

PARISH COUNCIL

Litter Pick:

The Parish Council are organising a litter pick for Saturday, 16 May. Please meet at 10am and any children must be accompanied by an adult. All equipment will be provided. We have not held a litter pick since 2011 when we always had a good turnout of volunteers to help us keep our village clean and tidy – please support us once again so that we can get everything looking nice for the summer.

Tree Removal

The line of trees outside the recreation ground near the layby in West Street will shortly be removed and replaced with a native hedge. If anyone would like any free logs then please contact the Parish Clerk for more information.

P.C.S.O. REPORT

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.

STOKE ACTIVE WALKERS

Tuesday 5 May

To start our May walk we will go out to East Stoke, up Lake Lane and along Long Ground. We will then follow the footpath around the front of the Quarry Works and across the ridge to Batemoor Barn and then across the field to Ladies Walk. We will go down over Ladies Walk, around the back of Abbey Farm and then around the bottom of St Michaels Tower where we will go up over Hedgecock Woods and across the field which will take us to the Prince of Wales 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 UNDERTAKEN AT THE WALKERS OWN RISK.** For more information please contact Norman on 01935 822792.

TAI CHI

Tai Chi is an Eastern Asia exercise that involves slow controlled movements with controlled breathing. Tai Chi will improve your balance, lower stress and make you more agile. The class is for all abilities and lasts for roughly one hour. Come along to the memorial hall at Stoke sub Hamdon on Wednesdays at 5.30pm, first session is free and £4 there afters

WALKING FOR HEALTH

There are 2 local walks organised on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month.

'Every Step Counts Walks' starts from the Lighthouse café at 9.30am and the group walks along level paths around the village for 30 to 40mins.

'The Health Walks' begin at 10.30am from the Lighthouse café and these walks are more challenging, last for 1 hour 40 minutes and the group walks along footpaths, roads and bridle paths. Please wear appropriate footwear.

Walking for Health leaders are trained, insured and friendly. The walks are designed to increase stamina, stimulate circulation and help with mobility. They are open to everyone, are free and walkers can enjoy the social side of walking with other people. At the end of the walks many walkers enjoy some well-earned, freshly prepared refreshments at the Lighthouse

Café. If you would like any more information or would like to discuss if these walks would suit you please contact Penny on 01935 822208 or Mark on 07974 103275
Why not consider joining us on these lovely Spring mornings.

LIGHTHOUSE COFFEE SHOP

Due to lack of demand on Monday afternoons the Lighthouse will close at 2pm (as it does on Thursdays). We will review our opening times in the summer. Thank you to all who support us.
PCC of St Mary's Church

MEMORIAL HALL

The Memorial Hall AGM will be held on Tuesday 5 May at 7.00pm in the Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Committee of Trustees is always looking for new members to join us. The commitment is small, about 7 or 8 meetings a year and there is NO financial liability attached to the position. We have Trustees Liability insurance place that covers all events.

Your Hall is a great asset to this village and surely no-one would like to see it close. Please give us your support.

Clare Sampson - Secretary of Trustees Committee

GARDENING CLUB

Stoke sub Hamdon Gardening Club will be running their Plant Stall at May Fayre again this year. We are situated in the orchard, through the North Street entrance to the Priory and turn right. We look forward to seeing you all and selling you our magnificent plants at knock-down prices.

FLOWER, PRODUCE & CRAFT SHOW

The Flower, Produce & Craft Show will be on 1st August this year. Schedules to enter all classes are available from Sue on 01935 823671 & Les on 01935 508656. There are classes for all; Flowers, Fruit, Veg, Flower Arranging, Home Produce, Handicrafts, Photography & special classes for Children. Please enter & then come along on the day to see if you have won. More details next month.

CELEBRATIONS AT STOKE SUB HAMDON BAND

Congratulations go to our Eb bass player Adrian Biggs who has been a member of the band continuously for 50 years. He joined the band in May 1965 with his sister Sonja. Adrian has served the band in many capacities over the years; he was a long serving member of the committee, filling the roles of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer at various times and for a number of years was Musical Director. He is currently one of the Trustees of the band.

This year will also see the 70th anniversary of the reforming of the band in 1945. We will be celebrating on 5 September with a concert at the United Reformed Church. At the concert we will be having displays of photographs and memorabilia and are looking for more items, so if you have any photographs or other items you wish to share please will you contact me on 822402.
Jane Herbert

MAY FAYRE COMMITTEE

Willow weaving workshop

We will be holding a Willow Workshop on Saturday, 9 May at Stoke sub Hamdon Memorial Hall from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Cost of the workshop is £10.00, which includes all materials. Places are limited.

Ceilidh (barn dance)

We will be holding our annual Ceilidh (barn dance by any other name!) with Crooked Furrow on Friday, 22 May at Stoke sub Hamdon Working Men's Club starting at 7.45 pm. Tickets are £7.50 for adults and £5.00 for children (to include a Ploughman's supper).

Stoke sub Hamdon May Fayre

Come and join us on Monday, 25 May for our annual May Fayre from 11.30am to 5.00pm in the grounds of the National Trust Priory and Memorial Hall and grounds.

Entertainment includes our family favourites and more - the dog show (kindly sponsored by Minster Vets); demonstration; dancing by the children at Castle School; Punch and Judy; children's assault course; the re-enactment group; coconut shy; stocks; Stoke Band; interactive drumming; beer tent; BBQ and plenty of other refreshments, plus a wide variety of stalls. For those of you who have grown out of using our kids' area, this year we will also be having a 'teen tent'. This will be a fun and friendly place with comfortable sofas where teens can spend time playing guitars or doing arts and crafts and other great things at no charge.

We are still looking for volunteers to help on the day and so if you are able to spare a couple of hours we would really welcome your help. Offers to bake us a cake would also be greatly appreciated by those running the kitchen!

Please look out for the May Fayre Programme - your personal entertainment guide for a great day out. We very much look forward to welcoming you to our Fayre.

For more information on any of these events or to book tickets, please call Denise on 01935 827793.

ACORN POP-IN PROGRAMME

May 7	Behind the Scenes of Motor Racing with Sue Winwood
May 14	Boccia
May 21	Board Games
May 28	Outing & Lunch to Ottery St Mary
June 4	'Summertime Poems by Group Members

For more information contact Jennifer Kerr 01935 882609

NATIONAL TRUST – MONTACUTE PARK

Please could all villagers/locals keep dogs on a lead when walking out in the Parkland areas. We have ewes with lambs now grazing and hope to give them freedom from stress at this very crucial time. All gates into the parkland now have signs on them, and whilst we understand that there are many dogs that don't chase sheep, we have to remain consistent. All staff and volunteers who own dogs, will also be following this request. If you are after a good spot to let the dog off the lead, Ladies Walk has plenty of space for them to stretch their legs.

George Holmes, Area Ranger, National Trust

HAMDON YOUTH GROUP

Young people from both villages continue to enjoy sessions in Stoke
Thursdays 7:00pm-9:00pm @ Methodist Church Hall Stoke
Years 6 and above

7 th May	Snap Chat challenge
14 th May	Silly Food Games
21 st May	Arts & crafts
28 th May	Open Session/ BBQ

The sessions on Wednesdays in Norton are now used for the new Youth Parish Council. A group of young people are finding ways to bring the concerns of our younger residents to higher authorities. They are also looking at projects they can undertake.

For more information please contact Lou Chant on 07402 987921 or email lou.chant@cyp.me.uk

WHAT ARE THE FUTURE PLANS FOR THE CHURCHES OF THE HAM HILL VILLAGES?

For over a decade there has been a long term plan that the seven local parishes (Stoke, Norton, Chiselborough, West Chinnock, Middle Chinnock, Montacute, and Odcombe) would work more closely together. The reduction in the number of clergy nationwide means that this group would be served by 1.5 paid clergy - with the retirements of the vicar of Stoke and the vicar of Odcombe and Montacute it is possible to move forward on this. A representative from the diocese has been working with those three parishes to produce to a "Parish Profile" and Job Description for the half-stipend post.

I will become the vicar of all the Ham Hill Villages when they are formed into a single benefice (*the technical name for a group of parishes*). The ½ stipend priest will also be licensed across the 7 parishes but will have pastoral care for the Montacute and Odcombe communities and share, with me, pastoral responsibility for Stoke. We will both be available to people, and lead worship and preach, across the whole benefice.

It is hoped that an appointment can be made before the summer – and the person start work with us in the Autumn.

Rev. Peter Thomas (01935) 881202

ASCENSION DAY

Thursday 14 May is Ascension Day – marking the occasion, 40 days after Easter, that Jesus Ascended into heaven from the top of a hill.

At 7.00 pm that evening we have a short service on Ham Hill (at the Toposcope – between the Car Park and the War Memorial) for the 7 parishes (*see above*) that will become the Ham Hill Villages benefice. *There will also be a Communion service in Chiselborough at 10.00a.m.*

DIARY OF EVENTS:

May

5th Stoke Active Walkers

5th Memorial Hall AGM

9th Willow Workshop

16th Litter Pick

22nd Ceilidh

25th May Fayre

June

14th St Margaret's Hospice Great Somerset Colour Run

August

1st Garden Club - Flower Produce and Craft Show

September

5th Stoke Band 70th Anniversary Celebrations