



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The Parish Council met for its annual meeting on 6th May. The annual meeting begins with electing a Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and both Andy Salter and I have agreed to continue in our roles for the coming year, which will hopefully provide stability to the Council.

The year-end audit was also discussed and after another year of thorough and outstanding work by our Responsible Financial Officer, the internal audit report made for good reading. Our heartfelt thanks to Terry Heath for his continued excellent work.

The rest of the meeting covered the many other annual items of business, and so the next meeting of the Parish Council taking place on Wednesday, 3rd June at 7.00pm in the Parish Office will be a return to the usual items requiring discussion and decisions. As always, members of the public are very welcome to attend.

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

Suzanne,

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

FRIENDS OF HAM HILL

The Friends of Ham Hill is the registered charity promoting education, conservation, improvement and community activities at Ham Hill Country Park.

In 2025, we funded The Hollow, an all-weather outdoor activity space close to the Visitor Centre. Whilst Somerset Council's Engagement Rangers have a busy programme of activities, we at the Friends are planning to host a number of events later this year showcasing local artisans. The idea is for us to fund and promote events, such as workshops and demonstrations, giving the local communities the opportunity to engage in and enjoy something they may not have previously considered. The funds we raise, including your generous donations to our collection boxes, mean that these events will be at no-or-very-low cost to both the artisan and those attending.

We have the idea, but it now needs your help! If you, or someone you know, is a local artisan and think this is something you'd be interested in doing, please get in touch at info@friendsofhamhill.org.

NEW COMEDY FROM STOKE PERFORMING ARTS GROUP



As part of their 10th anniversary, Stoke Performing Art Group are performing 'The Rehearsal' at the Memorial Hall on June 12th & 13th.

The play is a comedy by Helen Frances, which follows actors David, Annie and Colin as they attempt to rehearse an Edwardian melodrama entitled "The Truth", only to be put off by loud heckling, a hopeless stage crew and the puzzling disappearance of their leading lady.

Things only get worse when an American chat show host turns up, believing that she has booked the theatre that evening for her show "The Truth - The Talk Show everyone is talking about". When Opra Windy reveals David's inner turmoil to the world, other members of the cast finally realise what the audience already know about the true state of his heart.

But any prospect of a happy ending is thrown into doubt by the chaotic behaviour of two very peculiar inspectors who misunderstand just about everything they see - and just as the inspectors are preparing to evacuate the entire building, Bess, a stagehand doing work experience, takes decisive action...

Expect an evening of comic misunderstandings, conflict, confusion and the beating heart of true love as SPAG brings you another entertaining show featuring many of your favourite local actors.

Tickets, priced £10, are available in Stoke-sub-Hamdon Community Shop (cash only), and performances, at 19:00 on Friday 12th and Saturday 13th (doors open 18:15) with a 14:00 matinee (doors open 13:15) on Saturday only, will be in Stoke-sub-Hamdon Memorial Hall.

For further information and ticket reservations TEXT 07891183191.

Charity Concert
MIDSUMMER'S EVE

CASH DONATIONS FOR THE
BENEFICE
 &

 pour chaque enfant
FOLK/RENAISSANCE
20TH OF JUNE AT 19:00
ST MARY'S CHURCH
STOKE-SUB-HAMDON TA14 6UF

ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING REPORT

There was a large turnout for the Annual Village Meeting perhaps, enticed by our guest speaker from the Waste Services Department of Somerset Council and the attendance of local MP, Sarah Dyke. Both Jon Brown and Sarah provided useful contributions to the meeting after a summary of the Parish Council's activities over the last 12 months.

Jon's useful insight into waste and recycling was particularly good timing with the first of the new commingle bins having been installed outside the Memorial Hall. The information he shared will help with the education of how we should all be dealing with our rubbish and hopefully we can reduce the amount that ends up being incinerated or in landfill. It was noted that soft plastics can be taken to major supermarkets for recycling, including local Co-ops.

Sarah Dyke, MP, provided useful information especially in relation to the difficulties with planning and the current financial situation at Somerset Council. She answered a few questions and then enjoyed hearing some of the updates from the Sports and Recreation Trust, the Charity Shop, the Memorial Hall, The Community Shop, the Speed Watch Group, the Brownies and the History Group.

Tea, coffee and cakes were enjoyed by everyone, and hopefully next year even more residents will attend to hear about all the things that go in our wonderful village.

ST MARY'S CHURCH

I would like to update you on the situation of appointing a new vicar. We are currently in vacancy across the Ham Hill Villages Benefice since Rev Nick left at the end of Dec 2024. Rev Coelette, our curate's, time of training came to an end this January.

We were very sorry to see both Nick and Coelette leave the Benefice. Since then, we have advertised three times so far and have not had any applicants, but we hope and pray we will successfully appoint a vicar in late summer. In the meantime, we have been

very grateful for the support we have received from Karen at the Benefice office, Rev Gary Edmunds, other local vicars and our readers which include Colleen Jerrold and Elaine Seabrook from St. Mary's.

Those of you who use the All Saints Chapel in the village will know that the kitchen has had a bit of a face lift. Why not come and have a look on Monday mornings between 10.00 – 1.00pm? We are very grateful to Sam Lewis and the volunteers who run the Lighthouse café. The hall is used regularly for all sort of events. In the future we are hoping to make repairs to the floor and are planning to instal WiFi in the building.

Elaine Faull – Lay Chair PCCelfaull@mac.com Elaine Faull – Lay-Chair, St Mary's PCC.

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. Dates are on page 4 in the diary section.

For more information contact Sue 07792311736

GARDENING CLUB (RHS AFFILIATED SOCIETY)

Our talk on June 24th is all about hostas. Peter Savage has worked at Bowden's nursery, Devon, for over 15 years. He's their acknowledged expert on everything to do with these striking plants, and he has also helped with the Nursery's Chelsea Flower Show exhibits (they have achieved 13 Gold Medals!).

Doors open at The Memorial Hall 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. start. Visitors are always welcome - £5 admission fee refunded 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

HAMDON YOUTH & FAMILY CENTRE

By the time you read this we will, hopefully, be well underway with the replastering and decorating of the back hall at the centre. Thank you to Matt Gardener and his team for making an excellent job of the plastering. A small army of volunteers have come forward to help, and we would like to extend a huge thank you to each and every one of them. We still have parts of the flooring to replace which we hope will happen in the very near future, but, until completion, the main hall and kitchen facilities will

remain open and available to our regular hirers as well as for private hires for children and youth related activities. Please see our website for bookings and information and another huge thank you to our regular hirers for their patience and understanding while the work was being done.

www.hamdonyouthcentre.co.uk or by email
hamdonyouthcentre@gmail.com

AFTERNOON TEA CLUB

We are pleased to announce that Afternoon Tea Club is putting its bus trip to Sidmouth on again this year, Wednesday 15th July 2026, leaving the Memorial Hall at 11am, due back around 5pm.

As in previous years we have a 52-seater coach, most of the seats are allocated to Tea Club members but we do still 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 small carvery lunch, TBC £15 - £16, (drinks you buy yourself).

If you need to bring equipment with you, please let me know at the time of booking. For those of you who need help due to your mobility or need to bring a wheelchair, we ask that you bring someone along with you who can help.

Please note that this month, there is just one Afternoon Tea Club date, June 3rd, as our lovely volunteers are taking a short break.

The Afternoon Tea Club Team

VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP

With lots of inspiration from longer days and warmer weather our summer term is now well underway. Come and join the very friendly self-guided Village Artists Group to develop your artistic skills.

The fabulous creative watercolour artist Emma Keys will be demonstrating her painting technique at our forthcoming workshop on Saturday the 4th of July - don't miss it! Contact us for further details.

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

HISTORY GROUP

Stoke-sub-Hamdon History Group has a new email address: stokesubhamdonhistory@gmail.com If you have any interesting photographs or historical information about the village which needs to be preserved for future generations, then please send

it to this address. If you send photographs, please do include as much information as possible (for example, place names and names of people in the photo along with dates where known).

CHARITY SHOP

We would like to thank Simon Merrett from Hamdon First Aid for providing some of our Charity Shop volunteers earlier in the year with an overview of first aid, including how to provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). We all gained so much from the training. During the session, Simon told us about the Good Samaritan scheme (GoodSAM): Via the GoodSAM app, when a cardiac alert call is received by the 999 Ambulance Control room, registered GoodSAM responders within 500 metres may be notified and asked if they are able to help - thus providing CPR in the crucial moments before an ambulance arrives, giving the patient the best possible chance of survival.

South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SWASFT), who run the scheme, have over 2,000 GoodSAM responders trained in CPR and ready to be alerted, however, we were told that there were no GoodSAM responders in Stoke sub Hamdon. Anyone with a valid Basic Life Support (BSL) qualification can register, which means that trained members of the public can sign up, as well as doctors and nurses. Definitely food for thought - further details can be found on the SWASFT website or at <https://www.goodsamapp.org/faq> and it may be well worthwhile considering obtaining a BSL qualification if not already held.

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

HISTORY GROUP stokesubhamdonhistory@gmail.com

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

QUIRKY QUILTERS - suebrandt@googlemail.com

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).
Secretary Janet Littlefield janet.littlefield@btinternet.com web:
www.thetriangletrust.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

JUNE

- 2nd Longest Health Walk (5-6 miles, option of pub lunch). From Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50
- 2nd Village Artists Group – every Tuesday in term time from 19:30 – 21:30
- 2nd Brownies – every Tuesday at HF&YC during term time
- 2nd Football Senior Team training - every Tuesday 18:30
- 3rd Knit, Craft & Natter at Frank's Corner Café every Wednesday from 10:30 – 12:00
- 3rd Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15
- 3rd Parish Council meeting at North Street Workshops 19:00
- 4th Stoke Band Training Section every Thursday at Castle School 19:00 – 19:45
- 4th Stoke Band every Thursday at Castle School 20:00 – 22:00
- 5th Village Artists Group – every Friday in term time from 10:00 – 12:00
- 8th Make Every Step Count Walk (40 minutes) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:30
- 8th Medium Health Walk (3-4 miles) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50
- 9th Meditation & Shamanic Circle 2nd Tuesday of the month at 21, West Street. 19:00
- 10th Wednesday Social Group – fortnightly games afternoon at the Lighthouse 14:00
- 12th 'The Rehearsal' – SPAG production at the Memorial Hall, 19:00, doors open 18:15
- 13th 'The Rehearsal' – SPAG production at the Memorial Hall, 14:00, doors open 13:15
- 13th 'The Rehearsal' – SPAG production at the Memorial Hall, 19:00, doors open 18:15
- 20th Midsummer's Eve Charity Concert at the Memorial Hall 19:00
- 22nd Medium Health Walk (3-4 miles) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50
- 22nd Make Every Step Count Walk (40 minutes) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:30
- 23rd Race Night - Football Club fundraiser at WMC 19:30 start
- 23rd Meditation & Shamanic Circle 4th Tuesday of the month 19:00 at 21, West Street
- 24th Gardening Club May talk – Wild about Gardening Memorial Hall 19:15 for 19:30
- 24th Wednesday Social Group – fortnightly games afternoon at the Lighthouse 14:00
- 25th Parish Councillor Surgeries at 7, North Street, 3rd Thursday 10:00 – 12:00 & 18:00 – 20:00
- 25th Memorial Hall fundraising quiz at the Fleur de Lys 19:30

JULY

- 1st Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15
- 4th Village Artists Group Watercolour Workshop, Memorial Hall