

CONTACTS

Church of England at St Mary's, Church Services:	The Rector Rev. Nick Clarke. Tel 07842 192402, revnickclarke@gmail.com
1st Sunday 11.00am Cafe church in All Saints Hall	The Vicarage, 1 Castle Street TA14 6RE
2nd Sunday 11.00am CW Holy Communion	website: www.hamhillchurches.org
3rd Sunday 11.00am Morning Praise	
4th Sunday 11.00am CW Holy Communion	
1st and 3rd Wednesday 9.00am BCP Holy Communion	
ALL SAINTS HALL BOOKING SECRETARY	Ann Davison 07709 609488
BOYS BRIGADE - Meets weekly at Martock Christian Fellowship on Thursdays: Juniors 6pm-7:30pm. Older members 7:30-9pm.	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:	clr.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	Bookings Jill Uhlhorn: 01935 829513
PARISH COUNCIL - Monthly First Wednesday 7.00pm, Unit 7, North Street Workshops	Chair Mike Phillips clr.phillips@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk Neil Bloomfield, Clerk clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk Website: stokesubhamdoncouncil.com
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 email: goadfish02@gmail.com
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: 07717 453523
STOKE SUB HAMDON BAND - Monday & Thursday 8.00pm - 10.00pm Castle School	Gill Robins 01935 329904
Training Section Thursdays 19:00 - 19:45 at Castle School	Jane Herbert 01460 351123
STOKE SUB HAMDON SPORTS & RECREATION TRUST - www.stoke-rec-trust.co.uk	Contacts: Chairman - John Allen, email info@stoke-rec-trust.co.uk, 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
TTINY TURRETS (Castle Primary School) - Foundation Stage Unit for children aged 2 - 4 years	Castle Primary School Office 01935 822342
Two daily sessions 9.00am - 12 noon and 12 noon - 3pm. Extended provision available from 7.45am - 5.30pm ages 3+	
TRIANGLE TRUST - Raising funds for Hamdon Medical Centre	Jennie Harris 01935 881718
VILLAGE AGENT - Cluster SS2 Cath Holloway	cath@somersetcc.org.uk Tel: 07968 521746
VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP -	Andrew Toosey (chair) SSHthevillageartistsgroup@gmail.com 07484 142880
(Tuesdays 19.30- 21.30 & Friday 10.00am - 12 Noon (Memorial Hall)during school term times only)	
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 at Hamdon Youth & Family Centre	Youth Worker Lou on 07402 987921 or email lou.chant@cyp.me.uk

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



MARCH 2024

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

The Parish Council had some difficult budget decisions this year due to rising prices, increasing demand for services and Somerset Council's financial challenges. However, mindful of the impact of rising costs on all of our purses, the Parish Council has kept the increase as low as possible.

Priority areas agreed by councillors are investment in public spaces and facilities for young people. The budget this year includes £6,000 to pay for minor works to roadsides and footpaths, such as clearing debris and removing excessive foliage, a £10,000 contribution to the new Skate Park (which will be added to the fantastic £168,000 raised by volunteers), and further investments for young people in Stoke, including over £11,000 for the purchase loan and maintenance of the building used by HYFC, and a further £2,196 for Youth Service provision (comparable with Norton). Stoke Parish Council also invests in young people through the maintenance and upkeep of three play areas and two recreation grounds and an outdoor gym at an annual cost of £13,000.

In 2024/5, a band D property will see £1 month, or £12 per annum added to the Parish Council share of the overall council tax bill. The full budget is available on the Council website at www.stokesubhamdoncouncil.com

Following extensive liaison, Avon and Somerset Police have given the go-ahead to the Community Speedwatch Scheme. So far two sites have been approved at the Stanchester end of the village. We are now working to enhance the scheme with additional sites at West Street and North Street. We are now actively seeking additional volunteers - Without you the scheme can't work. Please contact Cllr Mike Foley or Cllr Graham Middleton, or visit www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/apply/community-speedwatch/ . Thanks also to Mrs Lyn Foley and the "20 is plenty" campaign.

Those of you dismayed that the Fleur remains vacant may take comfort that the Parish Council has applied to register it as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). The ACV scheme is designed to help communities protect their local assets, and Cllr Moira Hulett has further details. Your Parish Council is here to represent the whole village. Please do get in touch with any of your councillors if you would like to know more about our role in the village.

Mike Philips (Chair)

MARCH VILLAGE LITTER PICK

March's litter pick will take place on March 10th. Meet at 9 am outside All Saints' Hall with stout shoes/boots and gloves. Free coffee afterwards courtesy of Priory Coffee and the Community Shop. We are a merry group and feel quite uplifted when we see what we have collected! Please contact me on helivet@msn.com if you want any further details.

Catherine Fraser

FILM NIGHT AT THE MEMORIAL HALL

Our film this month, on Saturday March 16th 2024, is Wonka PG (1h 56m)

This is based on the Roald Dahl character at the centre of the iconic book Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. With dreams of opening a shop in a city renowned for its chocolate, a young and poor Willy Wonka discovers that the industry is run by a cartel of greedy chocolatiers.

It's lots of fun for children and adults alike!

Doors open at 6pm for a 6:30pm start. £5 adults and £3 children (12 and under). Cash at the door. Refreshments available. Look forward to seeing you there!



HAMDON YOUTH & FAMILY CENTRE

Youth Group

We've been busy over the past few weeks not just having fun hanging out with each other at the Hamdon Youth & Family Centre, playing pool, games, and doing lots of arts and crafts, but also learning to make fantastic sushi, gingerbread and toasties.

Check out our impressive photos on our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/hamdonsyouthgroup](https://www.facebook.com/hamdonsyouthgroup).

Aged 10 - 14 and want to join?

Contact Lou Chant Youth Worker on 07402 987921

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS IN STOKE

Birthday wishes and congratulations to Joyce Griffiths (nee Isaacs), who celebrated her 100th birthday on February 19th this year. She has lived in the village all her life, starting school at Castle School in 1928 and later working at Harris Glove Factory in Matt's Lane. Her memories include making material parts for the RAF in WW2 and working as an auxiliary nurse in South Petherton.

VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP

Our next exciting workshop is on 23rd of March with Kate Field - 10.00am until 3.00pm at the Memorial Hall, Stoke-sub-Hamdon. She will be demonstrating painting animals with acrylics in her own style. Have a look at her website: <https://www.artistkatefield.com/> The fee for the day will be £35:00 which will include materials and painting canvasses, plus free teas & coffees. All welcome, contact us for more details!!

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 pm and Friday mornings 10.00 to 12.00 noon during school term time.

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.

COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING

We had a fantastic time at the community tree planting day in Pit Wood on 27th January. The weather was kind to us, and 410 trees were planted in total. A big thank you to all those who joined in.



WILDLIFE SURVEYORS NEEDED

Would you like to learn more about the spectacular wildlife at Ham Hill? We're looking for

volunteers to help with wildlife surveys this summer. Wildlife surveying in our stunning meadows is a fantastic way to make the most of the sunshine, get some fresh air and learn about the brilliant wildlife that calls Ham Hill home. We'd really love to hear from anyone with an interest in botany and bumblebees, but if you have a particular interest in or knowledge of any other type of wildlife, we'd love to hear from you too. Previous experience of surveys is not essential and training in wildflower and bumblebee identification will be given. If you're buzzing to get involved, get in touch with Jasmine by email jasmine.ely@somerset.gov.uk or call the Rangers' Office on 01935 823617.

MAY FAYRE

Plans are now well underway for this year's May Fayre which will be held on Monday, 27 May 2024 at Stanchester Academy.

Organising the event would not be possible without the invaluable help of our volunteers both during the whole process or with setting up over the May Fayre weekend. In particular this year, we have a big ask as we are looking for anyone who might have a large transit van and be available to help transport everything we need from the Working Men's Club for setting up the bar? Also, if anyone has any unwanted bottle bags, we would be very grateful if you could please drop them off at the Stoke Charity Shop (marked for Denise or Lisa). We are pleased to be providing a free taxi service again this year between the Memorial Hall and the May Fayre to help ensure everyone can come along and enjoy themselves.

Denise Burton - Sports & Recreation Trust Events Committee

HAMDON YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRE

CAN YOU HELP? We need **BAKERS** to bake cakes and **VOLUNTEERS** to help on the day for our Easter Eggstravaganza fundraiser on Easter Saturday March 30 in aid of the Centre. We're holding a village Easter Egg hunt in the morning (collect your entry form from the Centre from 10 a.m) with a small prize and Easter card for each entrant completing the hunt. The Centre will be open from 11 – 3, where there will be tea/coffee and cakes, activities for the children and entertainment sessions from some of the children's groups who use the Centre. There will be Easter cards to colour in, lots of arts and crafts to make, face-painting, and competitions to do. It's going to be a fun day!

Cakes should be brought to the Centre between 9 and 10.30 on the day. If you can help out as a volunteer on the day, please contact Jackie Poole from Brownies on 07779 354320 or email stokesubhamdonbrownies@gmail.com.

STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP

Your village - Your shop.

Celebrating our 4th anniversary

Stoke Community Shop has now been open for four years. We'd like to say a big thank you to all our customers, volunteers and members for your continued support. To celebrate, we're running our now-traditional free tombola with shop goodies as prizes, from Saturday 2nd March until the prizes are all gone. Simply make a purchase for the chance to win.

Join our super team of Volunteers

It's a great way of getting involved in village life, making new friends and learning new skills. 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

Comic Relief Cake Sale

We'll be celebrating Red Nose Day on Friday 15th March with another fabulous cake sale, so pop in for some homemade treats. If you'd like to donate a cake, please bring it to the store on the afternoon of Thursday 14th March or on the Friday morning.

Hot Cross Buns

Bakery Roy-Al is open on Good Friday, so if you'd like hot cross buns, fresh bread and any pastries or cakes on the Friday, place your orders by midday, Thursday 28th March

Easter opening hours

We'll be open from 8am to 12 noon on Good Friday, 29th March; 8.30-10.30am on Easter Sunday, 31st March; and from 8am to 12 noon on Easter Monday, 1st April. The Post Office Counter will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday.

Help us to plan for the future

We still require new committee members, both to ensure the shop continues operating successfully for the community and to help us plan for the future. Our priority is recruiting a treasurer. Please let us know if you are interested in joining us by emailing us at shop@stokeshop.co.uk for more information or drop into the shop for a chat.

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

STOKE WALKING GROUP

"EVERY STEP COUNTS" WALK

We would like to invite you to join our gentle, social, walking group for a led walk around our lovely village. We meet at 9.30am outside the Lighthouse Café and walk on pavements and along some lanes for approx 40mins. The walks are free and the leaders are trained. On our return there is the opportunity to have some refreshments at the Lighthouse Café and

continue chatting and meeting new friends. Walkers with walking aids are most welcome too. We look forward to seeing you.

If you would like to speak to one of the walk leaders before coming along, please telephone Penny on 822208 or Mark on 07496 148 756.

Walks are on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, Monday 11th & 25th March. Monday 8th & 22nd April.

Details of the other regular and longer health walks are in the dates for your diary page. Call Sue 07792311736 or Doug 07778946508 for more information.

STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDENING CLUB

On 27th March, Louise Hart from the Castle Gardens Group will give a talk/demonstration on Hanging Baskets. Come along and find out how to brighten up your front (and back) garden for the year ahead. Visitors are always welcome; there is a charge of £3 which is refundable if you join the Club. Free refreshments; stall (bring or buy) for home grown plants/produce; monthly raffle. Venue: Stoke-sub-Hamdon Memorial Hall – doors open 7.15 p.m., meeting starts at 7.30p.m.

Dates for your Diary

MARCH

5th	Longer Health Walk from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start
10th	Village Litter Pick – meet at All Saints Hall 09:00
11th	Shorter, gentle Health Walk from Lighthouse café 09:30 start
11th	Regular Health Walk from Lighthouse café Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start
13th	Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse café 14:15 – 16:15
15th	Red Nose Day Cake Sale at the Community Shop
16th	Film Night at the Memorial Hall. Doors open at 18:00 for 18:30 screening.
23rd	Village Artists Group Workshop 10:00 – 15:00 at the Memorial Hall
25th	Regular Health Walk from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start
25th	Shorter, gentle Health Walk from Lighthouse café 09:30 start
27th	Gardening Club talk on Hanging Baskets at the Memorial Hall 19:15 for 19:30
27th	Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse café, 14:15 – 16:15
30th	Easter Eggstravaganza at Hamdon Youth & Family Centre from 11:00 – 15:00

APRIL

2nd	Fire lighting & Campfire Crafts at Ham Hill 10:00 – 12:00
5th	Woodland Wander & Den Building at Ham Hill 10:00 – 12:00
8th	Shorter, gentle Health Walk from Lighthouse café 09:30 start
10th	Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse café 14:15 – 16:15
10th	Memorial Hall AGM in the Memorial Hall at 17:00
11th	Fossil Fun at Ham Hill 10:00 – 11:30
12th	Spring Forest Fun for mini-adventurers at Ham Hill 10:00 – 11:30