



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The Parish Council met on Wednesday 8th October to consider another busy agenda. The ongoing Sunday parking charges consultation by Somerset Council is a forerunner to the consultation on other possible parking charges, and to establish some village-wide data, a survey is being co-ordinated by a local resident. Output from the survey will be shared with the Parish Council who in turn will be writing to Somerset Council expressing their concerns with associated impacts. However, individuals are strongly encouraged to respond also.

Plans for festive lights in the village are developing well – a lighting up ceremony will coincide with the Castle school's Christmas Fair on 3rd December. To celebrate the school's 150th anniversary the Parish Council will be funding commissioning of history boards and donating these to the school.

A grant was awarded to the Memorial Hall, as a contribution to their roof insulation project.

The clerk confirmed that the status of grit bins through the village has been reported to Somerset Council Highways who will be re-filling ready for the winter. Those residents who kindly offered to act as 'monitors' are asked to check that their bins are clear of litter and ready for use. Please report any issues back to the clerk.

The next meeting which will be held on Wednesday 5th November at 7pm. The agenda will be available to view on the website, where minutes of previous meetings can also be found together with the full report from Somerset Council and the Responsible Financial Officer. Please see website

www.stokesubhamdoncouncil.com. For more information on Parish Council matters, please contact our clerk, Gilly, at clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk

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

UPDATE ON CAR PARKING SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who has completed the online survey, especially residents of Ham Hill, Princes' Close, High Street, Bonnie's Lane, Castle Street and parts of West Street and North Street – the streets most likely to be impacted by the proposed introduction of charges at Ham Hill car park by Somerset Council.

So far, we have had 146 responses to this village survey, showing that parking charges would mean that drivers will (understandably) avoid parking in the car park wherever possible, which will increase the already difficult situation for those people who rely on on-street parking in the centre of the village. The problem is not simply that congestion will be worse than it already is, but that there will be a negative impact for many in our community, including those who have limited mobility or young families – who will find parking anywhere close to their homes even more difficult. We also know that those who provide care services to residents are concerned about the effect on their work – some of whom already find it almost impossible to park legally when working in the centre of the village. We already know that pressure on parking spaces leads people to park in places that can create additional dangers for pedestrians as well as other road users.

The next step for the village survey is to contact those people who aren't able to complete the on-line survey; we'll be knocking on doors during November with a paper copy so that you can have your voice heard. Once we have all the information, it will be compiled into a report that the Parish Council will be able to use when the formal consultation is announced by Somerset Council.

Unfortunately, Somerset Council have not confirmed the start date for this yet. However, please remember that when the Somerset Council consultation starts, it is really important that everyone who is concerned about the impact responds directly to the formal consultation. This is because the survey we are carrying out as villagers is an additional piece of work to help us provide in-depth data and evidence about parking need in our village. As usual, please contact me if you want any more information about the village survey.

helenfrances.one@gmail.com

STOKE PERFORMING ARTS GROUP

Aladdin

Stoke Performing Arts Group is pleased to announce that its next production 'Aladdin' the Pantomime will take place on Thursday 19th, Friday 20th and Saturday 21st February 2026. So make a note in your diaries and look out for further details and ticket information coming soon.

STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP: YOUR VILLAGE – YOUR SHOP

Thanks this month to the wonderful staff and children of Castle School for filling our window with the fantastic produce from the Kids Patch allotment and the great tree and leaves they prepared for our harvest display. It really did look lovely. Events come thick and fast at this time of year and straight after Remembrance Sunday we will be supporting Children in Need which this year is the 14th of November. If anyone would like to bake a cake for us to sell and raise money for this worthy cause, then please bring contributions to the shop either that morning or the afternoon before.

We are continuing to refine our stock and have introduced a range of fresh ready meals to augment our frozen ones, just look in the chiller cabinet. Thanks so much for your continuing support.

VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP

We have had another excellent and most enjoyable annual art show, with very many thanks to the Brownies for their considerable assistance with the cafe! How about coming to join us and displaying your work in next year's event? Would you like to develop your artistic skills? If you like drawing, painting or mixed media you could come along to our friendly group of local artists to develop your talent.

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 3.00 pm.

The Art Group meet at Stoke-sub-Hamdon Memorial Hall on Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9.30 pm and Friday mornings 10.00 to 12.30 during school term time. First visit FREE!

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

ART WORKSHOP

With Alison Finch, very talented local botanical watercolour artist, renowned for her fine detail.

Come and have a go, no experience needed, just enthusiasm.

at Stoke sub Hamdon Memorial Hall

Saturday 1st November

10am until 3pm

Refreshments and cake provided

For further information contact Andrew 01935 823691

Email sshthevillageartistsgroup@gmail.com

Members £25.00. Non Members £30



MEMORIAL HALL NEWS

With thanks to the Parish Council, Sports & Recreation Trust, Charity Shop and Quiz Teams we have now secured sufficient funds to proceed with Loft insulation for the Memorial Hall that will assist with heat retention during the winter months.

Our quiz nights will continue, hosted by The Fleur, with next dates set at Thursday 27th November and also 18th December when we will organise a raffle. You are strongly advised to book your table in advance.

Special thanks also go to Orchard Estates Agents who have provided a floor plan layout of the Hall with dimensions, photographs and a 360 degree walk through video link all available via our Website.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

There will be a service of remembrance at the monument on Ham Hill on 9th November. The service will start at 09:45. All welcome.



STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDENING CLUB

Our last meeting of the year on 26th November brings mulled wine, mince pies, a Quiz (not just about gardening!), and a chance to chat with friends old and new. Do come along! We

would love to meet you - visitors are always welcome and the £5 admission fee is re-funded if you join the Club. See you there?

For more details, contact Tricia on secsshgardeningclub@gmail.com

Doors open: 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. start at The Memorial Hall, including a raffle, home-grown plant stall and free refreshments.

WORLD CHALLENGE

Kayden & Wills World Challenge fundraising -Table Top Sale will be on 23rd November 2-4pm at the Memorial Hall. Please contact Kim Campbell kimcam73@me.com if you'd like a table, and for more details, maybe make some money for Christmas!

If not hope to see you there!

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

WARM WINTER WEDNESDAY GAMES AFTERNOON

I would like to thank those who have turned up over the last two sessions. We will move and develop over time into whatever people want. We have started by playing games and getting to know each other which has proved to be really helpful. Tea, Coffee and biscuits are also offered. The door will be open from 2 pm so please just walk in and join us, everyone is welcome.

The November dates are the 12th and 26th. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lyn Foley on 07714 005265. If you need a lift, please let me know.

CHARITY SHOP CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The Charity Shop will launch its Christmas raffle on the 8th November at the Lighthouse Café, and the Festive Hamper and Children's Box will then be on display in the Charity Shop. Do pop in and buy your tickets... you never know, you could be a lucky winner this year.



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS SALE



The Charity Shop annual Xmas decorations and gifts sale will be at the Lighthouse Cafe on 8th November between 10:00 – 14:00 – come along for festive-themed treats and bargains. Lots of bargains to be had before the Christmas stock goes into the Charity Shop.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2025

I'm delighted to say that enough people are interested in attending a Christmas lunch to make the event viable. The meal will be held in All Saints Hall (The Lighthouse Café) on December 25th at 13:00. 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, or by phone on 07714 005265. When booking your place, please remember to let us know of any allergies or if you are vegetarian and please include your contact details so I can get back to you. Also, please let me know if you need transport. Thanks Lyn Foley



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
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
ST MARY’S (Church of England) - www.hamhillchurches.org

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

NOVEMBER

1st	Village Artists Group workshop on Botanical Illustration 10:00 – 15:00
4th	Village Artists’ Group – every Tuesday from 19:30 – 21:30
4th	Brownies – every Tuesday at HF&YC during term time
4th	Football Senior Team training - every Tuesday 18:30
4th	Longest Health Walk (5-6 miles, option of pub lunch). From Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50
5th	Parish Council meeting at North Street Workshops 19:00
5th	Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse café 14:15 – 16:15
5th	Knit, Craft & Natter at Frank’s Corner Café every Wednesday from 10:30 – 12:00
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
7th	Village Artists’ Group – every Friday from 10:00 – 12:00
8th	The Charity Shop Christmas Decorations and Gifts Sale – Memorial Hall
9th	Remembrance Service at the War Memorial 09:45 start
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
11th	Meditation & Shamanic Circle 2nd Tuesday of the month 19:00 at 21, West Street
12th	Warm Winter Wednesday – fortnightly games afternoon at the Lighthouse
19th	Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15
20th	Parish Councillor Surgeries at 7, North Street, 3rd Thursday 10:00 – 12:00 & 18:00 – 20:00
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
25th	Meditation & Shamanic Circle 4th Tuesday of the month 19:00 at 21, West Street
26th	Warm Winter Wednesday – fortnightly games afternoon at the Lighthouse
26th	Gardening Club – Mulled wine and a quiz at the Memorial Hall 09:15
27th	Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15
27th	Memorial Hall fundraising quiz at the Fleur de Lys 19:30

DECEMBER

3rd	Castle School Christmas Fair and Xmas Lights
10th	Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15