



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council meeting on 2nd April discussed the following topics:

ROAD ISSUES

Members of the public discussed the Speedwatch Group’s latest findings, and the fact that they will be publishing some information on the Facebook page including the location of the 9 sites they are allowed to use in the village – but not when they will be there. The possibility of purchasing a Speed Indicator Device for shared use with one or two neighbouring parishes was also discussed.

A resident has offered to clean up the ham stone village sign at North St as you enter the village from the A303. They would also like to plant a trough with some flowers to enhance this aspect of the village. The clerk and our Somerset Council councillor will help by ensuring that Somerset Council processes for confirming permission for and obtaining a licence are followed. Hopefully this won’t take too long, and you’ll soon see a colourful display as you enter Stoke-sub-Hamdon via North St.



PLAY AREAS

Other items noted was the new pristine basketball court now cleared of surface moss (see picture below).

Councillors authorised the purchase of a replacement chain net for the hoop, and once the court markings are

repainted, the court will be ready for use again. The rest of the play area will also be cleaned of surface algae, and a new sign is being sourced. Sadly, the Stonehill play area requires a lot more work including new surface matting, but we will keep you updated with developments.

NEW PARKING CHARGES IN STOKE

Somerset Council is introducing charges at some previously free car parks, and the small car park on Ham Hill Road will soon have pay & display charges for parking between 8am & 6pm. The appropriate infrastructure needs to be installed, so it isn’t yet in effect, but look out for notices. Other car parks in the area may also start charging for Sundays and overnight parking, but this is still under consultation.

MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Wednesday 7th May at 7pm in the Parish Office. There are currently two councillor

vacancies, so if you are interested in becoming a councillor, please contact the clerk for further information.

Also, save the date for the Annual Parish Meeting taking place on Wednesday 22nd May at 7.00pm in the Memorial Hall. This is a meeting for village residents, organised by the Parish Council, to allow various clubs and societies to discuss their activities over the past year. Last year there were interesting contributions from the Village Art Club, the Community Shop, the Sports & Rec Trust and the Performing Arts Group amongst others. Stoke-sub-Hamdon has an active community, and this is your opportunity to find out more about the many things that go in the village.

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

Email Gilly, our clerk, on:
clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk

HISTORY GROUP VE DAY EXHIBITION



Stoke History Group warmly welcomes you to their VE Day Exhibition on Bank Holiday Monday (5th May) between 11am-5pm in the Memorial Hall.

Listen to the stories from villagers who were children at that time, also some stories of the men and women who served in WW2. Take a peak at our historic pictures of our war heroes - and all served up with a slice of cake and a cuppa from our local land girls.

We would also be so grateful if anyone would like to bake us a cake for this free event, please deliver them to the Memorial Hall after 9am and before 11am on the day.

Children who would like to dress up will get free sweets for their trouble.

The exhibition will continue until 8th May in the Stoke Working Men’s Club

VILLAGE LITTER PICK

Come and join our happy band of volunteers for the bi-monthly village litter pick, helping keep our village clean and tidy.

May's litter pick is on Sunday May 11th at 9am. Meet outside the All Saints' Hall with stout boots and gloves ready for 2 hours of joyful exercise followed by coffee and a chat in the Priory coffee shop

More details if needed by emailing Catherine Fraser helivet@msn.com

STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP: YOUR VILLAGE – YOUR SHOP

Thank you so much to the **children of Castle School** who decorated our window so beautifully for Easter. Their wonderful egg designs and models made such a difference in the middle of the village. Thanks to Steve Morton the headmaster for so enthusiastically picking up the idea. He's suggested a repeat performance for Harvest later in the year so watch out for that. We have continued to grow our turnover this month which is great. More people are trying us out and hopefully being surprised and pleased at what they find. If you're after anything specific that we don't already stock, do let us know.

We have tried to provide a good range of greetings cards over the last few months and hope we can now supply any you might need. We are always on the lookout for deals where we can offer products at close to supermarket prices and we are still offering free home delivery to those who find it difficult to come to us.

We would love to see you in the shop and if you have any free time to volunteer with us so much the better!

Our opening hours for the two May Bank Holidays will be 8-11am - allowing our volunteers to attend the May Fair.

Community Shop Committee

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Here is the data from our 1-hour roadside surveys and multiple SID sessions around the village.

	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
ROADSIDE	1,513 vehicles	1,216 vehicles	1,336 vehicles	793 vehicles	1,401 vehicles	2,363 vehicles
	98 over 30mph	111 over 30mph	111 over 30mph	98 over 30mph	94 over 30mph	190 over 30mph
	30 excessive	12 excessive	19 excessive	18 excessive	19 excessive	39 excessive

You'll notice that the number of cars passing through the roadside sessions has increased in March and that is because we have acquired a second set of radar equipment and can operate at two locations at the same time – as some of you have already noticed! And, as we're all about reducing speeds in the village, you might find this map of the roadside options useful. As you can see, we



really can be anywhere at any time. Please view the Community SpeedWatch Terms of Reference dated 30th January 2025 on the Parish Council website to see what we've committed to achieve and, don't forget, we'd be very happy to see you if you're able to offer us a few hours of your time each month.

Contact Lyn Foley 07714005265 or by email on StokesHamSS24@outlook.com

VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP

With lots of inspiration from longer days and warmer weather, our summer term is now well underway. We at the Village Artists group have wide-ranging interests and work in many artistic mediums.

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

STAR DANCERS!

The young dancers (aged 7-17) from Stoke's Star Dance Company recently performed on the Tacchi-Morris stage in Taunton as part of the Spring Forward Dance Festival, representing the village on stage. They did an incredible job, and we're so proud of them!

A huge thank you to the Stoke-sub-Hamdon Sports and Recreation Trust for generously covering our transport and costume costs.

STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDENING CLUB

The Club was founded in 2000, Millennium Year. On 28th May, founder member, Dru Perry (a keen gardener and expert quilter!) will talk to us about both the Millenium Quilt and the early days of the Club. This meeting's a must, it'll be fun and informative – and there may be bubbly to celebrate, too!

If you have any recollections of the Club over the last 25 years which you'd like to share, please contact the secretary at secsshgardeningclub@gmail.com and help make this a very special evening.

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.



MAY FAYRE – 26th MAY 2025

Make sure to add the village May Fayre to your diary! It takes place on Bank Holiday Monday, 26 May 2025 between 11.30am and 5 pm in the grounds of Stanchester Academy.

STANCHESTER ACADEMY | MONTACUTE ROAD | STOKE SUB HAMDON

FIELD PARKING £1 per CAR TA14 6UG

Stoke sub Hamdon

May Fayre

Free Admission 11.30am - 5pm

Bank Holiday Monday 26th May 2025

Entertainment for all the family | last year we had

Family Fun Dog Show | Maypole Dancing | Stoke Band

Enigma Border Morris | Punch and Judy | Drumming Bus

Krazy Kev with Dinky Dino | South Petherton Majorettes

Falconry Display | Infinity Martial Arts

Bar | BBQ and plenty of other refreshments

plus a wide variety of inside and outside stalls

FREE all day transport TO and FROM Stoke Memorial Hall

www.stokemayfayre.co.uk

There will be entertainment for all the family, including our popular family dog show, the Castle School dancers, the Enigma Border Morris dancers, a Punch and Judy show, Sicro Magic Show and balloon modelling, axe throwing (including soft axes), sucker archery, drumming workshop and martial arts. As usual, we will have a wide variety of indoor and outdoor stalls, refreshments and food outlets (including this year our very own JP from the Fleur de Lis!).

If anyone would like to bake us a cake for our refreshment hall, that would be so appreciated; if it helps, these can be left at the Stoke sub Hamdon Memorial Hall on Sunday, 25 May between 1 and 2 pm. We are also looking for tombola prizes and any kind of bottle you might have (it doesn't have to be alcohol) for our own stalls - these can be dropped off at our Charity Shop for my attention. We are incredibly grateful to you for your generous donations.

Most of all though, please do come along and support this year's May Fayre. We have our fingers crossed for some lovely weather!

HEALTH & WELL-BEING CIRCLES

Stoke sub Hamdon Health and Well-being Circles now have a new venue. The Shamanic Journeying Circle meets at 19:00. on the 1st Monday of each month, and the Meditation Circles are on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 19:00 – 20:30. Both circles now meet at 21, West Street. Contact Rosemary, 0777 909 3723 for further information.

STOKE HEALTH WALKS

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. Note the date change to 19th to avoid the Bank Holiday. For more information contact Sue 07792311736

CRIME ALERT

The Parish Council has been made aware of two worrying incidents in recent weeks. Firstly, there was a break in at the Ham Hill Visitor Centre works site. Heavy plant machinery including a generator were stolen which would have probably required a crane, so presumably it was a well-organised operation rather than an opportunistic event. The police have asked that anyone who can help provide information get in touch as soon as possible by calling 101.

Secondly, a resident reported finding a bolt from a crossbow type weapon in his garden. It was embedded in a plant pot near his back door, and on further inspection, was found to be a "STEAMBOW" which is one of the most "lethal bows" on the market. It is very concerning to think that possibly someone in the village has such a weapon and appears to have little care or control over safety when using it. This incident has been reported to the police. Again, if you have any useful information, please contact the police by calling 101.

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

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

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

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY

- 1st

Stoke Band Training Section every Thursday at Castle School 19:00 – 19:45
- 1st

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

Shamanic Journeying First Monday of the month 19:00 at 21, West Street
- 5th

VE Exhibition at the Memorial Hall 11:00 – 17:00
- 6th

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

Brownies – every Tuesday at HF&YC during term time
- 6th

Football Senior Team training - every Tuesday 18:30
- 6th

Village Artists’ Group – every Tuesday from 19:30 – 21:30
- 6th

Meditation Circle 2nd Tuesday of the month 19:00 at 21, West Street
- 7th

Parish Council Meeting, PC Offices, North Street Workshops at 19:00
- 7th

Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15
- 9th

Village Artists’ Group – every Friday from 10:00 – 12:00
- 11th

Village Litter Pick from All Saint’s Hall at 09:00
- 12th

Make Every Step Count Walk (40 minutes) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:30
- 12th

Medium Health Walk (3-4 miles) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50
- 12th

Hamdon Youth Group at HF&YC 18:30 – 20:30
- 20th

Meditation Circle 4th Tuesday of the month 19:00 at 21, West Street
- 15th

Parish Councillor Surgeries at 7, North Street 10:00 – 12:00 & 18:00 – 20:00
- 21st

Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15
- 22nd

Annual Parish Meeting at the Memorial Hall – 19:00
- 28th

Gardening Club – 25th Anniversary ‘do’ at the Memorial Hall, 19:30
- 26th

May Fayre – Stanchester Academy 11:30 – 17:00
- 19th

Medium Health Walk (3-4 miles) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50
- 19th

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

JUNE

- 4th

Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse café 14:15 – 16:15