

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	
2nd Sunday 11.00am CW Holy Communion	The Vicarage, 1 Castle Street TA14 6RE
3rd Sunday 11.00am Morning Praise	website: www.hamhillchurches.org
4th Sunday 11.00am CW Holy Communion	
2nd and 4th Wednesdays 9.00am BCP Holy Communion	
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	Steve Deane 07881 464280 email stevekatherine@hotmail.co.uk
FOOTBALL - YOUTH TEAMS - Training weekday evenings. Matches Saturdays & Sundays	Steve Arnold stokefcchair@hotmail.com & John Elliott stokefcsec@gmail.com 07775 562122
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
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 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 -	Peter Hulett 01935 824784
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 7.30pm 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	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. 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 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	Gill Robins 01935 329904
Training Band - Thursdays at Band Room, 7.00pm - 7.45pm	Jane Herbert 01460 419317
STOKE PERFORMING ARTS GROUP	Jeanie 07967184952 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 3.00pm - 4.00pm in Memorial Hal	John 07721 060901
TINY 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 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)	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: clerksshpc@hotmail.co.uk

Stoke sub Hamdon Parish Council

NEWSLETTER

February 2022

VICE CHAIR'S REPORT

When the Finance Group met in November to discuss the budget for 2022/23 it was agreed that this year would be very challenging for many residents with rising costs in household bills, so it was agreed to restrict Parish Council spending to statutory responsibilities for the coming financial year.

The Parish Council have been very proactive this year by carrying out numerous major projects such as installing a new bus shelter in West Street, the purchase of the Speed Indicator Device, clearing the viewpoint at Sea Wall and the refurbishment of the Hamdon Youth Centre. The Parish Council has also provided financial support to village organisations such as the Sports and Recreation Trust for the Recreation Ground maintenance, the Memorial Hall, the Hamdon Youth Group and Stoke Baby and Toddler Group. So, in order for the Council to recoup sufficient Asset Reserves against unexpected emergencies the Finance Group recommended putting any further projects on hold.

The Parish Council receives notification from South Somerset District Council in December of what the Tax Base rate will be for the coming financial year. This figure helps us set our precept (our proportion of the Council Tax) and what the cost would be to the you. This figure is calculated on the number of taxable properties in the village. The Tax Base for Stoke has decreased from 736.27 to 723.90 for 2022/23 which means that despite an increase in properties in the village there has been a considerable reduction in the number of properties paying council tax. This means that even if the precept stays the same as the current financial year those who are not claiming Council Tax relief have to pay more to cover the shortfall.

Taking this into account, the Parish Council have looked at ways of saving money but in order to meet its statutory responsibilities the Council have reluctantly made the decision to increase the precept to £71,412.00 which will increase the Band D rate to £98.65 per year, an increase of £3.79.

Cllr Hugh Donovan

PICKING UP AFTER YOUR DOG

A polite reminder to dog owners to please pick up after your dogs. Whilst most dog owners are responsible, there are a few that feel the rules do not apply to them. Complaints have been made to the Parish Council and South Somerset District Council of dog mess not being picked up in the High Street and North Street, some of which has been left outside people's front doors. The Parish Council have installed several bins around the village where dogs' mess can be disposed of, or you can take it home and put with your general waste.

Please be aware that it is an offence not to pick up after your dogs and carries a maximum fine of £1,000.

Sarah Moore, Parish Clerk



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.

ROAD WORKS ON A303

National Highways will be renewing the filter drains at various sites along A303 between Wylle, Warminster and Prophets Lane, Stoke sub Hamdon between 17th January and 22nd March. To carry out the work safely the work will be done overnight when the traffic is at its lowest. When working close to residential properties National Highways will endeavour to complete noisy work by 11pm.

National Highways apologise in advance for any inconvenience and will make every effort to ensure the impact on the local community and travelling public is kept to a minimum.

If you would like further information about this work, please contact National Highways Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 5000 or email info@highwaysengland.co.uk

VILLAGE ARTIST GROUP

Village Artists Group (VAG) exists to encourage, promote, and practice the visual arts in all forms- Abstract, Still Life, Landscapes and Portraiture by whatever means, iPad, pencil, pastels, watercolour, oils and acrylic and in or on any medium you like. We are meeting in the Memorial Hall, Stoke Sub Hamdon one morning and one evening a week during term time to paint and chat. We do need some new blood in the group, not only to join us but also to help run the show. You will receive a warm welcome and we are really looking forward to seeing you there.

Contact Malcolm - 01935 829513 or malcolmuhlhorn99@gmail.com for details.

SPORTS AND RECREATION TRUST

The Sports and Recreation Trust will hold its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 1st March at 7:30 pm in the Working Men's Club. Please come along and find out what the Trust is doing for the community now and its plans for the future.

Peter Hulett, Secretary

STOKE SUB HAMDON HEALTH WALKS

Because of lack of participation, it is with regret that the 09:30 guided short walk, Every Step Counts will be suspended until further notice. Anyone interested in this walk should contact Penny Trapnell by email; pennyatrapnell@aol.com.

The 90-minute guided Health Walk commencing at 10:30 from the Lighthouse Café is well supported and will continue as usual every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. This walk provides an opportunity to enjoy the special local countryside and socialise with fellow walkers for light refreshment available after the walk at the Lighthouse Café.

STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP: YOUR VILLAGE – YOUR SHOP

We're recruiting: We're looking for an Assistant Manager to help keep our village shop running smoothly and to give extra support to our team. It's a paid, part-time role, so if you're interested, drop into the shop, and speak to Ann Davison or Lyn Foley for more details.

Christmas raffle winner: Congratulations to Steph Jacobs who won our festive hamper of shop goodies.

Join our volunteer team: If you've a few hours to spare and fancy getting involved in your local community, why not join our friendly volunteer team? Pop into the shop and speak to one of our team; or email volunteers@stokeshop.co.uk; or find out more at stokeshop.co.uk/volunteering

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 and we'll arrange same day or next-day delivery.

HAM HILL COUNTRY PARK: VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Practical Rangers: to carry out a variety of exciting seasonal conservation activities such as scrub clearance, tree planting, hedge-laying, and coppicing. Meet every Wednesday at the Ranger Office on Ham Hill (TA14 6RW) at 9.50am for a 10.00am start, and finish at around 3.30pm. Just turn up and stay for the full day or just half a day, as often as you like. Wear old weather-appropriate clothes, stout boots or wellies, and bring a packed lunch (if required). Training, gloves, tools, and refreshments will be provided.

And coming soon... so please register your interest for these two:

Visitor Guides: to walk around the Country Park to provide information about Ham Hill to visitors, including what to see and the best places to go.

Visitor Surveyors: to conduct flora & fauna surveys (seasonal) and visitor questionnaire surveys.

For more information or to register your interest contact Paul on 07973 887129.

STOKE CHARITY SHOP

Space Needed to Hire: The Charity Shop is still looking for secure storage space in the Village that is clean, dry, and easily accessible. If you have a spare room or a dry outbuilding we could hire, please contact Penny Trapnell: pennyatrapnell@aol.com

Donations: With the closure of the United Reform Church, storage space is very limited at the Charity Shop.

Donations consisting of two bags per household will now be accepted in the Charity Shop, during opening hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat 9:00 to 3:30, Wed 9:00 to 12:30. Please do not leave bags on the doorstep. If you have a larger volume of items you wish to donation, please contact Jane Baker on email: Jeb3101@aol.com, prior to bringing them to the Shop, so that we can ensure there is sufficient space to accommodate them.

We ask that you review your donations to ensure they are clean and in a good and saleable condition. We cannot accept items that are soiled, heavily worn or damaged as these can neither be sold in the shop nor recycled. Such items should be bagged and left for your curb side collection.

Because there is a lack of demand, and we are unable to recycle them, with regret we can no longer accept donated pictures and picture frames.

SPAG AND CHICKEN HOUSE CHICKS

My diary entry of 17.03.20 reads, 'we have decided to postpone our play until May 2021', however, as everyone knows 2021 was a very difficult year for the performing arts, but SPAG (Stoke Performing Arts Group) are now planning to put on the play Chicken House Chicks this May 2022!

Chicken House Chicks is written by the very talented Angela Hodges and follows the stories of some of the Land Girls who were billeted at the Castle Farm (Hebditch's) in North Street during the Second World War.

The play is an energetic portrayal of what life was like during the war in Stoke sub Hamdon.

In 2020 the play had been cast and we were all raring to go with the rehearsals and performance to link with the VE Day Celebrations. As 2022 is the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, who as a young Princess joined the ATS (women's branch of the British Army), the play seems very relevant.

We shall be holding a meeting about the production

at the Stoke Working Men's Club on Monday 7th February at 7.30pm for anyone who wishes to get involved in this production. We are particularly hoping to welcome younger members of our community to get involved to take part in this exciting project.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Jeanie on 07967184952 or Moira at info@stokeperformingartsgroup.co.uk or visit our Facebook page.

LUNCH CLUB/AFTERNOON TEA

The Lunch Club volunteers would like to wish you all a happy New Year. I know it seems odd to be mentioning Christmas last year, but I need to say a huge THANK YOU to Yvette Morgan- Gianni and Denise Burton for being such trojans in the Kitchen Christmas Day. If it wasn't for them the Christmas meal would never have happened. My thanks to Hubby Mike, Jan and Alex Ferguson (who made a great Santa) for transporting people to and from the venue and serving in the hall. I also must thank Penny Trapnell, Georgie Deane, Heather Ford and Val Stidson for helping to set up and dismantle the hall.

I would also like to thank Sharon Purnell for her beautiful individual Christmas cakes she lovingly baked and decorated, they tasted delicious. I would also like to acknowledge her giving a present to each Christmas meal recipient, it was very generous of you and very much appreciated.

We are starting the afternoon teas again fortnightly from Wednesday, 9th February in the Lighthouse Café. We start at 2.30pm 'til 4-4.30 pm.

If you would like to attend, please contact Lyn Foley 01935 823051, transport is available.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February 2022

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| 7th | 'Chicken House Chicks'
SPAG Production Meeting |
| 7th | Stoke sub Hamdon
Health Walks |
| 9th | Lunch Club |
| 21st | Stoke sub Hamdon
Health Walks |

March 2022

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| 1st | Sports and Recreation Trust AGM |
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