



VILLAGE NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2026

Tales from the Parish Council Office

The current full complement of councillors met in September and updates followed on the Christmas Lights plans for the village, the planned repairs to the railings outside the school now taking place during half-term (W/c 23rd October) and the need for scheduled monument consent for the repair works to the War Memorial at Ham Hill. The Clerk had discussed the recent vandalism with the specialist conservationist who will carry out the planned remedial works and he is seeking further advice about how best to undo the damage caused when a sharp implement was used to scratch the steps of the memorial.

Other items discussed included the lack of arrangements concerning the planned meeting between the Speedwatch Group and a representative from Highways – the Clerk was asked to chase this up with Sarah Dyke, MP. A few residents chatted with our local PCSO at the drop-in session, very concerned about the recent deliberate fires on the Rec, which only had not become a much more serious incident thanks to the quick-thinking actions of local residents. CCTV footage captured the events and this has been passed on to the police. The **PCSO plans to hold the next drop-in session on Sunday 4th October, at 10am in the Parish Office.**

This will likely be the last issue of the newsletter co-ordinated by the Clerk and Cllrs Hulett and Burton as someone has kindly stepped forward to become the new editor of our village newsletter. More information and an introduction will follow in the next issue.

Do you know what a bier is? Aside from a handy crossword or Scrabble answer, it is a frame or cart used to support a coffin or casket during a funeral service or to move it to the grave afterwards (see sample picture right). Did you also know that Stoke sub Hamdon Parish Council owns one? It was stored by a kind resident until they moved out of the area.



However, this antique wooden item is a bulky piece of furniture and it is now costing £40 per month to store it. If anyone knows of or has a suitably dry and spacious place where it could be stored for no cost, please let the clerk know by the end of November. After that, the Parish Council will have no choice but to donate it to a local museum or failing that, dispose of it altogether.

The Parish Council meets again in October on Wednesday 7th October at 7pm in the Parish Office.

A little bit of Stoke History

This month's header is a photograph from the 1890s showing **The Pound** and Rixon Common with the Sea Wall on Highway at the Front.

At the far end of Castle Street, by the south-east corner of the outer wall, stands a circular enclosure known as The Pound. Its purpose was to keep, or impound, stray animals until their owners collected them.

A small portion of the wall has been taken down in recent years, but its complete circumference can still be traced, surrounding the garden of a house. The date of its foundation is not known, but The Pound is mentioned in the 5th article of the 1615 Duchy Survey.

There is further mention of The Pound in the Duchy Survey of 1775-76, when it is referred to as the Manor Pound.

Duchy records state that The Pound belonged to them as "Lords of the Manor" and the Court Rolls contain many references to repairs. Between 1851 and 1899 the Duchy expended sums for repairs to the wall on 12 occasions. At the Vestry (pre Parish Council) meeting of May 1841, the Waywardens, William Terrell and Samuel Hallett, were given powers to impound stray animals.

The last mention of The Pound in proper use was in 1854, when John Spracket prosecutes Henry Wills for driving his stock into The Pound. However, during World War II, a resident of the village used it as an enclosure in which pigs and chickens were kept.

Information from 'History of A Somerset Village' by Alan Richards available at - www.stokesubhamdoncouncil.com/community/stoke-sub-hamdon-18583/history-of-a-somerset-village



St Mary's Church

It has been encouraging to see many of you have visited St.

Mary's and left prayer requests. Please be assured all requests have been read and prayers have been said during services. If you have prayer needs, however small or large, please do leave a request on our prayer tree in the church. Thanks to our volunteers, the church is open every day for a time of quiet reflection..

All Souls Service Monday 2nd November 6.00pm

Our All Souls Service, is a special annual service where we remember those who have died in the last year or over a long period of time. This is a reflective service at St. Mary's where candles are lit and prayers are said in their memory. It is open to everyone in the community and you are welcome to attend or if you would like prayers to be said for a loved one, please contact Karen - hvh.keep@outlook.com or phone 07354 621 416.

Stoke sub Hamdon Brownies...

We have some spaces at Stoke sub Hamdon Brownies, for girls aged 7 - 11. We meet on a Tuesday evening (term time from 6.15 - 7.30pm), at the Hamdon Youth and Family Centre. We offer a variety of different activities, to promote their independence and confidence, provide them with new skills and have fun!
If you would like some more details please email stokesubhamdonbrownies@gmail.com or contact Sarah on 07412 084 014

Hamdon Youth and Family Centre has had a bit of a face lift!

The volunteers have been very busy, painting, cleaning and genuinely making this centre a great place to be for our young people. Next newsletter we will show you the pictures of the finished project.

Also a really big thank you to **G7Plastering**, they are amazing young men from our village, not only did they do a fantastic job lime plastering the back hall... but... they **volunteered** to come back and paint it with the lime based paints, we seriously could not have done it without you... www.g7plastering.co.uk.

Even nicer... they had attended Youth Club over 30 years ago and they said they just wanted to give a bit back..... AND we are so grateful!

The Big Recreation Ground in West Street

Have you seen the Big Rec recently, makes you proud to be a Stokie... everything looks so well cared for, the grass is cut, the border hedges are neatly cut back and look amazing. The Adventure Playground has been treated and looks brand new. On top of all that the new safety netting around Oak Tree House has been installed... no footballs will breach that, keeping our Oak Tree House residents safe whilst still being able to look at the beautiful grounds with so much life going on.



Village Remembrance Pins

After the great result last year when Stoke sub Hamdon raised £3157 for the British Legion, we have decided to create another pin but slightly different to last year's. These Remembrance Pins will be on sale around the village with a suggested donation of £5 each, available from shops, cafés, pubs and clubs. We hope you will support the British Legion.... Lest we Forget!

Remembrance Sunday Service 8th November 10.45am at the Monument on Ham Hill.

Village Road Signs

The Somerset Automobile Club Stoke-under-Ham sign in North Street which was erected in 1907, renovated by Derek Coward and Norman Patch in 1999 and renovated again this month by Derek Coward and Robert Woolley on behalf of the Stoke sub Hamdon History Group. Please have a look out around the village where other cast iron street signs will be given a freshen up.



'Wellness Connections' Community links to Health & Wellbeing.

Come and join some of the village Health & Wellbeing practitioners for taster sessions on Gut Health, Movement and Emotions, Aromatherapy, and Reiki. Plus additional information on a range of other Health & Wellbeing practitioners in Stoke sub Hamdon and beyond. All for just £5 cash entry at the door.

Look out for posters in the village for further information.

When - 1.30pm - 4.00pm Saturday 3rd October 2026

Where - The Memorial Hall. Arrive at a time that suits you.

Christmas Decoration and Gift Sale plus so much more from the Stoke sub Hamdon Charity Shop

A reminder that Stoke sub Hamdon Charity Shop will be holding its annual Christmas decorations and gifts sale in the Memorial Hall on **Saturday, 14th November between 10am and 2pm**. Using the Memorial Hall will allow us more room to display all the lovely decorations and gifts that we have collected during the year, as well as an opportunity to accommodate a limited number of places for anyone who would like to join us in selling their crafts.

Stalls will cost £12; please contact Denise on 07788 900 672 to book.



Village Artists Group

Our annual **ART SHOW & SALE** is on **Saturday, 10th October from 11am to 4pm**. Do come along for a fantastic day - as usual, the Brownies will be serving refreshments and home-made cakes!

ALSO - Don't miss our next fascinating workshop with artist Natasha Lee who will be **demonstrating Watercolour technique on Saturday 7th November 10.00am until 3.00pm**. BOTH events will be at the Memorial Hall.

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

contact **Andrew on (01935) 823691, SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com**

Facebook: Stoke sub Hamdon The Village Artists Group

Stoke sub Hamdon Gardening Club Wednesday 28th October 2026

Duncan Small will be shedding light on "Fruit Trees in the Garden". However small your garden is there may well be a fruit tree to suit you ... come and find out what will work for you, and how to look after it to produce luscious fruits for you to enjoy in the autumns to come.

Visitors welcome, £5 fee to be re-funded if you join.

Contact Tricia on secsshgardeningclub@gmail.com for further details.

Doors open: 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. start.

Venue: The Memorial Hall, Stoke-sub-Hamdon, TA14 6PZ.

Wednesday Social Get Together

The Wednesday social get together has started back up again after a break over the Summer. We serve tea, coffee and biscuits for a nominal sum of £2. Come and have a chat, play games, cards, dominoes etc., it's up to you. If you have any crafts you would like to do come along and show us what you do.

I will open the **Lighthouse from 2pm till 4pm on the 14th and 28th October.**

Everyone welcome. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Lyn Foley 07714 005 265



Parish Councillor Vacancy

Are you interested in joining the Parish Council and helping us to support and protect our village facilities and activities? We are actively encouraging expressions of interest from any member of the community, old or young (minimum age is 18), to come and help make a difference!

Councillors give residents a voice on the decisions the Parish Council makes. A Councillor engages with local groups and businesses to find out their needs and helps to make decisions on which services and projects the Council should take forward.

How much time will I have to commit?

There is only one formal Parish Council meeting per month, on the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm. No prior experience is needed and training can be provided in all areas. If you would like to know more, please contact our Parish Clerk on clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk or send a summary detailing why you'd like to be considered by 5pm on Tuesday 6th October.

Join us and make a difference!

VILLAGE CONTACTS

ALL SAINTS HALL Bookings – Ann Bartlett 07709 609488
BROWNIES at HY&FC – Sarah Redington 07412 084014
stokesubhamdonbrownies@gmail.com
CASTLE KIDS PATCH - Dusk Eastment: dusk@castlekidspatch.com 07540 341909
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 08456 434702
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.sshgardeningclub@gmail.com
HAM HILL VOLUNTEER RANGERS Paul McNeill 07973 887129
HAMDON YOUTH & FAMILY CENTRE: hamdonyouthcentre.co.uk email
Hamdonyouthcentre@gmail.com
HISTORY GROUP stokesubhamdonhistory@gmail.com
KNIT, CRAFT & NATTER GROUP Rosemary Stibbon 07779 093723
MEDITATION & SHAMANIC CIRCLE Rosemary Stibbon 07779 093723
MEMORIAL HALL Geoffrey Unkovich Bookings Secretary:
bookings.stokememorialhall@gmail.com
PARISH COUNCIL Clerk: clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk
POLICE CONTACT POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT Ian Cromey-Hawke:
ian.cromey-hawke@avonandsomerset.police.uk 07710 026180
QUIRKY QUILTERS - suebrandt@googlemail.com
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
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 - Jo Howarth thetriangletrust@gmail.com www.thetriangletrust.org
THE VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP Chair - Andrew Toosey 07484 142880
SSHthevillageartistsgroup@gmail.com
ST MARY'S (Church of England) - www.hamhillchurches.org
WALKING GROUP - 'Health Walk' Walking Group
walk leaders Sue at 07792 311736 or Doug at 07778 946508

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY OCTOBER

- 1st **Stoke Band Training Section** every Thursday at Castle School 19:00 – 19:45
- 2nd **Castle Kids Patch** Garden & Chat drop in for adults - every Friday 10:00-12:00 at North Street Allotments
- 3rd **Wellness Connections**
When - 1.30pm - 4.00pm
Saturday 3rd October 2026
Where - The Memorial Hall.
Arrive at a time that suits you
- 4th **PCSO Drop-in Session**
10am - 12pm, Council Office
- 6th **Longest Health Walk**
Longest walk 5-6 miles.
Meet 9.50 Walk start 10.00.
Pub lunch option after the walk
- 7th **Knit, Craft & Natter** at Frank's Corner Café every Wednesday from 10:30 – 12:00
- 7th **Afternoon T-Club** at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15
- 7th **Parish Council meeting** at North Street Workshops 19:00
- 8th **Stoke Band** every Thursday at Castle School 20:00 – 22:00
- 10th **The Village Artists Group**
Annual ART SHOW & SALE is on Saturday from 11am to 4pm Memorial Hall
- 12th **Make Every Step Count Walk**
Start 9.30. Shortest 40 mins flat walk on pavements.
- 12th **Medium Health Walk**
Meet 9.50 Walk start 10.00
Medium walks 3-4 miles 90 minutes, mixture of pavements/footpaths.
- 13th **Meditation & Shamanic Circle**
2nd Tuesday of the month at 21, West Street. 19:00
- 14th **Social Get Together** at the Lighthouse Café 14:00 – 16:00
- 15th **Parish Council Surgeries** at 7, North Street, 3rd Thursday 10:00 – 12:00 & 18:00 – 20:00
- 21st **Afternoon T-Club** at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15
- 22nd **Memorial Hall fundraising Quiz**
Fleur de Lis 7pm
- 26th **Meditation & Shamanic Circle**
4th Tuesday of the month 19:00 at 21, West Street
- 26th **Make Every Step Count Walk**
Start 9.30. Shortest 40 mins flat walk on pavements.
- 26th **Medium Health Walk**
Meet 9.50 Walk start 10.00
Medium walk 3-4 miles 90 minutes, mixture of pavements/footpaths.
- 28th **Gardening Club** - Memorial Hall 19:15 for 19:30
- 28th **Social Get Together** at the Lighthouse Café 14:00 – 16:00

NOVEMBER

- 4th **Afternoon T-Club** at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15
- 7th **The Village Artists Group**
Workshop with Artist Nastasha Lee Saturday from 10am to 3pm Memorial Hall
- 8th **Remembrance Sunday Service**
at the Monument Ham Hill 10.45am

Please send information for the Village Newsletter to
clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk by 16th of the month before publication.
If you would like a larger print copy of this newsletter please contact
the clerk with your name and address.
The Village Newsletter is produced with grateful thanks to
Stoke sub Hamdon Parish Council