

Sport and Leisure



Stoke Football Team 1954/55, 4 cups won

Rows left to right. Top row: 1. Gordon Bramley 2. Fred Margetts 3. Charlie Caller 4. Norman George 5. Lloyd Raison 6. Doug Swain 7. Ted Tucker 8. Jeff Kenworthy 9. Herbie Male 10. Dennis Male 11. Ken Warry **2nd row:** 1. Ron Rodford 2. Lionel Little 3. Ernie Trott 4. Tony Minchington 5. Les Gaylard 6. Dennis Richards 7. Colin Rice 8. Dave Gard 9. Dennis Gundry 10. John Tanswell 11. Eric Sparks 12. Dave Young 13. Stan Adams 14. Redvers Rake **Sitting:** 1. Bill Brown 2. Bill Inglett 3. Alan Brown 4. John Male 5. Jeff Brodie 6. Fred Tiller 7. Gordon Mitchell.

A Brief History

Stoke sub Hamdon Football Teams

There has been a football team in Stoke at least since 1903, when Stoke and Montacute were two of the first teams to join the Yeovil & District League. Matches were played on the old football ground behind the present West End Garage. When Stoke played rivals Shepton Beauchamp, tempers became a bit frayed

The club excelled itself during the 1930s, winning the Perry Street & District League Championship five times in a row, starting in 1933/34. They also won other cups during these seasons, and this record has never been equalled before or since. In their five championship years they played 109 league games, winning 91, drawing 13 and losing only four. Mainly due to their success before WWII the football pitch was moved to the now present Recreation Field.

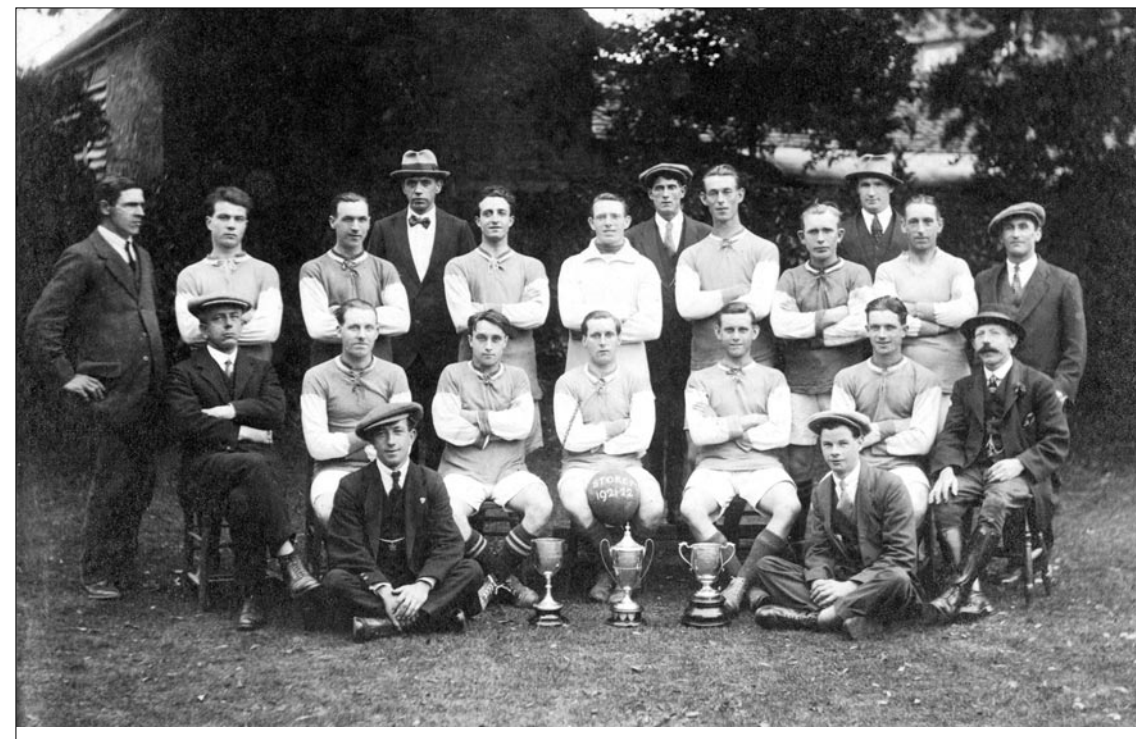
George Purrier (steward at the Working Men's Club) during the 1930s, organised Comic Football matches for the last game of every season, the players dressed up in comic dress, although there was a funny side to these matches they were also very competitive. During the war years fixtures were suspended, matches starting again in the 1946/47 season. For four successive seasons from 1951 to 1955 Stoke again won the Premier Division in the Perry Street League. After this the team upgraded to the Somerset Senior League playing 5 to 6 seasons, finances forcing a move back to the Perry Street League, changing to the Yeovil District League in the 1970s. Stoke won the Yeovil Premier League in 1975/76 and also in 1998/99, being the clubs best season for 20 years.

Stoke sub Hamdon Cricket Teams

The first reference to cricket in the area dates back to 1835 when Ham Hill Cricket Club played on the Plot. Another reference dated 1882 in the Western Gazette paper, states that the Cricket Club chose colours of black and amber for the season and hired a field at Cartgate, also in 1882 Southcombe employees played each other, Cutters v Grounders.

We know from photographs and articles that teams played in the early 1900s up to the 1930s. After WWII a concrete wicket was laid at the present recreation field and was used until the early 1960s. During this period knockout competitions were played between teams from Stoke Cricket Club, Southcombe Bros., Pittards of Yeovil and Hamdon Glove Co., victors received the Coleman Cup. Cricket probably stopped being played in the village during 1962/63.

Pat Marshall-James formed the present cricket club in 1985-86 and a group of village youngsters played their early games on a makeshift wicket at the Recreation Field. A move to Stanchester School proved unsuccessful so they returned in 1988 using the present square. The same year the team entered the Mid-Wessex League and in the period 1988 to 1995 worked their way up from the bottom of the division to the top, winning a trophy every season. In 2003 Stoke Cricket Team played in Division 6 of the Somerset League and have now been promoted to Division 5 for 2004.



1909/10 Yeovil Hospital Charity Cup Winners.

Players were: T.Brooks, S.Chubb, Wilf Dunford, H.Ithell, Will Lang, W.Sparkes, A.Taylor, W.Taylor, Sydney Welsh (Captain), W. White, Seymour Whitley.



Stoke Football Team 1921/22, three cups won.

Left to right. Top row: 1. Harry Welsh 2. Cyril Richards 3. George Warry 4. Claude Newton 5. Fred Comer 6. Albert Harris 7. Ernie George 8. Percy Palmer 9. Tommy Terrell 10. Bert Gillett 11. George Boswell (Captain) 12. Fred Talboys **2nd row:** 1. Rowland Waterman 2. Ewart Baker 3. Austin Butts 4. Billy Chant 5. Sonny Chant 6. C.B.Dalwood 7. Topper Foan **3rd row:** 1. Jimmy Fane 2. Freddie Thorne.



George Purrier's Comic Football Team 1930, on the old football pitch behind the West End Garage, West Street, Stoke. **Rows left to right:** 1. Horace Rockey 2. Dick Southcombe 3. George Purrier 4. Fred Cooper 5. Graham Weakley 6. Harry Meaker 7. Ed Shoemark 8. Tommy Terrell 9. C.B.Dalwood 10. Les Margetts 11. Les Dalwood 12. Ivor Whitlock.



Stoke Football Team 1933/34, 4 cups won.

Rows left to right. Top row: 1. Ted Jeremy 2. Fred Wilkinson 3. Bert Gillett 4. Horace Rockey 5. Stan Phillips 6. Jack Sparks 7. Les Margetts 8. Fred Griffen 9. Ernie George 10. Seymour Palmer 11. Fred Thorne 12. Jack Holt **2nd row:** 1. Wilfred Dunford 2. Alfred Rice 3. Tom Palmer 4. Fred Cornelius 5. Ivor Whitlock 6. Fred Cooper 7. Graham Weakley 8. Winston Stuckey 9. George Greenham 10. Jack Waterman 11. Bob Swain.



Stoke Football Team, 1948/49.

Rows left to right. Top row: 1. Ron Dodge 2. Fred Hellier 3. Jack Sparks 4. Bob Swain 5. Cyril Richards 6. Stanley Adams 7. Frederick Trott 8. Harry Laws 9. Alfie Rice 10. Maurice Wardle 11. Cyril Brinson 12. Gordon Bramley 13. Dennis Boswell 14. Bert Gillett 15. Howard George **2nd row:** 1. Douglas Swain 2. Eric Sparks 3. Ron Gosney 4. Tommy Palmer 5. Stanley Phillips 6. Reg Harvey 7. Lloyd Raison **3rd row:** 1. Jeff Brodie 2. Bill Brown 3. Henry Palmer 4. Austin Fane 5. George Kelloway.



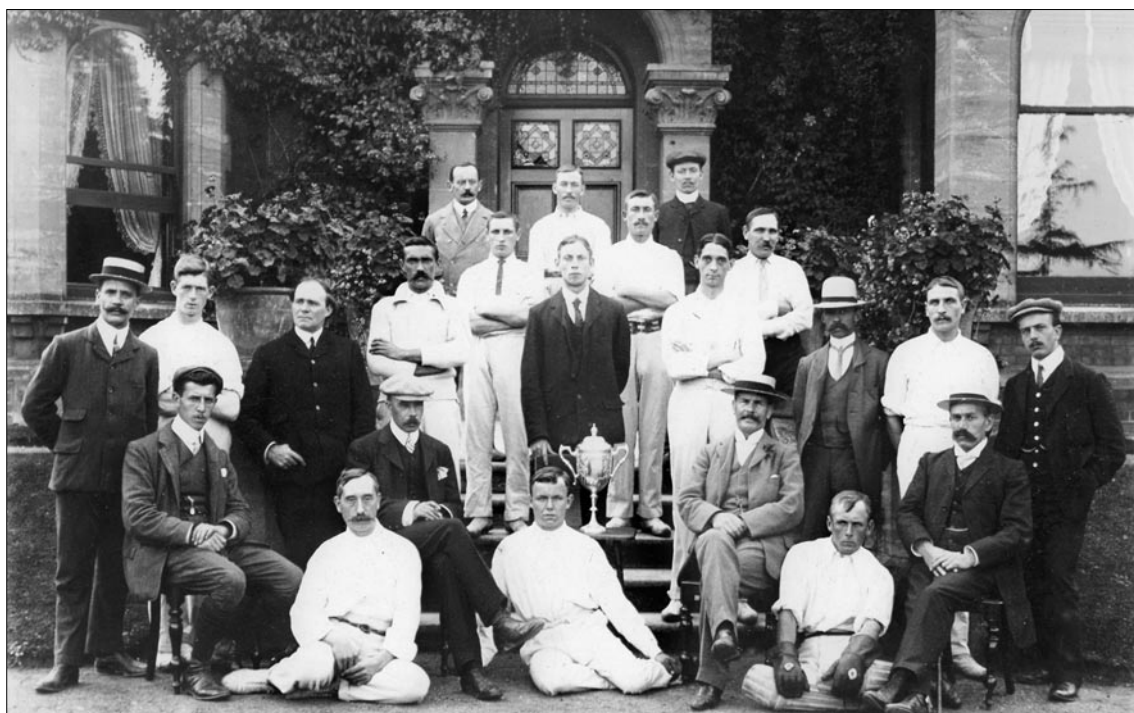
Stoke First and Reserve Team 1962/63.

Rows left to right. Top row: 1. Dave Haydon 2. John Grinter 3. John Parsons 4. Robin Boswell 5. Rod Norris **2nd row:** 1. Ernie Dodge 2. Basil Broom 3. Lloyd Raison 4. Trevor Stuckey 5. John Morris 6. Pat Helliar 7. Alan Court 8. Mike Shayler 9. John Shearing 10. Pete Raison 11. Fred Druce 12. Mike Cook 13. Herbie Male **3rd row:** 1. Tony Helliar 2. John Wines 3. Dave Young 4. Rod Margetts 5. Cyril Hollandshead 6. Bill Brown **4th row:** 1. Bill Newcombe 2. Richard Bradley 3. Mike Spearpoint 4. Dave Brodie.



Stoke Saturday Football Team, Yeovil League Premier winners 1998/99.

Rows left to right. Top row: 1. Steve Dean (Captain) 2. Mark Salter 3. Timmy Langdon 4. Ben Male 5. Baz Taylor 6. Dave Mann 7. Peter Sandall 8. Alex Grant 9. Simon Hubbard **2nd row:** 1. Jez Salter 2. Steve Martin 3. Neil Raison 4. Andy Jackson 5. Trevor Harmer 6. Nick Salter 7. Steve Pippard.



Stoke Cricket Team 1907.

Winners of the Yeovil & District Senior League. Stoke played 12 games, won 11 and drew with South Petherton to win the coveted Cup. The Western Gazette reported 400 to 500 people attended the final match at Stoke. The team were - Sydney Welch (2nd left standing) Albert Gomm (2nd right standing) Bert Chaffey, Henry Chaffey, J.Gaylard, Tom Lang (Captain), Will Lang, H.Murley, W.Palmer, R.Southcombe.



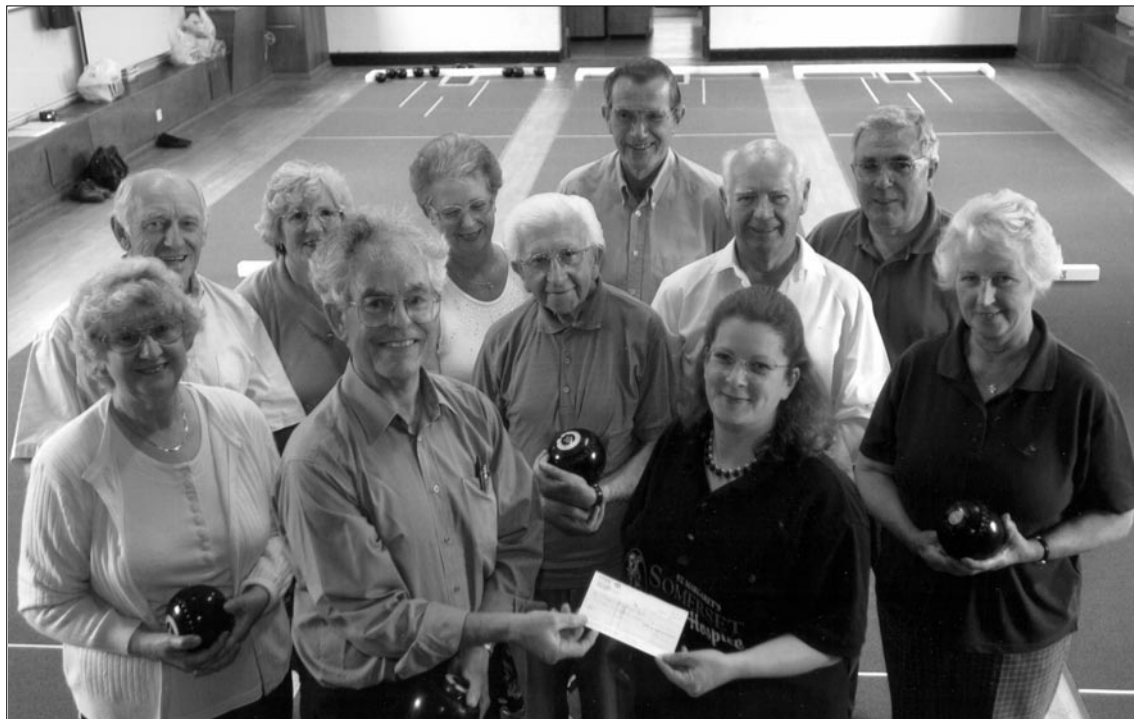
Cricket Team mid 1930s.

Left to right. Top row: 1. Percy Southcombe 2. Dalwood 3. Les Dalwood 4. 5. Doug Newton 6. Fred Cornelious 7. Eddie Hawkins **2nd row:** 1. Norman Batstone 2. Donald Palmer 3. Wilfred Dunford 4. Wally Dunford.



Stoke sub Hamdon Cricket Team 2003.

Rows left to right. Top row: 1. Ron Masters (Chairman) 2. Paul Spearpoint (Umpire) 3. Owen Brown 4. Ritchie Brimble 5. Daniel Brimble 6. Gavin Young 7. Graham Brimble 8. Alan Court (Groundsman) **2nd row:** 1. Jason Hockey 2. Guy Clothier 3. Nick Boon 4. Mark Richards (Captain) 5. Gareth Williams 6. Gordon Gear **Inset:** 1. John Calderbank 2. Ian Masters.



Members of Stoke Bowling Club, September 2002, cheque presentation to Yeovil Hospice.

Left to right. Top row: Norman Patch (Club Captain) 2. Margaret Bussell 3. Mary Handley 4. Norman Warry 5. Glyn Jones 6. Roy Watsons **2nd row:** 1. June Hession 2. Roy Gosney (Chairman) 3. Ken Bussell 4. Cheryl Hogarth 5. Sylvia Warry (Ladies Captain). *By kind permission of the Western Gazette.*



Half Moon Inn, Shove Halfpenny late 1940s.

Left to right: 1. Emily Slade (Landlady) 2. 3. Jim Slade (Landlord) 4. Flo Margetts 5. Lionel Little 6. Dol Jones 7. 8. Bill Jones 9. Ralph Rogers 10. Ern Stagg 11. 12. Sam Ellis 13. Syd Trott 14. Ernest Rendall (postman).



Stoke Skittle Teams at a Christmas get together, Stoke Working Men's Club 1953/4.

Rows left to right. Top row: (some names only) 2. Arthur Fishlock 4. Eric Burgess 6. Will Welch 8. Herbie Male 9. Les Margetts 10. Bob McMillan **2nd row:** 1. Lionel Gold 2. Sam Shoemark 3. Les Wines **Far right:** 4. Tom George **3rd row:** 1. Bill Brown 2. Gordon Bramley (piano accordion) 3. Gordon Jackson 4. Bert Lawrence (Dan Leno) 5. John Moody 6. 7. Dennis Boswell 8. Gilly Taylor 9. 10. 11. George Johnson 12. Vic Drayton 13. Vernon Smith **Front:** 1. Blind piano player 2. Wally Jeans **Handkerchief: top pockets** 3. Dennis Hallet 4. Ernie Bartlett.



Half Moon Skittle Team, winning three cups 1953.

Rows left to right. Top row: 1. Lyndall Stagg 2. Ivan Stagg 3. Desmond Sharpe 4. Bernard Wardle **2nd row:** 1. Bill Jones 2. Pat Thorne (Captain) 3. Jim Slade (Landlord) 4. Arthur Fishlock 5. Freddie Pilton.



Half Moon Ladies Skittle Team, early 1950.

Rows left to right. Top row: 1. Harriet Warry 2. Jean Graef 3. Joyce Stokes 4. Betty Thorne 5. Bettie Geldard 6. Gertie Pilton 7. Maud Johnson 8. Margaret Shoemark 9. Lil Dart **2nd row:** 1. Blanche Hallet 2. Winnie Axe 3. Valerie Elliott 4. Sylvia Trotman 5. Rhoda Tulk 6. Ivy Elliott 7. Mary Dyer **3rd row:** 1. Peggy Sparks 2. Edith Preston 3. Marg Trotman 4. Dol Trott 5. Hilda Wardle 6. Ruby Caller.



Half Moon Ladies Darts Team 1948.

Left to right. Top row: 1. Walty White 2. Stan Dart 3. Les Wines 4. Ern Crook 5. Doris Crook 6. Cliff Newton 7. Ed Hellier 8. Ern Godsland 9. Betty Godsland **2nd row:** 1. Mona Dodge 2. Emily Wardle 3. Lil Dart 4. Dickie Dodge 5. Audrey Brooks (with cup made by Vernon Richards, local blacksmith) 6. Wyn Wines 7. Nell Helyar.



The Fives Wall, Stoke sub Hamdon. One of five in Somerset, not the biggest but the best and the most ornate. Built in 1774 in the grounds of the Fleur de Lis Inn, when the Bishop of Bath and Wells ordered the game to cease on church towers. In 1855 Stoke had the distinction of fielding John Palmer and Frederick Fane who defeated the Bath Team and were claimed the Champions of England. In excess of £60 was taken at the gate, the tower was surrounded on 3 sides by grandstands from which the crowd saw the home team claim the championship.



Stoke & District Rifle Club, 1911.

Prize winners, **1st section:** T.Fane, E.Chant, H.Harris. **2nd section:** H.Chaffey, H.Virgin, R.W.Waterman, also shooting W.Guppy, W.Tavener and S.Thorne. Prizes donated by Lang & Co. and Oakhill Brewery Co.

Other Leisure Activities...



Stoke sub Hamdon Zoo was in existence by 1901, behind the present Post Office. It was run by Ewart Southcombe and was accessed through a gate situated at the side of Priory Close, North Street. Animals known to be kept there were Siberian wolves, a monkey, a bear, snakes, birds of prey and a pelican. On June 25th 1906, 70 children from the school visited the zoo! Ewart Southcombe later became associated with London Zoo and a member of the Royal Zoological Society.



Siberian wolves at Stoke Zoo, now the present Post Office, 9 High Street, Stoke.