



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The Parish Council met on Wednesday 5th November with quite a few apologies for absence due to various illnesses – it is that time of year unfortunately. Cllr Russell has recently resigned due to work and personal commitments and the process of advertising a casual vacancy and co-opting a new councillor was dealt with.

Plans for the festive lights in the village are coming together well – please note the lighting up ceremony will coincide with the school’s Christmas Fair on 3rd December, with the main tree switched on at 6.30pm – everyone is very welcome.

The survey of all the bins in the village has been carried out with a representative from the Waste Department at Somerset Council and the resulting recommendation was to buy four new co-mingle bins – these can take dog waste and litter and will lead to fewer bins which will ultimately save on regular collection costs. Equally important is the accompanying campaign to educate and inform residents about where and how to dispose of waste - please look out for more information about this on Facebook and on the noticeboards in the coming months.

Formal permission was granted for a new Openreach pole in the Memorial Hall grounds by Langlands, part of the expansion of fibre optic internet throughout the village, and approval was given to carry out a survey of the War Memorial at Ham Hill – the last one having been carried out 10 years ago. It will be interesting to see how it compares a decade later.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th December 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



STOKE SUB HAMDON VILLAGE ARTISTS

Oh dear, it won’t be long until Christmas.... so why not be inspired and treat yourself to paints, brushes, paper etc and come and join us to step back from the hubbub of the build up to the festive season? We are a very friendly group of amateur artists developing our artistic talent in a supportive and friendly environment! We have regular workshops led by local professional artists.

We meet at the Stoke 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 or SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com Facebook: Stoke Sub Hamdon The Village Artists Group.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST MARY’S CHURCH

You are all welcome to our two Christmas Services this year:

Christmas Carol Service. – Wednesday 17th December 7.00pm - Our Christmas Carol Service is the perfect way for all ages to start the Christmas season. Come and feel the true love of Christmas by singing carols performed by the Stoke Band and listen to readings old and new. The service will finish with mince pies and mulled wine. Please bring a torch as the church will be candlelit.

Midnight Mass – Wednesday 24th December 11.30pm: Join us in this very special service, as we welcome the birth of baby Jesus into our lives. This service of Holy Communion will be the only Christmas service at St Mary’s.

Both of these services will be led by Rev Coelette Parkes and will be her final services at Stoke before she completes her curacy in the New Year.

For further information about other services visit:

<https://hamhillchurches.org>



STOKE BAND NEWS

Our Christmas Concert is on Saturday 6th December at the Memorial Hall. Tickets will be £7.50 and will include pies and puds. Please phone Jane Herbert on 01460 351123 to book tickets, moneys payable on the night. We will be accepting cards as well as cash.

On Saturday 13th December, we will once again be playing carols outside at the Prince of Wales, from 2:00pm until 4:00pm. Please come and sing along with us.

Weather permitting, we will be carolling around Stoke as usual on Christmas Eve.



STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP: YOUR VILLAGE – YOUR SHOP

Thank you to everyone who supported the Children in Need Bake sale we raised £249.11 for a worthy cause. There will be a raffle for a Christmas Hamper in store in the lead up to Christmas as well as the Elf on a Shelf for the children. Castle Street pupils will again be helping to decorate the shop window.

Thank you to all for supporting us through 2025 and here's hoping for a bumper 2026. Happy Christmas from the shop to you all. Stoke Community Shop

Opening hours for the Christmas period are:-

Wednesday 24th	8-12	Christmas Day	Closed
Boxing Day	9-12	Saturday 27th	8-12
Sunday 28th	9-12	Thursday 1st Jan	9-12

All other days are as normal.



COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

The CSW Team would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and safe travels over the festive season. The winter months are often difficult for the team due to inclement weather, but we will endeavour to do as many Speed Watch Sessions as possible. There is a lot of work going on behind the scenes, working with the Police and Parish Council to work towards making our roads safer. Thank you for your continued support - Your Community Speed Watch Team.



MEMORIAL HALL NEWS

Our next quiz night is scheduled for Thursday 18th December - Christmas jumpers/attire encouraged and advance booking is strongly advised! We will hold a raffle on that night, prizes include a meal for 2 from JP, hamper, wine, etc. Raffle tickets will be available for sale in The Fleur from early December. Also note the prize for the winning Quiz team on 18th December is increased to a bottle of wine per person (max 6) courtesy of JP - get studying!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our User Groups and Customers for their continued support and for the grants received from the Parish Council, Sports & Rec Trust and Charity Shop and personal donations made for our insulation project. We do not operate for a profit, but to cover our costs, provide an affordable venue and maintain our Memorial Hall to a standard worthy of our fantastic village.



CHARITY SHOP

The Charity Shop is so grateful for all the very lovely items that are kindly donated to us. However, please can we ask that anything you do donate is clean and fit for sale, whether it be clothing, toys, electric items, or general bric-a-brac; otherwise, we have to organise their disposal which is time consuming and relies on the goodwill of our volunteers. Also, although we do our best to help out with other suggested worthwhile causes, it is important to remember that donations are given to us with the intention that they are sold in the shop with proceeds going back into the village, and so this has to be our main priority. We do however pass on

unsold items when we can, for example, small baby clothes and other items to Baby Basics; clothing to help support people in less fortunate countries; the local Warm Coat scheme, and also to fulfill requests for suitable items to help our local schools with projects.



THE LIGHTHOUSE CAFÉ – ALL SAINTS CHAPEL

Every Monday, this community café is open between 10.00 – 1.00pm, offering visitors a warm welcome, as well as homemade cakes, bacon rolls, and other tasty items. All are welcome.

We are looking for further volunteers to help serve in the café. This would require giving up two hours of your time – weekly, monthly or whenever you are available. Training will be provided. Any help would be welcome. Why not pop into the café and speak to other volunteers or just come in for a cup of coffee and a chat!

For further details speak to Colleen Jerrold – Tel: 079620122631.



STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDENING CLUB

No Meeting in December

*Yule is come - mince pies and such
But in the garden nothing much
Catalogues of seeds abound -
Seeds to scatter in the ground
Waiting for Springs rain and sun
Watch them grow - its such good fun!
Seasons Greetings from the
Gardening Club*



FATHER CHRISTMAS

Father Christmas has made time in his busy schedule to pop into our Charity Shop on the morning of Wednesday 24th of December.

We'll be opening the shop specially for him, so do pop along between 10:30 and 12:00 if you'd like to say hello (and buy your last-minute Christmas gifts!)



STOKE HEALTH WALKS

Days seem shorter now, but you can feel brighter and fitter after walking and talking in the fresh air in daylight.

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.

Dates of walks:

Note change of last walk before Christmas to fit in with Lighthouse opening. Please join us for refreshments in the Lighthouse after the walk on 15th.

Mondays 8th & 15th Start 9.30. Shortest 'Make Every Step Count', 40 mins flat walk on pavements.

Mondays 8th & 15th Meet 9.50 Walk start 10.00 Medium walks 3-4 miles 90 minutes, mixture of pavements/footpaths.

Tuesday 2nd - Longest walk 5-6 miles. Meet 09.50, Walk start 10.00. Option of a pub lunch after the walk.

For more information contact Sue 07792311736



WARM WINTER WEDNESDAY GAMES AFTERNOON

Thank you to everyone who has turned up to make these afternoons such fun. We have discovered "Beetle Drive" and Rummykub. Some even tried to remember the rules of draughts which they hadn't played for decades!

I am opening the Lighthouse cafe for a Warm Winter social at 2 pm on the 17th of December for a mulled wine and mince pie afternoon. I will then take the rest of December off, coming back on the 7th of January.

Come and join us in the New Year, make new friendships, have a chat and a fun afternoon. For further information call. Lyn Foley on 07714005265



CHARITY SHOP CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Christmas decorations and gift sale on Saturday, 8 November. We made an amazing profit of £606.89 on the day which will be available to help towards various projects within the village. We would also like to thank all our lovely volunteers who worked hard to make the day so special and to Santa who paid us a visit. If you didn't manage to



get to the sale, don't worry as we will still have lots of lovely decorations and gifts in the shop throughout December, plus the chance to pick up a Christmas jumper whilst you're with us! Our two lovely raffles from the sale will be

continuing in the shop until winners are drawn on 23rd of December and so, there is still the chance to win these - a strip of five tickets for the two main prizes are selling for £1 and a strip of five tickets for the children's hamper selling for 50p.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2025

There are only a few places left for the Christmas meal in All Saints Hall (The Lighthouse Café) on December 25th at 13:00. Please let me know by email on lafoley@live.co.uk, or by phone on 07714 005265 if you'd like to book a place, and please remember to let us know of any allergies or if you are vegetarian. Please also include your contact details so I can get back to you. Also, please let me know if you need transport. Thanks Lyn Foley



the Friends of Ham Hill

WREATH MAKING WORKSHOPS AT HAM HILL

Join Tinkers Bubble for a cosy festive wreath workshop. All tools provided, with natural materials locally grown and responsibly foraged.

Festive refreshments included. Friends and family welcome to watch and lend a hand.

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Sunday 14th December 2025
Time: 1st Session - 11am to 1pm or 2nd Session - 1.30pm to 3.30pm
Price: Adults £30, Children (8-16) £20
Pay on the day by cash or card.

To Book email: info@friendsofhamhill.org

Sponsored by the Friends of Ham Hill



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

DECEMBER

- 2nd Longest Health Walk (5-6 miles, option of pub lunch). From Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50
- 2nd Village Artists' Group – every Tuesday in term time from 19:30 – 21:30
- 2nd Brownies – every Tuesday at HF&YC during term time
- 2nd Football Senior Team training - every Tuesday 18:30
- 3rd Christmas Lights switch on at Castle School 18:30
- 3rd Knit, Craft & Natter at Frank's Corner Café every Wednesday from 10:30 – 12:00
- 3rd Warm Winter Wednesday – Games at the Lighthouse Café 14:00
- 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 in term time from 10:00 – 12:00
- 6th Stoke Band Christmas Concert at the Memorial Hall
- 8th Make Every Step Count Walk (40 minutes) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:30
- 8th 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
- 10th Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15
- 10th Parish Council meeting at North Street Workshops 19:00
- 13th Stoke Band – Carols at The Prince of Wales 14:00 – 16:00
- 15th Medium Health Walk (3-4 miles) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:50
- 15th Make Every Step Count Walk (40 minutes) from Lighthouse café. Meet 09:30
- 14th Wreath-making on Ham Hill 11:00 - 13:00 & 13:30 – 15:30
- 17th Warm Winter Wednesday – Mulled wine and mince pies at the Lighthouse Café 14:00
- 17th Christmas Carols at St Mary's Church 19:00
- 18th Parish Councillor Surgeries at 7, North Street, 3rd Thursday 10:00 – 12:00 & 18:00 – 20:00
- 18th Memorial Hall fundraising quiz at the Fleur de Lys 19:30
- 23rd Meditation & Shamanic Circle 4th Tuesday of the month 19:00 at 21, West Street
- 24th Father Christmas at Stoke Charity Shop from 10:30
- 24th Midnight Mass at St Mary's Church 23:30
- 25th Christmas Lunch in All Saints Hall – 13:00

JANUARY 2026

- 7th Warm Winter Wednesday – fortnightly games afternoon at the Lighthouse 14:00
- 14th Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15