

## CONTACTS

### Church of England at St Mary's, Church Services:

1st Sunday	11am	Cafe church in All Saints Hall
2nd Sunday	11am	CW Holy Communion
3rd Sunday	11am	Morning Praise
4th Sunday	11am	CW Holy Communion
1st and 3rd Wednesday	9am	BCP Holy Communion

Rev. Nick Clarke. Tel 07842 192402, revnickclarke@gmail.com  
The Vicarage, 1 Castle Street TA14 6RE www.hamhillchurches.org

### ALL SAINTS HALL BOOKING SECRETARY

Ann Davison 07709 609488

### BOYS BRIGADE

Meets weekly at Martock Christian Fellowship on Thursdays: Juniors 6pm - 7:30pm.  
Older members 7:30-9pm. Ian Rumbelow 07851817927

### 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

**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 Contact Tim Brooks (Chair) stokefcchair@gmail.com 07788 654231 or Steve Arnold (Secretary) 07775 562122 stokefcsec@gmail.com

**FOOTPATHS** - Problems and issues contact:  
clr.hulett@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk

**GARDENING CLUB** - Monthly - Fourth Wednesday 7.30pm (Memorial Hall)  
Secretary: sec.sshgardeningclub@gmail.com. Tel : 01935 823691

**GYMNASTICS CLASS** - Ages 5-10. Wednesdays 17:00 - 18:00 at the Hamdon Youth & Family Centre. Georgia Holder 07790189809 email dragonsgymnastics472@gmail.com

### 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 YOUTH & FAMILY CENTRE** - West Street  
Contact: www.hamdonyouthcentre.co.uk email: hamdonyouthcentre@gmail.com

**HISTORY GROUP** - Carol Parker 825393

**MEDITATION GROUP** - Tuesdays at 7.30pm at Priory Coffee  
Emma Herrod 01935 829443

### MEMORIAL HALL BOOKING SECRETARY

Bookings Jill Uhlhorn: 01935 829513

### PARISH COUNCIL

Monthly First Wednesday 7.00pm, Unit 7, North Street Workshops  
Chair Mike Phillips clr.phillips@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk  
Neil Bloomfield, Clerk clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk  
www.stokesubhamdoncouncil.com

### 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 01935 824337 email: goadfish02@gmail.com

### STOKE BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Memorial Hall. Thurs. 9.30am to 11.30am, 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 AFTERNOON TEA CLUB FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Lighthouse Café, every other Wednesday at 2.15pm  
Lisa Wenborn 07515 489587 or Kay Clamp: 07717 453523

### STOKE SUB HAMDON BAND

Monday & Thursday 8.00pm - 10.00pm Castle School. Gill Robins 01935 329904  
Training Section Thursdays 19:00 - 19:45 at Castle School  
Jane Herbert 01460 351123

### STOKE SUB HAMDON SPORTS & RECREATION TRUST

Contacts: Chairman - John Allen, email info@stoke-rec-trust.co.uk,  
Secretary - Peter Hulett 01935 824784,  
Fundraising Co-Ordinator - Denise Burton 01935 827793  
www.stoke-rec-trust.co.uk

### STOKE PERFORMING ARTS GROUP

Contact Jeannie 07967 184952 or info@stokeperformingartsgroup.co.uk

**STOKE WALKING GROUP** - every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month  
Penny on 822208 or Mark 07496 148756

### 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 01935 881718

### VILLAGE AGENT - Cluster SS2

Cath Holloway cath@somersetcc.org.uk Tel: 07968 521746

### VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP - Andrew Toosey (chair)

SSHthevillageartistsgroup@gmail.com 07484 142880  
(Tuesdays 19.30- 21.30 & Friday 10.00am - 12 Noon  
(Memorial Hall) during school term times only)

**WORKING MENS CLUB** - Daily - Lunch times & evenings  
secretary@stoke.club and www.facebook.com/stokeworkingmensclub  
Mark Greaves 01935 823297

**YOUTH CLUB** - Weekly - Monday 6.15 - 8.15 Ages 10-13  
at Hamdon Youth & Family Centre. Youth Worker Lou on 07402 987921  
or email lou.chant@cyp.me.uk



## The Parish Council Office

Unit 7, North Street Workshops, Stoke sub Hamdon

# PARISH SURGERY

held on the 3rd Thursday monthly  
**10am until 12 noon**  
**6pm until 8pm**

A parish surgery for parishioners to raise and or highlight issues concerning them within the village. Councillors will report issues, within the remit of the council, for discussion by councillors and if required bring before full council.

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

## Parish Council Newsletter

**MAY 2024**



**Clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk**  
**Stokesubhamdoncouncil.com**

Two (2) councillor vacancies currently exist on the Parish Council. For full details contact the Clerk.

Parish Council AGM 2024  
Wednesday 22nd May, 6pm  
Annual Parish Meeting  
Wednesday 29th May, 6pm.

### NEW - HISTORY GROUP

Stoke History Group got off to a flying start with a superb exhibition for the Millennium, attracting over 1000 people. Since then, we have produced two books, and, as well as being a resource for individual enquirers, we have been there when the village has remembered both World Wars, and put on numerous exhibitions about all aspects of village history.

25 years on, and the original members are now all a little long in the tooth... We are looking for an enthusiastic person (or persons) with a passion for local history to take the Group forward. Future projects could include speakers, events, visits; creating a website for local and family historians; being there to answer questions; supporting village events. If you have the skills and enthusiasm, we can offer support and information. Please contact any of the following:

Carol Parker, Norman Patch, Derek Coward, Roy Watson, Sarah Moore or Angie/Min Hodges.



Stoke Local History Group in 2003. Left to right: Carol Parker, Angie Hodges, Pat Hebditch, Roy Watson, Alan Perry, Derek Coward, Alan Richard and Norman Patch.

### NEW - SPANISH CONVERSATION GROUP

Interested in Spanish? Want to practice and improve speaking Spanish in a friendly and supportive group? A basic understanding of the language would be an advantage as the idea is to encourage conversation.

Come join us for the inaugural Spanish Conversation Group on Thursday 9 May at 10.30am in the Stoke Sub Hamdon Parish Council office at Unit 7 North Street Workshops. And it's free of charge. Contact Martin for more information:

Tel: 07503605109 Email: media1069@protonmail.com

### STOKE WALKING GROUP - EVERY STEP COUNTS

We would like to invite you to join our gentle, social, walking group for a guided walk around our lovely village. The walks by trained leaders are free and the leaders are trained. We meet at 9.30am outside the Lighthouse Café and walk on pavements and along some lanes for approx. 40mins.

Please stay on for some refreshments at the Lighthouse Café, to continue chatting and meeting new friends.

Walkers with walking aids are most welcome too. We look forward to seeing you.

If you would like to speak to one of the walk leaders before coming along, please telephone Penny on 822208 or Mark on 07496 148 756

Walks are on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, Monday 13th and 20th May (note change to avoid clash with May Fayre). Details of the other regular and longer health walks are in the dates for your diary page. Call Sue 07792311736 or Doug 07778946508 for more information.

### THE CIRCUS IS COMING TO STOKE!

**Stanchester Academy**  
On the school field  
**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024**  
Stalls, food and games from 4pm  
Doors open 5.30pm  
Circus starts 6.00pm  
Early bird tickets - £10  
Normal price tickets £12  
Family of 4 - £40  
World Challenge  
Tickets available from  
<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/stanchester-ptfa> or scan the QR code

Happy's Circus is coming to Stoke-sub-Hamdon on Tuesday 18th June. The big top will set up at Stanchester Academy, with doors opening for the show at 5:30pm.

There will be food available and games from 4pm, with stalls run by local schools and clubs. So, come along, join in the fun, and support the community and Stanchester's World Challenge team.

Early bird tickets are just £10 and are available at the Community Shop and online at pta-events:

<http://tiny.cc/c5uoxz>

### VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP

The very talented artist MIKE JACKSON (<https://www.somersetartist.com/>) will be showing us his superb watercolour technique at our next workshop at the Memorial Hall on the 9th June 10.00 until 3.00. Do come along for a very enjoyable and informative day!!

Are you interested in art? Do you like drawing, colour, painting? How about joining a friendly group of local artists and developing your talent? The Village Artists Group is for you! We meet at Stoke-sub-Hamdon Memorial Hall on Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9 pm and Friday mornings 10.00 to 12.00 noon during school term time.

Please contact Andrew on (01935) 823691, SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com Facebook: Stoke Sub Hamdon The Village Artists Group.

## HAMDON FAMILY & YOUTH CENTRE

We're blown away! We raised an astonishing total of £1,140 for the Centre - £682 from our own Easter Eggstravaganza on Easter Saturday and £458 from the raffle run for us by the Stoke Working Men's Club. This will make such a difference for the Centre in the current economic climate.

Over 80 children took part in our Easter Egg Hunt with the help of a "treasure map" and clever clues to the location of the hidden "eggs". Arts and crafts activities for the children were provided by the Brownies, and jewellery making by Hamdon Youth Group. Star Dance Company and Blackrock Irish Dancers did some amazing showcase dances and 9 Realms Martial Arts demonstrated how Muay Thai provides fitness, discipline and respect for others. The Brownies told the Brownies story and helped serve refreshments throughout the day.

Two amazing 14 year olds worked their socks off for four hours face-painting 45 wonderful rabbit faces for the smaller children. High five girls – you're awesome!

A big "Thank You" for all those who contributed to the success – the 20 volunteers on the day; the village bakers who rose to the challenge with lots of lovely homemade cakes; Star Dance who ran the Easter Egg hunt; and to the children who use the Centre that helped out. Thanks too to all the businesses who provided support and gifts for the SWMC raffle – The Lord Nelson, The Prince of Wales, Castle Farm, Hamdon Beauty Barn, Orchard Estates, Stoke Community Shop, Pop Up Play Village and Star Dance Company and not least the SWMC who kindly hosted the raffle for us and hassled everybody to buy a ticket!

We were so humbled to receive such great support from young and old. Thank you Stoke – you absolutely rock!

Barbara Brooks and Jackie Poole

## STOKE MEMORIAL HALL AGM

I was very pleased to have been able to attend the Stoke Memorial Hall AGM. The Memorial Hall has been run by volunteers since it was built in 1970 (on land gifted to the village in 1952). Still going strong, it provides a venue for lots of activities, including art, exercise, sewing and children's groups, and (new in 2023) the popular Film Club. It is also the venue for Stoke Performing Arts Group, who are working with the Hall to install improved stage lighting. Other changes you may have noticed are the new apple rees (donated by Thatcher's Cider). All in all the volunteers at the Stoke Memorial Hall do an amazing job and looking to do an even better one next year. All I can say is... well done and thank you for making our Memorial Hall... great! Cllr Moira Hulett

## STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDENING CLUB

This month's speaker is Dennis Balsdon, introducing us to the fearsome and intricate nature of carnivorous plants – specimens will be on view!

Free refreshments; stall (bring or buy) for home grown plants/produce; monthly raffle. All Welcome! £3 visitor fee, refundable if you join the Club.

On Wednesday 22nd May at the Memorial Hall – doors open 7.15 p.m., meeting starts at 7.30p.m.

## HAMDON YOUTH GROUP

HYG are sad to announce that as from June, it will be necessary to reduce the number of weekly sessions in Stoke from four a month to just one as a result of the reduction in its annual grant from the Parish Council this year. From 5 June 2024 we will be able to run only one session/week as follows;

First, second and fourth Wednesdays in Norton Village Hall  
Third Wednesday in the Hamdon Youth and Family Centre in Stoke

We have also lost our Youth Worker after 12 years. Youth Workers are in short supply and until a replacement is found there may be times when sessions or venues have to be cancelled and we ask for your understanding.

HYG is a volunteer led charity and has to raise around £18,000 pa to cover fixed costs, mainly for a professional Youth Worker and some Support Workers. They run the weekly sessions, do outreach work at Stanchester School and in the community for those with special needs or who need a listening ear to improve mental health and wellbeing.

If you as a parent or a previous Youth Group member would like to help or volunteer please contact John Bailey on johnbailey19@googlemail.com

## STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP: YOUR VILLAGE YOUR SHOP

### May Bank Holiday opening times

We're closing early on the two bank holidays this month: Monday 6 and 27 May — open 8am to 12 noon. The Post Office counter will be closed on Monday 6 and 27 May.

### Apple trees for our village

We're excited to announce that we've been successful in our bid for apple trees as part of local cider maker Thatchers' Cider Community Orchard Project 2024. Thanks to Sue Wright, the village has been given 10 saplings: two each of Red Windsor, Cox, Katy, Bramley and Scrumptious. Members of the Memorial Hall Committee chose the planting locations for six of them near to the hall and planted them in early April. The remaining four are hopefully to be planted at Stonehill Playground in due course. These trees — and the apples they will produce — are for the benefit of everyone in our village, so if you notice any of them needing water or attention, please let someone at the Community Shop or Memorial Hall know. Likewise, if anyone vandalises any of them, please tell us.

### Help us to keep Stoke Community Shop open

There are now too few of us running the shop so we need to recruit more committee members to ensure the store remains open for the community. We are finding it increasingly difficult to provide a full service for customers and to do all the back-office tasks as well. A few extra people on the committee will make all the difference, so please consider getting involved. To express interest and for more information, email us at shop@stokeshop.co.uk or drop into the store for a chat to find out how you can help.

### Respect for our staff

We've had a few incidents recently where members of staff have been verbally abused. This has been really unpleasant for the members of our team involved and it is unacceptable. Our staff do their very best to help all customers, so please treat them with respect.

## FILM NIGHT AT THE MEMORIAL HALL

Our film this month, on 18th May, will be A Haunting in Venice, 12A, directed by Kenneth Branagh, starring Kenneth Branagh, Michelle Yeoh and Jamie Dornan.

In post World War II Venice, Poirot, now retired and living in self-imposed exile, reluctantly attends a Halloween seance at a decaying, haunted palazzo.

When one of the guests is murdered, the detective is thrust into a sinister world of shadows and secrets.

Doors open at 6pm for a 6:30pm start. £5 adults and £3 children (12 and under). Cash at the door. Refreshments available. Look forward to seeing you there!



## STOKE SUB HAMDON MAY FAYRE

Monday, 27 May 2024 at Stanchester Academy, TA14 6UG from 11.30 am to 5.00 pm

Don't miss this year's May Fayre! As usual, there will be entertainment for all the family, including our popular dog show, and the pop up skate ramp will also return this year. There will be a large number and variety of stalls as well as our bar, BBQ and other food outlets.

To help people get to the event, there will be a free transport shuttle service that will run throughout the day to between the Memorial Hall and Stanchester Academy.

We would be extremely grateful to anyone who might be kind enough to bake us a cake for our kitchen (please no fresh cream) - these could be dropped off at the Memorial Hall on Sunday, 26 May between 1 and 2 pm to save taking them to Stanchester Academy on the day of the Fayre. We would also be grateful for any bottles for our bottle tombola, or items for our general tombola that you might be able to spare - these could be left for me to collect from the Charity Shop. If anyone would like to put their name forward to help for a couple of hours on the day, we would also love to hear from you! Please remember that everything we raise goes back into the village.

Most of all, we really look forward to seeing you on the day and hope you have a wonderful time! More information, please contact Denise: 07788900672

## LITTER PICK

May's litter pick will be Sunday May 12th meeting at All Saints' Hall at 9 am. Wear stout shoes or wellies and gardening gloves. Free coffee after courtesy of Priory coffee and the Community shop. Thanks guys it keeps us going. Did you know we have never been rained off? There I've jinxed that now!

Further info from me at helivet@msn.com if needed – Catherine Fraser

## HAM HILL COUNTRY PARK – GEO WEEK

This May half-term, Ham Hill is celebrating GeoWeek 2024! Did you know that the beautiful warm golden Hamstone at Ham Hill makes the Park one of the most important geological locations in Somerset? Our story starts 170 million years ago in shallow turbulent seas, when crushed up fragments of shells and other sea creatures sank to the sea floor, mixed with sand and clay. Over millions of years, this hardened under pressure to form the Hamstone that is responsible for Ham Hill's exciting history and the spectacular wildlife that we enjoy on our walks today!

Pop up to the Rangers' Office to collect a Geology Trail leaflet – a self-guided trail that takes you to points of geological interest around the Park.

jasmine.ely@somerset.gov.uk

## Dates for your Diary

### May

- 4th Dawn Chorus Day on Ham Hill 12:00 – 15:00
- 7th Longer Health Walk from Lighthouse café.  
Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start
- 7th Life of a Lichen – Guided Walk on Ham Hill 10:00 – 12:00
- 8th Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse café 14:15 – 16:15
- 9th Village Artists Group Workshop at the Memorial Hall  
10:00 – 15:00
- 9th Spanish Conversation Group at 7, North Street 10:30 start
- 11th Quarrying and Quarrels – History walk on Ham Hill  
12:30 – 15:00
- 12th Village Litter Pick starting at All Saints' Hall at 09:00
- 13th Shorter, gentle Health Walk from Lighthouse café 09:30 start
- 13th Regular Health Walk from Lighthouse café  
Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start
- 17th Parish Councillor Surgeries at 7, North Street  
10:00 – 12:00 & 18:00 – 20:00
- 18th World Bee Day on Ham Hill 12:00 – 15:00
- 18th Film Night at the Memorial Hall.  
Doors open at 18:00 for 18:30 screening.
- 20th Regular Health Walk from Lighthouse café.  
Meet 09:50 for 10:00 start
- 20th Shorter, gentle Health Walk from Lighthouse café 09:30 start
- 22nd Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse café 14:15 – 16:15
- 22nd Gardening Club talk on Carnivorous Plants  
at the Memorial Hall 19:15 for 19:30
- 22nd Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse café 14:15 – 16:15
- 27th May Fayre at Stanchester Academy from 11:00 – 15:00
- 28th Rampart Ramble on Ham Hill 12:00 – 14:00
- 30th Fossil Fun on Ham Hill 10:00 -11:30

### June

- 5th Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse café 14:15 – 16:15

Please send articles for the newsletter, or to advertise forthcoming events to  
Clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk by the 16th of the previous month

If you would like a larger print copy of this newsletter please contact the Parish Clerk  
on 07356 071 400 with your name and address and we will get a copy to you.