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a magazine for the villages around Ham Hill



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*\*Please note that in some years the snowdrops  
can be over by late February*



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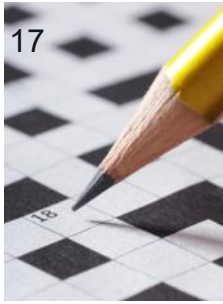
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**Please support our local businesses as much as you are able.**

Please note that all the information within these pages is correct at the time of going to print.

*Copy deadline for the March issue is Friday 14th February*

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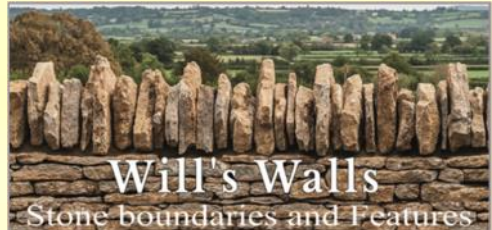
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# The Wall

## Stoke Performing Arts Group

and Friends present a "SPAGTACULAR"  
Variety Show on Saturday 22nd February.  
Performances at 2.30pm and 7pm at  
The Memorial Hall, Stoke Sub Hamdon.  
TA14 6PZ .

Tickets £10.00 Adult and £5.00 Children  
(16yrs and under), available from  
Stoke Community Shop or contact  
07967184952 for more information.

## ODCOMBE MOVIE NIGHT

*The Outrun* (15) 1h 58m (2024,  
drama)

After living life on the edge in London,  
Rona attempts to come to terms with  
her troubled past.

Hoping to heal, she returns to the wild  
beauty of Scotland's Orkney Islands  
where she grew up.

**Monday 10th February at 7:30pm**

Village Hall doors open at 7:00pm

**Tickets: £5** in advance, **£6** on the door

Email: [odcombemovies@gmail.com](mailto:odcombemovies@gmail.com)

or phone Denise: 07843 973561

for tickets and payment details.

Refreshments / Bar available.

## Martock and District u3a

Wednesday 12th February 2pm for 2.15  
start The Parish Hall Martock:

"Obsession, Betrayal & Revenge:

a medieval murder mystery"

Author Caroline Newart talks about the death  
of Edward II in Berkely Castle.

All welcome to the talk, to enjoy a chat over  
refreshments and to find out about the learn-  
ing, hobby and interest groups .

You can join through Martock & District u3a.

More info email:

[martocku3amembership@gmail.com](mailto:martocku3amembership@gmail.com)

Telephone: 07555 033027.

Website: [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

## Stoke Gardening Club

Wednesday 26th February 2025

We are delighted to welcome as this month's  
speaker Mike Burks, one of the founders of The  
Gardens Group (Brimsmore Garden Centre, Castle  
Gardens at Sherborne, and Poundbury Gardens).

His subject is "Garden Folklore" –

do come and explore this fascinating and  
wide-ranging topic with us.

Free refreshments; plant sales; raffle.

Visitors very welcome - £3.

This meeting includes our AGM and will start  
at the earlier time of 7.00 p.m.

Venue: The Memorial Hall, Stoke-sub-Hamdon.

## February Stoke-sub-Hamdon Health Walks.

Three walk levels with trained leaders. Start from Lighthouse Café. Dress for the  
weather, stout footwear recommended. Well-behaved dogs on leads welcome.

Refreshments in café after Monday walks.

Make Every Step Count- Mondays 10th, 24th Start 9.30am, 40 mins on pavements.

Medium walks- Mondays 10th, 24th Meet 9.50am. Walk starts 10am, 3-4 miles,  
90 minutes, mixture of pavements / footpaths.

Tuesday 4th Longer walk- 5-6 miles, option of a pub lunch. Meet 9.50am, start  
walking 10am. **Contact Sue 07792311736**

## YOGA CLASSES with Mindfulness

**Martock Parish Hall:** Wed. 6-7.30pm

**Odcombe Hall:** Thurs. 10-11.30am

Yoga hugely benefits our health on all levels, physical and mental.

Come try it out! Taster on offer by arrangement to see what you think.

Also one-to-ones.

My classes are very accessible and all are welcome, I include modifications for postures and ensure there is always something to be doing.

We also enjoy breath work and relaxation.

*Caroline Daunt - mob: 07794 882471 - email: cardaunt@aol.com*

*BWY dip 2007; Teaching Mindfulness (CPCAB) 2016*

## NORTON & CHISELBOROUGH FLOWER SHOW

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 pm**  
in the Skittle Alley, Lord Nelson, Norton

**Talk by Katherine Crouch,  
'Grow the food you can't buy'**

Kath is a Chelsea Gold Medal winner 2013,  
BBC gardener of the year 1999 and  
BBC gardener of the decade 2008.

This promises to be a wonderful evening.  
Tickets are now on sale at the Norton village  
shop, £5.00 each.

## The Village Artists Group

Our Spring term sessions are now in full swing with lots of fresh artistic inspiration! Do come and join us and enjoy the company of a very friendly group of artists. We are looking forward to our forthcoming drawing workshop with Jonathan Hodgson on Saturday, 8 March.

FB: jonhodgsonart

We meet at Stoke-sub-Hamdon Memorial Hall on Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9:30 pm and Friday mornings 10.00 to 12.00 noon during school term time. First visit FREE! Please

contact Andrew on (01935) 823691

SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com

Fb: Stoke Sub Hamdon The Village Artists Group.

## CADAS - Upcoming Meetings.

Feb 19<sup>th</sup> Andrew Ciavarella

The Discovery of the Milky Way

Mar 19<sup>th</sup> Richard Kilbey Captain Cook and the Transit of Venus

Apr 16<sup>th</sup> Professor Chris Lintott

Norton-Sub-Hamdon Village Hall,  
TA14 6SF - 7.30pm

**www.cadas.net**

CADAS is the local astronomical society.

We cover the area from Taunton across Somerset to the Ham villages and Yeovil. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. The meetings are open to everyone.

| New Moon                  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter  | Full Moon                 | Last Quarter              |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 28 <sup>th</sup> February | 5 <sup>th</sup> February | 12 <sup>th</sup> February | 20 <sup>th</sup> February |

Stoke sub Hamdon,  
Memorial Hall, TA14 6PZ.

## Film Night

Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> February 6pm

Our film this month  
is **Wicked cert. PG**

The story is about two young witches: Elphaba, whose skin is green, and Glinda, who is blonde and beautiful. They dislike each other at first but soon form an unlikely bond. The musical follows them from their girlhood friendship and explains how Elphaba became the Wicked Witch and Glinda became the Good Witch.

Doors open at 6pm for a 6:30pm start.

Cash or cards £5.

We look forward to seeing you!

# Fabulous, Final Festival of Snowdrops

at EAST LAMBROOK MANOR GARDENS

Somerset's famous cottage garden at East Lambrook Manor will be holding what may be its final annual Festival of Snowdrops as it is hoped new owners will take over in the Spring.

Enjoy a stroll through a beautiful winter garden and view the extensive collection of unusual snowdrops.



The celebrated plantswoman and gardening writer Margery Fish, who created the iconic cottage garden, was a fan of double flowers it is not surprising that she was delighted by a gift of the double snowdrop, *Galanthus* 'Ophelia'. It sparked her interest in the genus and she became an avid collector of rare snowdrops, which she planted in an area she named The Ditch, fashioned from the drainage channel between two orchards.

"It's such a welcome sight to see the sides of The Ditch carpeted with snowdrops in February," says current owner Mike Werkmeister, "and it's where all the unusual snowdrops named for previous owners were found, most notably G. 'Margery Fish'. It's the sight I shall miss most when I move."



The garden has a collection of around 140 named varieties, and these are used to make a special display in a raised bed enabling visitors to appreciate the subtle and often not so subtle difference between them all. The best time to visit is mid-February as, if the weather is warm as in 2024, the snowdrops can be over before the month is out.



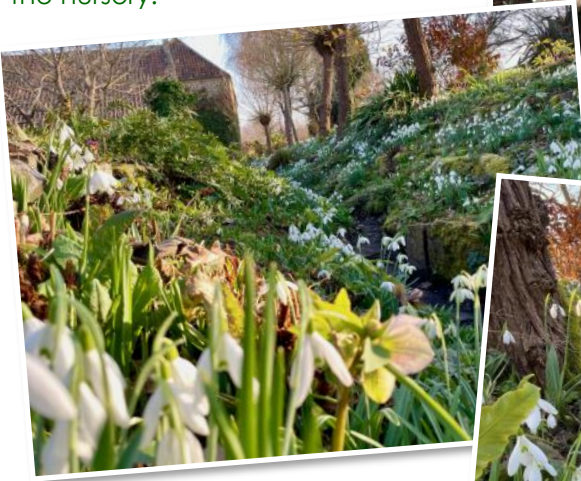


Around 90 varieties will be on sale in the nursery along with hellebores and other spring plants and bulbs. Sculptor Chris Kampf will be exhibiting his popular steel snowdrops.

**The garden is open Tuesday to Sunday throughout February, 10am to 5pm.**

**Garden entry £7.00, under 16s free.**

**The NGS Snowdrop Open Day** is on Friday 14th February, with all entry money going to charity. No charge if just visiting the nursery.



**East Lambrook Manor Gardens,**  
Silver Street, East Lambrook,  
South Petherton, Somerset  
TA13 5HH

T: 01460 240328 E: [enquiries@eastlambrook.com](mailto:enquiries@eastlambrook.com)

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[www.arbtreeandgarden.co.uk](http://www.arbtreeandgarden.co.uk)

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**David Hall**

**Tom Robinson - My back pages**

Saturday February 1st at 8pm £25.50 -£24.50 concs.



An unmissable wander through Tom's 40 year back catalogue accompanied by virtuoso guitarist Adam Phillips who has recorded with many great names in music.

**Hannah Sanders & Ben Savage**

Friday February 7th 8.00pm £17.50 - £16.50 concs.



Since emerging in 2016, Hannah and Ben have been defying all conventions of style, genre and compartmentalisation. A touch of 'Americana', yet quintessentially English.

**Mark Rutterford - The Love Stories Show**

Friday February 14th 8.00pm £11.50 - £9.50 concs.

A whirlwind romance of stories and laughs about love – for romantics and cynics alike. Featuring Love Hearts and love songs, happiness and heartache, a big shiny heart, an alien and you!



**FEBRUARY 2025 EVENTS at The David Hall**

**Charlie Hooper-Williams - What if you could see the music**

Saturday February 15th at 8.00pm £13.00 no £12.00 concs.



A prizewinning former concert pianist, originally from the pine woods of Minnesota's Iron Range, Charlie Hooper-Williams adds to the piano a set of custom-built devices.

An "harmonics machine" and an "infinite resonator") which create new sounds: intricate, virtuosic textures with soaring, stirring melodies.

**The Black Feathers**

Saturday February 22nd at 8.00pm £17.50 - £16.50 concs.

Americana to some, Folk to others, Sian Chandler's soaring, dramatic, melodious but powerful voice is a perfect counterpoint to Ray Hughes' piquant vocals and his sparkling and occasionally spicy guitar motifs.



**Paul Jones & Dave Kelly**

Wednesday February 26th at 8.00pm £26.50.

Founder members of The Blues Band, Paul Jones and Dave Kelly's roots go way back into the true undergrowth of the tradition. A live acoustic set by this dynamic duo is an occasion you'll remember.



**FUNDRAISING QUIZ** Saturday 8th February 7.30 - Food!

**NOT FORGETTING OUR REGULAR EVENTS**


**ACOUSTIC NIGHT - Sunday 23rd February 7.30pm - 10.30.** Contact folk@chriswatts.org to book a spot

**COFFEE MORNING - Wednesday 26th February 10.00am - 12.00 Coffee, cake and live music.**

**PETHERTON PICTURE SHOW - Friday 21st February & Friday 28th February.**

**TRIO PARADIS - Wednesday 5th February - Latin American Music - 11.00 Coffee & cake - Donations**

thedavidhall.org.uk  
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 TA13 5AA

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**Somerset  
Council**

# Ham Hill Update



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## Rangers Update

2024 was another wet year with 1039.5mm of rainfall compared to 693.5mm in 2022, which has left the park sodden in places – bring wellies!

We had a lovely Christmas volunteer day to say thank you to our fantastic volunteers with a morning's work followed by a warming and festive lunch and even a carol rendition.

We're continuing to remove trees with Ash Dieback and to clear up those sadly swept over by the storms. We've also been fixing gates, furniture and fences and clearing areas in preparation for the new visitor centre.

## Wildlife

Skylarks will be singing and displaying on a sunny day on the flat fields. There will be increased bird activity in general, and you may spot deer in Pit Wood or at the Western Ramparts.



Primrose



Brimstone



Lesser Celandine

In terms of flora, if the sheep haven't eaten them all (!) you can see the bright yellow flowers of Lesser Celandine and the pale yellow flowers of Primrose in Witcombe Valley. Dog's Mercury is one of the first woodland plants to spring up, carpeting patches of the woodland floor in green.

Who will be the first to spot a Brimstone butterfly?

### **'Uncovering Ham Hill's past for its future' project update**

It is an exciting time in the project as contractors are soon to be appointed for the main build work of the new Visitor Centre at Ham Hill, with work expected to commence in March. As part of these works, we need to start connecting services (water, electricity, digital) to the site of the new visitor centre in Lime Kiln car park. In order to do this, there will be some disruption to site and there will need to be some path closures as trenches are dug and pipes are laid. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but ask that you please adhere to any signs when you visit us, to help keep you safe during your visit.

The car parks will also be tended to, with resurfacing works and small changes to the layout to improve parking capacity expected to start this month (February). During these works, the car parks will be closed in sequence, and we apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Look out for our project film, which features all of the rangers, giving an overview of the project

[www.somerset.gov.uk/newsroom/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/newsroom/)





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# Martock Carers Group

The Rose & Crown,  
East Lambrook, TA13 5HF  
3rd Thursday of the month  
**10.30am - 12 noon**

-  For people who care for a friend or family member on an unpaid basis
-  Share ideas, laughs, experiences and information
-  Hear from local organisations who can offer help and guidance

## For group details contact:

Ewelina: ewelina.zielinska1@nhs.net  
Surgery 01460 240707  
Cath Holloway 07535 279359

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# It's a Puzzle

## Valentine Sudoku



Directions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row and box contains each of the letters in the word LOVEBIRDS.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O |   |   |   | V | D |   | S |
|   | V |   |   | D |   |   |   |
|   | D | R |   | B |   | O |   |
| E | S |   |   | O |   |   | B |
| L | I |   | B | V | S |   | E |
| R |   |   | E |   |   |   | D |
|   | E |   | O |   |   | R | B |
|   |   |   | V |   |   |   | S |
| B |   | O | L |   |   |   | D |

## Owls

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | R | U | T | P | S | T | N | T |
| B | N | S | N | O | W | Y | J | E |
| O | P | P | N | I | F | T | U | N |
| B | C | E | Y | V | D | A | N | R |
| A | P | C | C | G | E | W | G | O |
| R | Y | T | R | A | M | N | L | T |
| N | O | A | E | N | C | Y | R | S |
| A | O | C | E | A | G | L | E | E |
| D | M | L | T | U | N | T | I | E |
| I | R | L | E | U | H | T | E | O |
| I | R | D | D | F | H | T | A | F |
| K | J | S | C | Y | U | L | N | R |
| R | C | R | E | S | T | E | D | E |

## Word search

Find the hidden words in the word search grid

barn  
tawny  
little

snowy  
eagle  
spectacled

crested  
forest  
pygmy

## Spot the 10 Differences



Answers on page 28



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## Obsession to Quakers

Martock & District u3a is focused on continuing to learn, sharing interests, making friends and trying something new. Open to anyone with time for themselves, whether they are in work or not or retired.

The Martock u3a holds a monthly meeting (except August) with a presentation followed by refreshments and a time to socialise.

On the second Wednesday of the month, 2.15 pm for a 2.30 pm start.

The subjects for next 3 months are:

12 February —

Caroline Newark 'Obsession, Betrayal & Revenge: a medieval murder mystery'.

12 March —

Richard Kay 'From Here to the Horizon: Landscape Painting 1500 - the present'.

19 March –

Open Day 2-5pm. Come and find out more about us and our activity groups.

9 April —

Ann French 'Forty Years On: A Career in Textile Conservation'.

The other main activity of the u3a is the 29 interest groups. A full list is available on the website. Groups are open to members without further fees, though some groups cover the room hire charge with a small cost from each participant. Many other groups happen in members' houses. If you can't find the group you want, you can suggest an idea and the u3a will see if members are interested. Some new groups have been set up last year through this process.

Membership of the u3a costs £17 a year for an individual, £30 for 2 members sharing the same address. To join or for more details, please contact the Membership Secretary, Alison Sutton, by email [martocku3amembership@gmail.com](mailto:martocku3amembership@gmail.com) or by **phone 07555 033027**. Alternatively you can go to [www.martocku3a.org.uk/membership-how-to-join/](http://www.martocku3a.org.uk/membership-how-to-join/) and complete the online application form.

Details of how to pay the subscription are also available. Martock & District u3a looks forward to welcoming you as a member.



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| Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> | Monos        |
| Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Silva Pulsar |

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# buttery valentines biscuits

## Ingredients:

400g plain flour  
250g butter, at room temperature  
2 eggs  
200g caster sugar

## Icing:

250g icing sugar  
1-2 tablespoons lemon juice  
1-2 tablespoons raspberry syrup  
(for pink colour) or food colouring if preferred

## How to...

Work all the biscuit ingredients into a smooth dough. Wrap and chill for 2 hours.

Preheat oven to 200 C / Gas 6. Grease baking trays. Roll dough out to 5mm thickness and cut out heart shapes. Transfer to baking trays and bake for 15 minutes or until golden brown. Allow to cool.

For image 1 - Stir half of the icing sugar with the lemon juice until smooth, until you have a thick icing. Spread the icing over half of the hearts. Mix the remaining icing sugar with syrup and coat the other side of the hearts with it. Allow the icing to set.

Alternatively, use food colouring for the icing and 'sprinkles' to decorate your biscuits.



Image 1





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# Answers from page 17

## Valentine Sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O | B | L | I | E | V | D | R | S |
| S | V | E | R | O | D | B | L | I |
| I | D | R | S | L | B | V | O | E |
| E | S | V | D | R | O | L | I | B |
| L | I | D | B | V | S | O | E | R |
| R | O | B | E | I | L | S | D | V |
| V | E | S | O | D | I | R | B | L |
| D | L | I | V | B | R | E | S | O |
| B | R | O | L | S | E | I | V | D |

## Spot the Difference



## Answers - Owls

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | R | U | T | P | S | T | N | T |
| B | N | S | N | O | W | Y | J | E |
| O | P | P | N | I | F | T | U | N |
| B | C | E | Y | V | D | A | N | R |
| A | P | C | C | G | E | W | G | O |
| R | Y | T | R | A | M | N | L | T |
| N | O | A | E | N | C | Y | R | S |
| A | O | C | E | A | G | L | E | E |
| D | M | L | T | N | T | I | Y | R |
| I | R | E | E | U | H | T | E | O |
| I | R | D | D | F | H | T | A | F |
| K | J | S | C | Y | U | L | N | R |
| R | C | R | E | S | T | E | D | E |

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# Where To Look

|                               |    |  |                                |    |                               |
|-------------------------------|----|--|--------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|
| <b>Alterations (Clothing)</b> |    |  |                                |    |                               |
| Oli's Alterations             | 4  | <b>Fencing</b>                         | ARB Tree & Garden Services     | 11 | <b>Oven Cleaning</b>          |
| <b>Art Centre</b>             |    |  | The Fencing & Gate Co.         | 23 | <b>Pest Control</b>           |
| The David Hall                | 12 | <b>Flooring</b>                        |                                |    | Pegasus                       |
| <b>Bathrooms</b>              |    |  | Steve Deane                    | 5  | <b>Pilates</b>                |
| Beales                        | 10 | <b>Financial Services</b>              |                                |    | Liane Bennett                 |
| <b>Boiler Servicing</b>       |    |  | Roff Financial                 | 10 | <b>Plumbing &amp; Heating</b> |
| Sureheat Solutions            | 21 |  | Simply Advice                  | 2  | Beales                        |
| <b>Builders</b>               |    | <b>Funeral Directors</b>               |                                |    | Sureheat Solutions            |
| Beales                        | 10 |  | Stoodley & Son                 | 12 | <b>Printing Services</b>      |
| <b>Carpenter</b>              |    |  | Stuart Foster Funeral Services | 25 | Wincanton Print               |
| DRA Woodwork                  | 22 | <b>Furniture Makers</b>                |                                |    | <b>Pubs</b>                   |
| <b>Carpet Cleaning</b>        |    |  | DRA Woodwork                   | 22 | The Prince of Wales           |
| WillClean                     | 27 | <b>Furniture Restoration (Antique)</b> |                                |    | <b>Roofing</b>                |
| <b>Carpet Fitting</b>         |    |  | Reed Restoration               | 13 | Parks Roofing                 |
| Steve Deane                   | 5  | <b>Gardener</b>                        |                                |    | <b>Social Club</b>            |
| <b>Catering</b>               |    |  | Chris Kemp                     | 19 | Stoke Club                    |
| Dorset Delights               | 18 | <b>Hairdresser</b>                     |                                |    | <b>Stone Works</b>            |
| <b>Compost</b>                |    |  | Lisa Smith Hair                | 25 | James Down                    |
| Chedington Compost            | 19 |  | The Hair Loft                  | 4  | Wills Walls                   |
| <b>Computer Help</b>          |    | <b>Handyman Services</b>               |                                |    | <b>Taxi</b>                   |
| GEM Home Computing            | 11 |  | Chris Kemp                     | 19 | Freeway Taxis                 |
| <b>Computer Repairs</b>       |    | <b>Hard Landscaping</b>                |                                |    | <b>Tree Services</b>          |
| GEM Home Computing            | 11 |  | James Down                     | 23 | ARB Tree & Garden Services    |
| <b>Curtains and Blinds</b>    |    | <b>Hedge Cutting</b>                   |                                |    | <b>Upholstery Cleaning</b>    |
| Drapes Direct                 | 11 |  | ARB Tree & Garden Services     | 11 | WillClean                     |
| <b>Drives and Patios</b>      |    | <b>Kitchens</b>                        |                                |    | <b>Vets</b>                   |
| James Down                    | 23 |  | AP Kitchens                    | 21 | Minster Veterinary Surgery    |
| <b>Electricians</b>           |    |  | Kitchen Kind                   | 5  | <b>Village Shop</b>           |
| KS Electric                   | 25 | <b>Logs</b>                            |                                |    | Stoke Community Shop          |
| <b>Events</b>                 |    |  | Kevin England                  | 27 | <b>Wood Restoration</b>       |
| Haynes Motor Museum           | 4  | <b>Nursery</b>                         |                                |    | Reed Restoration              |
| National Trust                | 32 |  | Tiny Turrets                   | 31 | <b>Yoga</b>                   |
|                               |    |  |                                |    | Yoga with Lisa                |

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