



## VILLAGE NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2025

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

#### SPOTTING A SCAM

The council is aware of a number of scams currently circulating including delivery of a parcel that you're expecting, a parking fine urgent payment request, a 'call me back to discuss a job' voicemail, and a DWP Energy Payment. You can forward scams received by text to 7726 and you can also send a screen shot to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk) (part of the National Cyber Security Centre). Residents are reminded to never click on links from text messages – HMRC, trusted companies and your bank won't ask people to divulge sensitive or confidential information or click on a link.

#### CASTLE SCHOOL

Castle School will be celebrating its 150th anniversary from September onwards with various events planned. If anyone has any photos of their time as a pupil or suitable ideas to help celebrate this milestone, please contact the clerk. The hard work by volunteers at the Castle School allotment is paying off and they've already produced a good crop!

#### HAMDON YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRE

You may remember at the beginning of this year, there was a call for volunteers to help run the Hamdon Youth and Family Centre. Although this call did lead to some initial help, that has fallen away again. The centre is also available to book for one-off events such as birthday parties or used by a regular hirer for example a children's nursery. The facility has fixed running costs that need to be met, and if residents don't make use of it, there is a risk that it will be lost to the community.

#### TRANSPORT – SOMERSET COUNCIL PLAN

Somerset Council is asking for your opinion to help shape the future of transport in the county. The current plan is out of date and doesn't reflect national policy or the challenges we face today. A new plan will guide how people and goods move around Somerset in the years ahead and aims to ensure that transport supports our wider goals—like improving health and wellbeing, protecting the environment and supporting the local economy.

You can have your say by filling in an online survey before 28th September which you'll find online at <https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/active-travel/copy-of-local-transport-plan-2025/>

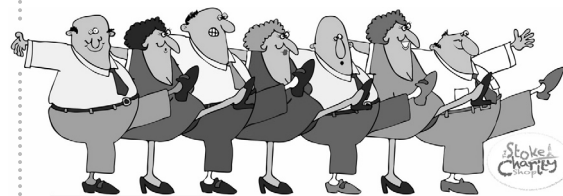
#### PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

This will be held on Wednesday 3rd September at 7pm. The agenda will be available to view on our website ([www.stokesubhamdoncouncil.com](http://www.stokesubhamdoncouncil.com)) where minutes of previous meetings can also be found.

The Parish Council offices are available for use by village groups. The room seats about 15, with facilities available. For more information on this or other Parish Council queries, 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

### VILLAGE FASHION SHOW



Village

Fashion

Show

Buy your tickets now for the one and only **Village Fashion Show** at the Memorial Hall on 13th September.

We have a fabulous evening of entertainment and shopping planned for you, including **two cat walks** showing off some of the wonderful outfits donated and a **children's fashion parade**.

The evening will also showcase a not-to-be-missed performance by **The Fashion Dummies** – a 1980's inspired extravaganza.

**Fashion, turn to the left**  
**Fashion, turn to the right**  
**Ooh fashion**  
**We look around**  
**And change our pose**  
**We are showroom**  
**dummies**

A wide range of fashion and accessories will be available to browse and buy, plus a bar provided by the Working Men's Club. Doors open at 18:30.

Tickets are £5 (free tickets for under 14s) and are available from the Charity Shop.

### STOKE HEALTH WALKS

As the days get cooler, is it time to get out more for some exercise and to meet new people on a health walk? Walks 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 for a hot drink and maybe a cake. Tuesday walks have the option of a pub lunch.

For more information contact  
 Sue 07792311736

## STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP: YOUR VILLAGE – YOUR SHOP

As always, the community shop is working hard to make sure that we stock the products you want at reasonable prices.

We are very fortunate to have a lot of positive feedback and encouragement from our customers – your ideas and comments help us develop the shop, and it's always lovely when someone drops in with a compliment about the shop. In particular, our thanks are due to all our volunteers for getting us through a challenging holiday season, we simply couldn't manage without them. Thank you.

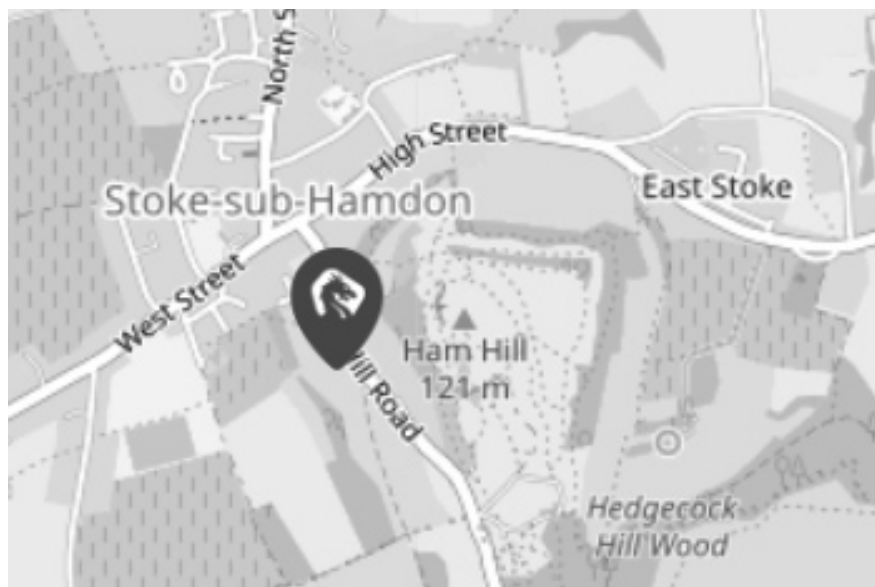
Many of you will know that one of our directors, Catherine Fraser was hit by a car as she was unloading a delivery outside the shop last month. She's making a steady recovery, and would like to thank everyone for their care and support following the accident.

While the shop is definitely thriving, the prolonged absence of one of our supervisors has highlighted our ongoing need for volunteers to help with the management of the shop. We're actively looking for new volunteers – so if you can give us a few hours a week in a friendly, supportive environment please call in and speak to one of the supervisors. Many hands make light work! Our volunteers are the lifeblood of the shop – without sufficient volunteers we would face additional costs for paid staff. As we are a not-for-profit company this would all too rapidly deplete our reserves. Do pop into the shop if you'd like to know more about how you can help.

## YOUR VIEWS ON INTRODUCING CHARGING IN THE CAR PARK

As reported back in May, Somerset Council plans to start charging in the village car park. Following my enquiry, the council have written to say that there will be plenty of opportunity for us, the community, to make representation. However, as they write that their target date to introduce changes was originally 1st October and is now likely to be in the latter part of the year, it seems likely that we may not get much advance notice of the consultation period. This may make it more difficult for local residents to co-ordinate a meaningful response.

If you are a regular user of the car park, or if you are concerned that charges will make on-street parking nearby even more difficult, then please let me know. I'm happy to help gather data and share ideas on how respond to the consultation, when it comes. If you are interested in this matter, please just send me a short email to [helenfrances.one@gmail.com](mailto:helenfrances.one@gmail.com). Any comments or ideas would be added to the responses from other village organisations such as the Parish Council.



## COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Following a very productive meeting with Councillors Dullaghan and Berry, the Community Speed Watch Initiative will be gathering together the data collected over the last 9 months of CSW roadside sessions and Speed Indicator Device information to present our findings to the Parish Council.

This month's CSW sessions have seen an increase in excessive speeding vehicles, which is disappointing. There have also been more incidents of damaged vehicles on our roads. A plea from the CSW Team Please report ANY incident that has caused damage to your cars when parked on the road to 101 Crimestoppers or you can upload pictures and reports to [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report). It's important for the local policing statistics, as if nothing is reported then the police believe there is no problem locally.

## VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP

Would you like to have a go at drawing with charcoal, pencil or pen? How about exploring pastels, watercolour, acrylics or oil? There's so much choice! Do come along when our Autumn term commences on Tuesday 2nd September at Stoke-sub-Hamdon Memorial Hall.

We, The Village Artists Group, meet on Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9.30 pm and Friday mornings 10.00 to 12.30 noon during school term time. FREE first visit to see how you get on! For more information on the group contact Andrew on 01935 823691 or [SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com](mailto:SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com) / Facebook: Stoke Sub Hamdon The Village Artists Group.

## CHARITY SHOP

Many, many thanks to all those who have donated items to the Charity Shop and for The Village Fashion Show to be held on the evening of Saturday 13th September in the Memorial Hall. We've saved some of your loveliest items specially for the show, and we now have a wonderful collection of evening wear, hats and gorgeous frocks. We'll also be selling gorgeous accessories – sunglasses, bags, jewellery and shoes. Don't forget, all the money we raise goes to support the village.

## STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDENING CLUB

Our first talk of the autumn season is "Dahlias - Decisions, Delights and Disasters" Bella Given, self-confessed Dahlia obsessive, was a garden designer in London before moving to Devon. As the nights draw in and we begin to plan for next year's gardening, why not come and find out if dahlias will be your 2026 obsession!

Visitors welcome - £5 – refunded if you join the Club. For more details, contact Tricia on [secsshgardeningclub@gmail.com](mailto:secsshgardeningclub@gmail.com)

At the Memorial Hall - 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. start. Includes Raffle, home-grown plant stall and free refreshments.

## STOKE PERFORMING ARTS GROUP

We would like to say a huge 'thank you ' to everyone who came along to support 'The Saxons are Coming' at the Prince of Wales in July . The production proved a tremendous success, playing to a full house on each of the three performances.

Our heartfelt thanks must go to the team at the Prince of Wales who provided the marquee as a venue and were so helpful in accommodating our every need. As well as the proceeds from the show , which will go to the Stoke sub Hamdon Sports and Recreation Trust , the raffle raised £212.00 (topped up to £330.00 by the Prince of Wales pub) for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance .

This month we start planning our next exciting production. If you would like to know more about SPAG and get involved, either by treading the boards or helping out behind the scenes, then do get in touch - our details are on the back of this newsletter. Jeanie Augarde (On behalf of SPAG)

## HAM HILL UPDATE

Our Monday construction volunteers have been working as hard as ever; installing a bench alongside the steps that run down to Stoke. Meanwhile, by the plateau fields, our walling volunteers have been getting their hands mucky, rebuilding a 400-year-old dry stone, built at the same time as Montacute House, which serves as the parish boundary between Montacute and Norton. We're hoping this stretch of wall should be finished by the time you read this newsletter, so keep your eyes peeled!

On Wednesdays, our large troop of volunteers are tackling vegetation, making sure Ham Hill doesn't become totally overgrown, vital work at this time of year! The vegetation around pathways and gates has been cut back and invasive bracken has been removed from the rampart slopes beneath the viewpoint, allowing light to ground level vegetation. Our determined team have even trekked to the bottom of Witcombe Valley to create habitat corners for grass snakes!



## MEMORIAL HALL NEWS

We'd like to thank all our customers and user groups for their continued support. We're delighted to have such a broad range of activities and bookings in our fantastic hall.

As many people will know, we have a defibrillator in the car park – these devices can save lives in an emergency, and it's therefore really important that anyone needing to access it can do so quickly and easily. Can we politely remind people to refrain from blocking access to the defibrillator please. We do keep cones in front of the unit as a reminder, but unfortunately people decide to move them from time to time and cars park right up to the unit. In an emergency this could be critical.

## MEMORIAL BENCH

The Memorial Bench for Roy and Janet Watson has now been installed on the large recreation ground overlooking the football pitch with views of Ham Hill. A beautiful spot for all to enjoy.



## NEW – KNIT, CRAFT & NATTER

A new Knit, Craft & Natter Group is starting in the village. All crafting folk are welcome to join the informal sessions which will be at Priory Coffee at 10:30 on Tuesday mornings.

For details contact Rosemary  
07779 093723



**Knit, Craft  
& Natter**

## 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.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

**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

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

### SEPTEMBER

- 2nd Brownies – every Tuesday at HF&YC during term time
- 2nd Football Senior Team training - every Tuesday 18:30
- 2nd Longer Health Walk (5-6 miles, option of pub lunch). From Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50
- 2nd Village Artists' Group – every Tuesday from 19:30 – 21:30
- 3rd Parish Council meeting at North Street Workshops 19:00
- 4th Stoke Band Training Section every Thursday at Castle School 19:00 – 19:45
- 4th Stoke Band every Thursday at Castle School 20:00 – 22:00
- 5th Village Artists' Group – every Friday from 10:00 – 12:00
- 6th Stoke Band Concert at the Prince of Wales 14:30 start
- 10th Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse café 14:15 – 16:15
- 11th Make Every Step Count Walk (40 minutes) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:30
- 11th Medium Health Walk (3-4 miles) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50
- 9th Meditation & Shamanic Circle 2nd Tuesday of the month 19:00 at 21, West Street
- 13th Village Fashion Show 18:30 at the Memorial Hall
- 18th Parish Councillor Surgeries at 7, North Street, 3rd Thursday 10:00 – 12:00 & 18:00 – 20:00
- 22nd Medium Health Walk (3-4 miles) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50
- 22nd Make Every Step Count Walk (40 minutes) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:30
- 23rd Meditation & Shamanic Circle 4th Tuesday of the month 19:00 at 21, West Street
- 24th Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15
- 24th Gardening Club – Dahlias – Decisions, Delights and Disasters! Memorial Hall 19:30
- 25th Memorial Hall fundraising quiz at the Fleur de Lys 19:30
- 27th Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15

### OCTOBER

- 8th Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15