



PARISH COUNCIL

I'm writing to you as the newly elected Chair of the Parish Council, and together with the new Vice-Chair, Cllr Andy Salter and the clerk, introduced in last month's newsletter, I am looking forward to bringing some real benefits to the village as a whole.

The Parish Council works hard for the residents, and recently we have refilled all the grit bins around the village and readied them for a cold snap. We are also in the process of sorting out some new dog waste and litter bins and the associated collection and disposal of waste. Our grounds maintenance contractor has been doing a great job clearing the weeds and overgrowth from the kerbsides all around the village making it all look clean and cared for. He will weed-spray as and when required to keep it looking beautiful!

Cllr Salter has been arranging clearance work at the allotments and generally spring-cleaning the allotment areas. As pictured, allotments at Furlands are ready for spring planting.



We have reviewed the tenancy agreements and some new plots are available. We also have a new waiting list, so if you'd like to know more about getting an allotment, please contact the clerk on the email below.

The Parish Council decided at the January meeting not to increase the element of your council tax for 2025/26 that goes to the Parish Council. We are all too aware of the strain on family finances and wanted to ensure that we didn't add to that.

You may have also seen the notices asking for help to run the Hamdon Youth Family Centre (HYFC). If you think that you might have some relevant experience or enjoy using the facility and would hate to see it go, then please let us know. NO experience is needed, just old-fashioned enthusiasm and a sense of community involvement.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Wednesday 5th March at 7pm in the Parish Office. Members of the public are always welcome, and there are currently two councillor vacancies, so if you'd like to find out more about getting involved, please contact the clerk for further details. Hope to see you soon around the village

Cllr Suzanne Nelms,

Chair of Stoke-sub-Hamdon Parish Council

Email Gilly, our clerk, on:

clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk

STOKE SUB HAMDON SPORTS AND RECREATION TRUST

Stoke sub Hamdon Sports and Recreation Trust are pleased to announce that their Annual General Meeting is being held on Tuesday 4th March at 7:30PM in the Lower Skittle Alley of the Stoke Working Men's Club. Please come along and join us and see what the Trust has done for the village and what it is planning to do in future years.

STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDENING CLUB

David Usher

Wednesday 26th March 2025

David Usher's professional life was devoted to gardening; studying horticulture at Cannington College, he later spent some 21 years at Hestercombe. As Head Gardener he supervised the restoration of the historic and beautiful Lutyens/Jekyll Gardens, and will share the ups and downs of this daunting task with us. We look forward to seeing you! Free refreshments; plant sales; raffle. Visitors very welcome - £3.

Doors open 19.15 for a 19:30 start.

Venue: The Memorial Hall, Stoke-sub-Hamdon.

MEMORIAL HALL NEWS

Abacus Stage Lighting have successfully installed professional stage lighting in the Hall, used for the first time by Stoke Performing Arts Group's production of 'Spagtagular' on the 22nd February. The total cost was covered in the form of Grants received from Somerset Council - South (ref S106 funds for the Greatfield Lane Development), Sports & Recreation Trust and Stoke Performing Arts Group - with huge thanks to all.

Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 19th March at 6pm. All are welcome to attend and volunteers are urgently needed to help provide assistance with the Memorial Hall facility for the village going forward.

Please do take a look at our website: www.stokememorialhall.co.uk to find out more information on what the Hall has to offer, or contact Rebecca on 01935 823180.

STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP: YOUR VILLAGE – YOUR SHOP

Our 5th anniversary is nearly upon us! It's difficult to believe we're 5 years from the start of the first lockdown and those manic few weeks when we took over the shop not knowing what we were doing! Of course now it's a well-oiled machine that has become an integral part of all our lives and hopefully of yours. To celebrate we will have our **annual tombola** so all customers who purchase produce in the shop will get a tombola ticket and the chance to win some free groceries. We will also be giving a hamper to one of our members drawn at random from our membership list.

Hopefully by the time you read this we will have new artwork for the window which we hope will meet with your approval. The last month has been spent getting new groceries on the shelves and generally making the shop a bit more inviting - so if you haven't been in for a while, do drop in and see us. Might we take time to thank all the volunteers who give up their time each month to keep the show on the road, without you we would not be here.

Community Shop Committee

MAY FAYRE 2025

This year, the May Fayre will take place on Monday, 26 May 2025 and we are delighted that we are able to use the facilities at Stanchester Academy once again. We already have lots of stalls booked and are in the process of planning our programme of entertainment.

We are always looking for volunteers and so if you are either interested in helping organise the event or possibly able to spare a couple of hours on the day, we would love to hear from you.

For more information, please call Denise on 07788 900672.

LITTER PICK

Hello everybody, the March litter pick will be on Sunday March 16th. We meet at 9 am outside the All Saints' Hall opposite the Fleur de Lis. Wear stout boots and gloves prepare to be out for 1 1/2-2 hours and afterwards enjoy a free coffee at Priory coffee courtesy of Paul and Mandy and the community shop.

Further information please email Catherine at helivet@msn.com



COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

As you are all aware the community Speed Watch team have been mounting some 'twenty is plenty' signs around our community. These have certainly started a conversation amongst the residents. We thank all of you for engaging in those conversations, which on the whole have been positive.

We have also engaged with the police and have now nine sites in the community that have been approved for us to use.

Results from the Speed Indicator Device last week in January up in East Stoke:

- 14,049 car / lorry journeys passed the SID
- Top speed of 74 mph
- 419 journeys were travelled over 36 mph
- Only 5000 travelled under 30 mph
- The remainder were travelling between 30 - 36 mph - still over the speed limit.
- At 11.18am someone was travelling 52 mph and at 9.56am another was travelling at 56 mph.

Let's throw those figures into our conversations! Why not try to travel through the village at 20 mph see how it feels, and don't forget if you travel at that speed, so does the person behind you.

If you would like to be part of this proactive group then please do not hesitate to contact either me (Lyn Foley) (07714005265) or Anita Moore at StokesHamSS24@outlook.com

We thank you for your continued support

The Community Speed Watch Team

GAMES AFTERNOON

Are you interested in dominoes? Card-games? Or even Bingo? Lyn Foley is considering running a Games Afternoon at the Lighthouse café fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons (non-Tea Club weeks). If you'd like to know more, or join the group of people who have already expressed an interest, then just let Lyn know on 07714005265... She will do the rest!

VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP

Spring is nearly here, with lots of artistic inspiration... why not give the Village Artists a try?

The date of our much-anticipated drawing workshop with Jonathan Hodgson has been changed to Saturday, 15 March. <https://www.facebook.com/jonhodgsonart/> Don't miss it!!

We meet at Stoke-sub-Hamdon Memorial Hall on Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9:30 pm and Friday mornings 10.00 to 12.00 noon during school term time. First visit FREE! Please contact Andrew on (01935) 823691, SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com Facebook: Stoke Sub Hamdon The Village Artists Group.

CHARITY SHOP

Did you know, the Charity Shop has regular new stock of all our goods, including pre-loved clothing, household goods, books, toys and bric-a-brac? The shop also sells a wide range of electrical items in good, working condition – all of which are tested for safety. If you haven't visited for a while, why not pop in? – we're open every day (except Wednesday and Sunday). You'll be surprised by the range of fabulous items we have for sale.



STOKE HEALTH WALKS

Three walk levels with trained leaders. Start from Lighthouse Café. Dress for the weather, stout footwear recommended. Well-behaved dogs on leads welcome. Refreshments are available in the café after Monday walks.

Make Every Step Count walks (40 minutes on pavements) and Medium walks (3-4 miles 90 minutes, mixture of pavements / footpaths) are on the second and fourth Monday. The longer walk (5-6 miles, option of a pub lunch) is on the first Tuesday. See dates and times in the Dates for your diary section. For more information contact Sue 07792311736

HAM HILL COUNTRY PARK

Despite the challenges of heavy rain and tree damage earlier this year, our volunteers have been busy clearing scrub and bramble near the Limekiln and associated car parks. They have done a terrific job, and the area looks great (see photo).



They have also continued clearing the west-facing ramparts on Ham Hill's Northern Spur, as well as repairing and replacing steps on the path up to Ham Hill from Stoke. Now that spring is on its way, why not join us in this ongoing and invaluable work on Wednesdays? We meet from 09.30-15.30 (or just come for part of the day - no regular commitment required). Tools, gloves, instructions, and light refreshments will be provided. For more information, call Paul on 07973 887129. And for information on how you can help with rebuilding and restoring the dry stone field walls in the meadows on Mondays, call Geoff on 07977 636058.

MEMORIAL HALL FILM NIGHT

Saturday 22nd March, 6.30 pm

Our film this month is the most POPULAR film of 2024 and an OSCAR contender...

WICKED tells the story of two unlikely friends: Misunderstood because of her green skin, a young woman named Elphaba forges an unlikely but profound friendship with Glinda, a student with an unflinching desire for popularity. Following an encounter with the Wizard of Oz, their relationship soon reaches a crossroad as their lives begin to take very different paths.

Sincere apologies for postponement in February due to Licence release date change!

Doors open at 6pm. for a 6:30pm start. Cash or cards £5. We look forward to seeing you!

Stoke Sub Hamdon Memorial Hall



Follow the journey of Elphaba and Glinda—two unlikely friends whose choices and struggles shape their destinies—in this spellbinding reimagining of Oz!

SATURDAY 22nd MAR
6.30pm
tickets £5

Door open at 6pm

West Street, Stoke sub Hamdon, TA14 6PZ
Registered Charity No 304642

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group at Hamdon Youth & Family Centre is open for children aged 8 and over from 18:30 to 20:30 on 17th March. This session will include flowerpot decorating and planting bulbs / flowers for Mother's Day. Contact Janet Richards for details. janet@cyp.me.uk

CONTACTS

ST MARY'S (Church of England) – Rev Nick Clarke 07842 192402
revnickclarke@gmail.com www.hamhillchurches.org

ALL SAINTS HALL Bookings – Ann Davidson 07709 609488

BOYS BRIGADE at Martock Christian Fellowship Ian Rumbelow 07851 817927

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

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 01935 823691
sec.sshgardeningclub@gmail.com

HAM HILL VOLUNTEER RANGERS Paul McNeill 07973 887129

HAMDON YOUTH & FAMILY CENTRE - to be confirmed

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 & DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION Derek Goad 01935 824337
goadfish02@gmail.com

STOKE AFTERNOON TEA CLUB FOR OLDER PEOPLE at Lighthouse Café
Lisa Wenborn 07515 489587 or Kay Clamp 07717 453523

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 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 PERFORMING ARTS GROUP Jeanie 07967 184952
info@stokeperformingartsgroup.co.uk

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH

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|--------------|---|
| 4th | Longer Health Walk (5-6 miles, option of pub lunch). From Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50 |
| 4th | Brownies – every Tuesday at HF&YC during term time |
| 4th | Football Senior Team training - every Tuesday 18:30 |
| 4th | Sports and Recreation Trust AGM at the Working Men's Club at 19:30 |
| 5th | Parish Council Meeting, PC Offices, North Street Workshops at 19:00 |
| 6th | Stoke Band Training Section every Thursday at Castle School 19:00 – 19:45 |
| 6th | Stoke Band every Thursday at Castle School 20:00 – 22:00 |
| 10th | Make Every Step Count Walk (40 minutes) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:30 |
| 10th | Medium Health Walk (3-4 miles) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50 |
| 12th | Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15 |
| 15th | Village Artists Group Drawing Workshop at the Memorial Hall 10:00 – 15:00 |
| 16th | Village Litter Pick – meet at the Lighthouse, 09:00 |
| 17th | Hamdon Youth Group at HF&YC 18:30 – 20:30 |
| 19th | Memorial Hall Committee AGM at the Memorial Hall – 18:00 |
| 20th | Parish Councillor Surgeries at 7, North Street 10:00 – 12:00 & 18:00 – 20:00 |
| 22nd | Film Night at the Memorial Hall from 18:00 |
| 24th | Medium Health Walk (3-4 miles) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50 |
| 24th | Make Every Step Count Walk (40 minutes) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:30 |
| 26th | Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15 |
| 26th | Gardening Club - Talk by David Usher at the Memorial Hall, 19:00 |
| APRIL | |
| 9th | Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse café 14:15 – 16:15 |

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.