



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The Parish Council met on Wednesday 10th December, having postponed the meeting by a week to allow for the formal lighting of the Christmas tree to coincide with Castle School's Advent Fair event. It was a lovely evening with carols sung by the children and even the rain held off.

The Christmas trees and lights were provided by the Parish Council but huge thanks go to Craig from True Tree Care who helped to put up most of the trees and brackets with his cherry picker; to Harry from Castle Farm Christmas Trees for supplying us with our lovely trees; to Tesco's at Yeovil for their donation of some Christmas lights; to Cliff and Jim for finishing off the trees on Sunday and helping the Parish Council through this process; to Florence from the Hive for coming to our rescue with an electricity supply; to Mark Lentell for concreting the post in for the flagpole tree; to Adrian Johnson for his help and advice and to Jake from Ham Hill Electrical Services for his advice and for installing the outdoor socket box. It was a steep learning curve for all concerned, but having done it once, and invested in various items, it will be bigger and better next year, and hopefully less stressful!

Other business included co-opting new Councillor, Gary Edmunds, to the Parish Council and an update from the Speedwatch Group. The survey of the War Memorial at Ham Hill had been carried out the same day and a condition report will follow in the new year.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th January 2026 at 7pm and as always, the agenda will be available to view on the website together with full minutes of previous meetings.

Please see website – www.stokesubhamdoncouncil.com. For more information on Parish Council matters, please contact our clerk, Gilly, at clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk

All the councillors join me in wishing residents of Stoke-sub-Hamdon a happy and healthy 2026.

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

MEMORIAL HALL NEWS

Wishing all our user groups and customers a Happy New Year.

Our next quiz night at The Fleur will be held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 22nd January - booking is strongly advised!

For 2026 we are planning a Ceilidh on Friday 14th March - more details will follow on social media, posters etc.

The Insulation project is complete, and we hope our users will experience improved heat retention.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to Martin Gooch who joined the Committee in December.

Please contact Geoffery via bookings.stokememorialhall@gmail.com or book on line via our website www.stokememorialhall.co.uk if you are interested in hiring the hall for an event, party, wedding or function etc.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

The Speedwatch Team continue to work with the Parish Council and the Police to help reduce speeding in our community. We met with the Police for our Quarterly meeting and were told that as a result of the 97 sessions the Speedwatch team have done in the police have issued 501 letters to those who caught travelling at 36 MPH or over.

The fact that so many people speed past us, even though we are easy to see in our High Visibility Jackets, indicates some individuals disregard of the speed limits though our community. We are only out for one hour at a time, so when we are not visible you can only imagine how many others are speeding! Please make a conscious effort to travel within the 30MPH limit which applies to ALL our roads except by the schools when the lights are flashing, it then reduces to 20MPH.

if you are interested in supporting your Speedwatch Team please contact Lyn Foley for further information.

LITTER PICK

The first Litter pick in 2026 will be Sunday 4th January. Perfect to fulfil your New Year resolution to give something back to this beautiful village we live in.

Meet at 9 am outside the All Saints' Hall. More information from Catherine Fraser at helivet@msn.com



STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP: YOUR VILLAGE – YOUR SHOP

As a reminder of everything the wonderful Community Shop has on offer, please take a look at our video produced by Simon Hulber. You can find it on Stoke Community Shop Facebook page. Thank you, Simon,

We are looking for further volunteers to work on the till, afternoons have been particularly difficult to fill. If you feel able to volunteer, we would love to see you.

THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Care in the Community at its best... I am writing this article to congratulate and celebrate the award-winning team of Carers from Discovery – who have recently been recognised for their dedicated care of one of our community residents. Discovery's Coach House team won the " Home Care Team " award at the Great British Care Awards for the Southwest for their high standards of care and their development and encouragement of the individual. The team are going to the National awards in Birmingham which are being held in February 2026. We wish them all the best of luck for the National Finals. *Lyn Foley*

STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDENING CLUB

Join us on Wednesday 28th January 2026 for "Seed to Fork" – a fascinating talk by Greg Morter exploring the extraordinary story of how plants evolved and humans adapted them. Greg lives in Castle Cary and gardens when he has time to spare from sharing his fascination with origins (human and other!)

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

VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP

Would you like to develop your artistic skills? Do you like drawing, colour, painting? How about making your New Year's resolution joining our group of amateur artists and developing your talent in a supportive and friendly environment...

Our Spring term starts on Tuesday 6th January.

We meet at the Stoke Memorial Hall on Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9:30 pm and Friday mornings 10.00 to 12.30pm during school term time.

First visit FREE! We have regular workshops led by local professional artists.

Please contact Andrew on (01935) 823691,

SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com

Facebook: Stoke Sub Hamdon
The Village Artists Group.

MAY FAYRE

We are sorry to inform you that there will not be a May Fayre in 2026. As I sure people can appreciate, organising such a large event requires a lot of effort from our volunteers over many months and after several years of hard work, we have made the decision to take a year out. We feel that the future of the May Fayre thereafter will likely rely on some new people coming forward to help organise the event and we are very happy to share the knowledge we have gained over the many years. This is a decision that has not been made lightly and we would like to thank everyone for their support over the years. Sports & Recreation Trust

STOKE HEALTH WALKS

Happy New Year, the time of new Resolutions.

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.

For more information contact
Sue 07792311736

Stoke Performing Arts Group
Presents
Aladdin
a Traditional Pantomime written by Jon Newman

The Memorial Hall, West Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6PZ
**Thursday 19th, Friday 20th
Saturday 21st February 2026**

Evening Performances 7.15pm
doors open and bar available from 6.30pm

Saturday Matinee 2.15pm
doors open at 1.45pm
Interval Refreshments will be served

Tickets £10.00 each
Children 5-16yrs old £5.00
under 5's FREE

Box Office | Stoke Community Shop TA14 6PP | 01935 509100
Open Monday - Friday 8.00am - 4.30pm | Saturday 8.00am - 4.00pm | Sunday 9.00am - 12noon
Enquiries | Text 07967 184 952 | We will get back to you

CHARITY SHOP

Community Grants - Our Charity Shop has gone from strength to strength over the last year - This is great news for the village, as our primary purpose is generating income to provide grants to help towards the cost of funding sports and recreational projects for local people and organisations. In the past year, for example, we have helped support young people attending Stanchester with their World Challenge fund-raising, made a contribution to new football kit for the Stoke Junior Team, supported a fund-raiser for the Memorial Hall's roof installation project. If you know of any village organisation or project with a focus on improving recreation and sporting opportunities in our village then it might be that a Charity Shop Grant will help them achieve their goals. Organisations or individuals seeking grants should contact Lisa for a grant application form. More information about the type of activities we can help fund is available on request.

Wednesday Opening - We know that our customers would like us to open six days a week, and we would like to consider this - but it does completely depend on having enough volunteers available, not only for Wednesday shifts, but for the rest of our usual opening hours. If you know anyone who might be interested in joining our team (whether for Wednesday or a different day) then do ask them get in touch - either by contacting Denise, or by collecting a volunteer form from the shop.

SERVICES AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Christmastide is now almost over and now is a time to prepare for the future. At the start of Epiphany, 6th January, the seven churches in the Ham Hill Villages

Benefice will be open for a day of prayer. We will welcome all who feel the need to pray, or reflect and be still, or be prayed for. There is no issue too insignificant to be brought before our heavenly father in prayer. Jesus said, "My house shall be called a house of prayer"

As we still do not have a vicar for the Benefice, we will also be praying that the post will be filled.

On the 6th of January, All Saints Chapel (opposite the Fleur De Lys) will be open from 11.00am - 12.00 noon, and St Mary's Church, East Stoke will be open from 2.00pm - 3.00pm. During this time there will be time for quiet reflection or to meet people who will listen and help you pray. Everyone welcome.

WARMWINTER WEDNESDAY GAMES AFTERNOON

The group had a lovely mulled wine and Mince pie social before Christmas, and I would like to thank all those that attended for their participation and conversation. Starting in the New Year our first social will be on 7th January 2pm in the Lighthouse and then fortnightly from then. I hope to see you there. If you would like further information, please don't hesitate to contact me Lyn Foley on 07714005265

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2025

I would like to thank all the volunteers for their help and support over the last 10 years, it was an emotional end to a decade of providing Christmas meals for members of the Community. Thank you to those who gave up their time on Christmas Eve to help me set up the venue and clear up afterwards. And a special thank you to my husband Mike who worked tirelessly by my side throughout. Lyn Foley

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.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

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

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.thetriangletrust.org

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

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

January 2026

- 4th Litter Pick – meet at All Saints' Hall at 09:00
- 6th Longest Health Walk (5-6 miles, option of pub lunch). From Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50
- 6th Village Artists' Group – every Tuesday in term time from 19:30 – 21:30
- 6th Brownies – every Tuesday at HF&YC during term time
- 6th Football Senior Team training - every Tuesday 18:30
- 6th Day of Prayer in Ham Hill Villages Benefice
- 7th Knit, Craft & Natter at Frank's Corner Café every Wednesday from 10:30 – 12:00
- 7th Warm Winter Wednesday – fortnightly games afternoon at the Lighthouse 14:00
- 7th Parish Council meeting at North Street Workshops 19:00
- 8th Stoke Band Training Section every Thursday at Castle School 19:00 – 19:45
- 8th Stoke Band every Thursday at Castle School 20:00 – 22:00
- 9th Village Artists' Group – every Friday in term time from 10:00 – 12:00
- 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
- 14th Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15
- 15th Parish Councillor Surgeries at 7, North Street, 3rd Thursday 10:00 – 12:00 & 18:00 – 20:00
- 22nd Memorial Hall fundraising quiz at the Fleur de Lys 19:30
- 26th Medium Health Walk (3-4 miles) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50
- 26th Make Every Step Count Walk (40 minutes) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:30
- 27th Meditation & Shamanic Circle 4th Tuesday of the month 19:00 at 21, West Street
- 28th Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15
- 28th Gardening Club Talk 'Seed to Fork' at the Memorial Hall from 19:15 for 19:30

February 2026

- 11th Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15