



### PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council met for its annual meeting on 7th May. This started with the election of Chair and Vice Chair, and both Andy Salter and I have been elected to continue in our roles for the coming year, which we hope will provide stability for the Council. We also co-opted two new members, Paul Berry and Deborah Russell, so we are back to our full working capacity. We are very pleased to welcome both of them to the Council – we are all volunteers and the more people who are prepared to get involved, the more we can achieve for the village as a whole.

### NEW PARKING CHARGES - CORRECTION

Members of the public raised the issue of parking mentioned in last month's report. In a correction to the information previously reported, we have now been informed that ALL elements of the consultation on proposed changes to parking will need to be consulted on, and notice will be given in due course when the consultation opens. This had not been made clear to us, and we apologise for causing any confusion or concern. It would appear that any changes are therefore quite a long way off, and you will get a chance beforehand to feedback your thoughts on the proposals. The Parish Council will ensure details of the consultation are well-publicised as soon as they are available from Somerset Council.

### AUDIT

The year-end audit was also discussed and after some thorough and outstanding work by our current Responsible Financial Officer, the internal auditor awarded a 'gold star' to the Parish Council's accounting information – our heartfelt thanks to Terry Heath for his sterling work. We now have robust systems in place, guaranteeing the transparency of the Parish Council's activities and hopefully reassuring residents that we are doing our best for the community, and how we go about it achieving that.

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Wednesday, 4th June at 7.30pm in the Parish Office. We will be daring to mention Christmas already, and making a start on preparations for lights in the village this year! If you would like to get involved, we are looking for volunteers to help with organising various aspects, so please come to the meeting or contact Gilly, our clerk, on the email below if you would like to help.

Cllr Suzanne Nelms, 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)

### MEDITATION & SHAMANIC CIRCLES

The Shamanic Journeying Circle and Meditation Circles have now been amalgamated into one session on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 19:00 – 20:30. Contact Rosemary, 0777 909 3723 for further information.

### THE LIGHTHOUSE

The Lighthouse is asking if there would be anyone kind enough to transport a tall fridge/freezer from Walscombe Close to their premises in West Street. The fridge/freezer will need to be kept upright during transportation. Their existing fridge/freezer will then please need to be transported to the Recycling Centre. If anyone is able to help, please contact Frances on 07873287376. Many thanks.

### MEMORIAL HALL - FILM NIGHT



One of the most popular films of 2025 stars Renee Zellweger and Hugh Grant. In Mad About The Boy, Bridget Jones, now a widowed single mother, navigates the challenges of parenthood, work, and modern dating with the support of her friends, family, and former partner, Daniel Cleaver. As she re-enters the dating world, she finds herself pursued by a younger man while also forming an unexpected connection with her son's science teacher.

Saturday 21st June at the Memorial Hall. Doors open at 6pm. Tickets £5



## HAMDON YOUTH & FAMILY CENTRE

An opportunity has arisen for a regular hirer on a Thursday evening. (Have a look at other days and times on calendar website) Our venue has two halls, a fully equipped kitchen and toilets. It provides a flexible venue for a variety of activities aimed at, as our name suggests, our youth community.

The centre has a super grassed area at the rear that overlooks the apple orchard and Ham Hill monument. There is excellent WiFi provided free of charge by Gigaclear.

It is the perfect venue for so much – come and have a look around and we promise you'll be inspired!

For further information please email  
hamdonyouthcentre@gmail.com.

## STOKE PERFORMING ARTS GROUP



### The Saxons are Coming!

Stoke Performing Arts Group are very excited to announce that our next production, 'The Saxons are Coming' will take place at the Prince of Wales marquee, Ham Hill, on Friday 18th and Saturday 19th July 2025.

This new, light-hearted play, penned by our very own Angela Hodges, is set in the Roman Villa on Ham Hill in 548 AD where the current owner, Senorix, lives with his wife, Ria, and his two daughters Angharad and Guinevere. When Merlin pays them a visit to tell them that the only way to prevent the Saxons from taking their lands is for one of their daughters to marry Arthur Pendragon, the future King Arthur, their quiet family life is turned upside down. With Arthur busy rousing villagers to fight, love blossoms unexpectedly, and the question is, which daughter will he marry?

Look out for SPAG posters with more information around the village in June. Tickets will be available soon.

## VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP

The wonders of nature in Spring and early Summer are giving our members considerable inspiration and creativity. In addition, our forthcoming workshop with fabulous watercolour artist Deborah Harris from 10:00 – 15:00 on Saturday the 5th July is much anticipated - don't miss it!

Do come and join our friendly self-guided group. FREE first visit to see how you get on. We meet on Tuesday 7.30 to 9.30 pm and Friday 10.00 to 12.00 noon during school term time at Stoke-sub-Hamdon Memorial Hall. We look forward to seeing you!

For more information on the group contact Andrew on (01935)823691, SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com

Facebook: Stoke Sub Hamdon The Village Artists Group

## AFTERNOON TEA CLUB – BUS TRIP TO SIDMOUTH

We are pleased to announce that the Afternoon Tea Club is putting on a bus trip to Sidmouth again this year, Wednesday 16th July, leaving the Memorial Hall at 10.45am. Like previous years we have a 52-seater coach, many of the seats are allocated to club members but we do have a few available. We will be stopping at the Hare & Hounds for lunch before heading down to Sidmouth Sea front.

If you would like to join us, please ring Lisa on 07515 489587 to discuss. Places will be on a first come, first serve basis. The coach is £5 per person plus the cost of a carvery lunch, TBC £14 - £15. If you need help with your mobility or need to bring equipment with you, please let me know. For those of you who need a wheelchair we ask that you bring someone along who can help you. The Afternoon Tea Club Team



## STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP: YOUR VILLAGE – YOUR SHOP

AGM: We plan to hold our AGM on Tuesday 24th June at 6pm in the Memorial Hall. It's open to all Members of SSHCS Ltd, who will be sent notification of the event by post or email. Please keep an eye out for the notification, which will include details of how to nominate and vote for Directors and Committee Members. It is vitally important that we are quorate for this meeting, so if you are a member please do come along. If you are not a member there is still time to join, just call into the shop for an application form and hand over £5 for your opportunity to influence the future direction of the shop.

We are doing well in the shop - customer numbers are up and the financial balance is positive, so thank you for your support. We would still welcome more volunteers so if you think you may be able to support us with a few hours do come in and make yourself known to us. Catherine Fraser

## CHARITY SHOP

Our Charity Shop is going from strength to strength, thanks to everyone who supports us and our volunteers, and in April alone we raised the amazing sum of £4,204. The profit from the shop goes back into our village and this year we have been delighted to support funding requests received from the Castle Kids Patch, Stoke Band and for Chill on the Hill, an event due to take place in August 2025.

## STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDENING CLUB



Brian Jaques, who hails from Shepton Mallet, is looking forward to sharing his enthusiasm about "Outside Exotics" with us at our meeting on 25th June.

Conditions may be challenging, but Brian will tell us how to overcome problems and grow plants with spectacular foliage or flowers. These will look great and also feed and provide habitats for the insects in your garden. Come and find out more!

Visitors Welcome - £5 (re-funded if you join the Club). Doors open: 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. start. Venue: The Memorial Hall, Stoke-sub-Hamdon.

## CHARITY SHOP FASHION SHOW



these on the night - men, women and children of all sizes and ages. If you are interested, please do contact me and I will add you to our list.

Finally, please don't forget to follow our Stoke Charity Shop Facebook page to see some of the items we have on offer.

Denise 07788900672

## MEMORIAL HALL NEWS

We are excited to announce that we are organising a Quiz Night kindly hosted by the Fleur on Thursday 26th June at 7.30. Teams of max. 6, £2.00 per person entry fee - just turn up on the night, but advisable to reserve a table! Proceeds are in aid of the Memorial Hall. Please come and support us.

Don't you just love to watch a film on the large screen with friends and neighbours? You can do this in the Memorial Hall once a month

but due to the low numbers of people attending this event has run at a loss on several occasions. If you value this event and want it to continue please support it. Each film needs approximately 30 people to break even on licence fee etc, and as the saying goes we need to use it or lose it. June's film will be Bridget Jones, Mad About The Boy on Saturday 21st June.

## STOKE HEALTH WALKS

### Introduction to Stoke Health Walks



Have you been wondering if a 40 minutes pavement walk feels too short, but 90 minutes might be too far? Why not try an introductory walk on Thursday 19th June. This will be about two miles, approx. an hour walking, taking in points of interest in Stoke. Meet the walk leaders outside the Lighthouse at 6.20 pm to start walking at 6.30 pm. For just this introductory walk we will say no to dogs.

More details Sue 07792311736

In addition, our usual walks continue. There are three walk levels with trained leaders, all start from the 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

## 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.

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.sshgardenclub@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.thetrianglettrust.org

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

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

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### JUNE

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|------|--|
| 3rd  | Longer Health Walk (5-6 miles, option of pub lunch). From Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50      |
| 3rd  | Brownies – every Tuesday at HF&YC during term time   |
| 3rd  | Football Senior Team training - every Tuesday 18:30  |
| 3rd  | Village Artists' Group – every Tuesday from 19:30 – 21:30                                  |
| 4th  | Parish Council Meeting, PC Offices, North Street Workshops at 19:00                        |
| 4th  | Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15                                    |
| 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 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 2nd Tuesday of the month 19:00 at 21, West Street             |
| 18th | Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15                                    |
| 19th | Parish Councillor Surgeries at 7, North Street, 3rd Thursday 10:00 – 12:00 & 18:00 – 20:00 |
| 21st | Film Night at the Memorial Hall. Doors open at 18:00                                       |
| 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 | Community Shop AGM at the Memorial Hall 18:00  |
| 24th | Meditation & Shamanic Circle 4th Tuesday of the month 19:00 at 21, West Street             |
| 25th | Gardening Club – 'Outside Exotics' at the Memorial Hall, 19:30                             |
| 26th | Memorial Hall Fundraising Quiz at The Fleur de Lys 19:30                                   |
- ### JULY
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| 2nd | Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse café 14:15 – 16:15 |
| 5th | Village Artists Group Workshop – Watercolour painting   |