

## CONTACTS

Church of England at St Mary's. Church Services: <i>Details of Easter services are on the noticeboard outside the All Saints Hall and on the Hamdon Benefice's website</i>	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 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
CRIME & MYSTERY BOOK GROUP	Kathy Smith 07366979178
"EVERY STEP COUNTS" - 9.30am & "HEALTH WALKS" 10.30am. Meet outside the Lighthouse	Penny on 822208 or Mark 07496 148756
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	Ashleigh Bussell 07969 106205
FOOTBALL - YOUTH TEAMS - Training weekday evenings. Matches Saturdays & Sundays	Kim Campbell 07973 630121 email kimcam73@me.com
FOOTPATHS - problems and issues contact the Parish Clerk	Sarah Moore, Clerk 822455
GARDENING CLUB - Monthly - Fourth Wednesday 7.30pm (Memorial Hall)	Ruth St John-Murphy 01935 829408
'GET FIT WITH SUE' - Mondays - Fitness Pilates 5pm (call first), Aerobics & Toning 6pm. Thursdays - Fitness Pilates 6pm	Sue Menzies 01935 829632
HAM HILL COUNTRY PARK - VOLUNTEER RANGERS - Weekly Wed. 10.00am - 3.30pm (Ranger's Office)	Paul McNeill 07973 3887129
HAMDON BRASS BAND	Sonja Hellier 01460 241297 email pipershaunt@hotmail.com
HAMDON MEDICAL CENTRE	01935 822236
HAMDON PLAYGROUP - Monday - Friday term time, 8.30 am - 3.30 pm. 2 years old, 3/4 years old and 30 hours funding available.	Ann or Karon 01935 826832 Email: hamdonplaygroup@btinternet.com
HAMDON COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECT -	Maria Eames 01935 824064
HISTORY GROUP	Carol Parker 825393
LIGHTHOUSE CAFE - Monday & Thursday 10.00am - 1.00pm	Sarah Russell 826355
MAY FAYRE - Annual Event for Sports & Recreation Trust	Denise Burton 827793
MEDITATION GROUP - Tuesdays at 8.00pm in the HCAP building (URC)	Emma Herrod 01935 829443
MEMORIAL HALL BOOKING SECRETARY	bookings.stokememorialhall@hotmail.com. Mary Steel 01935 508996
PARISH COUNCIL - Monthly First Wednesday 7.15pm (Memorial Hall)	Barbara Brooks, Chairman 824432 Sarah Moore, Clerk 822455
POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER	Carole Brown email: carolebrown@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)	
SEATED CHAIR EXERCISES - Friday at 10am in the All Saints Hall	Sue Menzies 829632
STOKE AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION	Derek Goad. 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 - 4pm; Saturday 8am - 4pm; Sunday 8.30am - 12.30pm	01935 509100
STOKE LUNCH CLUB FOR OLDER PEOPLE. Lighthouse Café last Wednesday of the month.	Lyn Foley 01935 823051/07714 005265
STOKE SUB HAMDON BAND - Monday & Thursday 8.00pm - 10.00pm Band Room, back of URC Training Band - Thursdays at Band Room, 7.00pm - 7.45pm	Gill Robins 01935 329904 Jane Herbert 01460 419317
STOKE PERFORMING ARTS GROUP	Jeanie 01935 579592 or Moira info@stokeperformingartsgroup.co.uk
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
TAI CHI - Weekly - Thursday 4.00pm - 5.00pm in Memorial Hal	John 07721 060901
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 881718
VILLAGE AGENT - Cluster SS2 Cath Holloway	cath@somersetccc.org.uk Tel: 07968 521746
VILLAGE ARTIST GROUP - Monday 10.00am - 12.30pm, Friday 10.00am - 12 noon (Memorial Hall) Thursday 7.30pm - 9.30pm (Memorial Hall)	Malcolm Uhlhorn 01935 829513
WORKING MENS CLUB - Daily - Lunch times & evenings	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

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



### When can I .....?

On the assumption that the Government confirms that we can all move to Step 2 of the Roadmap these are some of the things that will change in the village from April 12th:-

#### Now:

- All outdoor children's activities allowed.
- Organised outdoor sport allowed (i.e. football on the Rec)
- Play areas at Stonehill, Memorial Hall and the Recreation Ground open
- Parents and children (up to 15 people) can meet outdoors.
- Minimal travel now allowed.
- No holidays allowed, domestic or international.

#### 12 April (at the earliest):

- All non-essential retail now opens in village incl. hairdressers and personal care salons.
- Outdoors - Up to 6 people can meet outdoors (or two households) in our gardens and on the Recreation or Memorial Hall Grounds
- Outdoors - Fleur de Lys and Prince of Wales can offer drinks outside (only). No indoor drinking. Takeaways continue at pubs.
- Indoors - Parents and children (up to 15 people) can meet (i.e. at the Memorial Hall Stoke Baby & Toddler Group and Music Bugs, and at the Hamdon Youth Centre Brownies, Youth Group and Blackrock Irish Dancers
- Indoors - No other community activities allowed yet (planned for May)
- We can stay away overnight (your own household only, not mixed with others)
- No international holidays allowed yet.

An update to this will be set out in the May newsletter on what the Step 3 changes will be.

### CHAIR'S UPDATE

We were very pleased to co-opt a new parish councillor, Paul Jeffery, at our March meeting. Paul was born in the village and has lived here all his life apart from a brief spell in Yeovil and Ilchester. He has now come back to the village and lives at the top of the High Street with his wife and young family. Paul is able to bring both business and practical skills to the team, and like other councillors is already involved in many other village activities and organisations. We welcome him warmly as part of our team.

#### Vandalism

It's very sad to see that there has been quite a lot of anti-social behaviour over the past month by persons unknown. There was a spate of car damage in West Street one Saturday afternoon involving damage to and theft of car mirrors. Graffiti has also been plastered over the BT broadband cabinet near Windsor Lane, the one at the bottom of North Street, and also on the one by Stanchester playing fields.

On Monday 8 March between around 17.30 and 17.40 three male youths were captured on CCTV throwing around used dog-mess

bags in the children's adventure play area at the Recreation Ground in Stoke sub Hamdon. They proceeded to slap the bags on the slide and the roundabout, spreading the mess. The incident, along with relevant details, has been reported to the police. Thanks go to those who reported this and those who took it upon themselves to clear up the mess. Incidents of anti-social behaviour are taken very seriously. They will not be tolerated, and CCTV footage will be used to take action. Dog fouling can be reported to SSDC via their web site.

People are strongly encouraged to immediately report ANY incidents of anti-social behaviour they see directly for themselves. The Recreation Ground, the Memorial Hall and the Stoke Working Men's Club all have CCTV cameras that can record to provide evidence for the police. Incidents should be reported to the police by calling the non-emergency number 101. The process is simple and straightforward, and those who take these calls are extremely helpful. The more incidents that are reported a bigger picture emerges that will enable the authorities to divert resources to any particular problem.

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

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

## PLANNING

The following applications have received approval:-

### 20/03310/LBC The Well House, 17 Windsor Lane

Removal of conservatory, and alteration to form window opening in place of doorway in west elevation. Permitted with usual conditions.

### 20/03491/HOU 29 High Street

Single storey rear extension and creation of a new dormer window. Permitted. Householder and SSDC have accepted our request that the building material for the walls of the extension should be hamstone to match the house and neighbouring properties as evidenced by our own Stoke Built Environment Survey 2017.

*Cllr Barbara Brooks, Chair*  
01935 824432 chairshpc@hotmail.com

## STOKE CHARITY SHOP

**Shop Reopening:** We are delighted to be able to announce the reopening of Stoke Charity Shop from **Monday 12th April**, providing proposed easing of lockdown continues on target. Shop hours are 9am to 3.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday and, 9am to 12.30pm on Wednesday. We look forward to welcoming back our volunteers and customers.

**Volunteers:** The Charity Shop is always ready to welcome new volunteers to work in the shop, preparing donated items for sale and serving customers, or helping the friendly team at HACP processing donations during continuing Covid safety restrictions. If you have a couple of hours a week or more to spare, and would like to help the local community, please contact Penny Trapnell on mobile number: 07985 280124 or by email: pennytrapnell@aol.com, or drop into the shop when we reopen to have a look around.

**Donations:** Covid safety restrictions are ongoing which means any items donated must be quarantined for 72 hours before they can be processed by Charity shop staff.

Therefore, donation sessions will take place at HCAP in North Street. Donations initially are limited to items (clothes, linen and soft furnishings, toys books, and small household items) that will fit into a rubbish sized bag (which we will provide) and a maximum of two bags per household. All items must be in a clean and saleable condition and in working order (as appropriate). **Donation sessions restart in May on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month at 10am to 12 Midday** (unless prohibited by Covid regulations). Please remember we cannot accept donations directly to the Charity Shop.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 7TH APRIL 2021 AT 7PM

The Parish Council are now holding their meetings via the virtual meeting platform Zoom. The basic package is free to use and can be accessed at <https://zoom.us/>. If you would like to attend our virtual parish council meeting please contact me at [clerkshpc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clerkshpc@hotmail.co.uk) for the ID link by 3pm on the day of the meeting. If you do not have access to the internet but would still like to listen in on the meeting please telephone me on 01935 822455 for the telephone conferencing number so that you can dial in.



If you would like to participate in the public session, please email/phone through the subject/question you wish to raise with the council when you asked for the ID link/telephone number.

If you are accessing the meeting via the **internet:**

- Click on the link given to you in the email
- Download the Zoom app, if not already done so

## POLICE INFORMATION

**For any advice and further/up-to-date information on incidents please go to the website: [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk). If you are a witness to or the victim of a crime, then it is imperative that you report it to the police immediately whether it is during the day or at night. When reporting an incident please telephone either 101 for non-emergencies or 999 for emergencies only.**

## YOUTH CENTRE TO RE-OPEN

The Hamdon Youth & Family Centre is due to re-open from April 12th (depending on the Government confirmation that the country moves to Step 2 of the Roadmap date). The Youth Group, Brownies and Blackrock Irish Dancers are all really looking forward to being able to meet up again! It's been a long year.

During the time, the Centre has been closed Phase 1 of the planned refurbishment work on the building has been carried out. New energy efficient lighting and heating has been installed in both halls and the old night storage heater sockets converted to power points. The redundant pews have been recycled within the village. The main church hall floor which was laid directly on the earth has been dug out and replaced with a new concrete floor, damp proof membrane and insulation. Good quality wood flooring was laid at the end of March and the Centre now has two usable halls available for children's activities. Phase 2 of the works to create a kitchen, office and new toilets including disabled facilities etc is planned to start in the Summer. The Centre was purchased by the parish council on behalf of the village at the end of 2018 through the Community Right to Bid legislation. The Council are funding the refurbishment; day to day management of the Centre is carried out by a charitable trust made up of the service users themselves.

## VILLAGE LITTER PICK

Thank you so much to the volunteers for the litter pick. There were 19 altogether which was absolutely fantastic; the weather stayed fine, and we collected 25 bags of rubbish, all the way from Holy Tree to the Co-Op and from the top of Ham Hill to the A303 bridge and beyond. We all enjoyed a free coffee from Priory Coffee thanks to Paul and Mandy and the cost was covered by the Community Shop, thanks to Lyn and the team. The next meet up will be May 9th. I'll put it in next month's newsletter.

*Catherine Fraser*

- Test your speakers and microphone on your device (you will be prompted to do this)
  - You will then be put in a 'Waiting Room' until you are invited to join.
  - Once connected, you must click on the video camera icon at the bottom left hand side of the screen to enable the video. This is so that councillors can see who is attending the meeting.
- If you are accessing the meeting by **telephone:**
- Dial the number given to you by the Clerk.
  - Once connected you will be prompted to type in the meeting ID plus #, then #, then the password plus #. You will be placed in a 'Waiting Room' until invited to join.

All microphones will be automatically muted from the start of the meeting. If you wish to participate in the public session your microphone will be unmuted when you are invited to speak.

*Sarah Moore, Parish Clerk*

HM Government NHS  
**We must keep on protecting each other.**  
**HANDS FACE SPACE**  
**STAY ALERT CONTROL THE VIRUS SAVE LIVES**

## STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP: YOUR VILLAGE – YOUR SHOP

**Easter Fun:** We're holding a free Kids' Easter Egg Trail on Easter Monday (5th April), 9am to 2pm, with sweet treats for all children. Pick up a Treasure Map from the Community Shop, follow the trail to solve the clues and then pop into Priory Coffee to collect your Easter treat.

**Opening Hours:** To make shopping more convenient now the schools are back, we're trailing opening 'til 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

**How You Enter The Shop Is Changing:** Stoke Charity Shop is reopening mid-April, so from Thursday 8th April please use the main blue door to enter and exit the Community Shop. A big thank you to Stoke Charity Shop for allowing us to use their premises during lockdown. When shopping with us, please keep a safe distance between yourself and others, wear a mask and use the hand sanitiser provided as you enter.

**Veg Shed:** We're now taking orders for fruit and veg from the Veg Shed as well as expanding the range of their produce that we offer in the Community Shop every day.

**Thank You...** to everyone who joined us in celebrating our first anniversary at the start of March. Over the next year, we're aiming to improve even further the goods and services we offer to the people of Stoke.

**Members' Prize Draw:** Congratulations to Steve Poolman, Pat Weatherley and Cynthia White who each won a £10 Community Gift Shop voucher in our 1st Year Anniversary Members' Prize Draw. If you'd like to become a member of the Stoke sub Hamdon Community Shop Ltd., the Community Benefit Society which runs the store, pop into the shop for an application form or download one at [www.stokeshop.co.uk/membership](http://www.stokeshop.co.uk/membership).

**Home Deliveries:** Our free 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 4pm, Monday to Saturday, and we'll arrange same-day or next-day delivery to any address in Stoke sub Hamdon.

*For more information about the shop and how you can get involved visit [www.stokeshop.co.uk](http://www.stokeshop.co.uk) or [www.facebook.com/stokecommunityshop](https://www.facebook.com/stokecommunityshop).*

## VILLAGE ARTIST GROUP

The Village Artists will be back on May 18th after our Covid holiday. Tuesday 18.05.21 19.45 – 21.45  
Friday 21.05.21 10am – 12.00  
At the Memorial Hall in Stoke. Please join us.

*For more information contact Malcolm on 01935 829513*

## RECYCLE AND RAISE FUNDS FOR SOMERSET SIGHT!

A big thank you to everyone who has constantly dropped used stamps off to 'The Old Forge' (Kaz and Mike's) over the years. We are moving to a new house and the Community shop has kindly offered to take over as the drop off point from 1 April 2021. Over the years, together we have raised over £400 for Somerset Sight which are the local independent charity for blind and visually impaired people. They have been operating since 1919 and are committed to working with blind and partially sighted people in Somerset to provide services so that they may lead fuller, more independent lives.

They need, used Stamps with a little bit of envelope left around the edge and old Stamp albums, to raise funds for this charity. For every item you donate, funds will go directly to Somerset Sight. Just drop your stamps into the Community Shop, High Street, Stoke sub Hamdon and they will be passed on for fundraising.

*Thanks once again from Kaz and Mike Doyle.*



For more information about the charity, please visit [www.somersetsight.org.uk](http://www.somersetsight.org.uk). Somerset Sight are a registered charity, Number 203296.

## MESSAGE FROM REVD NICK CLARKE

I am writing this on a lovely warm, sunny late March day when Spring is really with us and the ancient magnolia tree in the Vicarage garden and cherry tree in Castle Street are in a riot of bloom. I am watching two sparrows building a nest in the eaves and outside I can smell and feel the Holy Spirit breathing life back into all creation, filling my heart with the joy of new creation! Spring has also brought good news of falling covid rates, our hospitals are getting back to normal, and the NHS vaccination program is a great success. I would like to add to that good news by announcing that we have just agreed it is safe and responsible to reopen St Mary's and the other six churches of the Ham Hill Villages Benefice for public worship during Holy week and Easter Sunday. There isn't room here for details of our live and recorded services in Church or online so visit your village 'A Church Near You' website or our Benefice website [www.hamhillchurches.org](http://www.hamhillchurches.org) to find service details. To comply with track and trace and social distancing rules numbers at church services are limited so please book a place at each service. Details of how to book can be found on our websites and Church notice boards.

That good news is tinged with sadness because Bishop Peter Hancock, the Bishop of Bath and Wells has announced his early retirement on health grounds. You may not know that Bishop Peter fell seriously ill last year but is now making a good recovery. However, after much prayer and on medical advice he has decided to retire in May. Our thanks for his wise, loving leadership of 7 years and our prayers and best wishes for the future go out to him, his wife Jane and his family.

As you read this it will probably be Holy week and the Easter holidays. Enjoy a well-earned break, the lengthening days and the warmer, sunnier Spring weather and better times ahead. But let us also find time to look back on this very difficult year and reflect on the lessons we have learnt. The importance of family, friends and community that perhaps we have rediscovered and look forward to what will be a different but brighter future ahead. Reflecting also on the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made on that first Good Friday to save us from our sins and to give us the hope of eternal life through his resurrection on Easter morning! Meanwhile keep safe and well and God bless you all, I look forward to meeting you soon when restrictions are eased, and we can celebrate a new beginning!

*Rev Nick*