

## CONTACTS

<b>Church of England at St Mary's, Church Services:</b> <b>1st Sunday 11.00am Cafe church in All Saints Hall</b> <b>2nd Sunday 11.00am CW Holy Communion</b> <b>3rd Sunday 11.00am Morning Praise</b> <b>4th Sunday 11.00am CW Holy Communion</b> <b>1st and 3rd Wednesday 9.00am BCP Holy Communion</b>	The Rector Rev. Nick Clarke. Tel 07842 192402, revnickclarke@gmail.com The Vicarage, 1 Castle Street TA14 6RE website: www.hamhillchurches.org
<b>ALL SAINTS HALL BOOKING SECRETARY</b>	Ann Davison 07709 609488
<b>BOYS BRIGADE</b> - Meets weekly at Martock Christian Fellowship on Thursdays: Juniors 6pm-7.30pm. Older members 7:30-9pm.	Ian Rumbelow 07851817927
<b>BRIDGE CLUB</b> - Weekly - Monday starting at 8.30pm (Working Mens Club)	
<b>BROWNIES</b> - Weekly - Every Tuesday during term time (Hamdon Youth & Family Centre)	Jackie Poole 01935 823606
<b>FLEXERCISE FOR FUN</b> - At Oak Tree House every Monday at 2.30pm	Di Ramsay 0845 6434702
<b>FOOTBALL - SENIOR TEAMS</b> - Training Tuesday evenings 6.30pm. Matches weekend	Steve Deane 07881 464280 email: stevekatherine@hotmail.co.uk
<b>FOOTBALL - YOUTH TEAMS</b> - Training weekday evenings. Matches Saturdays & Sundays Contact Tim Brooks (Chair) stokefcchair@gmail.com 07788 654231 or Steve Arnold (Secretary) 07775 562122 stokefcsec@gmail.com	
<b>FOOTPATHS</b> - problems and issues contact:	cllr.hulett@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk
<b>GARDENING CLUB</b> - Monthly - Fourth Wednesday 7.30pm (Memorial Hall)	Secretary: sec.sshgardenclub@gmail.com. Tel : 01935 823691
<b>HAM HILL COUNTRY PARK - VOLUNTEER RANGERS</b> - Weekly Weds 9.50am-3.30pm (Ranger's Office)	Paul McNeill 07973 887129
<b>HAMDON MEDICAL CENTRE</b>	01935 822236
<b>HAMDON YOUTH &amp; FAMILY CENTRE</b> - West Street	Contact: www.hamdonyouthcentre.co.uk email: hamdonyouthcentre@gmail.com
<b>HISTORY GROUP</b>	Carol Parker 825393
<b>MEDITATION GROUP</b> - Tuesdays at 7.30pm at Priory Coffee	Emma Herrod 01935 829443
<b>MEMORIAL HALL BOOKING SECRETARY</b>	Bookings Jill Uhlhorn: 01935 829513
<b>PARISH COUNCIL</b> - Monthly First Wednesday 7.00pm, The Hamdon Youth & Family Centre	Chair: Denise Burton, 01935 827793 Neil Bloomfield, Clerk clerk@stoke-sub-hamdon-pc.gov.uk Website: stokesubhamdoncouncil.com
<b>POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER</b>	<b>Carole Brown email: carole.brown@avonandsomerset.police.uk</b>
<b>POST OFFICE COUNTER (INSIDE STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP)</b> <b>OPENING TIMES</b> Monday & Friday 9.00am to 12 noon, Thursday 1.00pm to 4.00pm (excluding Bank Holidays)	
<b>STOKE AND DISTRICT ANGLING ASSOCIATION</b>	Derek Goad 01935 824337
<b>STOKE BABY &amp; TODDLER GROUP</b> - Memorial Hall. Thurs.9.30am to 11.30am in term time	carolyn_jeffley@hotmail.com Facebook: @StokeBabyAndToddlerGroup
<b>STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP OPENING HOURS</b> - Monday to Friday 8am - 4.30pm; Saturday 8am – 4pm; Sunday 8.30am – 12.30pm	01935 509100
<b>STOKE AFTERNOON TEA CLUB FOR OLDER PEOPLE.</b> Lighthouse Café, every other Wednesday at 2.15pm	Lisa Wenborn 07515 489587 or Kay Clamp: 07717 453523
<b>STOKE SUB HAMDON BAND</b> - Monday & Thursday 8.00pm - 10.00pm Castle School Training Section Thursdays 19:00 – 19:45 at Castle School	Gill Robins 01935 329904 Jane Herbert 01460 351123
<b>STOKE SUB HAMDON SPORTS &amp; RECREATION TRUST</b> - www.stoke-rec-trust.co.uk email info@stoke-rec-trust.co.uk, Secretary – Peter Hulett 01935 824784, Fundraising Co-Ordinator – Denise Burton 01935 827793	Contacts: Chairman – John Allen, Secretary – Peter Hulett 01935 824784, Fundraising Co-Ordinator – Denise Burton 01935 827793
<b>STOKE PERFORMING ARTS GROUP</b>	Contact Jeannie 07967 184952 or info@stokeperformingartsgroup.co.uk
<b>STOKE WALKING GROUP</b> , every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month	Penny on 822208 or Mark 07496 148756
<b>TAEKWONDO &amp; LITTLE DRAGONS</b> - Mondays 5.00pm - 5.30pm Little Dragons; 5.30pm - 6.15pm Taekwondo beginners; 6.15pm - 7.00pm Taekwondo Adults (Stanchester)	Jennie Clark 07921 393425
<b>TINY TURRETS (Castle Primary School)</b> - 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
<b>TRIANGLE TRUST</b> - Raising funds for Hamdon Medical Centre	Jennie Harris 01935 881718
<b>VILLAGE AGENT - Cluster SS2</b> Cath Holloway	cath@somersetcc.org.uk Tel: 07968 521746
<b>VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP</b> - (Tuesdays 19.30- 21.30 & Friday 10.00am – 12 Noon (Memorial Hall)during school term times only)	Andrew Toosey (chair) SSHthevillageartistsgroup@gmail.com 07484 142880
<b>WORKING MENS CLUB</b> - Daily - Lunch times & evenings	secretary@stoke.club and www.facebook.com/stokeworkingmensclub Mark Greaves 01935 823297
<b>YOUTH CLUB</b> - Weekly - Monday 6.15 - 8.15 Ages 10-13 at Hamdon Youth & Family Centre	Youth Worker Lou on 07402 987921 or email lou.chant@cyp.me.uk
<b>ZUMBA CLASSES</b> - Monday 9.30am;	Lauren Haines, 07775252128 (WhatsApp) / ZumbawithLauren (Facebook)

Please send articles for the newsletter, or to advertise forthcoming events to Helen Frances, helenfrances.one@gmail.com by the 16th of the previous month



## NEWSLETTER

January 2024

### PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

#### FROM THE CHAIR

Well, it's amazing to think that we are nearly at the end of 2023! It's been a busy year in the village, with some notable events, such as the village celebration for the Coronation of King Charles III and the wonderful success of the May Fayre at its new venue in Stanchester Academy.

This year has also seen confirmation of plans for the new Ham Hill Visitor Centre and the achievement of funding for the proposed Skate Park replacement on the Recreation Ground. All these, and many other village achievements, have only been made possible because of the amazing work put in by our wonderful residents and volunteers.

It's great to have so much to celebrate in a year that has also been challenging, especially financially. Money continues to be tight for the Parish Council, as well as for many families and individuals in the village.

Despite such challenges, the village continues to work together in so many ways to create a community we can all be proud of. So, on behalf of the Parish Council, I'd like to send everyone our very best wishes for 2024.

*Denise Burton, Chair.*

### FANTASTIC NEWS FOR THE VILLAGE

**The Stoke sub Hamdon Sports and Recreation Trust have only gone and done it, they have raised the money to replace the Skateboard Park in the Big Rec, with your help of course!**

**AND here are the numbers.....**

They started the year with **£40,791.00** of Trust funds allocated to the project – this is money raised by the **Stoke Charity Shop** and previous **May Fayres**.

In March the **Parish Council** resolved to support the project with a **£10,000.00** grant.

Young **Seth Roberts** from **Castle Primary School** with the help of his family **Colin Roberts** and **Becky Lomas**, carried out a Facebook Crowd Funding appeal and raised **£2,640.55** – which was later enhanced with gift aid of **£505.00**

Fund raising fully at the **Stoke May Fayre 2023** held at **Stanchester Academy**, raised **£6,000.00** towards the project.

**We would like to thank all our Newsletter deliverers. We are so grateful to everyone who helps with this task every month, come rain or shine. Especial thanks to Val Moore, who was helped by her husband Tim. She has just retired from the role after 16 years. Thank you both for a sterling job!**

**Somerset Community Foundation Crime Prevention Fund £2,500.00**

Other Charitable Foundations including **Garfield Weston Foundation** and the **Bernard Sunley Foundation £35,000.00**

**Somerset Council** S106 Capital Funding of **£29,246.08** and revenue funding of **£8,800.00**

**Somerset Fund £2,500.00**

**Rural England Prosperity Fund £40,000.00**

**Interest earned £280.00**

**Total raised for the project - £178,262.55**

So, there were a few hiccups en-route with 10 failed applications, but hey, it's better than a week of wet Sundays... That is a community working together, we should be very proud!

### STOKE COMMUNITY SHOP

**We'd like to wish everyone a very happy 2024.**

#### New Year's opening

Your community shop will be open from 8am to 12 noon on Bank Holiday Monday 1st January 2024 but there will be no Post Office counter service. We're back to normal opening hours from Tuesday 2nd January 2024. For full details, please check the shop window, our website [stokeshop.co.uk](http://stokeshop.co.uk) or [www.facebook.com/stokecommunityshop](http://www.facebook.com/stokecommunityshop)

#### A big thank you to all our Volunteers

The dedication of our Volunteers has been – and continues to be – what makes it possible to run the store for the benefit of our whole community. Thank you all for your hard work over the past year.

**And if you're looking for a new challenge for the New Year, why not join our super team of Volunteers?**

It's an ideal way of getting involved in village life and making new friends. Drop into the shop for a chat with one of our team or email [volunteers@stokeshop.co.uk](mailto:volunteers@stokeshop.co.uk). You can also find out more – and download an application form – at [stokeshop.co.uk/volunteering](http://stokeshop.co.uk/volunteering)

#### Help us to plan for the future

Our management committee still requires new members to ensure the shop continues operating successfully and to help us plan for the future. It would be great to welcome some new faces onto the team in 2024, so please let us know if you – or someone you know – is interested in getting involved and joining us in running the shop for our community. Priority knowledge and skills include:

- Someone with finance/bookkeeping experience to become our Treasurer, to liaise with our bookkeeper and accountant from time to time, monitor budgets and help shape how we manage the business.
- Shop management/goods buying, admin/minute taking, HR and fundraising/grant applications.

If you're interested, please email us at [shop@stokeshop.co.uk](mailto:shop@stokeshop.co.uk) for more information or drop into the shop for a chat.



## Food bank donations

Over the past year, the generous people of Stoke have made a huge number of donations to local food banks. For several months now, all of these donations have been going to Martock Christian Fellowship's Transforming Lives food bank and fund, for the benefit of those in need in Stoke and surrounding villages.

## Free home deliveries

Our grocery home delivery service is here for you if you're unable to get out and about. Call us with your order on 01935 509100 between 9am and 2pm on week days. We can usually deliver the same day if you order before midday. For more information about the shop and how you can get involved, visit [stokeshop.co.uk](http://stokeshop.co.uk) or [www.facebook.com/stokecommunityshop](https://www.facebook.com/stokecommunityshop)

## VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP

The Village Artists Group is now having a short break but we pick up our brushes/ charcoal/ pencils/ pastels etc again on Friday, 5 January. Why not make your New Year's resolution joining us and having a go with the artistic medium you've always wanted try? We share an enjoyment of traditional art at all levels and seek to develop our artistic skills through discussion and a very sociable environment. Stoke Memorial Hall on Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9:30 pm and Friday mornings 10.00 to 12.00 noon during school term time. Contact Andrew on (01935) 823691, [SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com](mailto:SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com) Facebook: Stoke Sub Hamdon The Village Artists Group - We look forward to hearing from you.

## LITTER PICKING

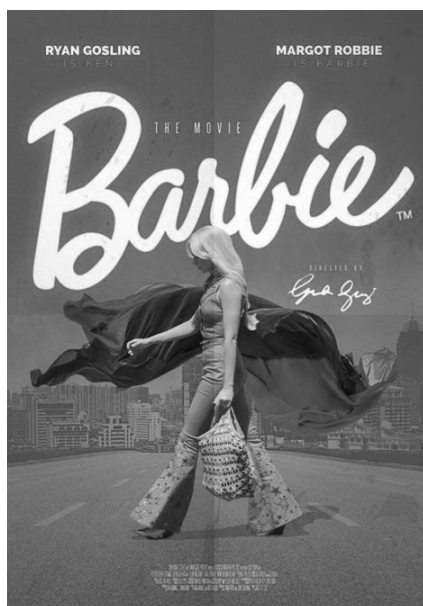
Our first litter pick for the New Year will be on Sunday 7th January. Meet at 9 am at the All Saints' Hall. Wear stout shoes/boots and bring gardening gloves of similar. Enjoy a free coffee afterwards at the Priory coffee shop. Any further information contact me at [helivet@msn.com](mailto:helivet@msn.com)

## FILM NIGHT AT THE MEMORIAL HALL

On January 20th 2024 we are looking forward to some sparkling pink to banish the winter blues. Barbie PG-13, is coming to Stoke sub Hamdon!

Embark on a fun-filled journey with Barbie and Ken. Join them as they leave the perfection of Barbie Land and discover the real world. Starring Margot Robbie, Ryan Gosling and many other stars. Doors open at 6pm. £5 at the door.

Hot dogs and other refreshments will be available.



## STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDENING CLUB

On Wednesday 24th January Jonny Hartnell will be talking about growing Orchids. Perhaps he may inspire you to try growing these exotic – and not so exotic – blooms to brighten the gloom of dull January days!

Visitors are assured of a warm welcome with free refreshments after the talk; there's a stall for home grown plants/produce, plus our monthly raffle.

Venue: The Memorial Hall, Stoke-sub-Hamdon. 7.15 for 7.30 p.m.

## AFTERNOON TEA CLUB

Stoke-sub-Hamdon's very popular Afternoon Tea Club opens its doors every fortnight on a Wednesday afternoon at the Lighthouse, 2.15pm - 4.15pm. **The first date in January is 17th**, and then every other week. See Dates for your Diary on page 3.

Why not come and join this lovely social group for tea, sandwiches, cake and a chat, cost £3. Details in Dates For Your Diary below. For further info contact Lisa on 07515 489587.

## IT AND MOBILE PHONE SUPPORT

Available the Reading Room in Norton Sub Hamdon between 10.30 and 12.30 on Saturday 6th and 20th January for anyone who would like to gain confidence using IT and mobile phones.

As a charity, we are able to offer a free six months mobile phone contract, giving unlimited free calls and internet access. This is courtesy of Vodafone's 'Bridging the Digital Divide' by ensuring connectivity for all. If you have an old mobile phone but no contract you would just need a SIM card to activate it, and we can provide these. The SIM cards will be allocated according to need on a first come first served basis. Just drop in or call the Reading Room on 01935 881505 and leave a message, or email [nortonr.bookings@gmail.com](mailto:nortonr.bookings@gmail.com)

## HAMDON YOUTH GROUP

A big shout out to four older teenagers who are now helping the Youth Workers at HYFC on Monday evenings and at Norton on Wednesdays, and who are proving to be a great support. These are young people who attended the Youth Group themselves in the past and enjoyed it so much that they have now come back to help support staff in the activities. They are great role models for the younger ones, showing what good fun it is to help others. This is what learning social values is all about! Recent activities have included making Xmas decorations, gingerbread men, playing badminton and talking about anti-bullying.

The behaviour of the Stoke group is now respectful with lots of positive engagement in activities and discussion. There have been no known incidents of anti-social behaviour happening in or around the building since the decision was taken to temporarily exclude the older group of young men. Stoke now has an additional Youth Worker, Tim Whyatt. The Youth Worker organisation CYP is temporarily funding Tim's hours with the aim of building up capacity so we can welcome back the older group. Have an adult male role model is brilliant and the children are connecting with him really well. Open to children between 10-13, it's just £1 a session. Contact Lou Chant the Youth Worker on 07402 987921

## MEMORIAL HALL

### New Regular Bookings

We are delighted to tell you that the **Stoke Baby and Toddlers Group** will start again on Thursday, January 4th at 9:30 am. For further information please contact Leah on 07801 270 416.

**Stay Strong, Stay Steady (Age UK)** will begin on Thursday, 4th January at 1pm. This hour long class is to improve strength and balance, helping to keep you steady on your feet and avoid falls.

If you are interested, please phone 01823 345614 or email: [fallsprevention@ageuksomerset.org.uk](mailto:fallsprevention@ageuksomerset.org.uk)

## HAMDON YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRE

**Like to dance?** Star Dance Co, run by local villager Alice on a Thursday afternoon has 3 NEW classes from 11th January! Ages 3-5, 5-8, and 8 -12, it is a wonderful opportunity to explore music to movement, learn contemporary and jazz dance, make new friends and have fun! A showcase is performed at the end of each term. Contact Alice on 07498 297440 for more info.

End of Year Awards at Star Dance Co! Massive congratulations to the following:

Effort and Excellence awards: Aoife & Christina

Friendship and Respect award: Aria

Creative Choreographer award: Olivia

Rising Star awards: Clara & Eva

Star Dancer awards: Layla & Ayvah

Huge congratulations to all of you for going above and beyond!

### Prefer martial arts?

9Realms Martial Arts for 4 -14 year-olds are held on Thursdays from 6.30-7.30. Based on Muay Thai and K1 Kickboxing it provides self-discipline, fitness whilst also being great fun! Contact Adam on 07597 939554

## STOKE PERFORMING ARTS GROUP

Presenting 'Jack and the Beanstalk'

On Thursday 15th, Friday 16th and Saturday 17th February, 2024 At Stoke Memorial Hall. Evening performances - Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start. Bar and soft drinks available.

Saturday Matinee - Doors open at 2.00pm for a 2.30pm start. Tea and refreshments available.

Tickets £10 Adults £5 Children (under 16 years). Available from Stoke Community Shop or text / phone 07967184952.



## STOKE WALKING GROUP

### Stoke Health Walks

Are you making New Year's resolutions yet? Get fitter, make more friends in the village, find new routes to walk? The trained health walk leaders offer three levels of guided walks.

Monday walks start at the Lighthouse Café, finishing there for a hot drink and time to talk too. Dress for the weather, stout footwear recommended. Well behaved dogs on leads are also welcome.

- Make Every Step Count. Shorter gentle 30-40 mins walks on good paths. Start at 9.30 on Mondays 8th and 22nd January. Please speak to one of the walk leaders if you would like to join us.
- Mondays 8th and 22nd January. Regular health walk 3-4 miles, about 1 ½ hours. Start at Lighthouse Café 10 am.
- Tuesdays 2nd January 2024 Longer walk 5-6 miles. Start at Lighthouse Café 10 am, usually an option for a pub lunch on the way back.

For more information about any of these, particularly the shorter or longer walks please contact one of the walk leaders, Sue 07792311736 or Doug 07778946508.

## Dates for your Diary

### JANUARY

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 2nd  | <b>Longer Health Walk</b><br>from Lighthouse café 10:00 start                          |
| 7th  | <b>Village Litter Pick</b><br>9am start at The Lighthouse.                             |
| 8th  | <b>Shorter, gentle Health Walk</b><br>from Lighthouse café 10:00 start                 |
| 8th  | <b>Regular Health Walk</b><br>from Lighthouse café 10:00 start                         |
| 17th | <b>Afternoon Tea Club</b><br>at the Lighthouse café 14:15 – 16:15                      |
| 20th | <b>Film Night at the Memorial Hall.</b><br>Doors open at 18:00 for 18:30 screening.    |
| 22nd | <b>Shorter, gentle Health Walk</b><br>from Lighthouse café 10:00 start                 |
| 22nd | <b>Regular Health Walk</b><br>from Lighthouse café 10:00 start                         |
| 24th | <b>Gardening Club "Growing Orchids"</b><br>19:15 for 19:30 start at the Memorial Hall. |
| 31st | <b>Afternoon Tea Club</b><br>at the Lighthouse café 14:15 – 16:15                      |

### FEBRUARY

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 14th | <b>Afternoon Tea Club at the Lighthouse café</b><br>14:15 – 16:15 |
|------|---|