

March 2024

The Hambook

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 April issue is Friday 15th March

Stoke Community Shop

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4th Anniversary *Celebrations*

Join us to celebrate our 4th anniversary
❧ **Free tombola: 2 – 8 March** ❧

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Easter opening hours



Good Friday 29 March: 8am – 12 noon

Easter Sunday 31 March: 8.30 – 10:30am

Easter Monday 1 April: 8am – 12 noon

No Post Office counter service

Good Friday & Easter Monday

Your local village-run store

T: 01935 509100 E: shop@stokeshop.co.uk
www.stokeshop.co.uk

**Stoke Community Shop, 6b High Street
Stoke-sub-Hamdon TA14 6PP**

Norton & Chiselborough
Flower Show
Spring Market and Plant Sale

will take place on

Saturday 27th April 11am – 3pm

at Norton Village Hall (TA14 6SF)

Plants and shrubs - Dried herbs - Wind chimes - Crystal jewellery
Stained glass - Wood turning - Recycled metal flowers
Sea glass & pottery and much more!

Come along and enjoy delicious cake
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The Wall

Mother's Day
Sunday 10th March.



Martock and District u3a - Wednesday 13th March

2.15pm for 2.30 start The Parish Hall Martock:

Much More than Merely Matchstick Men – Richard Kay discusses The Profound Art of L S Lowry. All welcome to the talk, to enjoy a chat over refreshments and to find out about the learning, hobby and interest groups you can join through Martock & District u3a. More information about Martock & District u3a: email - martocku3amembership@gmail.com, telephone **07555 033027**. website - www.u3a.org.uk

Come and join us for
Odcombe Church's Lent Lunch
at Odcombe Village Hall

Saturday 9th March 2024, 12.30pm – 2.00pm

Enjoy a selection of home-made soups, fresh bread, cheese and fruit
for a suggested donation of £6 per adult
(children under 12 years - £3 each)

Tea & Coffee also available @ £1 per cup

Books / Bottles / Cards / Raffle / Ample parking

All lunch profits will be donated to "Yeovil Street Pastors"

Any other monies raised on the day will go to support
St Peter & St Paul Church, Odcombe

We are collecting non-perishable food donations for
The Lord's Larder from Wed. 14th February – Thurs. 7th March
which can be left in the church porch any day from 10am – 4pm.

Norton Movie Nites
at the Lord Nelson on
Tuesday 12th March.

One Life (150 mins) tells how stockbroker Nicholas Winton rescued hundreds of children from certain death in Prague in 1938. After being hidden for years, the true story emerges on TV in the 1980s, and Winton's astounding achievement is duly recognised. Anthony Hopkins, Helena Bonham-Carter, Romola Garai and Jonathan Pryce star in this remarkable and moving film. Tickets at £5 on sale in Norton Shop from 29th Feb. Doors open 7.45pm, film starts 8 pm.

Stoke sub Hamdon Film Night

Saturday March 16th 2024 at 6:30pm
Memorial Hall, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6PZ
Wonka PG (1h 56m)

This based on the Roald Dahl character at the centre of the iconic book *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. With dreams of opening a shop in a city renowned for its chocolate, a young and poor Willy Wonka discovers that the industry is run by a cartel of greedy chocolatiers.

It's lots of fun for children and adults alike!
Doors open at 6pm for a 6:30pm start. £5 adults and £3 children (12 and under).
Cash at the door. Refreshments available
Look forward to seeing you there!

EASTER EGG HUNT **EGGSTRAVAGANZA**

SAT. 30th MARCH 11am - 3pm
In aid of Hamdon Youth and Family Centre. Egg Hunt around Stoke sub Hamdon £1.50
Crafts, Refreshments and Entertainment
Everyone welcome!
More details on page 9.

Stoke-sub-Hamdon Gardening Club

Wednesday 27th March 2024



Louise Hart from the Castle Gardens Group will give a talk/demonstration on Hanging Baskets. Come along and find out how to brighten up your front (and back) garden for the year ahead.

Visitors are always welcome; there is a charge of £3 which is re-fundable if you join the Club. Free refreshments; stall (bring or buy) for home grown plants/produce; monthly raffle.

The Memorial Hall, Stoke-sub-Hamdon, TA14 6PZ. 7.15 for 7.30 p.m.

The Kingsbury Episcopi Band



Thursday 21st March, 7.30pm, All Saints Church, MARTOCK; TA12 6JN

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 <https://kingsburyband.co.uk/>

Kingsbury Episcopi Band was established more than 100 years ago, and is a wind band, made up of brass and woodwind instruments. Their repertoire is wide and varied from ABBA and the King and I to Simon and Garfunkel, as well as traditional marches.

"EVERY STEP COUNTS" Health Walk, Stoke Sub Hamdon 9.30 am
Mondays 11th and 25th March
A gentle, social, walking group at 9.30am meets outside the Lighthouse Cafe for a 40 minute pavement walk in Stoke. There is a trained leader and the walk is free. Stay on for refreshments in the cafe afterwards. Walkers with walking aids are most welcome too. More information from Penny 822208 or Mark 07496148756



ODCOMBE MOVIE NIGHT

The Miracle Club (12A) 1h 30m

Monday 11th March 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.



Norton Pantomime Society
are presenting **"Puss in Boots"**
at Norton Village Hall.

Thurs. March 7th, Fri. March 8th
and Sat. March 9th. Doors open
6.30pm. Performance starts at 7pm.
Adults £10. Children under 16 £5.
Bar and soft drinks.

Tickets are available from Norton
Community shop or Jennie Harris
01935 881718 for tickets
or more information. All proceeds to
Norton Sub Hamdon Village Hall.





It has been a while since we have last put an article in our lovely Hambook! We do like to keep you all posted on what we are up to!

We have had to increase our unit maximum to 24, to be able to accommodate everyone on the waiting list. Considering we were down to 4 post covid - we certainly have sprung back up!

The unit is well supported with 7 volunteers, 3 fully qualified leaders, 1 in training, 1 parent carer, 1 youth leader and a Duke of Edinburgh volunteer. Having a strong flexible team enables us all to have the weeks off that we need and there not be a detriment to the girls. We are always looking for more volunteers and would hope that we could open Rainbow and or Guide units as we certainly have had the interest from parents for their girls to attend.

For the last couple of terms we have been working on the Girlguiding theme of Skills for our future.

We have looked at taking public transport of buses and trains from Stoke to Sherborne and back. With the girls having to ask the bus drivers and station ticket office for their own tickets and pay for them.

We have been looking at utensils and tools both in the kitchen and for DIY and made ourselves a filled fajita wrap with cheese grated, tomatoes sliced, chicken carved, avocado mashed, lime squeezed, etc. We have used hammers, screwdrivers, screws and nails both in practical and artistic forms.

This term we are working on the Theme Take Action, which is about learning how we can all affect the world around us by our words, actions and behaviours. Interest badges in the Theme are Zero Waste, Charities and Speak Out.

We love collaborating with other village organisations like we did with the Village Artists and their exhibition.



On Saturday 30th March 2023 from 11am until 3pm we are getting together with the other users of the Hamdon Youth and Family Centre to put on a really fun Easter egg hunt fundraiser with 2 levels of difficulty. One visual for our younger community and a What 3 words version for those who enjoy using their mobile phone to find the clues! Completed forms will receive an Easter hunt completion prize and the opportunity to have refreshments at the HYFC with Easter crafts to complete or take away. The users of the HYFC will be putting on a demo of their skills every 15 minutes showing what a variety the centre gives our younger members of our community and the good that it offers a home to. If you don't fancy the egg hunt then come and let our Brownies

serve you refreshments and see them and others in their element!

The Stoke Working Men's Club is supporting a raffle and we thank those who have given some wonderful prizes.

We will need those who can support us in the baking of cakes or biscuits.

If you see our social media event posts please like, comment and share, so that we can spread the word.

Team work is making the dream work! Looking forward to meeting you then. Further details please email me on stokesubhamdonbrownies@gmail.com

Jackie Poole

AKA Brown Owl! 1st Stoke sub Hamdon Brownies, 0777 9354320 / 01935 823606

Hop on over for our



Eggstravaganza

In aid of Hamdon Youth & Family Centre

Join us on

Easter Saturday 30th March

for some egg-citing fun for the
whole family

Egg Hunt
£1.50
per child
Includes a
prize and
Easter
activities

Centre opens from 10 a.m to collect
your village Easter Egg Hunt map

Refreshments, activities and
demonstrations
run from 11 a.m to 3 p.m.




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

Look Up!

Warmer days in March seriously tempt us gardeners to start sowing oodles of seeds, but beware: nights are cold and late frosts can wipe out ALL your hard work!

Outdoor tomatoes benefit from being sown inside now.

Sow seeds thinly in seed trays 0.5cm deep. Keep soil moist but not waterlogged. Seedlings show in 1-2 weeks.

Turn seed trays regularly to avoid seedlings becoming leggy and bent towards the light.

Pot up seedlings into individual pots once they have 2 sets of true leaves and approx. 10cm tall.



Plant deep as tomatoes throw out roots from a bedded stem.

Avoid using large pots as tomatoes prefer to be re-potted as they grow. It also saves on windowsill space!

Harden young plants off by putting them outside during the day, bringing them inside at night.

Plant outside once the risk of frost has passed (usually mid April).



If space is premium - Look Up!

Cherry bush tomatoes are prolific and do very well in hanging baskets.

Water daily as bushy plants create an “umbrella” as they grow and rain alone may not get to thirsty roots.

Once the flowers are out, add tomato feed at every other watering.

Growing Tip: My grandmother added a cup of cold black tea to the watering can once a week to improve the flavour of tomatoes - I don't know why, but it really works!

Claire Ashton 



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SECKOU KEITA

Saturday March 2nd at 8.00pm
 £20 full, £19 concs.



Seckou's performance at TDH in 2017 was one of the most talked about shows of the whole year. He is a true genius on the 22 string Kora.

MARCH EVENTS
at The David Hall

PHIL BEER & STEVE KNIGHTLEY
 - Full Circle Part Two: Show of Hands Return to Their Roots

Friday March 8th & Saturday March 9th. Two Nights! at 8.00pm £28, no concs. Last at TDH 20 years ago when they played to a full house. It's a real treat to have Phil & Steve back for two nights. Limited tickets left!



SykesMartin

Saturday March 16th at 8.00pm
 £18 full, £17 concs.



SykesMartin is the new collaboration from two of the UK's finest folk singers. Miranda Sykes (Show of Hands) and Hannah Martin (Edgelarks, Gigsanner,

Saturday March 23rd. at 8.00pm £22, no concs.

MOLOTOV JUKEBOX
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"One thing you can expect from a Molotov Jukebox gig is a party from start to finish, it's the most fun you can have with your clothes on!"
 First visit from this band who are amazing live.



The David Hall Music Quiz Night

Friday March 22nd at 7.30pm
 £8 per team member, no concs

A light supper is included so we need to know numbers by 12pm on March 20th. Maximum 4 people per team.



NOT FORGETTING OUR REGULAR EVENTS

PETHERTON PICTURE SHOW - Friday 1st and Friday 15th March

TRIO PARADIS - Wednesday 6th March 11am Free admission, retiring collection.

ACOUSTIC NIGHT - Sunday 24th March 7.30pm - 10.30. Contact folk@chriswatts.org to book a spot

COFFEE MORNING - Wednesday 27th March 10.00am - 12.00 Coffee, cake, & live music.



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It's a Puzzle

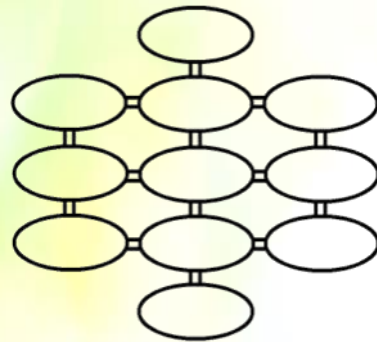
Numerator

Each oval contains a different number 1-11. Follow the clues to find the correct location of each number in the Numerator diagram below.

Note: 'Left' or 'Right' is from your point of view and means any location along the same horizontal line. 'Above' or 'Below' means any location along the same vertical line.

Clues:

- Number 8 is below 1 & right of 3.
- Number 7 is above 11 & left of 2.
- Number 6 is below 10 & left of 1.
- Number 5 is below 9 & left of 7.
- Number 6 is right of 4.



Easter

Word search

Find the hidden words in the word search grid

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------|
| egg | christian | spring |
| basket | chick | holiday |
| chocolate | parade | fast |
| lamb | roll | lent |
| sunday | cross | hop |

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

Word mix up

Unscramble the letters to make a word

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| notben | dogo fraydi |
| nunby | crestrunerio |
| racetode | dey |
| tho orcss snub | mobt |
| nuht | refowl |

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For information about the group contact:

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cath.holloway@sparksomerset.org.uk

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Ham Hill Update



Rangers update

The rangers have been continuing with their winter management work which includes felling of trees that are infected with ash dieback. Ash dieback is caused by a fungus (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) that specifically infects ash trees causing leaves and eventually branches to die and ultimately affecting the health of the tree. The rangers carry out annual tree safety surveys and only the trees that pose the highest risk to people or property will be felled. Dead and decaying trees are left where possible as they are good for wildlife too of course, providing habitat for other fungi, insects, birds and bats. Not all ash trees with ash dieback will die or need to be felled and it seems that the most mature trees have more resistance to the fungus, which gives some hope for the future of this species in Britain. The effect of ash dieback on our trees at Ham Hill will be apparent for everyone to see in the Spring when the trees start to get their leaves and many of the ash will remain leafless.

The rangers and volunteers were joined by the public on the 27th January to participate in a community tree planting day at Pit Wood, in the far southwestern part of Ham Hill. Pit Wood is dominated by sycamore and after some selective thinning by the rangers, 410 native tree species including oak, hazel, hawthorn, field maple, rowan, crab apple, hornbeam, wild service and goat willow were planted by 28 willing helpers. Some of these species will provide a shrubbier layer to the woodland, valuable to small mammals such as dormice that inhabit Ham Hill. Other species will provide nectar for our pollinators and allow a greater diversity of life to exist in the woodland.



We need to talk about poo!

Over the last few months, the rangers have received more than a dozen complaints about the amount of dog poo that has not been picked up by dog owners on Ham Hill. The rangers have been out to mark the 'hotspots' and regrettably found that in many instances, the poo was left just a few meters away from a dog bin.

The rangers would like to remind all dog-owning visitors that they have a responsibility to pick up after their dog and put it in one of the 26 dog bins that can be found across Ham Hill. Rangers have the authority to patrol, enforce and publish Fixed Penalty Notices for offenders if necessary. Whilst we know that most of our dog walkers do pick up after their dog, it only takes two or three owners who walk there daily for the amount to build up.

Paul McNeill, Countryside Ranger says, “We are a busy site that relies on the help and trust of our regular visitors and over the years, you have been amazing, our ‘eyes and ears’. Our time is spent looking after this beautiful space, protecting its wildlife and ensuring that our visitors stay safe too; not patrolling and enforcing. So again, I find myself asking for your help, please pick up your dog poo and put it in one of the red bins provided. Thank you.”

Forthcoming Events

Join us for some events this Easter! 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.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------|
| Tues. 2 nd April | Fire lighting and campfire crafts | 10am-12noon |
| Thurs. 4 th April | Eggcellent Eggy Eggxtravaganza | 10am-12noon |
| Fri. 5 th April | Woodland Wander and Den Building | 10am-12noon |
| Thurs. 11 th April | Fossil fun | 10-11.30am |
| Fri. 12 th April | Spring Forest Fun for mini adventurers | 10-11.30am |



Wildlife



By late march spring is really underway with blossom blooming on the blackthorn trees, bluebell leaves carpeting the woodland floor and **yellow celandines** brightening up the dreariest of days.

Blackthorn is one of the first native species to blossom, with blooms emerging from early February. They are not to be confused with Hawthorn which blossoms later in April-May, hence

it's common name, May Tree. The blackthorn blossoms before its leaves emerge whilst hawthorn do it the other way around, with leaves emerging from mid-February onwards.

Make the most of the bare trees while they last and brush up on your bird ID. The birds really start getting vocal this month and before they all launch into full song, take the opportunity to learn a few of the more common species. It helps that you can still see them in the treetops before the leaves emerge. Here are a couple for you to learn with some identification tips.



Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) Sits at the top of a tree or large bush to sing. Quite a stout bird, approximately the same size as a blackbird, with a more rounded ‘tummy’. Its song is a series of repeated notes, it will call one note, repeat it several times, before moving onto the next note.



Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*) often called a hedge sparrow, will sit atop a patch of bramble, hedgerow or other shrubs, flicking its wings as it moves when it is disturbed. The dunnocks call is very pretty and underrated, a continuous series of high-pitched notes, sang as if in a rush to talk.



Great Tit (*Parus major*) can be separated from the similar blue tit as being larger in size, with a black head and bold black stripe down it's chest. The great tit loves woodlands and gardens, and bird boxes! Its song is a simple repeat of two notes that sound like it is saying ‘tea-cher, tea-cher, tea-cher’.

Visit the RSPB website for more ID tips and to hear the bird calls

www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlifesp.org.uk

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

Geoff and his team of volunteers are continuing with work on the dry stone wall, as it leaves the fields and goes down into Hedgecock Woods. To celebrate all the work they have done, a new date stone has been set into the wall to memorialise the year in which the wall was rebuilt.

The volunteers have been helping to clear back scrub from some of the main paths across the site, partly to aid access for visitors but also in preparation of repair works to take place in the spring. The repairs works will be done with machinery so please adhere to 'footpath closed' signs and temporary diversions if you visit over the next few months. The work to the footpaths will help to prevent erosion, particularly on the sensitive rampart paths and provide a more durable surfacing for the winter months.

Do you have keen eye for spotting bees, or do you know your salad burnet from your scabious? If so then we want to hear from you! Jasmine is looking for some voluntary wildlife surveyors to help record Ham Hill's fantastic wildlife this spring and summer. We are particularly keen to hear from anyone that has an interest in or knowledge of botany (particularly calcareous grasslands) and bumblebees. You do not have to have any experience but a good eye for identification is key. We'd also be happy to hear from you if you have a particular interest or knowledge in any other type of wildlife too. Get in touch with Jasmine by emailing her on jasmine.ely@somerset.gov.uk or call the Ham Hill office on 01935 823617.





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| Thursday 7 th | Open Mic |
| Saturday 9 th | One Tree Hill |
| Saturday 16 th | D. State |
| Saturday 23 rd | Caught on the Backfoot |
| Saturday 30 th | Electric Temple |

Staff in the nursery class interact well with children, successfully encouraging them to be independent and develop their speaking. The provision is effective and prepares children well to start school. (OFSTED, October 2017).

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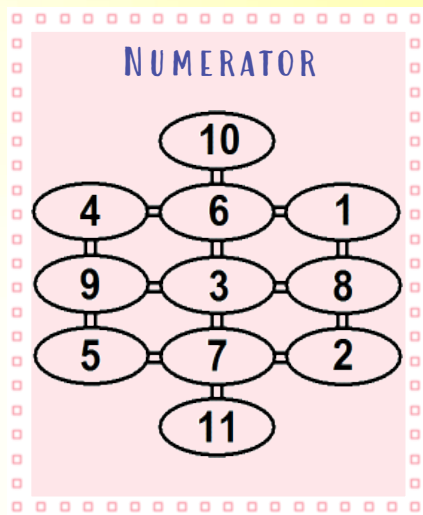
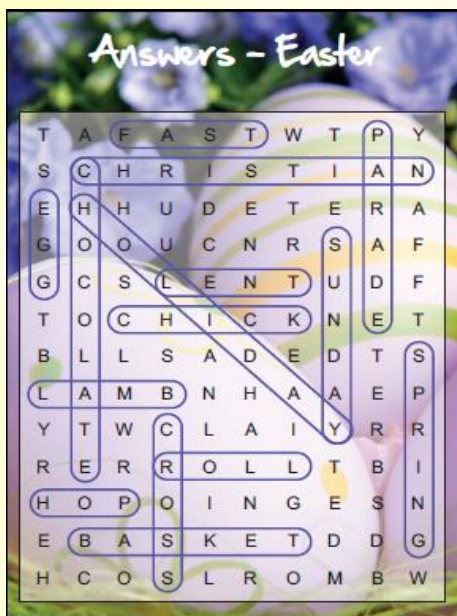


Castle Primary School is part of the Redstart Learning Partnership



Answers from page 17

Easter Word Search



Word Mix-Up

Bonnet
Bunny
Decorate
Hot Cross Buns
Flower
Hunt
Good Friday
Resurrection
Dye
Tomb



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Where To Look

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|----|--------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------|----|
| Art Centre | | Events | | Nursery (Childcare) | |
| The David Hall | 14 | Haynes Motor Museum | 21 | Tiny Turrets | 27 |
| Boiler Servicing | | National Trust | 32 | Oven Cleaning | |
| Sureheat Solutions | 18 | Flower Show Plant Sale | 5 | Oven Gleaners | 22 |
| Builders | | Martock Carers Group | 21 | Pest Control | |
| Bowring Building Contractors | 18 | The David Hall | 14 | Pegasus | 29 |
| Building Supplies | | Yandles | 1 | Plumbing & Heating | |
| CRS | 31 | Farm Shop | | Sureheat Solutions | 18 |
| Café | | West Country Water Buffalo | 11 | Printing Services | |
| Yandles | 1 | Fencing | | Wincanton Print | 20 |
| Carpenter | | ARB Tree & Garden Services | 19 | Pubs | |
| Tree Bespoke Woodwork | 19 | The Fencing & Gate Co. | 23 | The Prince of Wales | 15 |
| Carpet Cleaning | | Flooring | | Removals | |
| WillClean | 29 | Steve Deane | 19 | Back2Market | 23 |
| Carpet Fitting | | Financial Services | | Roofing | |
| Steve Deane | 19 | Simply Advice | 2 | Bowring Building Contractors | 18 |
| Childcare | | Funeral Directors | | Parks Roofing | 22 |
| Tiny Turrets | 27 | Stoodley & Son | 18 | Social Club | |
| Chiropractor | | Stuart Foster Funeral Services | 16 | Stoke Club | 27 |
| Chiropractic Care Clinics | 10 | Hairdresser | | Sports Massage | |
| Computer Help | | Hair by Tomasz of Hamdon | 5 | Chiropractic Care Clinics | 10 |
| GEM Home Computing | 15 | Lisa Smith Hair | 21 | Taxi | |
| Computer Repairs | | The Hair Loft | 11 | Freeway Taxis | 15 |
| GEM Home Computing | 15 | Hedge Cutting | | Tree Services | |
| Craft Supplies | | ARB Tree & Garden Services | 19 | ARB Tree & Garden Services | 19 |
| Yandles | 1 | Montague Countryside Services | 14 | Montague Countryside Services | 14 |
| Curtains and Blinds | | House Clearance | | Upholstery Cleaning | |
| Drapes Direct | 22 | Back2Market | 23 | WillClean | 29 |
| Hillarys Blinds | 16 | Kitchens | | Vets | |
| Electricians | | Kitchen Kind | 10 | Isle Valley Vets | 13 |
| KS Electric | 11 | Tree Bespoke Woodwork | 19 | Minster Veterinary Surgery | 5 |
| | | Logs | | Village Shop | |
| | | Dale Redwood | 28 | Stoke Community Shop | 3 |
| | | Kevin England | 23 | Windows & Conservatories | |
| | | Meat | | Tree Bespoke Woodwork | 19 |
| | | West Country Water Buffalo | 11 | | |

Published by Ruth Chant,
 21 Castle Street, Stoke-sub-Hamdon, TA14 6RE **Tel: 01935 824072**
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