



## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Council meetings in September included an ordinary meeting on 3rd September and two further meetings for time-sensitive matters. One of these was concerning the day-to-day management of Hamdon Youth and Family Centre Trust – which is urgently seeking volunteers to keep it operational. Following a letter from HYFCT, the Parish Council has agreed to support the running of the facility on a temporary basis. If you are willing to support the operation of the Family Centre, please contact the Parish Clerk. In parallel, we have formed a working group to assess the viability of HYFC in the long term.

A Planning meeting was held on 17th September to discuss the Parish Council's response to the planning application for 61 dwellings on the land north of Stanchester Academy. This meeting was held in the Memorial Hall to allow for more members of the public to attend, and there was a good turnout of approximately 40 residents from Stoke-sub-Hamdon and Montacute. Concerns were raised about the traffic movements from such a large development, impact on local flooding and increased pressure on existing services such as the school and doctor's surgery. The representative from Acorn Property attended the meeting to answer questions.

The ordinary meeting of the Parish Council included an update from Somerset Council. Cllr Bailey informed the meeting that the new Visitor Centre is currently under budget, which means money is available to improve the café area. A soft opening is planned at the end of October, with an official opening early in 2026. Cllr Bailey also confirmed that the overhanging foliage on the A303 slip roads was due to be cut back mid-September. Hopefully, this will have been completed by the time you read this.

The Speedwatch Group (see page 3) have requested funding to purchase some additional devices to help them collect data, and the Parish Council have agreed that the Finance Committee will consider budgetary allowances and report back at the next meeting. This will be held on Wednesday 8th October at 7pm and the agenda will be available to view on our website at [www.stokesubhamdoncouncil.com](http://www.stokesubhamdoncouncil.com)

For more information on Parish Council matters, please contact our clerk, Gilly, at [clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk)

Suzanne,

Cllr Suzanne Nelms, Chair of Stoke-sub-Hamdon Parish Council

## YOUR VIEWS ON INTRODUCING CHARGING IN THE CAR PARK

Thank you to everyone who has been in touch about the proposed car park charges. So far, nearly 120 people have responded to the survey, with clear data from residents on **Ham Hill Road, High Street, Castle Street, Bonnies Lane, Princes Close, and parts of North Street and West Street** about residential parking needs. Responses from people explaining how difficult or dangerous it can be, especially those who have small children, people with reduced mobility and carers visiting residents in these streets.

If you would like to contribute your views on parking in the centre of our village, then please get in touch - [helenfrances.one@gmail.com](mailto:helenfrances.one@gmail.com) – and I can send you more information and a link to the survey.

## VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP

Our annual ART SHOW & SALE is on Saturday, 11 October from 11 am 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 Alison Finch who will be demonstrating BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION

On Saturday  
1st November  
10.00 am 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!

Please contact Andrew on  
(01935) 823691;

[SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com](mailto:SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com);

Facebook: Stoke Sub Hamdon

The Village Artists Group

## MEMORIAL HALL NEWS

We are pleased to announce that we are over halfway to raising our target of £500 from the Quiz nights at the Fleur, all of which will go towards our loft insulation project. We hope to fund the work with this income, plus grants and other fund-raising to improve heat retention in the Hall before the Winter really sets in.

Our next Quiz is scheduled for Thursday 23rd October, advance booking is strongly advised. Our heartfelt thanks to all for your continued support and to our user groups and customers who continue to support us through bookings of the Hall.

## STOKE BAND

Thank you to all those who came to our 80th Anniversary Concert. Congratulations to the training section who joined with the main band for two pieces. The concert was a big success.

Our AGM has been set for Thursday 16th October at 8:00 at Castle School. This is an open meeting for all who wish to attend.

*Jane Herbert*



## STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP: YOUR VILLAGE – YOUR SHOP

At the end of September our wonderful assistant manager Claire retired, we will miss her cheerful efficiency around the shop and wish her a long and happy retirement.

Autumn is now upon us and there will be some seasonal changes to stock. Expect to see ingredients for cakes and puddings as well as soups and stews. In response to customer requests, we have recently stocked vegan ice creams, mushroom and vegetable pates, more gluten free biscuits and lacto-free milk so do come in, say hi and give us your custom.

If there are any magazines you would appreciate do let us know, as we would like to increase our range and need inspiration!

We still offer free home delivery for those who can't get out and about, just ring the shop between 9 and midday.

All the very best from your community shop team.

## WARM WINTER WEDNESDAY GAMES AFTERNOON

Some of you may remember back in the spring I asked if anyone would be interested in games /social afternoon once a fortnight. Well, I have decided to run to offer an open afternoon in the Lighthouse on alternate Wednesdays. It will run fortnightly, starting on the 15th of October. The format will be decided by those who attend, so all suggestions welcome. Please feel free to contact me, Lyn Foley, on 07714005265 . If you need a lift, please let me know.

## STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDENING CLUB

On 22nd October, Ian Condon, a keen photographer, will share his knowledge of the island of Tresco in the Scilly Isles, concentrating on the gardens and especially the sub-tropical Tresco Abbey Gardens. We look forward to welcoming him, and you, to our penultimate meeting of the year. Venue: Memorial Hall. Doors open 19:15 for a 19:30 start. Visitors welcome - £5 – refunded if you join the Club.

For more details, contact Tricia on [secsshgardeningclub@gmail.com](mailto:secsshgardeningclub@gmail.com)

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

## STOKE HEALTH WALKS

Is it time to get out more, meet new people and feel fitter after exercise in the fresh air as a bonus?

Walk with trained leaders, start from outside the Lighthouse Café. Dress for the weather, stout footwear recommended. Well-behaved dogs on short leads are welcome. Monday walks finish in the Lighthouse café to continue chatting, a hot drink and maybe a cake. Tuesday walks have the option of a pub lunch. See the Diary section for dates. For more information contact Sue 07792311736

## LITTER PICK

Litter picking will be on October 12th, meeting at 9 am outside the All Saints' Hall. We will be pleased to see volunteers new and old. Any more details please email Catherine at [helivet@msn.com](mailto:helivet@msn.com)

## CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS SALE

The Charity Shop annual Xmas decorations and gifts sale will be at the Lighthouse Cafe on 8th November – come along for festive-themed treats and bargains. Lots of bargains to be had before the Christmas stock goes into the Charity Shop.



## FRIENDS OF HAM HILL

The Friends of Ham Hill secured over £15,000 in funding for an Outdoor Activity Hub near the new Visitor Centre. The hub will be an 8-metre outdoor, sheltered space designed for learning and creative activities, offering an accessible location for outdoor crafting and education on Ham Hill's heritage. This development aims to expand the variety and scale of available activities for different user groups. The main construction was completed over the summer by rangers, volunteers, and suppliers. Although final touches are still needed, the hub has already hosted some events. The remaining work is scheduled for completion so that the facility will be fully operational early next year. Further developments are planned and your continued donations to the Friends of Ham Hill will help make them a reality. Thank you!



## CHARITY SHOP

Thank you to everyone who came along to support our fashion show on Saturday, 13 September. What a fabulous evening we all had! We would like to thank ALL the volunteers who helped behind the scenes to prepare for the event and set everything up on the day; Special thanks to Geoffrey Unkovitch for choreographing the Fashion Dummies (and the Fashion Dummies themselves who provided some great entertainment); Lee and William Churchill for taking care of the music and lighting; Allan Edwards for compering the event; the Stoke Working Men's Club for providing the bar; our fantastic models who strutted their stuff on the catwalk and, of course, to everyone who donated lovely items of clothing for the show and also came along to support us. We made just under £900 which was brilliant, and all money raised will go back into our village. Thanks again, from Denise, Helen & Allan - Fashion Show Co-ordinators.



## COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

I would like to thank all the CSW Team who continue to help monitor the speed of people travelling through our community. It has become evident that more needs to be done to slow people down. We have asked the Parish Council to look at several suggestions, which we believe will improve the control of speeding vehicles in our village. In the meantime, we continue our work as a visible presence around the village, and if you are interested in joining our Community Speed Watch team, please contact Lyn Foley on 07714005265

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2025

I'm sorry... but where has this year gone! I'm sat writing this for the October edition as I always do, to ask if anyone would like to join me for Xmas Lunch in the Lighthouse. This will be my 10th and final year. I started this in 2016 a year after my Mother passed, and I can't believe how the time has flown. If anyone would like to join Mike and I, you would be very welcome. Please let me know by email on [lafoley@live.co.uk](mailto:lafoley@live.co.uk), or by phone on 07714005265.

Please include your contact details so I can get back to you. Thanks

Lyn Foley

## STOKE PERFORMING ARTS GROUP

SPAG is already looking into 2026 with another planned excursion into the wonderful world of pantomime ('Oh yes we are!').

Read-throughs and rehearsals will start in October, so if you are interested in being involved – whether on stage or behind the scenes ('He's behind you!') then get in touch with Jeannie now on 07967 184952 or [info@stokeperformingartsgroup.co.uk](mailto:info@stokeperformingartsgroup.co.uk)

### An evening's entertainment

Discussion, dance, song, poetry & art about the body and well-being

A charity event to hear and learn about ways to support mental and physical health through movement awareness and practice.

### The Acoustic Body

Saturday 25th October 7.00 - 9.30pm  
at the Memorial Hall  
Entrance from 6.30pm

There will be tea, coffee and cake.  
You can BYO alcohol/drinks.

You could playfully participate ... as you choose ... with singing, sounds, movement or art making

Suggested donation £10 per person.

All proceeds go to the Memorial Hall roof insulation fund.

Please express your interest (book a place) in advance

Contact Geoffery on 07890 510 739 or via email at [acousticbody@outlook.com](mailto:acousticbody@outlook.com).

Donations payable on the night in cash.



## 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.**

**COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH – Lyn Foley 07714005265**

**email lafoley@live.co.uk**

**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.sshgardenclub@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**

**KNIT, CRAFT & NATTER GROUP Rosemary 07779 09372**

**MEDITATION & SHAMANIC CIRCLE Rosemary 07779 093723**

**MEMORIAL HALL Geoffery Unkovich Bookings Secretary:**

**bookings.stokememorialhall@gmail.com**

**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**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### OCTOBER

- 1st Knit, Craft & Natter at Frank's Corner Café every Wednesday from 10:30 – 12:00
- 2nd Village Artists' Group – every Tuesday from 19:30 – 21:30
- 2nd Stoke Band Training Section every Thursday at Castle School 19:00 – 19:45
- 2nd Stoke Band every Thursday at Castle School 20:00 – 22:00
- 3rd Village Artists' Group – every Friday from 10:00 – 12:00
- 7th Brownies – every Tuesday at HF&YC during term time
- 7th Football Senior Team training - every Tuesday 18:30
- 7th Longest Health Walk (5-6 miles, option of pub lunch). From Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50
- 8th Parish Council meeting at North Street Workshops 19:00
- 8th Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse café 14:15 – 16:15
- 11th Village Artists Annual Art Show and Sale 11:00-16:00
- 12th Village Litter Pick meet at 09:00 by All Saints' Hall
- 13th Make Every Step Count Walk (40 minutes) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:30
- 13th Medium Health Walk (3-4 miles) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50
- 14th Meditation & Shamanic Circle 2nd Tuesday of the month 19:00 at 21, West Street
- 15th Warm Winter Wednesday – fortnightly games afternoon at the Lighthouse
- 16th Stoke Band AGM 20:00 at Castle School
- 16th Parish Councillor Surgeries at 7, North Street, 3rd Thursday 10:00 – 12:00 & 18:00 – 20:00
- 22nd Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15
- 22nd Gardening Club – Talk on Tresco in the Isles of Scilly, Memorial Hall 19:30
- 23rd Memorial Hall fundraising quiz at the Fleur de Lys 19:30
- 25th Acoustic Body workshop at the Memorial Hall 19:00 – 21:30
- 27th Medium Health Walk (3-4 miles) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50
- 27th Make Every Step Count Walk (40 minutes) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:30
- 27th Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15
- 28th Meditation & Shamanic Circle 4th Tuesday of the month 19:00 at 21, West Street

### NOVEMBER

- 1st Village Artists Group workshop on Botanical Illustration 10:00 – 15:00
- 5th Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15
- 8th The Charity Shop Christmas Decorations and Gifts Sale – Memorial Hall

Please send information for the Village Newsletter to [helenfrances.one@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.