

CONTACTS

Church of England at St. Mary's 1st Sunday: 8.00am Communion 11.00am informal "Cafe-style" service (at All Saints Hall); 2nd Sunday: 11.00am communion; 3rd Sunday: 8.00am Communion 11.00am morning worship; 4th Sunday: 11.00am morning worship.	Associate Vicar: Rev Annie Gurner, 824167, revgurner@btinternet.com Parish Office, 1 Castle Street TA14 6RE website: www.hamhillchurches.org
BODY CONDITIONING CLASS - Weekly - Monday 6.30pm - 7.30pm (Memorial Hall)	Sue Menzies 01935 829632
BOWLS CLUB - Weekly - Friday, 7.00pm - 9.30pm (Memorial Hall)	Sylvia Warry 822044
BOYS BRIGADE - Weekly - Thursday 6.00pm - 7.30pm (now at Martock Christian Fellowship)	Ian Rumbelow 881712
BRIDGE CLUB - Weekly - Monday starting at 8.30pm (Working Mens Club)	
BROWNIES - Weekly - Every Tuesday during term time (Hamdon Youth & Family Centre)	Jackie Poole 01935 823606
CRIME & MYSTERY BOOK GROUP	Kathy Smith 07366979178
"EVERY STEP COUNTS" - 9.30am & "HEALTH WALKS" 10.30am. Meet outside the Lighthouse	Penny on 822208 or Mark 07496 148756
FLEXERCISE FOR FUN - At Oak Tree House every Monday at 2.30pm	Di Ramsay 0845 6434702
FOOTBALL - SENIOR TEAMS - Training Tuesday evenings 6.30pm. Matches weekend	Ashleigh Bussell 07969 106205
FOOTBALL - YOUTH TEAMS - Training weekday evenings. Matches Saturdays & Sundays	Kim Campbell 07973 650121 email kimcamb73@me.com
FOOTPATHS - problems and issues contact the Parish Clerk	Sarah Moore, Clerk 822455
GARDENING CLUB - Monthly - Fourth Wednesday 7.30pm (Memorial Hall)	Sue Winwood 823671
HAM HILL COUNTRY PARK - VOLUNTEER RANGERS - Weekly Wed. 10.00am - 3.30pm (Ranger's Office)	Paul McNeill 07973 3887129
HAMDON BRASS BAND	Sonja Hellier 01460 241297 email pipershaun@hotmail.com
HAMDON PLAYGROUP - Monday - Friday term time, 8.30 am - 3.30 pm. 2 years old, 3/4 years old and 30 hours funding available.	Ann or Karen 01935 826832 Email: hamdonplaygroup@btinternet.com
HAMDON COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECT -	Maria Eames 01935 824064
HISTORY GROUP	Carol Parker 825393
LADIES CIRCUITS Thursday at 6pm in the Memorial Hall	Sue Menzies 829632r
LIGHTHOUSE CAFE - Monday & Thursday 10.00am - 1.00pm	Sarah Russell 826355
MAY FAYRE - Annual Event for Sports & Recreation Trust	Denise Burton 827793
MEDITATION GROUP - Tuesdays at 8.00pm in the HCAP building (URC)	Emma Herrod 01935 829443
MEMORIAL HALL BOOKING SECRETARY	bookings.stokememorialhall@hotmail.com, Jill Uhlhorn 829513
PARISH COUNCIL - Monthly First Wednesday 7.15pm (Memorial Hall)	Barbara Brooks, Chairman 824432 Sarah Moore, Clerk 822455
POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER	Malissa Thompson email malissathompson@avonandsomerset-police.uk and Carole Brown email: carolebrown@avonandsomerset-police.uk
POP-IN - Weekly - Thursday (Oak Tree House)	Paul Spearpoint 826375
POST OFFICE COUNTER (INSIDE THE SHOP AT THE CROSS)	
OPENING TIMES Monday & Friday 9.00am to 12 noon, Thursday 1.00pm to 4.00pm (excluding Bank Holidays)	
SEATED CHAIR EXERCISES - Friday at 10am in the All Saints Hall	
SONG BUS SINGING GROUP - Weekly Wednesday 9.15am - term time. All Saints Hall	Sue Menzies 829632
STOKE AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION	Jeanette Rumbelow 06749 733686
STOKE BABY & TODDLER GROUP - Memorial Hall, Thurs 9.30am to 11.30am in term time	Derek Goad, 824337
STOKE LUNCH CLUB FOR OLDER PEOPLE - Lighthouse Café last Wednesday of the month.	carolyn_jeffley@hotmail.com Facebook: @StokeBabyAndToddlerGroup
STOKE SUB HAMDON BAND - Monday & Thursday 8.00pm - 10.00pm Band Room, back of URC Training Band - Thursdays at Band Room, 7.00pm - 7.45pm	Lyn Foley 01935 823051/077114 005265 Gill Robins 01935 329904 Jane Herbert 01460 419317
STOKE PERFORMING ARTS GROUP	Jeanie 01935 579592 or Moira.info@stokeperformingartsgroup.co.uk
TAEKWONDO & LITTLE DRAGONS - Mondays 5.00pm - 5.30pm Little Dragons; 5.30pm - 6.15pm Taekwondo Adults (Stanchester) 6.15pm - 7.00pm Taekwondo Adults (Stanchester)	Jennie Clark 07921 393425
TAI CHI - Weekly - Thursday 4.00pm - 5.00pm in Memorial Hall	John 07721 060901
TINY TURRETS (Castle Primary School) - Foundation Stage Unit for children aged 2 - 4 years Two daily sessions 9.00am - 12 noon and 12 noon - 3pm. Extended provision available from 7.45am - 5.30pm ages 3+	Castle Primary School Office 01935 822342
TRIANGLE TRUST - Raising funds for Hamdon Medical Centre	Jennie Harris 881718
VILLAGE AGENT - Cluster SS2 Cath Holloway	cath@somersetccc.org.uk Tel: 07968 521746
VILLAGE ARTISTS - Monday 10.00am - 12.30pm, Friday 10.00am - 12 noon (Memorial Hall) Thursday 7.30pm - 9.30pm (Memorial Hall)	Diana Bailey 01935 881647
WORKING MENS CLUB - Daily - Lunch times & evenings	Mark Greaves 01935 823297
YOUTH CLUB - Weekly - Monday 7.00pm at Hamdon Youth & Family Centre Youth Worker Lou on 07402 987921 or email lou.chant@cyp.me.uk	

PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIR'S UPDATE

Following a business plan presentation at January's meeting councillors were delighted to give their wholehearted backing to the new proposed Stoke Community Shop project. We have agreed to grant £3,900 towards set-up costs and refurbishment of the shop which is planned to open in early March. Keeping the shop and Post Office in the village is such an important benefit for those of our residents unable to travel to Yeovil for whatever reason and who rely on local shops. We wish the venture every success.

Council tax rates for next year

At January's meeting, the Parish Council agreed its Precept for the coming financial year. The Precept is the "proportion" of your Council Tax which is managed by the Parish Council and represents a small proportion of your overall Council Tax charge. For 2020/2021 our Tax Base figure increases from 722.38 to 732.08. This is because the number "taxable" properties in the Parish has increased as a result of recent building (less of course the number of properties that are either exempt from council tax or those that get a discount).

In order to meet clear community needs in our Budget it was agreed that the Precept amount from the District Council needed to increase from £61,135.00 to £68,471.20 this year to finance the level of grant activity and projects we are involved with. This is a 10.5% increase in the Band D equivalent; it will mean the Village Precept proportion of your Council Tax for properties falling into Band D will change from £84.63 to £93.53, this is an increase of £8.90/annum.

The increase this year should allow us to help fund

- the location of a movable Speed monitoring & safety device across the village
 - to put money aside for the potential installation of a Bus shelter in 2021
 - to put money aside for the Cemetery Project
 - to fund small village landscape improvements
 - it will also help to fund grant support for
 - £3,900 - the Village Community Shop
 - £12,500 - the Hamdon Community Art Centre Project
- as these were new requests to the council not initially allowed for in this year's budget, and councillors agreed they were important for the village.

The PC will continue with its annual grant support for: The Memorial Hall, the Stoke Sports & Recreation Ground, Hamdon Youth & Family Centre, the Hamdon Youth Group, and our partnership with Age UK Somerset for the Friendly Visitor scheme for older people.

Hugh Donovan – Chair of Finance Committee

Contact details: Barbara Brooks, Chair of the Parish Council
Tel: 824432; Email: chairshpc@hotmail.com
Tamarisk, High St (opp. Working Men's Club)

Articles for the Newsletter, or to advertise forthcoming events; please email or post to Sarah Moore by 16th of previous month. Contact information is on the bottom of the back page of this newsletter.

PARISH COUNCIL CLERK: MRS. SARAH MOORE, 24 HIGH STREET, STOKE SUB HAMDON TA14 6PS
TELEPHONE: 01935 822455 E-MAIL: clerkshpc@hotmail.co.uk

For any advice and further/up-to-date information on incidents please go to the website: www.police.uk. If you are a witness to or the victim of a crime, then it is imperative that you report it to the police immediately whether it is during the day or at night. When reporting an incident please telephone either 101 for non-emergencies or 999 for emergencies only.

WINTER GRITTING/GRIT BINS AND ROADSIDE SALT

During the next couple of months, we may experience icy conditions and possible snow. Somerset County Council are responsible for carrying out the gritting of main roads. They will be operating 23 gritting lorries, running out of 5 depots across the county.

A map of the gritting network will be published on the Travel Somerset website where it can be viewed in greater detail at www.travelsomerset.co.uk/gritting or, you can follow @TravelSomerset on Twitter for winter weather updates and gritting decisions.

Remember...

- Only the busiest roads are salted, most are not - drive safely.
- In icy conditions braking distances can increase tenfold.
- Regularly check your tyre treads throughout the season.
- It takes time for salt to become effective.
- Rain can wash salt off roads.
- In very low temperatures even salting does not prevent icing.
- Extra caution is needed when driving in bad weather.

The parish council have provided a number of grit bins around the village. These are so you can grit roads mainly at junctions where it proves difficult/dangerous to enter or exit. The grit is not there for your own personal use i.e. paths leading up to your property.

When using the grit please make sure you distribute it sparingly as this ensures maximum efficiency. If large amounts are put down in one area this also causes a slip hazard! If the grit bin near you is empty, please report it to the Parish Clerk. Contact details are at the bottom of this newsletter.

Pavements - There is no law stopping you from clearing snow and ice on the pavement outside your home or from public spaces. It's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries sustained if you have cleared it carefully. Follow the Snow Code when clearing snow and ice safely.

- don't make the pathways more dangerous by causing them to refreeze
 - Clear the snow or ice early in the day. Use salt or sand – not water
 - Take care where you move the snow
 - Offer to clear your neighbour's path. Please consider whether you have elderly residents living near you - do they need your help?
- For further information on the Snow Code please go to <https://www.gov.uk/clear-snow-road-path-cydeaway>.

THANK YOU!

The Parish Council would like to thank all the responsible dog owners in the village who are picking up after their dogs. There are several bins around the village, and it is good to see that they are being used. We are really grateful that this is being done and hope that many others follow your lead.

We would also like to thank the wonderful residents in the village who have been picking up litter, clearing weeds and generally keeping the village clean and tidy. We live in a beautiful village and it is great to see and hear what everyone has been doing. We really appreciate these acts of kindness in keeping the village looking so good.

STOKE ACTIVE WALKERS

Tuesday, 4th February 2020

Our February walk will begin by going along Bowey, then across to Norton Path and down Sandy Lane. We will go past Norton Mill, then take the footpath across to the back of Norton and follow the path to take us along towards Chiselborough. From there we will go around the back of Chiselborough Church and past the Cat Head towards Chincock, then double back into Chiselborough, down through Manor Farm and then back to Norton to the Lord Nelson for lunch.

We meet at 10.30am at Sea Wall, about 50 yards on the Montacute side of Bonnies Lane. Please wear suitable boots or shoes and clothing according to the weather. All our walks are free, and we welcome new walkers to our friendly group. Well behaved dogs are also welcome. ALL WALKS ARE UNDER TAKEN AT THE WALKERS OWN RISK. For more information please contact Norman on 01935 822792.

SCARECROW COMPETITION

The overall standard was superb, and we had a terrible job picking the winner from all the wonderful scarecrows. The judges' decision was that Moira had a slight edge on a very close second from Castle school, but the smallest of margins. We had no idea how hard it would be - although it might seem trivial. We had real trouble separating the rest, so they all came 3rd. I want to thank you all for the amazing scarecrows that were made in such a short space of time and we will be doing it again this Christmas and hope the standard will be as hard to judge as these were. This year as well we will do a trail so you can walk around the village to find them. Thanks very much to each and every one who entered and to Simon Hester who helped with the judging.

NEW COMMUNITY PLACE OF SAFETY FOR STOKE

Our village now has a secure environment for our community during an emergency. The Memorial Hall has been granted the status of a Place of Safety and will be able to offer care and comfort at short notice. The Hall will be able to offer light refreshments, heating, disabled access, toilets and will be the local point of contact to the responding voluntary agencies and the Somerset Local Authorities Civil Contingencies Partnership. Thank you to the Hall Committee for organising this!

WE ARE ON RADIO SOMERSET!

Our very own Memorial Hall got a huge recommendation on radio earlier in January. One of the Radio Somerset presenters had to fulfil a New Year's challenge to learn to Morris Dance - and guess where he did it? None other than our own village hall of course! The South Petherton Morris Dancers hold their

Afternoon Tea

As our previous Afternoon Tea extravaganza was such a success and due to popular demand we are hosting another date. This will be Saturday afternoon on 15th February between 2pm and 5pm in the Lighthouse Café. Tables can be booked by phoning Lyn Foley on 01935 823051.

STOKE SUB HAMDON SPORTS AND RECREATION TRUST

The Sports and Recreation Trust will be holding its AGM on Tuesday, 3rd March at 7.30pm at the Stoke sub Hamdon Working Men's Club. All are invited and very welcome to attend.

STOKE PERFORMING ARTS GROUP

Despite the inclement weather the Stoke Carollers were able to raise £230 for Children's Hospice South West from carol singing around the village before Christmas. Special thanks must go to Susan at the Fleur and to Stoke Club for providing much welcomed hot mulled wine and mince pies for our efforts!

Stoke Performing Arts Group is looking forward to starting its next project, 'The Chicken House Chicks'. It is a play about the Women's Land Army girls who worked at Castle Farm during the Second World War, penned by our very own Angela Hodges. You can find out more about this by visiting our Facebook page.

Script readings will have taken place in January and rehearsals begin in February. However, SPAG is always keen to involve new people as well as those more established members of the group. We would particularly love to hear from any younger females from our community who could take on the 'land girl' roles in this production.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Jeannie on 01935 579592 or Moira at info@stokeperformingartsgroup.co.uk or visit our Facebook page.

GARDENING CLUB

Stoke sub Hamdon Gardening Club are hosting a talk on Wednesday, 26th February by Trudi Jupp on her experiences in Kenya following the AGM at 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall. Teas, coffees and homemade cakes are available.

New members are welcome - also new Committee members to help give this Club a new lease of life! For further information contact Tricia Toosey, Secretary of the Club on 01935 823691.

HAMDON COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECT

Ruby and the Rockets will be playing on Saturday, 15th February in the Memorial Hall. The doors open at 7pm. Licenced bar. Tickets, including supper £15. Booking office 01935 824064 - leave a message and we will return your call. Feel free to dress in style! Fundraising event on behalf of Hamdon Community Arts Project

ELECTRICITY AND GAS TOP UPS

British Gas top ups for electricity and gas are no longer available at the Co-Op opposite Stanchester School. This service is AVAILABLE at Norton Post Office.

However, if you use this payment method, please note that the Post Office closes on Saturday afternoons from 12 Noon and all day on Sundays. It opens at 9am each morning, is closed

between 1pm and 2pm each weekday and closes at 5.30pm in the afternoon (except Wednesday at 4.30pm).

Elizabeth Maunder, Norton sub Hamdon CLT

EVERY STEP COUNTS AND HEALTH WALKS

Why not come along and join us on our led walks and enjoy seeing the lovely, everchanging countryside around Stoke. You will receive a warm welcome, lively conversation and the opportunity for a cup of tea or lunch at the Lighthouse Café after the walks.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month and both walks start and end at the Lighthouse Café opposite the Fleur de Lis pub.

'Every Step Counts' walks begin at 9.30am and last approx. 30 to 40 mins, walking on pavements or paths around the village.

Health Walks start at 10.30am and last approx. 90 minutes, walking along tracks, footpaths and occasionally ascending Ham Hill and visiting neighbouring villages.

Just turn up, wearing suitable clothing and shoes for the weather.

If you would like more information, please contact any one of the four trained walk leaders: Mark & Jane 07496148756 Penny 822208 or Anne 826256

POP IN

Pop In meet at the Oak Tree House on Thursday afternoons at 2.30pm. We like to chat over tea and cake and join in games such as board games and Boccia or listen to a speaker from a variety of backgrounds.

We realise that many people are missing out on socialising with us because they need transport. Is there anyone in Stoke sub Hamdon who would have a few hours free on Thursday afternoon to pick up a few older people from the Stoke sub Hamdon area and drive them to and from the group? We will pay 45p a mile for petrol.

If you would be interested, please contact Paul on 07770348767 or Cath on 07968521746.

HAMDON YOUTH CENTRE

Do you run or belong to a youth or children's group? The Youth Centre is available to hire during the daytime or on Wednesday and Friday evenings.

For more information contact Barbara on 01935 824432 or hamdonyouthcentre@gmail.com

DIARY OF EVENTS

February

4th Stoke Active Walkers

10th Every Step Counts & Health Walks

15th Stoke Community Shop Afternoon Tea

15th HCAP - Ruby & The Rockets

24th Every Step Counts & Health Walks

26th Stoke Gardening Club Talk & AGM

March

3rd Sports & Recreation Trust AGM