

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
2nd and 4th Wednesdays 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 01935 881712
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 Stoke Youth Football Club www.facebook.com/groups/184504791723630	Contact: Steve Arnold (Chairman), email: stokefcchair@gmail.com & John Elliot (Secretary) 0775 562122, email: stokefcsec@gmail.com
FOOTPATHS - problems and issues contact the Parish Clerk	Sarah Moore, Clerk 01935 822455
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
LIGHTHOUSE CAFE - Monday 10.00am - 1.00pm	Sarah Russell 826355
MEDITATION GROUP - Tuesdays at 7.30pm at Priory Coffee	Emma Herrod 01935 829443
MEMORIAL HALL BOOKING SECRETARY	bookings.stokememorialhall@hotmail.com. Mary Steel 01935 508996
PARISH COUNCIL - Monthly First Wednesday 7.00pm, The Hamdon Youth & Family Centre Website: stokesubhamdoncouncil.com	Lyn Foley, Chairman 01935 83051 or 07714 005265 Sarah Moore, Clerk 01935 822455
POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER	Abby Linaker email: abby.linaker@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_lefley@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 01935 822468
STOKE SUB HAMDON BAND - Monday & Thursday 8.00pm - 10.00pm Castle School Training Section Mondays 7:00-7:45pm at Castle School	Gill Robins 01935 329904 Jane Herbert 01460 419317
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 01935 579592 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 ARTIST GROUP - Tuesdays 7.45pm- 9.45pm & Friday 10.00am - 12 Noon (Memorial Hall) (during school term times only)	Ali Dunford 01935 823394
WORKING MENS CLUB - Daily - Lunch times & evenings	secretary@stoke.club and www.facebook.com/stokeworkingmensclub Mark Greaves 01935 823297
YOUTH CLUB - Weekly - Monday 7.00pm at Hamdon Youth & Family Centre	Youth Worker Lou on 07402 987921 or email lou.chant@cyp.me.uk
ZUMBA CLASSES - Monday 9.30am; Toning Thursday 6pm.	Lydia Kemp 07814629352 Facebook @zumbawithlydia

PARISH COUNCIL CLERK: MRS. SARAH MOORE, 24 HIGH STREET, STOKE SUB HAMDON TA14 6PS
TELEPHONE 01935 822455 E-MAIL: clerksshpc@hotmail.co.uk



PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

The Parish Council hope you all had a lovely Christmas and we wish you all a Happy 2023.

The community has been working hard to try and provide help and support to those who need a little more assistance. Please keep an eye on our more vulnerable neighbours; a phone call or a quick knock on the door to enquire if people need anything takes such little time but can mean so much.

As the weather becomes more inclement, please be more aware and cautious when travelling through the village as the roads and pavements can be very slippery.

Councillor Helen Essex is still taking names for Neighbourhood Watch coordinators, and Councillor Paul Goulder continues to take names for Speedwatch helpers.

In the New Year, we will be looking to work with our neighbouring parish councils to see how we can collaboratively work together on projects such as Speedwatch. It is going to be another busy year ahead as we are looking to develop 'Councillor Surgeries' where you can come and directly talk to a councillor about your concerns, bring ideas for our community and its environment.

The Parish Council has to work with many different areas within the District and County Councils to manage our village environment but this could be set to change with the new unitary authority. However, we don't know yet what the NewSomerset Unitary Authority looks like but we will keep you informed.

Lyn Foley

Chair of Stoke sub Hamdon Parish Council

STANCHESTER WORLD CHALLENGE

Seventeen students, from years 9 & 10, are taking part in a World Challenge project, with an expedition to Morocco in July 2024. As part of the expedition, they will undertake a community infrastructure project and a four-day trek in the Atlas Mountains. The cost of the trip is £2,395 per person. Students are raising £1,000 each and collectively as a group we are aiming to raise the remainder.



To raise these funds we are planning a series of events over 2023. The ones we have booked in are as follows -

- Coffee mornings at All Saints Hall, Stoke sub Hamdon on Saturday 14th January, Saturday 11th February & Saturday 11th March at 9.30-11.30am. Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate & freshly baked cakes & scones. Cash only. No need to book.
- Years 5 & 6 Disco at Stanchester Academy Hall on Friday 10th February 6 - 7.30pm. £3 entry, includes a drink. Tuck shop available. Cash only. Details will be sent to local primary schools.
- Mother's Day Afternoon Tea on Sunday 19th March at the All Saints Hall, Stoke sub Hamdon. There are two sittings 1-2pm or 2.15-3.15pm. £15 per person.

Booking details from rebecca.hendry@stanchester.co.uk

Articles for the Newsletter, or to advertise forthcoming events: please email or post to Sarah Moore by 16th of previous month. Contact information is on the bottom of the back page of this newsletter.

PRESS RELEASE FROM SSDC

Ham Hill gets go ahead thanks to Heritage Fund grant

- Uncovering Ham Hill's past for its future awarded a grant of £1.6million thanks to National Lottery players
- Project will help preserve the heritage-rich landscape, conserve habitats & species, and interpret the fascinating geology. It will help people explore and understand the stories of the site
- The project will connect local communities to heritage, provide skill development and improve health and wellbeing

The Countryside Team at South Somerset District Council (SSDC) are delighted to announce that they have been awarded £1.6 million from The National Lottery Heritage Fund towards their project 'Uncovering Ham Hill's past for its future.'

Ham Hill Country Park has a rich history dating back to the Stone Age, when man first settled on the hill over 5,000 years ago. In 1975 it was established as a country park and has since grown to 173 hectares, with limited visitor facilities despite an estimated 300,000 visitors a year. The Country Park is popular with local people who enjoy its fantastic views, hidden places and variety of landscape and wildlife. With its amazing heritage value, the site is a Scheduled Monument and Geological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Due to various pressures



the Scheduled Monument has been designated 'at risk' by Historic England since 2019.

This £2.4 million project will seek to conserve and protect the wealth of archaeology at this Iron Age hillfort, improve biodiversity and habitat management, provide better visitor facilities and engage visitors and local communities with the heritage, geological, cultural and wildlife importance of Ham Hill.

A new visitor centre will include a permanent exhibition space, which will tell the stories of Ham Hill through the display of artefacts, use of imagery and hands on activities. A temporary exhibition space will allow local artists to display their work and provide the opportunity for themed exhibitions focusing on Ham Hill's stories. A café will provide refreshments and a space for socialising, whilst public toilets and a 'Changing Place' will increase facilities for visitors, particularly those with additional requirements, making Ham Hill a welcoming place for all.

One of the main objectives of the project is to involve local people with the heritage of Ham Hill. A visitor survey in 2018 revealed that only a third of current visitors know that Ham Hill is an Iron Age Hillfort. The addition of a visitor centre, with a permanent exhibition, will help all visitors to understand the complex story of Ham Hill; from its geological formation, through to the creation of the hillfort by the Drurotriges tribe and its later Roman occupation. Later stories of quarrying and workers' rights marches, as led by George Mitchell, show the strong link between the local villages and the Hill and how the landscape has been shaped over thousands of years, explaining why it supports such a diverse range of wildlife today. These themes will form the basis for wider site information and the creation of trails to encourage visitors to explore Ham Hill beyond the war memorial, which is currently the most popular area of the country park.

The current team of rangers at Ham Hill do a fantastic job, but with increased visitors more support to protect and manage the upkeep of the park will be required. The Heritage Fund grant will enable a doubling of the small ranger team to include an additional Assistant Ranger for habitat management and scheduled monument protection works and an Engagement Ranger. The Engagement Ranger will be fundamental to delivering the exciting four-year activity plan, which includes new public events, community group workshops & school visits.

For more information, please contact Rachael Whaites, Countryside Manager on: 07949 482956 or Rachael.whaites@southsomerset.gov.uk

STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP: YOUR VILLAGE – YOUR SHOP

We'd like to wish everyone a very happy 2023

A big thank you to all our Volunteers:

The dedication of our Volunteers has been – and continues to be – what makes it possible to run the store for the benefit of our whole community. Thank you for all your hard work over the past year.

...And if you're looking for a new challenge for the New Year, why not join our super team of Volunteers?

It's an ideal way of getting involved in village life and making new friends. Drop into the shop for a chat with one of our team or email volunteers@stokeshop.co.uk. You can also find out more – and download an application form at stokeshop.co.uk/volunteering.

New Year's opening: Your community shop will be open from 8am to 12 noon on Sunday, 1st and Bank Holiday Monday, 2nd January 2023. The Post Office counter will be closed on Monday, 2nd January. We're back to normal opening hours from Tuesday, 3rd January 2023.

For full details, please check the shop window, our website stokeshop.co.uk or www.facebook.com/stokecommunityshop

VILLAGE ARTIST GROUP

January Workshops

We are holding the first of our ART IN THE FUTURE WORKSHOPS on Saturday, 28th January 2023. Kate Lynch, a local artist best known as a rural documentary artist, will be with us.

Her charcoal drawings, pastels and paintings celebrate traditional rural work in Somerset amongst other traditional crafts. The Memorial hall is booked from 10am until 3pm with an hour for lunch. The subjects will be: AM – experimenting with charcoal; PM – dramatic landscapes – working on an expressive landscape.

Kate will bring material to work from, but attendees can work from their own reference material. Everyone is welcome for a charge of £20.00.

For enquiries from Malcolm 01935 829513 or Ali 01935 823394.

MARTOCK U3A

Iyengar Yoga: Lisa Bartlett. Wednesday 11th January at 2.15pm at the Parish Hall, Martock. A talk about creating a yoga practice accessible for all stages of life. All welcome to the talk, to enjoy a chat over refreshments and to find out about the learning, hobby and interest groups you can join through Martock & District U3a. *More information about Martock & District U3a: email – martocku3amembership@gmail.com; telephone - 01460 240788; website – www.u3a.org.uk*

Free home deliveries: Our grocery 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. We can usually deliver the same day if you order before midday.

Stoke Community Food Hub: Over the past year, the generous people of Stoke have made a huge number of donations to the Lord's Larder which distributes goods to those in need from its Yeovil hub. We'd like to ensure that this is going to people in Stoke and the surrounding villages, so we're currently working with our Village Agent to set up a more localized service. We're also hoping to provide emergency energy top-ups for those in need. And if you – or anyone you know – is in need, please contact The Community Council for Somerset on 01823 331222 and request a call back from our local Village Agent, Wendy Rudd.

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

STOKE WALKING GROUP

January Health Walk dates: 9th and 23rd January

Happy New Year!

Is your New Year's resolution to get more exercise?

Walks start at the Lighthouse Café at 10am, last about one and a half hours to finish in time for a cuppa and a chat at the café. The Stoke Walking Group is affiliated with the National Health Walk programme. The guided walks are led by trained walk leaders. Come and discover more paths around Stoke. New walkers are always welcome, whether you have lived in the area for years, or just moved in. Dress for the weather, stout footwear is recommended. Well behaved dogs on leads are also welcome.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JANUARY

9th	Stoke Walking Group
11th	Afternoon Tea Club
23rd	Stoke Walking Group
25th	Afternoon Tea Club
28th	Village Artist Workshop

FEBRUARY

8th	Afternoon Tea Club
22nd	Afternoon Tea Club