

CONTACTS

Church of England at St Mary's, Church Services:

1st Sunday	11.00am	Cafe church in All Saints Hall
2nd Sunday	11.00am	CW Holy Communion
3rd Sunday	11.00am	Morning Praise
4th Sunday	11.00am	CW Holy Communion
1st and 3rd Wednesday	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion

The Rector Rev. Nick Clarke. Tel 07842 192402,
revnickclarke@gmail.com
The Vicarage, 1 Castle Street TA14 6RE
website: www.hamhillchurches.org

ALL SAINTS HALL BOOKING SECRETARY	Ann Davison 07709 609488
BOYS BRIGADE - Weekly - Thursday 6.00pm - 7.30pm (now at Martock Christian Fellowship)	Ian Rumbelow 07851817927
BRIDGE CLUB - Weekly - Monday starting at 8.30pm (Working Mens Club)	
BROWNIES - Weekly - Every Tuesday during term time (Hamdon Youth & Family Centre)	Jackie Poole 01935 823606
FLEXERCISE FOR FUN - At Oak Tree House every Monday at 2.30pm	Di Ramsay 0845 6434702
FOOTBALL - SENIOR TEAMS - Training Tuesday evenings 6.30pm. Matches weekend	Steve Deane 07881 464280 email: stevekatherine@hotmail.co.uk
FOOTBALL - YOUTH TEAMS - Training weekday evenings. Matches Saturdays & Sundays Contact Tim Brooks (Chair) stokefcchair@gmail.com 07788 654231 or Steve Arnold (Secretary) 07775 562122 stokefcsec@gmail.com	
FOOTPATHS - problems and issues contact:	cllr.hulett@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk
GARDENING CLUB - Monthly - Fourth Wednesday 7.30pm (Memorial Hall)	Secretary: sec.sshgardeningclub@gmail.com. Tel : 01935 823691
HAM HILL COUNTRY PARK - VOLUNTEER RANGERS - Weekly Weds 9.50am-3.30pm (Ranger's Office)	Paul McNeill 07973 887129
HAMDON MEDICAL CENTRE	01935 822236
HAMDON YOUTH & FAMILY CENTRE - West Street	Contact: www.hamdonyouthcentre.co.uk email: hamdonyouthcentre@gmail.com
HISTORY GROUP	Carol Parker 825393
MEDITATION GROUP - Tuesdays at 7.30pm at Priory Coffee	Emma Herrod 01935 829443
MEMORIAL HALL BOOKING SECRETARY	Enquiries: bookings.stokememorialhall@gmail.com, Jill Uhlhorn 01935 829513
PARISH COUNCIL - Monthly First Wednesday 7.00pm, The Hamdon Youth & Family Centre	Denise Burton, Chair, 01935 827793 Neil Bloomfield, Clerk clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk Website: stokesubhamdoncouncil.com
POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER	Carole Brown email: carole.brown@avonandsomerset.police.uk
POST OFFICE COUNTER (INSIDE STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP) OPENING TIMES Monday & Friday 9.00am to 12 noon, Thursday 1.00pm to 4.00pm (excluding Bank Holidays)	
STOKE AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION	Derek Goad 01935 824337
STOKE BABY & TODDLER GROUP - Memorial Hall. Thurs.9.30am to 11.30am in term time	carolyn_jeffley@hotmail.com Facebook: @StokeBabyAndToddlerGroup
STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP OPENING HOURS - Monday to Friday 8am - 4.30pm; Saturday 8am – 4pm; Sunday 8.30am – 12.30pm	01935 509100
STOKE AFTERNOON TEA CLUB FOR OLDER PEOPLE. Lighthouse Café, every other Wednesday at 2.15pm	Lisa Wenborn 07515 489587 or Kay Clamp: 07717 453523
STOKE SUB HAMDON BAND - Monday & Thursday 8.00pm - 10.00pm Castle School Training Section Thursdays 19:00 – 19:45 at Castle School	Gill Robins 01935 329904 Jane Herbert 01460 351123
STOKE SUB HAMDON SPORTS & RECREATION TRUST - www.stoke-rec-trust.co.uk email info@stoke-rec-trust.co.uk, Secretary – Peter Hulett 01935 824784, Fundraising Co-Ordinator – Denise Burton 01935 827793	Contacts: Chairman – John Allen, Secretary – Peter Hulett 01935 824784, Fundraising Co-Ordinator – Denise Burton 01935 827793
STOKE PERFORMING ARTS GROUP	Contact Jeannie 07967 184952 or info@stokeperformingartsgroup.co.uk
STOKE WALKING GROUP , every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month	Penny on 822208 or Mark 07496 148756
TAEKWONDO & LITTLE DRAGONS - Mondays 5.00pm - 5.30pm Little Dragons; 5.30pm - 6.15pm Taekwondo beginners; 6.15pm - 7.00pm Taekwondo Adults (Stanchester)	Jennie Clark 07921 393425
TINY TURRETS (Castle Primary School) - Foundation Stage Unit for children aged 2 - 4 years Two daily sessions 9.00am - 12 noon and 12 noon - 3pm. Extended provision available from 7.45am - 5.30pm ages 3+	Castle Primary School Office 01935 822342
TRIANGLE TRUST - Raising funds for Hamdon Medical Centre	Jennie Harris 01935 881718
VILLAGE AGENT - Cluster SS2 Cath Holloway	cath@somersetccc.org.uk Tel: 07968 521746
VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP - (Tuesdays 19.30- 21.30 & Friday 10.00am – 12 Noon (Memorial Hall)during school term times only)	Andrew Toosey (chair) SSHthevillageartistsgroup@gmail.com 07484 142880
WORKING MENS CLUB - Daily - Lunch times & evenings	secretary@stoke.club and www.facebook.com/stokeworkingmensclub Mark Greaves 01935 823297
YOUTH CLUB - Weekly Monday 6.15 - 8.15 Ages 10-13 (Hamdon Youth & Family Centre)	Youth Worker Lou on 07402 987921 or email lou.chant@cyp.me.uk
ZUMBA CLASSES - Monday 9.30am	Lauren Haines, 07775252128 (WhatsApp) / ZumbawithLauren (Facebook)

Please send articles for the newsletter, or to advertise forthcoming events to
Helen Frances, helenfrances.one@gmail.com by the 16th of the previous month



NEWSLETTER

December 2023

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

At the November Parish Council meeting Cllr Denise Burton was elected Chairman until May 2024. Many of you will know Denise, who is a familiar face in the Charity Shop and as a Trustee of the Sports & Rec Trust. I'm sure we all wish her well in her new role.

The council is in the process of drafting its budget for 2024/2025. The Parish Council precept, which can only be spent here in Stoke sub Hamdon, comes from Council Tax. There is always pressure on budgets but this year things are rather different as Somerset Council has advised all parish councils it has a projected funding shortfall in excess of £100 million. This is likely to impact services as they work to find savings. One option is devolving more responsibilities to Parish Councils, and we have been asked to consider what additional roles we wish to and would be able to carry out. This means looking at our budgets with great care. The Parish Council has to approve its final budget by 19th January 2024.

We were hoping larger dog poo bins would be on the way by now, but sadly that is on hold. Additional bin collections have been requested for the bins that are most heavily used. In case you weren't aware you can put dog poo in your domestic waste, preferably double bagged.

A big thank you to the Area Highways team for the extra clearance of gully drains last week in North Street and Great Field Lane, hopefully Stonehill will be getting a visit very soon.

Neil Bloomfield, Parish Clerk

STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP

YOUR VILLAGE YOUR SHOP

We'd like to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and New Year. Thank you for all your support in 2023 – looking forward to seeing you in 2024.

Shop local this Christmas: We've an attractive range of Christmas gifts, festive goodies and hamper fillers, along with shop-branded jute bags, pens, travel mugs and gift vouchers – ideal as Xmas presents for family and friends.

Christmas and New Year opening: Your community shop will be open every day over the festive period except Christmas Day, Monday 25th December.

See below for early closing dates and times.

- We'll be open from **8.30am** till **10.30am** on the two Sundays: **Sunday 24th December** and **Sunday 31st December**.
- We'll be open from **8am** till **12 noon** on the two Bank Holidays: **Tuesday 26th December** and **Monday 1st January 2024**.
- The **Post Office** counter will be closed on the two bank holiday Mondays – **25th December** and **1st January 2024**.

If you have newspaper saves or bread orders on any of our early closing days, please pick them up in the morning. For full details and any updates, please check the shop window, our website stokeshop.co.uk or www.facebook.com/stokecommunityshop.

Orders, please: Don't forget that you can order fresh Bakery Royal breads, pastries, pies and buns from Stoke Community Shop. Order by midday Sunday to Friday for pick-up from the shop the next day after 10am. Plus you can reserve virtually any newspaper or magazine for collection. Pop in and discuss your needs with one of our friendly Volunteers.

Home deliveries: Our home delivery service is here for you if you're unable to get out and about. Call us with your order on 01935 509100 between 9am and 2pm on week days and we'll arrange same or next-day delivery.

THANK YOU to all the bakers and customers who raised a massive £275.17 for CHILDREN IN NEED.

For more information about the shop and how you can get involved, visit stokeshop.co.uk or www.facebook.com/stokecommunityshop

HAMDON YOUTH & FAMILY CENTRE

Kids bored? Lots of activities for them to discover at the Hamdon Youth & Family Centre in West Street!

Mondays – Youth Club (ages 10-13) from 6.15 to 8.15 p.m. Runs all year.

Tuesdays – Brownies (ages 7-10) from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Wednesdays – Dragons Gymnastics (ages 4-14) from 5 to 6 p.m.

Thursdays – Star Dance (ages 3-5) from 4-4.45 p.m. and (ages 6 – 11) from 5 to 6 p.m.

Thursdays – Martial Arts (ages 4-14) from 6.30 to 7.30 p.m.

Saturdays – Blackrock Irish Dancers (ages 3-18) from 10 to 12.30 p.m. (plus you get to perform at Folk shows across the South West!)

For more info, see our website - www.hamdonyouthcentre.co.uk/activities

STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDENING CLUB

Our next meeting is in January 2024. If you're interested, please contact:

*sec.sshgardeningclub@gmail.com for details.
We meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month
Venue: The Memorial Hall, Stoke-sub-Hamdon.
7.15 for 7.30 p.m.*

STANCHESTER ACADEMY WINTER FAIR

Friday 1st December 5-7pm.

Experience the magic of the Winter Fair at Stanchester Academy. Free entry. Explore local craft stalls, enjoy the music, indulge in delicious treats and try your luck with the games and our grand raffle. It'll be a heart-warming evening filled with festive spirit and community cheer.

Raffle tickets can be bought in advance from Stoke Community Shop and Stoke Coop.

Raffle prizes include: Chef's Menu at Holm, Trading Post Hamper, vouchers for the Lord Nelson, Prince of Wales, Yeovil Town FC, Clarks, Berry's Coaches, Hamdon Beauty Barn, The Garden Salon, The Old Dairy, Palmers Garden Centre, Wincanton Racecourse, and more.



VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP

The Village Artists Group is a very friendly group of amateurs who meet at the Stoke Memorial Hall on Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9:30 pm and Friday mornings 10.00 to 12.00 noon during school term time. We share an enjoyment of traditional art at all levels and seek to develop our artistic skills through discussion and an encouraging environment.

Should you wish to learn more about our group, please contact Andrew on (01935) 823691

SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com

Facebook: Stoke Sub Hamdon The Village Artists Group - We look forward to hearing from you.

KEYBOARD PLAYER? LIGHTING TECHNICIAN?

The cast and crew of SPAG are working hard to prepare for the village pantomime in February. (Oh yes we are!) With all cast members now in place, we are still looking for a few extra crew members. If you'd like to know more (especially if you can play keyboard or handle stage lighting) then get in touch with Jeannie on 07967 184952.

STOKE BAND NEWS

Our Christmas Concert is on Saturday 9th December at the Memorial Hall. As usual tickets will be £6 and will include pies and puds.



Please phone Jane Herbert on 01460 351123 to book tickets, money payable on the night. We will be accepting card payments as well as cash.

On Saturday 16th December, we will once again be playing carols outside at the Prince of Wales, from 2pm until 4pm. Please come and sing along with us. Weather permitting, we will also be carolling around Stoke as usual on Christmas Eve.

STOKE WALKING GROUP

Would you like to get fitter, meet other people in the village and/or maybe learn some different local routes? The trained health walk leaders offer three levels of guided walks: All walks start at the Lighthouse Café, finishing there for a hot drink and time to talk too. Dress for the weather, stout footwear recommended. Well behaved dogs on leads are also welcome.

Make Every Step Count. Shorter, gentle half hour walk on good paths. These are restarting on Monday mornings. Please speak to one of the walk leaders if you would like to join us.

Regular health walk 3-4 miles, about 1 ½ hours. Start at Lighthouse Café 10 am - Mondays 11th & 18th December (one week early to avoid Xmas!).

Longer walk 5-6 miles Start at Lighthouse Café 10 am. - Tuesday 5th December and 2nd January 2024.

For more information about any of these, particularly the shorter or longer walks please contact Sue on 07792311736 or Doug on 07778946508

REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND

There was a great turnout as ever, a little bit chilly but the rain held off. Thank you so much to everyone who made it happen. Well done Stoke sub Hamdon.



Top row (left to right) Dave Skiddy, Jon Moore and Dave Brocklebank.

Second row Mark Fisher, Geraint (Taff) Parsons, Kathy Smith, Dave Rowlands, Peter McGann, Tim Brooks, Steve (Smudge) Smith, Mark Greaves.

20 IS PLENTY

Thank you to everyone who has contacted me regarding the 20 is Plenty campaign. I will be in touch to arrange a get-together to discuss a way forward with the campaign. If anyone is interested in raising the profile of the village's traffic issues, then please do get in touch by phoning me, Lyn Foley on 07714005265 or 823051

COFFEE MORNING AT THE LIGHTHOUSE CAFE

Join the Stanchester World Challenge students for a cosy coffee on Saturday 9th December between 10am and 12 noon. Warm up your morning with our delightful selection of hot and cold drinks, complemented by an array of scrumptious homemade cakes and treats. It's the perfect opportunity to relax and catch up with friends.

FILM NIGHT AT THE MEMORIAL HALL

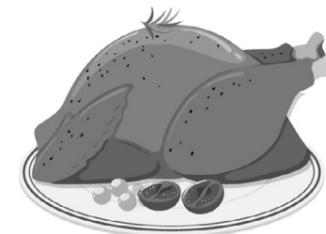
We hope you have enjoyed the film selection this year. There is no film in December, however on January 20th 2024 we are tickled pink (!) to be showing Barbie PG-13, a visually dazzling comedy which, at the same time, is clever and poignant. Hot dogs and other refreshments will be available. Doors open at 6pm. £5 at the door. Save the date!

AFTERNOON TEA CLUB

Stoke-sub-Hamdon's very popular Afternoon Tea Club opens its doors fortnightly on a Wednesday afternoon at the Lighthouse, 2.15pm - 4.15pm. Why not come and join this lovely social group for tea, sandwiches, cake and a chat, cost £3. See the Dates for your Diary section in this newsletter. For further information contact Lisa on 07515 489587

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

I am planning a Christmas Day Lunch in the lighthouse café for 1pm. If you would like to join our merry band please contact me - Lyn Foley - on 07714005265 or 823051. Transport will be available from our lovely volunteers. I look forward to seeing you there



Dates for your Diary

DECEMBER

- 1st Winter Fair at Stanchester Academy 5-7p.m.
- 5th Longer Health Walk from Lighthouse café 10:00 start
- 9th Stanchester World Challenge Coffee Morning at The Lighthouse Café
- 9th Stoke Band Christmas Concert at The Memorial Hall
- 11th Regular Health Walk from Lighthouse café 10:00 start
- 13th Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse café 14:15 – 16:15
- 16th Stoke Band Carols at The Prince of Wales from 2-4p.m.
- 18th Regular Health Walk from Lighthouse café 10:00 start
- 24th Stoke Band Carol Singing around the Village
- 25th Christmas Lunch at The Lighthouse (please book in advance)

JANUARY

- 2nd Longer Health Walk from Lighthouse café 10:00 start
- 10th Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse café 14:15 – 16:15