



## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

All councillors were present at the most recent meeting of the parish council held on Wednesday 5th March and several members of the public and both county councillors also attended.

Some of the issues raised included a possible street party for the 80th Anniversary of VE Day celebrations over the Bank Holiday at the beginning of May. Nationally, a full programme of events has just been announced, and we are open to suggestions from residents for suitable celebrations in Stoke-sub-Hamdon.

Another resident asked about broken stiles and the possibility of a 'No Through Road' sign for the Old Fosse Way, which gets used as a detour when the A303 is closed or very slow. However, it causes more problems than it solves with vehicles then needing to turn around and pass others who have followed the crowd. County Councillor Pearlstone offered to take this up with Highways and it is worth remembering that parish council meetings provide a good opportunity to raise issues such as this directly with county councillors.



The clerk & Cllr Burton had inspected the Memorial Hall play area and are contacting suppliers about remedial works which will include cleaning up the basketball court and the boules court and ensuring that the surfaces are moss free. The same will be carried out at the Stonehill play area and then in the near future both will be ready for outdoor activity in time for the spring & summer months.

The recent campaign to ask for help to run the Hamdon Youth Family Centre (HYFC) was very successful and all roles have now been filled. A new injection of enthusiasm and energy will I'm sure take it forwards positively as the great facility that it is for residents. Several planning applications were considered and plans for a Christmas Lights Working Group – a long lead time is required! Please see the separate notice on Facebook if you would like to help with this project. Less glamorously, Council also discussed waste removal and new & larger dog waste bins!

The next meeting of the parish council is on Wednesday 2nd April at 7pm in the Parish Office. There are currently two councillor vacancies, and the closing date to apply if you are interested in the role is Friday 28th March. Please contact the clerk to enquire further.

Enjoy the spring sunshine & the longer days that are within touching distance now!

Cllr Suzanne Neems, Chair of Stoke-sub-Hamdon Parish Council  
Email Gilly, our clerk, on: [clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk)

## HAMDON YOUTH & FAMILY CENTRE

We are holding an Easter celebration which will give everyone the opportunity to have a look around the centre whilst participating in various puzzles and activities and even winning a prize! Refreshments will be available. The event will be held on Easter Saturday 19th

April from 2pm until 4pm. Please come along and support us.

Hamdon Youth and Family Centre is pleased to announce that we now have 4 new trustees who have filled the vacant positions within the committee. Jackie Poole is Chairperson, Alison Woolley, Secretary, Sarah Bagwell, Bookings Secretary and Natasha Woods is Treasurer.

As these four settle into their new roles, it is hoped that the centre will grow within the community and be able to host more events and activities for the children and young people of our village.

Remember that the hall already hosts many activities and classes including the Youth Club, Brownies, Gymnastics and Dance classes. We are also available for children's party bookings at very reasonable hourly rates. We have 2 halls, a fully fitted kitchen and a walled garden at the back. We can be contacted by emailing

[hamdonyouthcentre@gmail.com](mailto:hamdonyouthcentre@gmail.com) - You can take a look at what's on offer by visiting our website:

[www.hamdonyouthcentre.co.uk](http://www.hamdonyouthcentre.co.uk)

## SOMERSET AGE UK

We (the independent local Charity Age UK Somerset), want to reach the older people who need our services, and let them know also about the exercise and activity sessions we run in your district. Also we'd like to find new volunteers to help us in our mission to make later life happier and less lonely...

Contact Kate Barrington for further info.  
[kate.barrington@ageuksomerset.org.uk](mailto:kate.barrington@ageuksomerset.org.uk)



**STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP: YOUR VILLAGE – YOUR SHOP**

Easter opening hours: Good Friday and Easter Monday 9-12, Easter Sunday 9-11

We have just completed the annual stocktake in house and afterwards celebrated with pizzas at the Fleur-de-Lis (Thankyou J-P they were delicious). Sales are gradually improving, so thank you everyone for your support.

We have 3 new volunteers who have started with us this last month and are getting stuck in - but a few more people to pick up a regular shift would be very welcome, and would help us cover all our opening hours. We all have a good time and it is a very sociable pastime, meeting people and chatting. If you're feeling a bit isolated or would like more company, volunteering with us could be just the thing for you! One of Stoke's residents said the other day that there was always a little surprise in the shop which makes going in fascinating. This was lovely to hear - we are trying! All the best till next month.

*Community Shop Committee*

**MAY FAYRE – 26th MAY 2025**

Plans are now well underway for this year's May Fayre, with over 60 stalls booked so far and indoor stalls already sold out!

We are looking for people with vans who might be able to help us on the day, particularly at 4.30/5pm for an hour or so, to assist with transporting items away from the site (but within the village), so please do contact me if you might be able to assist. Please could we also ask for bottle donations (any item) for our bottle tombola with the chance to either win a bottle of alcohol or other! Contributions can be left in the charity shop with my name (Denise) on them. As always, we will be serving teas/coffees and cake on the day in the refectory, so a big please to all those lovely cake bakers out there willing to donate a cake. As per last year, the Memorial Hall will be open for a while on the previous day for these to be brought along.

We thank all the wonderful volunteers who have already put their names forward, and if there are any others out there who would like to help, we would love to hear from you. We are so grateful for everyone's help and please remember that all proceeds from the May Fayre go back into our lovely village so please help us to make this a wonderful day. Many thanks.

*For more information, please call Denise on 07788 900672.*

**COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH**

Our Community Speed Watch Team have now been collecting data for the past 6 months. We now intend to write a small progress report on the six months findings from both the Speed Indicator Device and the CSW Teams road side observations. Once completed this will be published on the Parish Council Web site and will help inform how the CSW Team moves forward.

We thank those of you who continue to be respectful of the speed limits, and of our efforts to improve the speeding on our roads. We would also like to thank those of you who have displayed the 20 is Plenty signs. I have had more requests for signs than were made up, so bear with us please.

The SID has been positioned on North Street in "blind" mode and the following findings are from the period 17 th February to 3 rd March. The speed limit is 30 mph with a school turning nearby. In total there were 13,707 vehicles passed the SID. 261 vehicles were recorded at Speeds over 31 mph, of which top speeds of 47 mph travelling towards the high street junction, and 48.2 mph travelling towards Great Field Lane.

As ever we have an open invitation to anyone who would like a cuppa and to discuss the Community speed watch campaign. Please contact Lyn Foley 07714005265 or by email on StokesHamSS24@outlook.com

**VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP**

Are you looking for a new challenge and have a little spare time? The Village Artists Group's summer term commences on Tuesday 22nd April at Stoke-sub-Hamdon Memorial Hall.

Come and join a very friendly self-guided group of artists for painting, drawing etc.

on Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9.30 pm and Friday mornings 10.00 to 12.00 noon during school term time. FREE first visit to see how you get on!

For more information on the group contact Andrew on (01935) 823691, SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.co m Facebook: Stoke Sub Hamdon The Village Artists Group

**MEMORIAL HALL FILM NIGHT**

On 19th April we will be showing "Paddington in Peru". A delightful new chapter in the beloved bear's adventures, this film is filled with heart, humour, and a dash of mystery.

This time, Paddington and the Browns travel to Peru, leading to a colourful and exciting journey through the jungle. Olivia Colman shines in a standout role, while Antonio Banderas adds charm as a rugged explorer. The film is a joyful and uplifting experience, brimming with kindness and warmth. Fans of Paddington will find plenty to love in this feel-good family adventure.

Doors open at 6pm. for a 6:30pm start. Cash or cards £5. We look forward to seeing you!

**MEMORIAL HALL NEWS**

From a casual conversation in our local coffee shop to fruition! - We have had InPost 24/7 lockers installed in the car park which should be operational by the end of March. As well as providing a benefit to the community of a 24/7 send, receive and returns service, the lockers will also generate a rental income for the Memorial Hall and put us on digital maps for the service.

We would also like to thank Rick Draper (Hillary's Blinds) who has kindly supplied and fitted new fire retardant blinds for our kitchen. An excellent service.

A polite reminder to all that the car park is for Memorial Hall users only, please do not use it as a permanent car parking space!

Please do take a look at our website: [www.stokememorialhall.co.uk](http://www.stokememorialhall.co.uk) to find out more information on what the Hall has to offer. Or if you would like to get involved contact Rebecca on 01935 823180.

**CASTLE KIDS' PATCH**

We are setting up a children's allotment for Castle Primary School at North street allotments kindly allocated to us by the Parish council. It will give pupils the opportunity to learn about growing fruit, vegetables, and flowers in a hands-on way. As we get started, we are looking for volunteers and donations to help make this project a success. We would love people to drop by and see what we are up to!

For information or to lend a hand, contact: Dusk Eastment & Martin Eastment [dusk@castlekidspatch.com](mailto:dusk@castlekidspatch.com) [www.castlekidspatch.com](http://www.castlekidspatch.com)

**WANTED – NEW VICAR! THE VACANCY PROCESS**

Following Rev Nick's retirement at the end of last year, the process of choosing a new vicar has begun with the 7 PCCs across the Benefice meeting with the Bishop, Archdeacon and others to get the ball rolling. This process usually takes between one and two years but we are hoping to appoint a new vicar by early 2026.

We now have a team with a member from each parish to put together a Benefice Profile which tells any job seeking vicar who we are and who we are looking for. This profile will be finished in June, with job ads posted in July and interviews in September. If an appointment is made, then they could be licensed by the bishop in January 2026, but if we are unsuccessful first time, it will take longer. In the meantime, the church is kept going by the benefice administrator, a ministry

team of 3 vicars and 5 lay ministers (readers) and many volunteers filling the more than 50 roles on the activity list Rev Nick left us with. If you would like to help in any way, or need to discuss any church matters, please contact our benefice administrator, in the first instance and she will contact Colleen, our churchwarden or one of our vicars.

Contact details for our Benefice Administrator : [hhv.keep@outlook.com](mailto:hhv.keep@outlook.com)

**STOKE HEALTH WALKS**

Three walk levels with trained leaders. Start from Lighthouse Café. Dress for the weather, stout footwear recommended. Well-behaved dogs on leads welcome. Refreshments are available in the café after Monday walks.

Make Every Step Count walks (40 minutes on pavements) and Medium walks (3-4 miles 90 minutes, mixture of pavements / footpaths) are on the second and fourth Monday. The longer walk (5-6 miles, option of a pub lunch) is on the first Tuesday. See dates and times in the Dates for your diary section. For more information contact Sue 07792311736

**CHARITY SHOP**

Thank you to everyone who supports our village Charity Shop, which goes from strength to strength. We are so grateful for the donation of items we receive and in March were lucky enough to be given a nearly new washing machine to sell, a wrought iron table and chairs and a lovely pushchair/pram. The sale of these larger items, along with our other donations, really do help us to continue to raise funds for our village.

We have participated in the Somerset Council 'Share the Warmth' scheme, by donating unsold coats to Somerset libraries, with more coats due to be delivered to Yeovil Library before the scheme finishes at the end of March. More unsold baby clothing will also be taken to Baby Basics during March, so you can see that we do try to make the best use of everything donated to help local communities if any items remain unsold.

Please do look out for our Easter raffle in the shop with the chance to win a hamper full of lovely goodies to make your Easter even more special!

Finally, if you think you might like to spare a couple of hours volunteering in the shop, please do contact me. We have a lot of fun and you are sure to pick up a bargain or two in the process!

*Please contact Denise on 07788900672.*

**STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDENING CLUB**

Neil Ross has dedicated over 30 years to creating beautiful gardens and landscapes. He's delighted to come and share his knowledge in a talk on 23rd April entitled: "The X-Factor – 10 Tips to Give Your Garden the Wow Factor". Free refreshments; plant sales; raffle. Visitors very welcome - £5. Doors open 19.15 for a 19:30 start. Venue: The Memorial Hall, Stoke-sub-Hamdon.

**VILLAGE PLANT SALE**

On Saturday 26th April 2025 the Gardening Club is holding its ANNUAL PLANT SALE at All Saints Hall (Lighthouse Café). There will be lots of home-grown bargains to get your garden started for the spring and summer! Tea, Coffee, Cake on sale.

10.00 a.m. to 12 noon. Tell your friends!

## CONTACTS

ALL SAINTS HALL Bookings – Ann Davidson 07709 609488

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

CHARITY SHOP Chair, Denise Burton 07788900672.

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 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

MEMORIAL HALL Jill Uhlhorn Bookings Secretary 01935 829513

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.thetriangletrust.org

VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP Chair - Andrew Toosey 07484 142880  
SSHthevillageartistsgroup@gmail.com

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### APRIL

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|------|---|
| 1st  | Longer Health Walk (5-6 miles, option of pub lunch). From Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50 |
| 1st  | Brownies – every Tuesday at HF&YC during term time                                    |
| 1st  | Football Senior Team training - every Tuesday 18:30                                   |
| 2nd  | Parish Council Meeting, PC Offices, North Street Workshops at 19:00                   |
| 3rd  | Stoke Band Training Section every Thursday at Castle School 19:00 – 19:45             |
| 3rd  | Stoke Band every Thursday at Castle School 20:00 – 22:00                              |
| 9th  | Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15                               |
| 14th | Make Every Step Count Walk (40 minutes) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:30              |
| 14th | Medium Health Walk (3-4 miles) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50                       |
| 14th | Hamdon Youth Group at HF&YC 18:30 – 20:30   |
| 17th | Parish Councillor Surgeries at 7, North Street 10:00 – 12:00 & 18:00 – 20:00          |
| 19th | Film Night at the Memorial Hall from 18:00  |
| 19th | Hamdon Youth & Family Centre Easter Celebration 14:00 – 16:00                         |
| 22nd | First date of Easter term for Village Artists' Group                                  |
| 23rd | Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15                               |
| 23rd | Gardening Club - Talk by Neil Ross at the Memorial Hall, 19:30                        |
| 26th | Village Plant Sale at the Lighthouse café 10:00 – 12:00                               |
| 28th | Medium Health Walk (3-4 miles) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50                       |
| 28th | Make Every Step Count Walk (40 minutes) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:30              |

### MAY

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| 7th | Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse café 14:15 – 16:15 |
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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.  
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