

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 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

Stoke sub Hamdon Parish Council

NEWSLETTER

February 2023

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

So, another year begins with the village precept being sent to South Somerset District Council. Over the past 6 years, the Parish Council has made some major investments in the village. Whilst some of the costs have been supplemented by grants obtained from a range of sources, a sizeable proportion of the required funds has had to be provisioned from the Parish Council reserve funds.

Whilst further grants can be sought to assist in completing both present and future planned projects, the reality is that the Parish Council is asking for the village precept to be increased. So, as an example, for those households in a Band D tax bracket, this would mean an increase of approximately 4.5 pence per day. The concern for the Parish Council is that some of the major projects are: incomplete, cost more than was previously budgeted, and have the potential to cost more to reach completion. The council is looking at ways in which to control this further cost to the parish, including accessing grants for support.

There are several projects on the horizon this year for the community:

- The refurbishment of the Skate Park on the big Recreation Ground. The Sports and Recreation Trust has already done a fantastic job in getting a good percentage of the funds for this venture, but the Parish Council believe that as a community we should help and support this project financially.
- The completion of remedial refurbishment work to the Hamdon Youth and Family Centre.
- The start of the speed watch scheme (we apologise for the delay in getting started).
- The development of the Local Community Networks, of which there will be 18 across the whole of Somerset. This is due to begin in April as Somerset merges into one unitary authority. As I am writing this input, the Parish Council do not exactly

know where they will sit in these Networks, or the precise cost implications.

On a more local front, the Council would like to ask you to get out with your cameras and photograph any potholes in our parish's roads so that the Parish Clerk can quickly report them. What we need is for the residents to provide an exact street location and also an approximate measurement, so you could simply put your foot next to the hole whilst you are taking the picture to provide some comparative dimension.



As some of you may be aware our village bus service has been reduced to a two-hourly service for various reasons. The pandemic has caused fewer people to use the service, those who can have bus passes are not applying for them (renumeration for each pass is given to the bus services), and there is a lack of bus drivers. In an effort to encourage the use of the bus service prices are capped at £2 for a one-way journey till March 2023.

Lyn Foley
Chair of Stoke sub Hamdon Parish Council

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.

PARKING

Inconsiderate parking is a problem that is getting worse in the village, especially in Matts Lane where people are on their way to the surgery/chemist, and along The Pound at the end of Castle Street. Please be aware that pavements are for pedestrians, pushchairs and motability vehicles. Pedestrians should not have to walk out into the road because someone has decided to park on the pavement. Inconsiderate parking is making it dangerous for pedestrians! Please be aware that it is an offence to drive onto a pavement and if caught, the owner of the offending vehicle could be prosecuted.

STOKE GARDENING CLUB

Stoke-sub-Hamdon Gardening Club will be holding its AGM on Wednesday 22nd February 2023, followed by a talk from Gardening Club member, Malcolm Uhlhorn, on: 'The Fundamentals of Domestic Garden Design'. He will be offering hints, advice and guidance to those who would like to embark on redesigning their own gardens.

Venue: Stoke-sub-Hamdon Memorial Hall – doors open 7.15 p.m., meeting starts at 7.30 p.m. Visitors are very welcome!

STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP: YOUR VILLAGE – YOUR SHOP

Christmas raffle winner:

Congratulations to Mr Hackett and to Ruth Curtis who each won one of our festive hampers of shop goodies. The raffle raised £155 which we donated to the Stoke Community Food & Energy Hub. We also donated the £25 raised by selling mince pies to hub funds.

Community Help:

Do you need a little help with groceries or emergency energy top-ups? Or perhaps you have a friend or family member in need? We've set up Stoke Community Food & Energy Hub to distribute the generous donations made by the people of Stoke to those in need locally. You can ask to be referred by a village organisation, or you can either pop into the shop or phone us on 01935 509100 to find out how we can help you or your friend. Please don't be embarrassed to come forward – we're here to help.

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 weekdays. If you order before midday, we can usually deliver the same day.

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

TIME TO GET WALKING AGAIN!

With Spring on its way, we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Somerset www.walkinginengland.co.uk/somerset has loads of walks to download and print for free. It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group, all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (*who maintains the website*) said 'There is so much walking information on the web, but it is difficult to find. Walking in Somerset (*part of the Walking in England website*) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. So, home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

VILLAGE ARTIST GROUP

The Village Artist Group is a small, friendly, supportive group of people, of all ages and abilities, who meet weekly - Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm and Fridays 10.00-12.00 midday during term time at the Memorial Hall to practice all forms of the visual arts in a relaxed atmosphere. We have a pool of incredibly talented and sociable people here who would always welcome new members to join in the fun.

If you are interested in venturing out once or twice a week and are looking forward to a very rewarding and affordable pastime, please contact me on 01935 829513 or email malcolmuhlhorn99@gmail.com for a free introductory session and/or a chat.

STOKE WALKING GROUP

February Health Walk dates: 13th and 20th February.

Walks start at the Lighthouse Cafe at 10.00, last about one and a half hours to finish in time for a cuppa and a chat at the cafe.

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.

MARTOCK U3A

Wednesday, 8th Feb. 2023 - 2.15pm. The Parish Hall Martock: Gardening for Wildlife. 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

LITTER PICK

The next litter pick will be on Sunday 19th February at 9 am. Meet outside the All Saints' Hall with boots and stout gloves. Free coffee afterwards courtesy of Priory Coffee Shop. Hope to see some new faces for 2023!

Catherine Fraser (helivet@msn.com)

SOMERSET SIGHT

We need volunteers!

Join our team of Volunteers to befriend visually impaired people in your area and help them to remain independent and overcome feelings of loneliness and isolation.



Somerset Sight
Working with people who lack sight, not vision

Our Volunteers find this a most satisfying and rewarding role and meet personable and interesting people. Volunteers are trained and carefully matched with the service user. The befriending involves regular home visits and trips out.

*For more information please contact:
Somerset Sight on 01823 333818
Or email: admin@somersetsight.org.uk*

Dates for your Diary

FEBRUARY

8th	Afternoon Tea Club
8th	Martock U3A Gardening for Wildlife Talk
13th	Stoke Walking Group
19th	Litter Pick
20th	Stoke Walking Group
22nd	Afternoon Tea Club
22nd	Stoke Gardening Club AGM and Talk
23rd	Star Dance Classes for Children

MARCH

8th	Afternoon Tea Club
22nd	Afternoon Tea Club

HAMDON YOUTH & FAMILY CENTRE

New children's dance classes coming

We're really excited to announce that Alice from Star Dance Co will be starting new dance classes for children in February in our very own Hamdon Youth & Family Centre in West Street. These weekly classes on a Thursday start on 23 February for Infants ages 3 – 6, Juniors 7 – 10 and Beginners 11 – 14 at £5 a class or £25 for 6 classes. So, get your energy out, bring your creativity and smiles, dance your heart out, have fun and make new friends! Full details are on the Centre's website. Sign up via Alice's Facebook page www.Facebook.com/SDanceCamp22. Places are filling up fast, so hurry!



The Centre, which is owned by you, the community, also has sessions during the week for children of all ages in the village. We have sessions for Brownies, Youth Club, Blackrock Irish Dancers, and Pop Up Play Village in the half terms and holidays. We also have occasional fundraising events – the Brownies held a coffee and dance morning last April and raised an amazing £369 for the children in Ukraine. To join these classes, contact the class leaders direct through our website – they each have an information page in the section Activities. The Centre has two halls, a fully equipped kitchen and small garden at the back and is also an ideal place for you to hire for a birthday party (*up to age 12*).

Full details and photos of the facilities on offer can be found on the Centre's website www.hamdonyouthcentre.co.uk. Any queries - please email hamdonyouthcentre@gmail.com and we'll do our best to answer them. See you soon.

STOKE CHARITY SHOP

In 2022 the wonderful volunteer team at Stoke Charity Shop made an amazing £31,000, and all the profits are used to help fund community projects in the village. Huge thanks go to our volunteers for all their work, and to all our lovely customers for their loyal custom. And of course, none of this would have been possible without the generous donations we receive. Every donation is individually checked and sorted - a huge task, and you can help us by making sure that you always bring us your clean and saleable donations when the shop is open. Check with a volunteer beforehand if you're unsure what we can / can't sell.

The charity shop volunteers are a fantastic group of people, so if you'd like to join the team, please get in touch. We're more than happy to answer your questions about volunteering in the Charity Shop or sorting donations. Why not pop in for a chat or to pick up a form, or ring Rachael, our volunteer co-ordinator, on 07889 857757

Thank you again! - The Charity Shop Committee