additional meeting to approve the budget and precept request on 14th of January.

At the first meeting of the new year, members approved three days of drain and gully clearing in the village in early February to (hopefully!) help alleviate some road surface flooding; on the glamorous issue of bins, the Parish Council has decided to purchase 3 new co-mingle bins which can be used for (bagged) dog waste and general litter. This is with a view to reducing the number of bins overall in the village as Somerset Council has devolved the cost of bin collecting for any bins that aren't on Somerset Council owned land. This is an ongoing project and you may see some changes locally, but please remember that it will REDUCE the overall cost and at the same time provide more waste volume in certain 'hotspots'. Residents are also reminded that you can always take litter home and use your black bin. (Did you know that Japan does not provide public litter bins, and they suffer NO litter in public spaces? Food for thought!).

The meeting to approve the budget and precept request came after a great deal of hard work by the Responsible Financial Officer who runs a tight ship! Members thanked him for his accuracy and efficiency and agreed the precept demand for 2026/27 of £99,325, an overall reduction per household for the second year running.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th February 2026 at 7pm and as always the agenda will be available to view on the website together with full minutes of previous meetings at www.stokesubhamdoncouncil.com

For more information on Parish Council matters, please contact our clerk, Gilly, at clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk

*Cllr Suzanne Nelms,
Chair of Stoke-sub-Hamdon Parish Council*

STOKE HEALTH WALKS

Make new friends while walking and talking too. Feel fitter for being out in the fresh air. Walk with trained leaders, start from outside the Lighthouse Café. Dress for the weather, stout footwear recommended. Well-behaved dogs on short leads are welcome.

Monday walks finish in the Lighthouse café to chat over a hot drink and maybe a cake. Tuesday walks have the option of a pub lunch. *For more information contact Sue 07792311736*

BROWNIES- Can you help?

Stoke Sub Hamdon Brownies are looking for a volunteer / adult leader to support the group some weeks when other leaders have additional commitments. We also do various trips and activities (we have been to Legoland, camping, the cinema, slept at a zoo, to name but a few!!) Our programme is a variety of activities, challenges, craft, teamwork and helping the Brownies gain skills, confidence and gain new friends.

We meet on a Tuesday (term time) at the Hamdon Youth and Family Centre from 6.15 - 7.30, we have a maximum of 24 Brownies at the meetings.

There may be some online training to ensure we all have the best interest of the Brownies at the core of what we do.

If you are interested, please drop an email to stokesubhamdonbrownies@gmail.com.

Thank you, Sarah, Brown Owl

STOKE SUB HAMDON SPORTS AND RECREATION TRUST

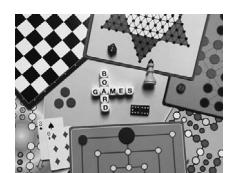
Our Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 3rd March at 7:30pm in the lower skittle alley of the Stoke Working Men's Club. Please come and join us and hear about what we have done in 2025 and what we are planning to do in the future. If you would like to join us as a Trustee, please contact the Secretary through info@sports-rec-trust.co.uk.

Peter Hulett, Secretary

WEDNESDAY GAMES AFTERNOON

We will be running the Wednesday Social Club in the Lighthouse Café on 4th and 18th February from 2 pm till 4 pm. All are welcome, come for a cuppa and a chat or play games, cards, dominoes, board games etc.

Come and break up your week with friends. No need to book. *For more info contact Lyn Foley, on 07714005265*



CHARITY SHOP

Stoke Charity Shop would like to thank all their volunteers and supporters in helping them achieve such a successful 2025. The shop grossed just over £50,000 which is an amazing result from such a small shop. As you know, all our profits are used to help support our village which is absolutely brilliant. Organisations or individuals seeking grants should contact the Charity Shop Treasurer for a grant application form. Just pop into the shop and ask for details. More information about the way our grant funding works and the type of activities we can help fund is available on request.

We look forward to your continued support during 2026 and please don't forget to follow Stoke Charity Shop on Facebook where you can find our latest bargains advertised!

Doors open at The Memorial Hall 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. start. Visitors are always welcome - £5 admission fee re-funded if you join the Club. There will also be a raffle, home grown plant sale and free refreshments.

For more details, contact Tricia on secsshgardeningclub@gmail.com

VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP

Are you looking for a new challenge and have a little spare time? Our Spring term sessions are now in full swing with lots of fresh artistic inspiration! Do come and join us and enjoy the company of a very friendly self-guided group of artists for painting, drawing etc.

We're upgrading the gas network in your area!

Wales & West Utilities is currently working to upgrade the gas network in Stoke Sub Hamdon until April.

Traffic management will be in place, including:
Rolling two-way traffic lights on North Street until 9 March
Road closure on North Street from High Street to Castle Street from 9 March until 5 April.

Any questions?

Call
0800 912 2999
(Freephone)

The essential work is part of a £170k scheme by Wales & West Utilities to keep the gas flowing to homes and businesses in the area, and to make sure the gas network is fit for the future.

We will do all we can to help and ensure the work is completed as quickly and efficiently as possible and apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9:30 pm and Friday mornings 10.00 to 12.30 pm during school term time. FREE first visit to see how you get on! Please contact Andrew on (01935) 823691,

SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com

Facebook: Stoke Sub Hamdon The Village Artists Group.

GARDENING CLUB

Join us on Wednesday 25th February for our AGM this month – (hopefully brief!) followed by a talk given by our own Dusk Eastment together with Lara Honnor on how they are “Putting Somerset on the map with their pioneering Children’s Gardens”.

You may well have seen the Castle Kids’ Allotment adjacent to Whirlygig Lane. Come and find out more!

YOUTH CLUB

The Parish Council’s contract with the current provider of the Youth Club ends on 26th January. The regular Monday evening session will be paused while the Council actively seeks an alternative provider. We will keep you updated and thank you for your patience in the meantime.

If any residents are qualified in youth work and would like to help with future arrangements, please contact Gilly, our Parish Council Clerk at clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk.

**Stoke Performing Arts Group
Presents
Aladdin**
a Traditional Pantomime written by Jon Newman

**The Memorial Hall, West Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6PZ
Thursday 19th, Friday 20th
Saturday 21st February 2026**

Evening Performances 7.15pm
doors open and bar available from 6.30pm

Saturday Matinee 2.15pm
doors open at 1.45pm
Interval Refreshments will be served

Tickets £10.00 each
Children 5-16yrs old £5.00
under 5's FREE

Box Office | Stoke Community Shop TA14 6PP | 01935 509100
Open Monday - Friday 8.00am - 4.30pm | Saturday 8.00am - 4.00pm | Sunday 9.00am - 12noon
Enquiries | Text 07967 184 952 | We will get back to you



MEMORIAL HALL NEWS

Highlights in February

JAMES PUREFOY

Saturday February 28th 7.30pm.



We are delighted to announce that the celebrated Taunton born and Somerset raised actor, James Purefoy, is coming to the Memorial Hall to spend an evening with us. Best known for his roles in *Fisherman's Friends*, *The Following*, *Rome*, *Solomon Kane*, *A Knights Tale*, *Hap & Leonard* and *George and the Dragon*. Tickets will go fast so be sure to get yours soon for some fun, witty repartee and interesting stories. James is kindly doing this to help us raise funds for the Memorial Hall, and we are forever grateful - so please bring your friends, there will, we are certain, be some lively Q&A action after his talk about his life. This is your chance to enjoy a super event that certainly won't happen again any time soon. Tickets are limited and will be on sale in Frank's Corner and the Community Shop. £12 and £8 for concessions.



CEILIDH NIGHT.

Saturday 14th March - 7.30pm.

Come and join us for a night of dancing and fun! You do not need to know the steps beforehand. A 'caller' will be on hand to explain and demonstrate each dance before it begins, then shouts instructions throughout the music. Tickets are £10 (£8 for children) and will be on sale in Frank's Corner and the Community Shop.

IT'S PANTO TIME...OH YES IT IS!

February 19th – 21st.

Stoke sub Hamdon's very own Dame Widow Twankey, her two mischievous sons, Aladdin and Wishee, and all the cast, are getting so excited to meet everyone at our village pantomime '*Aladdin*', coming to the Memorial Hall from February 19th – 21st. Tickets are selling fast, so buy yours now from Stoke Community Shop, or reserve them by texting Jeanie on 07967184952

BOOKING THE HALL

Let us know if you would like to book the Memorial Hall for your own event – It is the perfect venue for parties, training days, fund-raising events and much more. We have a public address system with a hearing loop, a large screen and projector, kitchen facilities, parking and much, much more.

Please contact Geoffery via: bookings.stokememorialhall@gmail.com or book on line via our website www.stokememorialhall.co.uk if you are interested in hiring the hall for an event, party, wedding or other function.

FINALLY... The ever-popular fund-raising quiz for the Memorial Hall will be held this month on Thursday 19th February starting at 7.30pm. Hosted as usual by The Fleur-de-Lis, teams of up to six people are welcome at this monthly event – it's a hugely popular event, and booking (via the Fleur-de-Lys) is essential.



CONTACTS

ALL SAINTS HALL Bookings – Ann Bartlett 07709 609488

BROWNIES at HY&FC – Sarah Redington 07412 084014
stokesubhamdonbrownies@gmail.com

CHARITY SHOP Chair, Denise Burton 07788900672.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH – Lyn Foley 07714005265
email lafoley@live.co.uk

FLEXERCISE FOR FUN at Oak Tree House Di Ramsay 0845 6434702

FOOTBALL – Senior Teams Steve Deane 07881 464280
stevekatharine@hotmail.co.uk

FOOTBALL – Youth Teams Kim Campbell
Welfarestokefc@gmail.com

GARDENING CLUB at Memorial Hall Tricia Toosey 01935 823691
sec.sshgardeningclub@gmail.com

HAM HILL VOLUNTEER RANGERS Paul McNeill 07973 887129

HAMDON YOUTH & FAMILY CENTRE: hamdonyouthcentre.co.uk email
Hamdonyouthcentre@gmail.com **Chair - Jackie Poole 07779354320**

HAMDON YOUTH GROUP (8 – 18 yrs) Janet Richards janet@cyp.me.uk

HISTORY GROUP Carol Parker 01935 825393

KNIT, CRAFT & NATTER GROUP Rosemary 07779 09372

MEDITATION & SHAMANIC CIRCLE Rosemary Stibbon 07779 093723

MEMORIAL HALL Geoffery Unkovich Bookings Secretary:
bookings.stokememorialhall@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL Clerk: clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk

STOKE AFTERNOON TEA CLUB FOR OLDER PEOPLE at Lighthouse
Café Lisa Wenborn 07515 489587 or Kay Clamp 07717 453523

STOKE & DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION

Derek Goad 01935 824337 goadfish02@gmail.com

STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP & POST OFFICE COUNTER 01935 509100

STOKE SUB HAMDON BAND

at Castle School Gill Robins 07814 115763

STOKE SUB HAMDON BAND TRAINING SECTION

Jane Herbert 01460 351123

STOKE PERFORMING ARTS GROUP Jeanie 07967 184952

info@stokeperformingartsgroup.co.uk

STOKE SUB HAMDON SPORTS & RECREATION TRUST

www.stoke-rec-trust.co.uk **Chair – John Allan info@stoke-rec-trust.co.uk**
Secretary - Peter Hulett 01935 824784

STOKE WALKING GROUP Penny 01935 822208 or Sue 07792 311736

TINY TURRETS at Castle Primary School Foundation Stage Unit
for 2 - 4 year olds. 01935 826739.

TRIANGLE TRUST (Raising funds for Hamdon Medical Centre).

Chair, David Warry 01935 822271 Secretary Janet

janet.littlefield@btinternet.com web: www.thetrianglertrust.org

THE VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP Chair - Andrew Toosey 07484 142880

SSHthevillageartistsgroup@gmail.com

ST MARY'S (Church of England) - www.hamhillchurches.org

Please send information for the Village Newsletter to
helenfrances.one@gmail.com by 16th of the month before publication.
If you would like a larger print copy of this newsletter please contact
helenfrances.one@gmail.com with your name and address.
The Village Newsletter is produced with grateful thanks to
Stoke-sub-Hamdon Parish Council for funding and support.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

3rd Longest Health Walk (5-6 miles, option of pub lunch). From Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50

3rd Sports and Recreation Trust AGM, Working Men's Club 19:30

3rd Village Artists' Group – every Tuesday in term time from 19:30 – 21:30

3rd Brownies – every Tuesday at HF&YC during term time

3rd Football Senior Team training - every Tuesday 18:30

4th Knit, Craft & Natter at Frank's Corner Café every Wednesday from 10:30 – 12:00

4th Warm Winter Wednesday – fortnightly games afternoon at the Lighthouse 14:00

4th Parish Council meeting at North Street Workshops 19:00

5th Stoke Band Training Section every Thursday at Castle School 19:00 – 19:45

5th Stoke Band every Thursday at Castle School 20:00 – 22:00

6th Village Artists' Group – every Friday in term time from 10:00 – 12:00

9th Make Every Step Count Walk (40 minutes) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:30

9th Medium Health Walk (3-4 miles) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50

10th Meditation & Shamanic Circle 4th Tuesday of the month 19:00 at 21, West Street

11th Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15

18th Warm Winter Wednesday – fortnightly games afternoon at the Lighthouse 14:00

19th Aladdin – Panto at the Memorial Hall doors open 18:30

19th Parish Councillor Surgeries at 7, North Street, 3rd Thursday 10:00 – 12:00 & 18:00 – 20:00

20th Aladdin – Panto at the Memorial Hall doors open 18:30

21st Aladdin – Panto at the Memorial Hall doors open 13:45 (matinee) and 18:30

19th Memorial Hall fundraising quiz at the Fleur de Lys 19:30

23rd Medium Health Walk (3-4 miles) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50

23rd Make Every Step Count Walk (40 minutes) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:30

24th 'Meditation & Shamanic Circle 4th Tuesday of the month 19:00 at 21, West Street

25th Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15

25th Gardening Club AGM and Talk – Children's Gardens at the Memorial Hall from 19:15 for 19:30

28th James Purefoy at The Memorial Hall 19:30

MARCH

11th Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15