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a magazine for the villages around Ham Hill



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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 Thursday 15th February



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The Wall

Stoke Gardening Club holds its **AGM on Wednesday 28th February 2024**. It's Membership Renewal time, so it's a great opportunity to join the Club at the beginning of our year and get the most of your membership fee. Do come along if you're curious about what we do! After the AGM the evening will be informal, with a Quiz (local and gardening knowledge); free refreshments; raffle; plant sales.

Venue: Stoke-sub-Hamdon Memorial Hall – doors open 7.15 p.m., meeting starts at 7.30 p.m. Visitors very welcome!

ODCOMBE MOVIE NIGHT

What's Love Got To Do With It (12A)

1h 48m

A Valentine themed film evening at the Hall

Monday 5th February at 7:30pm

Village Hall doors open at 7:00pm

Tickets: £5.00 in advance, **or £6.00** on the door

Email: odcombemovies@gmail.com or

phone Denise: 07843 973561

for tickets and payment details.

Refreshments / Bar will be available.

Tinkers Bubble Seed Swap

Saturday 10th February

11am - 1pm

TA14 6TF

Stoke Performing Arts Group presents

'Jack and the Beanstalk' on 15th, 16th and 17th February at

Stoke Memorial Hall. Evening performances start at 7pm,

Saturday Matinee at 2.30pm. Adults £10, Children (u16 yrs.) £5

Tickets and further information available from

Stoke Community Shop or Tel/Text : 07967184592.

Dates for your Diary...

NORTON AND CHISELBOROUGH FLOWER SHOW will take place on **SATURDAY 17TH AUGUST 2024** at Norton-Sub-Hamdon Recreation Ground, New Road, Norton. Gates open 2.00 pm.

Our annual **Plant Sale** and market will take place on Sat. 27th April from 11 am - 3 pm at Norton Village Hall.

Event: The Beach'd Buoys Shanty Band

Date: Thursday **22nd February 2024**

Venue address: All Saints' Church, **MARTOCK**; TA12 6JN

Performance time: 7:30 pm, **Admission fee:** Tickets: £10.00 at **Guardianstickets@gmail.com** /07547 213992/ Martock Gallery/ Martock Newsagent (**CASH ONLY**); £12.00 at door.

Website:www.martockonline.co.uk/events

The Beach'd Buoys are a shanty band that sing sea-shanties; the work songs of seafarers and most of their songbook comes from the 18th and 19th centuries, although they do include some more modern songs.

Our next exciting workshop is on **23rd of March with Kate Field** -10.00am until 3.00pm at the Memorial Hall, Stoke-sub-Hamdon. She will be demonstrating painting animals with acrylics in her own style. Have a look at her website: www.artistkatefield.com. The fee for the day will be £35:00 which will include materials and painting canvasses, plus free teas & coffees. All welcome, contact us for more details!!

The Village Artists Group is a very friendly group of amateurs who meet at the Stoke Memorial Hall on Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9pm and Friday mornings 10am to 12 noon during school term time. We share an enjoyment of traditional art at all levels and seek to develop our artistic skills through discussion and an encouraging environment. Should you wish to learn more about our group, please contact Andrew on 01935 823691 SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com Facebook: Stoke Sub Hamdon The Village Artists Group - we look forward to hearing from you.

Norton Movie Nites at the Lord Nelson on Tuesday 13th February.

A Bunch of Amateurs (95 mins) will appeal to all lovers of film nights. Bradford Movie Makers is one of the world's oldest amateur film-making clubs – a bold statement for a group of dedicated cinephiles who are proud to be called amateurs. An affectionate and heartening portrait of the importance of cinema for the community. Tickets at £5 on sale in Norton Shop from 1st February. Doors open 7.45, film starts 8 pm.

**Shrove Tuesday
13th Feb. 2024**



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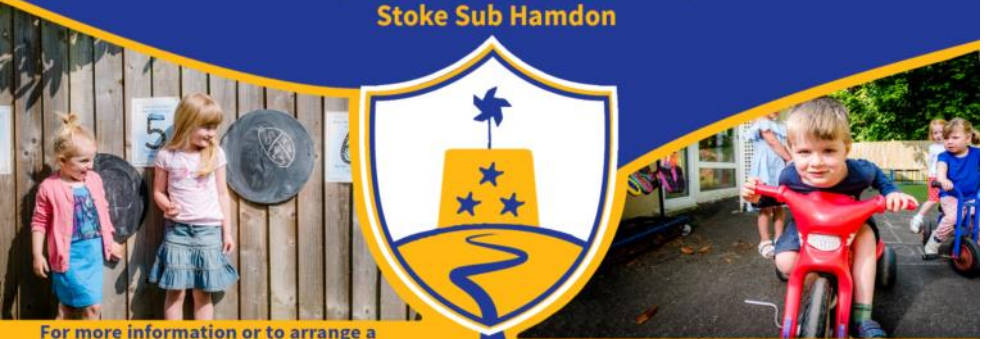
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FESTIVAL OF SNOWDROPS



Throughout February the famous cottage garden at East Lambrook Manor will be celebrating the snowdrop season once again with its annual, and possibly last, Festival of Snowdrops. Stroll through the beautiful winter garden and enjoy the wonderful collection of unusual snowdrops.

Cottage garden doyenne and avid '*galanthophile*' Margery Fish and her husband Walter turned the drainage channel between two orchards into the perfect place for planting her growing collection of snowdrops in the 1940's and the bulbs have thrived there ever since. "It gladdens the heart to see the snowdrops lining the banks of the famous Ditch in this gem of a garden," says owner Mike Werkmeister.

The garden has a collection of around 140 named varieties and many of 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. "Unless you are a snowdrop aficionado, or '*galanthophile*', you are probably not aware of how varied they can be. Visitors are often amazed by the different shapes and colours of the flowers, including delicate *Galanthus* 'Margery Fish', found in the Ditch in 1987," explains Mike.



Visitors can join a snowdrop tour to learn about the genus and see some of the more unusual snowdrops in the garden. Around 80 varieties will be on sale in the nursery along with hellebores and other spring bulbs and plants. Sculptor **Chris Kampf** will again be exhibiting his popular steel snowdrops.



The garden is open Tuesday to Sunday throughout the festival from 10am to 5pm. Garden entry £7.00, Groups £6.50, under 16s free. Tours £4.00. The annual NGS Snowdrop Open Day is on Thurs.15th February, with all entry money going to charity. RHS members have free entry on Wednesdays. No charge if just visiting the café or nursery.

East Lambrook Manor Gardens

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It's a Puzzle

Countries of the World

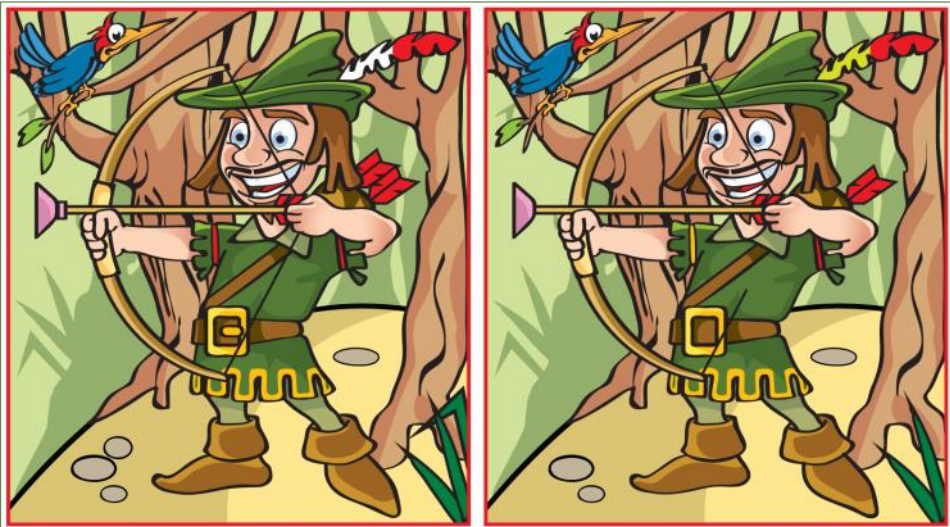
Word Search Puzzle



I	M	E	J	Y	A	A	M	T	T	U	R	K	E	Y	Q	N
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R	D	M	O	D	S	F	E	N	A	H	I	R	N	D	T	A
C	T	P	Y	F	A	Q	I	N	C	P	A	N	A	M	A	L
J	Z	E	P	C	E	T	N	J	Y	P	I	S	L	K	I	Y
U	U	I	T	C	N	D	D	C	B	W	R	G	D	E	W	R
L	Z	N	E	E	N	O	I	N	G	E	O	N	C	N	A	U
Q	W	E	G	A	C	D	A	O	D	U	L	N	K	Y	N	S
A	R	R	L	I	N	W	U	R	X	S	A	G	F	A	C	S
G	A	G	X	B	R	G	I	W	O	R	I	M	I	I	G	I
C	N	E	U	T	E	A	K	A	F	L	F	F	B	U	T	A
E	M	U	E	O	Q	X	N	Y	C	I	O	Y	M	J	M	R

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Spot the 10 Differences





GROW TO EAT

Potager Spaces

You don't need a vegetable patch to grow food. When space is short, grow edibles amongst existing flower beds and borders.

Just make sure you're adding easily identifiable crops!

Broad beans are ideal - sow beans in February approx 5-7cm deep at 20 cm intervals towards the back of your border. Planting seeds in rows makes seedlings easy to spot, and not mistake them for weeds.

The plants sport pretty flowers (my favourite is Crimson Flowering) which soon set to pods. Harvest beans in May before the summer flowers put on their big display.

After harvesting all the pods, cut the plant stems to the ground but leave the roots in the ground to fix nitrogen and feed the soil.

This series is all about using small spaces to grow food to eat.

February Seed Sowing

February is the start of the indoor seed sowing year but most seed packets contain far more seeds than small growers need!



Seed swaps help build up your range without breaking the bank.

Check out Tinkers Bubble Seed Swap on Saturday February 10th from 11am - 1pm or Glastonbury Seedy Sunday, an event supported by Heritage Seed Library and local growers, Sunday 11th February 11am-2pm at St Edmunds Hall, BA6 9HU.

Take spare seeds (in labelled envelopes) to swap, or pay the suggested donation.



Claire Ashton 



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Ham Hill Update



Rangers update

After a very wet Christmas period, the rangers welcomed some slightly drier weather in January that allowed them to start removing dead or diseased ash trees, that might pose a risk to visitors. Unfortunately, many of the ash trees on Ham Hill are infected with ash dieback disease, which gradually affects their overall health and ability to remain standing. However, it seems that the mature trees are more resistant to this disease, which provides some hope for this species in the future. If you are fit enough to climb to the war memorial from the village, you may have noticed that the volunteers have been making some improvements to the steps along this route, making it (slightly!) easier to access the hilltop from Stoke.

Forthcoming Events

Join us for some events this half term and beyond! All events have a limited number of tickets so pre-booking is essential. Please visit

www.visitsouthsomerset.com/events/nature-and-wildlife to find out more and to book a place.

Fairy Folk Fun / Roman Centurions Unite! More details on page 29.

Stars Over Somerset Friday 8th March 7pm – 9pm. Aimed at families and older children (over 12)

‘Uncovering Ham Hill’s past for its future’ project update

We are delighted to welcome Jasmine Ely into the Ham Hill ranger team. Jasmine is our Engagement Ranger at Ham Hill, and this post is fully funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund for three years. Jasmine’s role will be to work with visitors, volunteers, and the local community to help people be more involved at Ham Hill. Jasmine will also be helping to tell the story of Ham Hill’s rich history, through events, activities, and school visits. If you want to get involved or would like Jasmine to deliver a guided walk or activity with your group, please contact Jasmine by emailing her on Jasmine.Ely@somerset.gov.uk or call 01935 823617.

Geoff and his excellent dry stone walling volunteer team have now finished the wall repairs between Strouds West and Strouds East. A huge well done to the team! It has taken them 250 volunteer days (one person for one day = 1 volunteer day) to complete 100m of wall, which shows why a dedicated volunteer team was needed to carry out this work.

Since Geoff started the drystone wall repair team, as a volunteer himself, as 'lockdown' eased in the Spring of 2021, they have restored the 450m field wall dividing Strouds Meadow on the Ham Hill Plateau to being fully stockproof. This has involved 100m of complete rebuild, together with a 200m of partial rebuild: patching holes, increasing the height of low sections, replacing missing top stones etc.

Geoff is now leading a team of volunteers to open the exposed rock faces in the Geological SSSI so that visitors can view them more easily. The geological creation of Ham Hill is one of the themes that will be covered in the exhibition in the new Visitor Centre and once people understand the story, they will be able to go out on site and see the evidence to back it up.



Wildlife

Although February is the start of early spring, it can still seem like a drab winter month, depending on what the weather throws our way! However, there is still much to celebrate in nature. Snowdrops will be starting to bloom, creating a carpet of white in our woodlands. Head to Headgecock Woods or walk the ramparts on the western side of the hill to see these delicate flowers in bloom. Although delicate, they are mighty, and were so named due to their ability to push their stems up through snow-laden soil.

Whilst the trees are still bare, it is also a good time to get the binoculars out for a bit of bird spotting. During the winter months, birds of different species flock together to search for food and provide protection against the elements. These flocks can be quite gregarious and so are easy to spot. Members of the tit family (Great tits, blue tits, long tailed tits) often fly in small flocks in the tree tops at this time of year and goldfinches can be seen landing on teasel or thistle heads in the field margins.

Skylarks have already tentatively started singing so listen out for them as you walk across the flat fields.





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FEBRUARY EVENTS

at The David Hall

Don't Go Into The Cellar Presents:

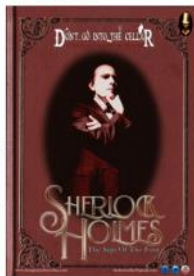
THE SIGN OF FOUR

Friday February

9th at 8.00pm

£16, no concs.

Jonathan Goodwin plays Sherlock Holmes and a miscellany of other characters in this classic Victorian detective story.



MAD DOG MCREA

A 'Chance to Dance' Event

Saturday February 17th.

at 8.00pm £23, no concs.



THE HAAR

Saturday
 February 10th at
 8.00pm

£20 full, £19
 concs

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Friday February 23rd at 7.30pm

£8 full, £7 concs

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CATRIN FINCH: The Story So Far

Saturday February 24th at 8.00pm

£20 full, £19 concs

In this trip through the musical life of one of the worlds finest harpists Catrin takes us through her 35 year career.



★ **NOT FORGETTING OUR REGULAR EVENTS** ★

PETHERTON PICTURE SHOW - Friday 2nd and Friday 16th February.

TRIO PARADIS - Wednesday 7th February 11am Free admission, retiring collection.

FRESH FICTION - Sunday 18th February 7.30pm £7 - £6 concs.

ACOUSTIC NIGHT - Sunday 25th February 7.30pm - 10.30. Contact folk@chriswatts.org to book a spot

COFFEE MORNING - Wednesday 28th February 10.00am - 12.00 Coffee, cake, & live music.

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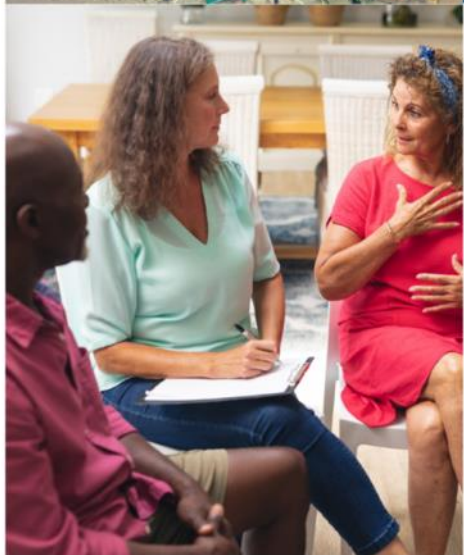
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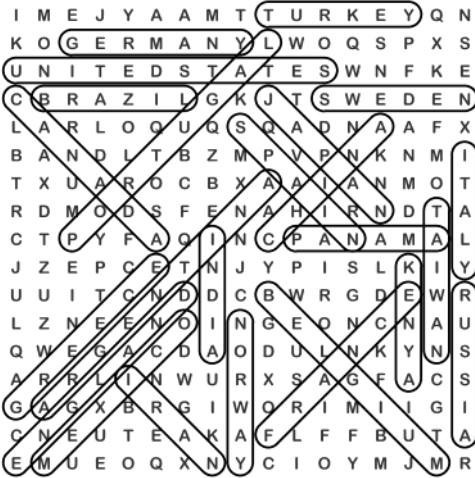
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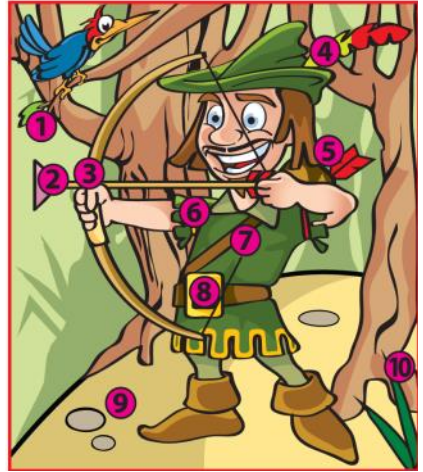
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Answers from page 17

Countries Wordsearch



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Tuesday 13th February 10am - 11.30am **Fairy Folk Craft Morning**

Join us for a selection of crafts using natural materials to make your very own masterpieces to take away with you! Decorate a stick to turn it into a magical wand, or why not create a mystical wizard from a piece of hazel? Aimed at families with children aged 4 - 7.



Friday 16th February 10am - 11.30am **Roman Centurions Unite! - Craft Morning**

Get creative with these craft activities and make masterpieces to take away with you. Create your very own brave Roman soldier from a piece of hazel, or use paper to make a roman mosaic. Why not decorate your own medal to wear like a real centurion soldier? Aimed at families with children aged 7 - 10.



£6 per child ticket. Booking essential for all events. All children must be supervised by an adult at all times.

See full details and booking on webpage. Follow link or scan QR code.



<https://www.visitsouthsomerset.com/events/nature-and-wildlife>



Where To Look

Art Centre		Events		Oven Cleaning	
The David Hall	22	East Lambrook Manor Gardens	1	Oven Gleaners	12
Bathrooms		Haynes Motor Museum	8	Pest Control	
Beales	9	National Trust	32	Pegasus	4
GB Power	16	The David Hall	22	Plumbing & Heating	
Mike Neville	12	Fencing		Beales	9
Boiler Servicing		ARB Tree & Garden Services	11	GB Power	16
Sureheat Solutions	27	The Fencing & Gate Co.	16	Sureheat Solutions	27
Builders		Flooring		Printing Services	
Beales	9	Steve Deane	5	Wincanton Print	31
Bowring Building Contractors	25	Financial Services		Pubs	
Building Supplies		Simply Advice	2	The Prince of Wales	27
CRS	24	Footcare		Removals	
Carpenter		Foothhealth	28	Back2Market	15
Tree Bespoke Woodwork	13	Funeral Directors		Roofing	
Carpet Cleaning		Stoodley & Son	23	Bowring Building Contractors	25
WillClean	5	Stuart Foster Funeral Services	8	Parks Roofing	13
Carpet Fitting		Hairdresser		Social Club	
Steve Deane	5	Donna's Hair Design	13	Stoke Club	4
Childcare		Lisa Smith Hair	5	Sports Massage	
Tiny Turrets	9	The Hair Loft	23	Chiropractic Care Clinics	19
Chiropractor		Hedge Cutting		Taxi	
Chiropractic Care Clinics	19	ARB Tree & Garden Services	11	Freeway Taxis	16
Computer Help		Montague Countryside Services	25	Tiling Specialist	
GEM Home Computing	27	House Clearance		Mike Neville	12
Computer Repairs		Back2Market	15	Tree Services	
GEM Home Computing	27	Kitchens		ARB Tree & Garden Services	11
Curtains and Blinds		Kitchen Kind	19	Montague Countryside Services	25
Drapes Direct	12	Tree Bespoke Woodwork	13	Upholstery Cleaning	
Hillarys Blinds	23	Logs		WillClean	5
Electricians		Dale Redwood	9	Vets	
GB Power	16	Kevin England	25	Isle Valley Vets	15
KS Electric	28	Manicure in your Home		Village Shop	
		Donna's Hair Design	13	Stoke Community Shop	5
		Nursery (Childcare)		Windows & Conservatories	
		Tiny Turrets	9	Tree Bespoke Woodwork	13

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