



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council met on Wednesday 4th June, and the public session began with questions about the amount spent on the parish office facility to date, and the Parish Council’s decision to engage directly with a provider of youth services in the village. The Council has provided written responses to both these matters.

In case residents aren’t aware - the electorate have the right to see any aspect of the council’s financial accounts via the public rights process, which is currently ‘live’ as well as all payments being detailed in published minutes.

The Parish Office is used not only by the Parish Council, but also by various village organisations including Speedwatch, the Residents Associations and also provides the Charity Shop with a storage and stock management facility. The Charity Shop donates to the operating costs of the parish office, and the profit of over £33k in the last financial year – a very impressive achievement – is invested back into the community for the benefit of Stoke residents. As an ‘office’, it really provides a useful hub for many community endeavours.

The Parish Council is now working directly with Community Youth Project (CYP) to continue to provide a youth club for children aged 8-17 on a Monday evening from 6.30-8.30pm at HYFC. It will run throughout the summer holidays and October half-term, only stopping for a 2 week break over Christmas.

At the time of writing, there were 26 children at the most recent session, and they enjoyed various arts and crafts activities. If you have a child who may be interested in joining, please contact Janet Richards by email on janet@cyp.me.uk or by mobile 07709 198732.

Other matters covered at the meeting included the latest Speedwatch Group data, confirmation that almost all the allotments across all 3 sites are now cleared and enjoyed by over 50 holders, and two volunteers came forward with some relevant experience to help with the Christmas Lights. We will set up a Working Group ready to deliver a twinkling display over the festive period.

The PC surgery will be held as usual on the third Thursday of the month on 17th July - between 10 and 12 noon and again from 6-8pm. During this time, residents can call into the parish office, (Unit 7, North Street Workshops), to talk to one of our councillors. This is a useful way to raise matters with the council.

You can also email our clerk, Gilly, on clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk
Suzanne, Cllr Suzanne Nelms, Chair of Stoke-sub-Hamdon Parish Council

Happy gardening whilst the weather is kind!

VILLAGE FASHION SHOW

Haute couture and more is coming to Stoke! The Village Fashion Show will be held on the evening of Saturday 13th September in the Memorial Hall. There will be a catwalk, plus dedicated sales areas for evening wear, quirky and one-off pieces, clothes for the younger and older fashionistas, and much, much more.

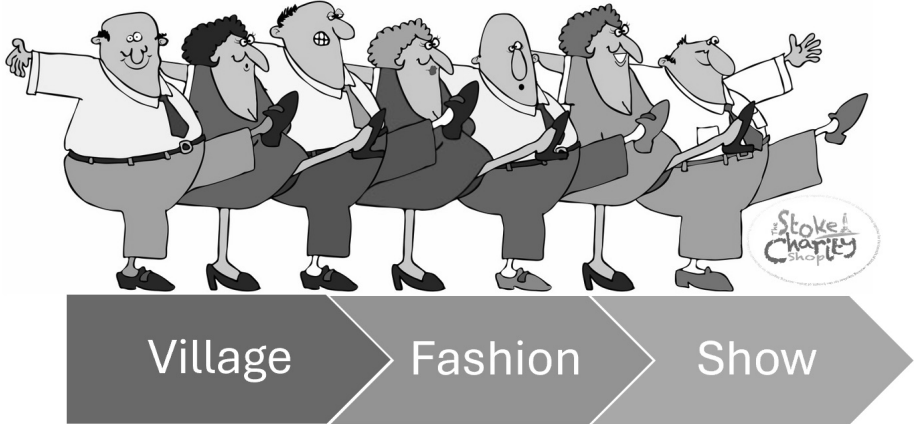
We have already received some fabulous donations – outfits, shoes, bags and jewellery from some of the top brands and designers.

During July and August, we are asking you to look through your wardrobes for those gorgeous garments and must-have accessories – the best items that you never wear – and donate them to this fabulous fund-raising event.

The event is being organised by the Charity Shop, but items selected for the Fashion Show will be from separate stock. If you’d like to donate clothing, shoes or accessories, then please text Helen on 07891183191 and we will arrange to collect your very best unwanted fashion items.

Also - if you’d like to join our happy band of models, then please contact Denise on 07788 900672. All shapes, sizes and ages welcome!

VILLAGE FASHION SHOW



STOKE SUB HAMDON SPORTS & RECREATION TRUST

We recently carried out a review for the Annual Parish Meeting on 21st May which looked at what we have achieved over the past year and decade. Some interesting figures came out of that review - since 2011 to date we have raised over £458,000 for projects for the sports and recreation facilities for the community, we have also provided over £90,100 in grants to organisations and individuals in the village - a grand total of over £549,100 for the community. This does not include funds raised to help maintain the facilities and grounds at the West Street Recreation Ground, which from 2011 to December 2024 was over £127,000.

All this is achieved through the hard work, innovation and commitment of a dedicated and motivated team of volunteers - and we cannot thank them enough for their time, ideas and support throughout the years - they should be very proud of what they do and what they give back to the village.

The Trust is an entirely volunteer run organisation with 12 people on the Trust Committee, about 40 volunteers on the rota for the Charity Shop, a core of a dozen people on the May Fayre planning committee and about 40 people making it work on the day. This year, to date, the Trust has provided £6,285 in grants to the community - applications for grants can be made through the Trust website - <https://stoke-rec-trust.co.uk/>. We always welcome new volunteers, who can offer new ideas and help keep the Trust moving forward - if you are interested you can contact the Trust via the Secretary, Peter Hulett on info@stoke-rec-trust.co.uk, or through "Contact Us" on the website or just go the Charity Shop and offer your services.

MAY FAYRE

We held our May Fayre at Stanchester Academy for the third consecutive year and are so grateful to Gregg Mockridge, Head Teacher, and to Andy Burr and his fantastic team for making this possible and for working so closely with us to help set everything up prior to the event and for their contribution on the day.

Huge thanks must also go to our dedicated team of volunteers, without whom it would not be possible to bring about such an event; to the Stoke Working Men’s Club for running the bar; Isle Valley Vets for sponsoring the dog show; the Parish Council for sponsoring our May Fayre programme; Castle Primary School for such amazing Maypole and country dancing; Infinity Martial Arts and Kuk Sool Won of Yeovil; Stoke Band; all the local businesses who placed adverts; everyone who kindly made cakes; all our stallholders, both regular and new to the event; Bill Moores for photography; Dave Stidson for running the PA; also all the teams for running the BBQ, kitchen, raffles and tombolas and generally running around on the day! There are too many of you to thank individually but we are so very grateful to you for everything you do to make the May Fayre the success it is. We would also really like to thank everyone who came along and supported us, and at least the weather was slightly kinder to us this year.

We are still reconciling our accounts but hopefully the amount raised from this year's May Fayre will be in the region of £7,000 which is great and will help towards us being able to keep doing some fantastic things in our lovely village.

VILLAGE LITTER PICK

July's litter pick is on Sunday July 13th at 9am. Meet outside the All Saints' Hall with stout boots and gloves ready for 2 hours of joyful exercise followed by coffee and a chat in the Priory coffee shop. More details if needed by emailing Catherine Fraser helivet@msn.com

STOKE PERFORMING ARTS GROUP

Stoke Performing Arts Group are very excited to announce that our next production, 'The Saxons are Coming' will take place at the Prince of Wales marquee, Ham Hill, on Friday 18th and Saturday 19th July 2025.



Set in the Roman Villa on Ham Hill in 548 A, fond father, Senorix, learns that one of his daughters must marry Arthur Pendragon in order to save Britain from the Saxons. His wife, Ria, and his two daughters Angharad and Guinevere all have their own destinies to fulfil, and with Arthur busy rousing villagers to fight, love blossoms unexpectedly, and the question is, which daughter will he marry?

Tickets are available now from the Community Shop – hurry to get yours!

STOKE BAND NEWS

This September is the band’s 80th anniversary and we will be celebrating with a concert at the Prince of Wales on Saturday 6th September at 2:30. The concert will include a performance by the training section. Following the concert there will be a celebration at the Prince of Wales and we would like to invite all past members of the band to join us.

If you wish to attend, please can you let Gill Robins know on 07814-115763 before 19th August

STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDENING CLUB

Brian Jaques, who hails from Shepton Mallet, is looking forward to sharing his enthusiasm about “Outside Exotics” with us at our meeting on 23rd July.

Conditions may be challenging, but Brian will tell us how to overcome problems and grow plants with spectacular foliage or flowers. These will look great and also feed and provide habitats for the insects in your garden. Come and find out more!

Apologies for the rescheduling of this event, which was planned for 23rd June until we realised that the start of Glastonbury Festival was not a good time to attempt a journey from Shepton Mallet!

Visitors Welcome - £5 (refunded if you join the Club). Doors open: 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. start. Venue: The Memorial Hall, Stoke-sub-Hamdon.



STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP: YOUR VILLAGE – YOUR SHOP

Good news again from your community shop; we’ve had another successful month with the shop moving from strength to strength. Customer numbers are up and sales progressing well.

We would like to thank the Memorial Hall committee for donating a storage cupboard for all our paperwork which will help to rationalise the office functions out the back.

Four of us had an impromptu ‘party’ in the shop at 3 am recently when the alarm went off, but luckily it was just a faulty sensor. Hopefully that won't be repeated too often!

In June we welcomed our newest and youngest recruit Arran Ball who will be manning the shop on a Saturday afternoon to give some much needed assistance.

Covering all the shop shifts is our main challenge, and if you would like to contribute to the volunteers' rota, you would be welcomed with open arms.

Shop Committee

MEMORIAL HALL NEWS

We were so pleased to have such a great response to our request for new for volunteers. This month, we welcome Sue, Geoffrey and Brenda to the Committee. With Claire also recently joining us, we are now a stronger committee and can share the workload more evenly. Many hands make light work!

Further improvements to the Hall are underway. Our next objective is to tackle our biggest problem in the winter, which is retaining heat! We have arranged a few fundraising activities and will also apply for grants from sources available. We’re a small charity, but we’re determined to maintain and improve the hall for our community. We are, as always, very grateful to all our user groups, hirers and customers for your loyal support. Without you there would be no Hall.

Advance notification for your diaries is a Ceilidh Dance on Saturday 22nd November. Watch this space for more information in the autumn.

VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP

The Village Art Group is a well-established group of like-minded artists from all walks of life. We have a wide range of abilities and talents using many different media. The most important thing we have in common is an enjoyment of creativity in a friendly environment. So why not come and join us? We meet on Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9:30 pm and Friday mornings 10.00 to 12.00 noon during school term time at Stoke-sub-Hamdon Memorial Hall. We also have a workshop on July 5th – details below. We look forward to seeing you!

For more information on the group contact Andrew on (01935)823691, SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com Facebook: Stoke Sub Hamdon The Village Artists Group

Stoke sub Hamdon Village Artists Group

WaterColour Workshop

With the very talented Deborah Harris

come and join The Village Artists Group

On Sat. 5th July

At Stoke sub Hamdon Memorial Hall 10 till 3

with a short break for lunch

Member £25.00

Non Members £30.00

Refreshments provided

Contact:

sshthevillageartistsgroup@gmail.com

Or Andrew on 01935823691

Or Sue on 01935824456

STOKE HEALTH WALKS

All our usual walks will be running this month, all starting from the Lighthouse Café. Full details are in the Dates for your Diary section.

Dress for the weather, stout footwear recommended. Well-behaved dogs on leads welcome. Refreshments are available in the Lighthouse café after Monday walks, and there is the option of a pub lunch on the longer (5-6 mile) walk.

For more information contact Sue 07792311736

CONTACTS

ALL SAINTS HALL Bookings – Ann Bartlett 07709 609488

BROWNIES at HY&FC – Sarah Redington 07412 084014
stokesubhamdonbrownies@gmail.com

CHARITY SHOP Chair, Denise Burton 07788900672.

FLEXERCISE FOR FUN at Oak Tree House Di Ramsay 0845 6434702

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
Chair - Jackie Poole 07779354320

HAMDON YOUTH GROUP (8 – 18 yrs) Janet Richards janet@cyp.me.uk

HISTORY GROUP Carol Parker 01935 825393

MEMORIAL HALL Jill Uhlhorn Bookings Secretary 01935 829513

PARISH COUNCIL Clerk: clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk

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

STOKE WALKING GROUP Penny 01935 822208 or Sue 07792 311736

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, David Warry 01935 822271 Secretary Janet
janet.littlefield@btinternet.com web: www.thetriangletrust.org

VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP Chair - Andrew Toosey 07484 142880
SSHthevillageartistsgroup@gmail.com

ST MARY’S (Church of England) - www.hamhillchurches.org

Please send information for the Village Newsletter to
helenfrances.one@gmail.com by 16th of the month before publication.
If you would like a larger print copy of this newsletter please contact
helenfrances.one@gmail.com with your name and address.
The Village Newsletter is produced with grateful thanks to
Stoke-sub-Hamdon Parish Council for funding and support.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
JULY

1st	Longer Health Walk (5-6 miles, option of pub lunch). From Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50
1st	Brownies – every Tuesday at HF&YC during term time
1st	Football Senior Team training - every Tuesday 18:30
1st	Village Artists’ Group – every Tuesday from 19:30 – 21:30
2nd	Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15
3rd	Parish Council Meeting, PC Offices, North Street Workshops at 19:30
3rd	Stoke Band Training Section every Thursday at Castle School 19:00 – 19:45
3rd	Stoke Band every Thursday at Castle School 20:00 – 22:00
4th	Village Artists’ Group – every Friday from 10:00 – 12:00
5th	Watercolour Workshop – Village Artists Group at the Memorial Hall 10:00 – 15:00
8th	Meditation & Shamanic Circle 2nd Tuesday of the month 19:00 at 21, West Street
13th	Village Litter Pick – start at Lighthouse Café at 09:00
14th	Make Every Step Count Walk (40 minutes) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:30
14th	Medium Health Walk (3-4 miles) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50
16th	Afternoon Tea Club Sidmouth Trip, departing from Memorial Hall at 10:45 (booking essential)
17th	Parish Councillor Surgeries at 7, North Street, 3rd Thursday 10:00 – 12:00 & 18:00 – 20:00
19th	The Saxons are Coming – 19:30 at the Marquee, Prince of Wales
20th	The Saxons are Coming – 14:30 and 19:30 at the Marquee, Prince of Wales
22nd	Meditation & Shamanic Circle 4th Tuesday of the month 19:00 at 21, West Street
23rd	Gardening Club – ‘Outside Exotics’ at the Memorial Hall, 19:30
28rd	Medium Health Walk (3-4 miles) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50
28rd	Make Every Step Count Walk (40 minutes) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:30
30th	Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15

AUGUST

13th	Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse café 14:15 – 16:15
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