



VILLAGE NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2026



News from the office of the Parish Council

The Parish Council met early in August rather than taking their usual summer break. This allowed for updates and discussions on various matters.

A planning application had been received with amendments to the proposed dwellings on the land behind Stanchester Academy. This was covered under 'Correspondence' as it had arrived after publication of the agenda, and an extension to the deadline to submit comments had not been granted. Members delegated authority to the Clerk to respond on their behalf concluding that they still objected strongly to the proposal as before and the amendments were of no material difference.

Other items discussed included a planned meeting between the Speedwatch Group and a representative from Highways, aided in its organisation by Sarah Dyke, MP following a letter sent to her after the Annual Meeting in May.

Despite the heatwave, the Christmas Lights Working Group had met and plans for the display in the village are going well with proposed additions to last year's display, to include two real lit trees, and more brackets mounted on properties in the heart of the village.

The drop-in session with our local PCSO in August was unfortunately cancelled at short notice as he was called to assist with a serious road traffic incident in Somerton. All being well, he will again be available on **Sunday 13th September, from 10am to 12 noon in the Parish Office.**

The well at the bottom of Lake Lane used to have a sign warning people that the water is not suitable for drinking. Please remember that it is non-potable, but is useful for watering plants in this current drought!

Finally, there was a request to residents in the Cole Lane area, not to dump their garden waste on the banks there. The debris eventually falls down and can block the drains at the bottom which our Parish Ranger works hard to keep clear of mud and free-flowing.

The Parish Council meets again in September on Wednesday 9th September at 7pm in the Parish Office.

OVERGROWN PATHWAYS

Please check if you own a hedge or trees that borders a pavement or footpath in case it has become so overgrown that it hinders pedestrian use. The full width of pavements must be accessible for pedestrians and if brambles or other overgrowth prevents them from using it safely they may need to go out into a road, or fight their way through which could cause them to injure themselves!

NEWSLETTER EDITOR – VACANCY

If you are interested in this role, please contact the Clerk by email. In the meantime, please can contributors note that any items for the newsletter need to be sent to the Clerk who will be 'babysitting' the newsletter production, together with Cllrs Burton and Hulett, until a replacement editor is found.

The email to use is: clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk



Stoke History Group

If you have any old village photographs, historic stories or memorabilia about this village, we would love to see and take copies for the future. Please our FaceBook page or email: stokesubhamdonhistory@gmail.com

St Mary's Harvest Festival

We are holding our Harvest Festival on **Sunday 20th September at 3.00pm** at St Mary's, Stoke sub Hamdon. This is an informal service involving a number of people from the village, weather permitting, the service will be held outside in the churchyard. If not, it will be held inside the church.



There is currently one vacancy for a Parish Councillor following a recent resignation. Are you interested in joining the Parish Council and helping us to support and protect our village facilities and activities?

Councillors are the champions of their community and give residents and others a voice on the decisions the Parish Council makes. A Councillor can make a real difference by engaging with residents, local groups and businesses to find out their needs and help to make decisions on services and projects the Council should take forward.

How much time will I have to commit?

How long is a piece of string! There is only one formal Parish Council meeting per month and training can be provided in all areas - it really depends how involved you want to be! We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm.

If you would like to know more, please contact our Parish Clerk on clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk or send a summary with details of why you'd like to be considered, and previous experience or relevant skills that you could bring to the council.

Join us and make a difference!

Litter Pick

This month's litter pick will be **Sunday 13th September meeting at 9am** at the All Saints' Hall. Bring gardening gloves and stout shoes/boots for a dose of exercise and feeling good about yourself. Coffee afterwards courtesy of Maria at Frank's Corner and the Community Shop. The more volunteers we have the more of the village we can tidy up! More info if needed from helivet@msn.com

Stoke sub Hamdon Band News... Two dates for your diary

Saturday 19th September the band will be performing a Harvest Concert at the Prince of Wales at 2:30pm.

On Thursday 24th September is the band's AGM. It will be in Castle School at 8:00pm. It is an open meeting, all are welcome.

What a difference a day makes...

An amazing group of villagers took to their hoes and wheelbarrows clearing the weeds in their street and making their village look just the best. CASTLE STREET looks fantastic!



Stoke Community Shop... Your Village... Your Shop

We held a successful AGM in the middle of July where the members were appraised of the past year's trading. Thank you to all of you who use the community shop and keep us going. It is only by walking through that door that you will realise how comprehensive we are in our offering. A visitor who came in for the first time recently commented on how well stocked we are and how reasonable the prices are. Don't forget we also do refills for such things as laundry liquids, toilet cleaner, washing up liquid, shampoo and conditioner, handwash soap, antibacterial cleaner and glass cleaner. These all allow you to reduce cost and reduce plastic going to landfill or being incinerated. We also aim to be responsive to customer needs and will buy in products for you.

We continue to do home deliveries for those residents who can't easily come to us. Ring between 9 and 12 in the mornings with your order Monday to Friday and a jolly delivery person will be brightening up your day! Our advert in the parish newsletter in July attracted 2 new volunteers, thank you to them but there is always room for more to join our happy band. **Ring on 01935 509100** to volunteer or to leave an order.

Exciting News: Hamdon Youth and Family Centre is ready for bookings!

We are thrilled to announce that the Hamdon Youth and Family Centre is very much open for new bookings! We provide a bright, warm, and welcoming space for our community. Whether you're planning a weekly group activity or a one-off celebration, our facility is ready to host you.

What can you book for?

The venue is available for a wide variety of youth and children's activities, including:

- **Birthday Parties**
- **Christmas Discos & Seasonal Celebrations**
- **After-School Clubs & Youth Groups**
- **Sports, Dance & Play Sessions**

Special Rates for Stoke sub Hamdon Residents.

We are proud to support our local community. If you reside in Stoke-sub-Hamdon, you are eligible for exclusive discounted hiring rates!

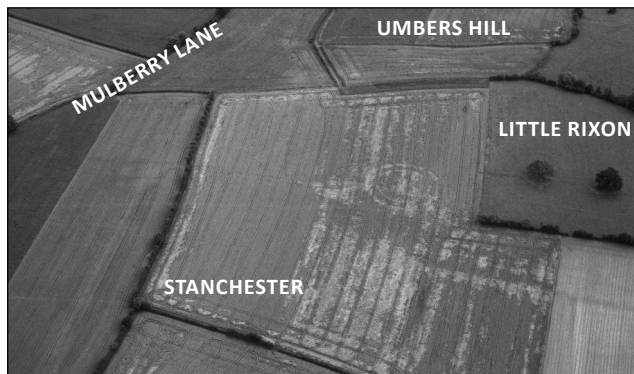
How to book... *Reserving your slot is quick and easy:*

1. Head over to our official website (www.hamdonyouthcentre.co.uk)
2. Check real-time availability for the Hall.
3. Submit your booking request directly online!

Thank you for supporting the Hamdon Youth and Family Centre. We can't wait to welcome you to our freshly transformed space!

From our past.. Stocket 'East Stoke' credit: South West Heritage Trust Records

The field called Stanchester has been so called "from time immemorial" and the existence of Roman buildings there has been suspected for many years. In the spring of 1919 a visit to the field when under plough revealed fragments of roofing tile over the whole field with most in the north-west corner, numerous coloured tesserae and Romano-British pottery including a few pieces of Samian and New Forest ware, together with a small portion of mortarium. An area 18ft by 10ft was uncovered and roofing tiles of clay stone and slate were found, together with



a large broken piece of a Samian bowl, a bone spoon, a flint pounder, pieces of decorated wall plaster, fine-tile brick and pottery. On the west side of the floor was a two-course wall of dressed Hamstone running north to south and to the west of that was another concrete floor which was not uncovered.

Stanchester overlooks the Roman road, the Fosse Way (now the A303).

War Memorial Vandalised

The Parish Council has been made aware of an incident of vandalism at the War Memorial which we believe may have occurred over the weekend of 8th & 9th August. Graffiti using unpleasant language has been scratched into the steps. Causing criminal damage to commemorative structures can lead to severe fines and prison sentences of up to 10 years depending on jurisdiction and severity. The matter has been reported to the police and we are appealing for witnesses. If anyone has any information, please email the Clerk in the first instance on clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk

The Parish Council placed this news on FaceBook and there was an outpouring of sadness, with over 750 engagements, over 100 comments and over 60 shares, all joining us in our sorrow and restoring our faith in human nature. Some planned restoration work next month will hopefully enable some of the damage to be repaired.

News from Stoke sub Hamdon Sports and Recreation Trust

It has been a very busy couple of months managing the big Rec on behalf of the Parish Council and we have been working on the following projects:

Pavilion Floor - the wooden pavilion floor was rotting and a lot of work has been undertaken to fix the problems arising from that. The floor in both changing rooms is now concrete and one wall to the shower room had to be replaced. We also had the showers serviced at the same time. This project is now complete and the changing rooms and showers are ready for the new season.

CCTV - The CCTV has now been installed on a mast monitoring the adventure play area, BMX track and the skateboard park and on the pavilion monitoring the car park and West Street entrance.

Safety Netting around Oak Tree House - we have selected a supplier and have paid the 50% deposit and the plan is for work to start on site 1st September.

Wooden Play Equipment Refurbishment - This is a major refurbishment of the Multi-Use Climbing Frame and Slide. Work commenced mid-August and should be complete in early September - unfortunately during that time the unit will not be usable and will be fenced off.

News from the Stoke sub Hamdon Charity Shop

Thanks to your kind donations, the Charity Shop has been able to take several more bags of unsold, good-quality aged 0-6 months baby clothes to the Baby Basics charity this week. They are extremely appreciative of everything we take across to them and we look forward to supporting the charity into the future.

I am sure most people know that the Charity Shop falls under the umbrella of the Sports & Recreation Trust and therefore everything we raise goes back into the village - 50% of our profit is allocated as grants to support education, recreation and sports and the remaining 50% is retained by the Trust to help with the larger projects, such as the newly-installed CCTV. Therefore please continue to bring in your lovely donations to the Charity Shop as the money we raise is always put to good use.

Finally, the Charity Shop will be holding its **Annual Christmas decorations and Gift Sale** in the Memorial Hall on **Saturday, 14 November between 10am and 2pm**. However, this year we plan to include a number of other craft stalls and so if anyone would like to book a place, please do contact me (Denise 07788 900672). Stalls will cost £12 and include a table.

Our **AGM is in All Saints Hall (The Lighthouse) Monday, 7 September at 6.30pm** and so if you would like to hear more about what goes on in the Charity Shop, please do come along. You are sure to receive a warm welcome.

Stoke sub Hamdon Gardening Club - Wednesday 23rd September

Our first topic of the autumn is: "Getting Ready for Winter With Herbs". Carrie Pakenham, a member of The Herb Society, will bring samples to show how to recognise herbs, plus plants to sell, as well as jars of her own jellies. Come and find out how you can preserve some of the summer's sunshine for lighting up the dark winter days. Visitors welcome, £5 fee to be re-funded if you join.

Contact Tricia on secsshgardeningclub@gmail.com for further details.

Doors open: 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. start. Venue: The Memorial Hall.

Memorial Hall News

Firstly apologies to our neighbours who have been annoyed by our alarm regularly going off for no apparent reason. The alarm company has now undertaken an inspection of our system and replaced one sensor that caused the problem. The situation should now be resolved.

We have been lucky to purchase two new floor fans that were in stock to help alleviate this excessive heat period. They are located within the hall for use as required.

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! **Our Autumn term commences on Friday 4th 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 10.00am to 12.30pm** during school term time. **FREE** first visit to see how you get on! For more information on the group contact **Andrew on (01935) 823691, SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com**

Make Every Step Count

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.

Dates of walks for September see overleaf.

VILLAGE CONTACTS

ALL SAINTS HALL Bookings – Ann Bartlett 07709 609488
BROWNIES at HY&FC – Sarah Redington 07412 084014
stokesubhamdonbrownies@gmail.com
CASTLE KIDS PATCH - Dusk Eastment: dusk@castlekidspatch.com 07540 341909
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 08456 434702
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 stokesubhamdonhistory@gmail.com
KNIT, CRAFT & NATTER GROUP Rosemary Stibbon 07779 093723
MEDITATION & SHAMANIC CIRCLE Rosemary Stibbon 07779 093723
MEMORIAL HALL Geoffrey Unkovich Bookings Secretary:
bookings.stokememorialhall@gmail.com
PARISH COUNCIL Clerk: clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk
POLICE CONTACT POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT Ian Cromey-Hawke:
ian.cromey-hawke@avonandsomerset.police.uk 07710 026180
QUIRKY QUILTERS - suebrandt@googlemail.com
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
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 - Jo Howarth thetriangletrust@gmail.com www.thetriangletrust.org
THE VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP Chair - Andrew Toosey 07484 142880
SSHthevillageartistsgroup@gmail.com
ST MARY'S (Church of England) - www.hamhillchurches.org
WALKING GROUP - 'Health Walk' Walking Group
walk leaders Sue at 07792 311736 or Doug at 07778 946508

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY SEPTEMBER

1st **Football** Senior Team training - every Tuesday 18:30
 1st **Make Every Step Count Walk** Longest walk 5-6 miles. Meet 9.50 Walk start 10.00
 2nd **Knit, Craft & Natter** at Frank's Corner Café every Wednesday from 10:30 – 12:00
 3rd **Stoke Band Training** Section every Thursday at Castle School 19:00 – 19:45
 3rd **Stoke Band** every Thursday at Castle School 20:00 – 22:00
 4th **Castle Kids Patch** Garden & Chat drop in for adults - every Friday 10:00-12:00 at North Street Allotments
 4th **The Village Artists Group** Autumn term commences Friday mornings 10.00 to 12.30 pm and Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9:30 pm
 6th **Police Community Support** drop-in at Parish Offices 10:00 – 12:00
 7th **Charity Shop** AGM, 6.30 in All Saints Hall (the Lighthouse)
 8th **Meditation & Shamanic Circle** 2nd Tuesday of the month at 21, West Street. 19:00
 9th **Parish Council meeting** at North Street Workshops 19:00
 9th **Afternoon T-Club** at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15
 13th **Litter Pick** meet at the Lighthouse 9am
 13th **PCSO Drop-in Session** 10am - 12pm, Council Office
 14th **Make Every Step Count Walk** Start 9.30. Shortest 40 mins flat walk on pavements.
 14th **Make Every Step Count Walk** Meet 9.50 Walk start 10.00 Medium walks 3-4 miles 90 minutes, mixture of pavements/footpaths.
 17th **Parish Council Surgeries** at 7, North Street, 3rd Thursday 10:00 – 12:00 & 18:00 – 20:00
 19th **Stoke Band** will be performing a Harvest Concert at the Prince of Wales at 2:30pm
 20th **Harvest Festival** at 3.00pm at St Mary's Stoke sub Hamdon
 22nd **Meditation & Shamanic Circle** 4th Tuesday of the month 19:00 at 21, West Street
 23rd **Afternoon T-Club** at the Lighthouse Café 14:15 – 16:15
 23rd **Gardening Club** - Memorial Hall 19:15 for 19:30
 24th **Stoke Band's AGM** Castle School at 8:00pm
 24th **Memorial Hall fundraising Quiz** Fleur de Lis 7pm
 26th **World Challenge Knit and Natter** Lighthouse Café 9:30-11:30
 28th **Make Every Step Count Walk** Start 9.30. Shortest 40 mins flat walk on pavements.
 28th **Make Every Step Count Walk** Meet 9.50 Walk start 10.00 Medium walk 3-4 miles 90 minutes, mixture of pavements/footpaths.

Please send information for the Village Newsletter to
 clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk by 16th of the month before publication.
 If you would like a larger print copy of this newsletter please contact
 the clerk with your name and address.
 The Village Newsletter is produced with grateful thanks to
 Stoke sub Hamdon Parish Council