



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The April Parish Council meeting was a quiet one with neither Somerset Councillor nor any members of the public in attendance. The usual items of business followed.

Some items of correspondence and a visit to the regular surgery led to discussion around bonfires on the allotments and overhanging trees. Cllr Salter has reminded all allotment holders of the restrictions on bonfires which are only allowed between certain hours.

There was also a discussion on the recent events surrounding the removal and reinstatement of the ham stone village stones. This had caused great concern among residents and there is ongoing correspondence about it – Somerset Councillor Oakes had inferred that the four Parish Councils had been consulted in the past about removal of the stones, but this was not the case. Six members of the Parish Council will be attending the official opening of the Visitor Centre.

The Annual Village Meeting taking place on Saturday, 9th May at 10am in the Memorial Hall will include a guest speaker from the Waste Services Department as well as contributions from a variety of clubs and societies in the village. Sarah Dyke MP has confirmed her attendance too. We also want to hear your opinion on certain topics and there will be a suggestions box and boards available for you to have your say!

Tea, coffee and cakes will be provided, so come along and hear all the latest about YOUR village.

The next Parish Council meeting will be the Annual Meeting taking place on

Wednesday 6th May at 7pm in the Parish Office. 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*

LITTER PICKING

The next village litter pick is at 9am on 10th May. All welcome to join us at the All Saints' Hall with stout boots and gloves. Free coffee afterwards courtesy of Maria at Frank's Corner and the community shop.

Any further details required email Catherine at helivet@msn.com

STOKE HEALTH WALKS

Make new friends while walking and talking too. Feel fitter for being out in the fresh air. 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 chat over a hot drink and maybe a cake. Tuesday walks have the option of a pub lunch. Dates are on page 4 in the diary section. Please note the change of date to the 18th to avoid Bank Holiday Monday.

*For more information contact Sue
07792311736*

GARDENING CLUB



Join us for our May talk, "Wild About Gardening" on Wednesday 27th May. Our guest speaker, Nigel Stone, has had a career in environmental and countryside management culminating in 17 years as Chief Executive of Exmore National Park Authority. A zoologist by training, he has identified over 850 species of insects and animals in his Somerset garden. Nigel is keen to share his vision of how to help Nature thrive in the garden setting.

Doors open at The Memorial Hall 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. start. Visitors are always welcome - £5 admission fee re-funded if you join the Club. There will also be a raffle, home grown plant sale and free refreshments.

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

MEMORIAL HALL NEWS

The Memorial Hall kitchen is finally decorated and looking lovely and fresh with many thanks to Jeff Davis. We also hear from customer feedback that our insulation is having the desired effect with heat retention which is great news and thanks again to all who assisted us with grants and fundraising for that project.

Our popular quiz night at The Fleur is scheduled for Thursday 28th May, booking is strongly advised whilst also providing JP an indication on whether you will be dining that evening.

Many thanks to all for your continued loyal custom. Check out our website if you haven't already on the activities on offer and our facilities

www.stokememorialhall.co.uk.

SPEEDWATCH

The Speedwatch Team have been out and about again this month with some eye watering results. In one session alone 46% of the vehicles were travelling over the speed limit with 47 cars travelling at excessive speeds. This is dangerous behaviour and needs to stop. We have been working with the Parish Council to try and resolve some of the roadblocks we are encountering on trying to move this project forward. In an effort to try and get the Police and Somerset Council to recognise our community's plight, letters have been written to the Commissioner of Avon and Somerset Police and Sarah Dyke MP to ask for their help and support in trying to reduce the speeding vehicles and improve road safety.

If you have any concerns about the speed of vehicles in our community, then please come and have your say at the Annual Parish meeting on the 9th May in the Memorial Hall at 10am.

If you would like to offer your help and give your time to support the work we are doing, please call or email me on lafoley@live.co.uk or call on 07714005265.

WEDNESDAY SOCIAL GROUP

All welcome to join this friendly group. In May, we will be meeting Wednesday 13th and 27th in the Lighthouse cafe starting at 2pm. Tea, Coffee and biscuits will be available

Please contact Lyn Foley for more information (07714005265 or email lafoley@live.co.uk)

STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP – YOUR VILLAGE YOUR SHOP

We have just completed our 6th year of trading!

All customers were given free raffle tickets for a tombola which was successfully held last month.

This month we are introducing a new range of preserves made locally and are keen to add further products with a local provenance to make our offering more distinctive. Our aim is to provide for all the needs of the village at prices which don't break the bank. All your visits to the shop are really appreciated and help us to continue trading.

We could still do with more volunteers and would welcome someone artistic to help with dressing the window. If there is anything you would like us to supply, please come in and let us know. If you are new to the village, come and introduce yourself and see what we have to offer. Remember we are a community benefit society.

With thanks, The Directors

CHARITY SHOP

Our charity shop goes from strength to strength, and this would not be possible without all of your kind donations. We are delighted to have been able to donate several bags of good quality, newborn, 0-3 month and 3-6 month baby clothes to the South Somerset branch of Baby Basics in the last two weeks. These were baby clothes that we had had for sale in the shop for some time, but which had not sold, and so we were only too pleased to pass these on to such a worthwhile charity. We make full use of everything that we receive in the shop, so thank you so much.

We were also pleased to allocate two grants during April: one to the Castle Kids Patch Allotment and the other to Take Art to help support Chill on the Hill, an event that will be taking place during August. Thanks to everyone who supports us.

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Many thanks - A huge thank you to all those who helped clear ivy from the churchyard walls and prune bushes on Saturday 28th March. It was very much appreciated. I hope those who visit the churchyard have noticed the difference. We were mindful to continue to support the wildlife that inhabit the churchyard. I am grateful to Dave Dwyer who organised the collection of the ivy etc.

Eco- Friendly Churchyard - Our contractors mow the churchyard throughout the summer to keep the churchyard looking tidy. However, the PCC has been approached to reduce mowing to support wildlife and make our churchyard more eco-friendly. At a recent PCC meeting, we decided to adopt a "no mow" approach to some areas in the churchyard in May to allow the grass to grow. This will involve strips of longer grass rather than the whole churchyard. We will review the decision at the end of May. During May we will provide a suggestion box in the porch of St Mary's to allow you to give feedback.

Alternatively, if you have a particular grave you attend, where you would like us to continue to mow, please email me: elfaull@mac.com

Elaine Faull – Lay-Chair, St Mary's PCC.

HAMDON YOUTH & FAMILY CENTRE

Hamdon Youth & Family Centre have recently been going through some changes with regards to Trustees and as such, the new team would like to apologise for the lack of communication over the past few months. However, we are now embarking on a new era, with improvement plans in the pipeline. Dates are in the diary to have the back hall replastered and redecorated, as well as having a new floor laid. Although this will mean that the back hall is out of action for a few weeks, all regular activities will still be going ahead in the main hall, and this is also still available for hire for children's birthday parties and activities. We are hoping to be able to announce more exciting plans for the future of the centre soon but would like to thank the community of Stoke-sub-Hamdon and beyond for their continued support. If you would like to hire the hall for any children or youth related activity, please get in touch via our website

www.hamdonyouthcentre.co.uk

or by email hamdonyouthcentre@gmail.com

STOKE PERFORMING ARTS GROUP

Tickets will go on sale in mid-May for our next production 'The Rehearsal', which will be performed on the evening of Friday 12th and matinee and evening on Saturday 13th June.

Tickets are £8 each, and the show is suitable for older children and adults.

As always, SPAG is very grateful to the Community Shop, who sell tickets on our behalf. Look out for information on social media and village posters to find out when tickets are available to buy.

If you would like to know more about Stoke Performing Arts Group or get involved either on stage, or behind the scenes, please do get in touch (see contact details on the back page).

VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP

Our summer term has now begun, and we are looking forward to longer days and painting out with lots of fresh artistic inspiration!

Come and join a very friendly self-guided group of artists for painting, drawing etc. on Tuesday 7.30 to 9:30 pm and Friday 10.00 to 12.30 during school term time at Stoke-sub-Hamdon Memorial Hall. FREE first visit to see how you get on!

For more information on the group contact Andrew on (01935) 823691,

SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com

Facebook: Stoke Sub Hamdon The Village Artists Group

FOOTBALL CLUB

The Race Night at the Working Men's Club aims to raise awareness and funds for Prostrate Cancer in conjunction with SSH Football Club. The event will be at 19:30 on 23rd May, and you can book a table now by calling / texting Steve Deane on 07881464280



Stoke sub Hamdon Football Club Race Night

Saturday 23rd May 2026

at Stoke Working Men's Club | 7.30pm till late

Racing on the big screen - Tote bets on the night

**To sponsor a horse or rider for the night enquire at the bar in advance
or to reserve a table contact Steve Deane 07881 464 280**

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

HISTORY GROUP Carol Parker 01935 825393

KNIT, CRAFT & NATTER GROUP Rosemary 07779 09372

MEDITATION & SHAMANIC CIRCLE Rosemary Stibbon 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).
Secretary Janet Littlefield janet.littlefield@btinternet.com web:
www.thetriangletrust.org

THE 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

MAY

- 1st Village Artists' Group – every Friday
in term time from 10:00 – 12:00
- 5th Longest Health Walk (5-6 miles,
option of pub lunch). From
Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50
- 5th Village Artists' Group – every
Tuesday in term time from
19:30 – 21:30
- 5th Brownies – every Tuesday at HF&YC
during term time
- 5th Football Senior Team training -
every Tuesday 18:30
- 6th Knit, Craft & Natter at Frank's Corner
Café every Wednesday from
10:30 – 12:00
- 6th Annual Parish Council meeting at
North Street Workshops 19:00
- 6th Afternoon Tea Club at the
Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15
- 7th Stoke Band Training Section every
Thursday at Castle School
19:00 – 19:45
- 7th Stoke Band every Thursday at Castle
School 20:00 – 22:00
- 9th Annual Village Meeting at The
Memorial Hall at 10:00
- 10th Village Litter Pick – meet at All
Saints' Hall at 09:00
- 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
- 12th Meditation & Shamanic Circle
2nd Tuesday of the month
at 21, West Street. 19:00
- 13th Wednesday Social Group –
fortnightly games afternoon at the
Lighthouse 14:00
- 18th Medium Health Walk (3-4 miles) from
Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50
- 18th Make Every Step Count Walk
(40 minutes) from Lighthouse café.
Meet 09:30
- 20th Afternoon Tea Club at the
Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15
- 21st Parish Councillor Surgeries at
7, North Street, 3rd Thursday
10:00 – 12:00 & 18:00 – 20:00
- 23rd Race Night - Football Club fundraiser
at WMC 19:30 start
- 26th Meditation & Shamanic Circle
4th Tuesday of the month
19:00 at 21, West Street
- 27th Gardening Club May talk – Wild
about Gardening Memorial Hall
19:15 for 19:30
- 27th Wednesday Social Group –
fortnightly games afternoon at the
Lighthouse 14:00
- 28th Memorial Hall fundraising quiz at the
Fleur de Lys 19:30

JUNE

- 3rd Afternoon Tea Club at the
Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15