

The Hambook

a magazine for the villages around Ham Hill



National Trust

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Contents.

● The Wall	6-7	● Last Posting Dates	20
● Christmas Services	9	● CADAS	24
● The David Hall	12	● Grow to Eat	26
● Ham Hill Update	14	● Answers	28
● It's a Puzzle	17	● Where To Look	30

Wishing all our readers a Very Happy Christmas!

Copy deadline for the January issue is Friday 13th December

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

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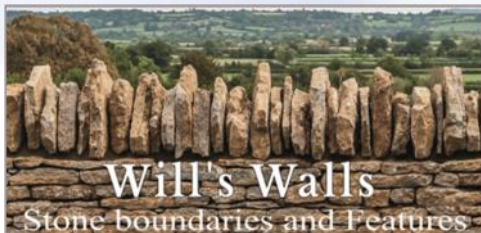
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The Wall

The Odcombe Carols will be sung around the village on 22nd and 23rd December. Listen out for us from 6pm.

Odcombe has its own set of carols, which have been sung for about 170 years. Very few places in the UK have a living tradition like this, and Odcombe is the only one that still calls door to door.

Want to help keep this special tradition going in the 21st Century? Join our rehearsals in the Church at 7pm on Monday 2nd, 9th and 16th. Everyone is welcome!

ODCOMBE MOVIE NIGHT *Swede Caroline* (15) 1h 38m

The competitive giant vegetable growing world is rocked by scandal when up-and-coming prospect Caroline has her prized marrow plants stolen. Monday 9th Dec. at 7:30pm Village Hall doors open at 7:00pm

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

E: odcombemovies@gmail.com or phone Denise: 07843 973561 for tickets and payment details. Refreshments / Bar, and something Christmassy will be available.

MONTACUTE WI

Annual Carol Service at Wells Cathedral

11 December 2024

Bus £13.50 programme for service £1.50. Total £15.00.

Prices held at the same price as last year.

If you don't want to attend the service come and have a wander round the town for the day.

Please contact

Lucie on montwisec@gmail.com

Martock and District u3a

Wednesday 11th December- 2.15pm for 2.35 start, The Parish Hall Martock: Christmas event, Greg Beedle – Whitty Ditties, Quiz. All who have time for themselves welcome to the event and to enjoy a chat over mince pies and mulled wine and to find out about the learning, hobby and interest groups you can join through Martock & District u3a. For more information about Martock and District u3a: email: martocku3amembership@gmail.com telephone 07555 033027. website www.u3a.org.uk

Stoke sub Hamdon Band

present

Christmas Concert

Saturday 7th December

Memorial Hall

Stoke sub Hamdon

at 7:30pm then

Carols on the Hill

Prince of Wales at 2pm

Saturday 14th December

Health Walks in Stoke-sub-Hamdon:

December Health Walks. **Note 16th not 23rd December**

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

Refreshments in café after Monday walks.

Tuesday 3rd: 5-6 miles, option of a pub lunch. Meet 9.50, walk 10am.

Mondays 9th and 16th: Make Every Step Count Start 9.30am, 40 mins on pavements Medium 3- 4 miles 90 minutes, mixture of pavements / footpaths. Monday 9th Meet 9.50 Walk 10am

Monday 16th Meet 10.50 Walk 11am Medium walk followed by Christmas refreshments. Contact : Sue 07792311736

The Stoke sub Hamdon Gardening Club

wishes everyone a Happy and Peaceful
Christmas

We don't meet in December but would be
delighted to see you at our January talk.
sec.sshgardeningclub@gmail.com for details.
Meetings: fourth Wednesday of the month
Venue: The Memorial Hall,
Stoke-sub-Hamdon. 7.15 for 7.30 p.m.

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mornings 10.00 to 12.00 noon during school
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Please contact Andrew 01935 823691
SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com
FB: Stoke Sub Hamdon The Village Artists
Group.

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Lyn – 01935 881138

e: lyn@threeways.me.uk

Sue – 01935 882665

e: sue.everest@sky.com

You will be sure to receive the
friendliest of welcomes.

**Meetings are held in
West & Middle Chinnock
Village Hall on the third
Thursday of the month at
6.45pm**

Stoke Community Shop

Open every day except Christmas day!

*Wishing you a very
Happy Christmas and New Year*

Community Shop

Mon to Fri: 8am – 4.30pm

Sat: 8am – 4pm

Sun: 8.30am – 12.30pm

CHRISTMAS HOURS

Tues 24 Dec: 8am – 12 noon

Weds 25 Dec: CLOSED

Thurs 26 Dec: 8am – 12 noon

30 Dec to 1 Jan: 8am – 12 noon

Post Office

Mon: 9am – 12 noon

Thurs: 1 – 4pm & Fri: 9am – 12 noon

Thurs 26 Dec: CLOSED

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Ham Hill Villages Benefice Christmas Services 2024

St Peter & St Paul, Chiselborough

Mon 16 th Dec	6.00pm	Candlelit Carols with the Benefice Choir
Weds 25 th Dec	10.30am	Christmas Family HC

St Margaret's Middle Chinnock

Tues 17 th Dec	7.00pm	Candlelit Carols (welcoming those from West Chinnock)
Weds 25 th Dec	09.30am	Christmas Family HC

St Catherine's Montacute

Thurs 19 th Dec	7.00pm	Carols by Candlelight, with Stoke Band
Sun 22 nd Dec	4.00pm	Family T@4 Celebration of Christmas in Montacute Village Hall
Tues 24 th Dec	11.30pm	Midnight Mass

St Mary the Virgin, Norton sub Hamdon

Sun 15 th Dec	6.00pm	Candlelit Carols with the Benefice Choir
Tues 24 th Dec	11.30pm	Midnight Mass

St Peter & St Paul, Odcombe

Sun 8 th Dec	10.30am	Benefice Café Church Odcombe Village Hall
Sun 15 th Dec	11.00am	Carol Service
Tues 24 th Dec	4.00pm	Crib Service
Weds 25 th Dec	11.00am	Christmas Family HC

St Mary Stoke sub Hamdon

Weds 18 th Dec	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight, with Stoke Band
Weds 25 th Dec	11.00am	Christmas Family HC

The Blessed Virgin Mary West Chinnock

Tues 17 th Dec	7.00pm	Candlelit Carols (at St Margaret's Middle Chinnock)
Tues 24 th Dec	11.30pm	Midnight Mass



Interested in the Christian Faith?

Join us for an informal and friendly Alpha Course starting on
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Tuesday 3rd & Tuesday 10th December
9.30 - 4.30 £85 each session.

BOWIE FASHION TRIBUTE SHOW

Friday 13th December - at 8.00pm
£19.00, no concs

JAMES KIRBY

Sat. 7th Dec. at 8.00 - £18.50 full, £17.50 concs.

Second visit to TDH for James, he is a totally unique performer who will surely become a household name in the very near future.



ST AGNES FOUNTAIN

Saturday 14th December - at 8.00pm
£23.50, no concs

'The Aggies' have been firm favourites at TDH since 2005. Their wonderful Christmas show is always delightful.

These superbly talented performers are the cream of the folk world.



BARE JAMS - A 'Chance to Dance' event.

Friday 20th December at 8.00
£19.50 full, £18.50 concs.

First time at TDH for this perfect party band. Bare Jams have a very large following and this gig will sell out very quickly. Not to be missed!!



PHOENIX BRASS BAND

Tuesday 17th December at 7.30pm
£10 full, £5 under 16's

Brass bands were made for Christmas music so please join us for a festive evening. Bar and nibbles available.

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from The David Hall Team.



NEW YEAR'S EVE CEILIDH

Sunday 31st December at 8.30 - £17.50 no concs.

Dancing to **CROOKED FURROW**, no experience necessary. Welcome 2025 with a bang. A light supper is included in the ticket price.



NOT FORGETTING OUR REGULAR EVENTS



TRIO PARADIS - Wednesday 4th December 11am Free admission, retiring collection.


ACOUSTIC NIGHT - Sunday 15th December 7.30pm - 10.30. Contact folk@chriswatts.org to book.

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Ham Hill Update



Rangers Update

This month we've been carrying out lots of brush cutting along visitor routes, cutting back woody materials at the edges of paths. We also cleared around facilities such as gates and dog bins and gave the bins a good clean! Sadly we had to take down several diseased ash trees in different locations due to ash dieback.

Ahead of the Remembrance Service on Sunday 10th November we gave the area around the war memorial some TLC.

We were joined this month by Yeovil College countryside students and hosted corporate team days for RNAS Yeovilton, the Hydrographic Office and teams from Somerset Council. The Dorset Dry Stone Walling Association ventured over the county border to hold their AGM at Ham Hill and also helped out with an afternoon of walling!



Dorset Dry Stone Walling Association

Wildlife

Light levels are low and much of nature is 'going to bed' for the winter, but you can still spot some splashes of colour here. The hot pink and bright orange fruits of the spindle trees are very noticeable. Spindle is a little tree with bendy, green-tinged branches that tend to droop. It was once used to make 'spindles' for holding and spinning wool.



Spindle



Eurasian Jay

Other flashes of colour that you could see are the electric blue of a jay's wing, or the bright red of a robin's breast. Carrion crows and rooks seem to 'dance' as they fly together in circles above Butcher's Field, making quite a racket! You can listen out for a variety of bird life in Horses Wood, and in Hedgecock Woods late in the day you might hear the atmospheric calls of tawny owls.

Our new Engagement Ranger Lucy is planning to put up a monthly sheet on the Rangers Office noticeboard, with nature highlights like these. Why not take a photo of the sheet?

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

The rangers have been clearing around the lime kiln heritage feature and the nearby car park. We have improved access across the site for people with wheelchairs and trampers, starting with a site review involving Mobility South West. We flattened sections of path, lowering the gradient to make it easier for mobility aids, and installed boulders in places to make it clear which is the best route.

The volunteers have been helping with rampart clearance, modernising the steps that lead towards Stoke-sub-Hamdon, creating a (people-)perching bench for a dragonfly scrape in Witcome Valley, raking on the meadows to improve the grassland habitat, and carrying out lots of scrub clearing! The dry stone wallers press on making progress restoring the iconic hamstone walls.

Thank you to everyone including all of the groups that have worked up at Ham Hill this year.

The Rangers and volunteers wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Events

Friday 6th December is a chance for the family to go stargazing at Ham Hill with astronomer Adrian Denning. Hot drinks provided! £6 per adult, £3 per child payable in cash on the night. Booking by phone is essential: 07973 887129. Meet at the Rangers Office 7pm.



Raking grass in the Flat Fields



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Christmas



Spot the Difference

Find the 10 differences between the 2 pictures.



Word Mix Up

Can you rearrange the following jumbled letters into words that are to do with school?

Each one has an extra letter:
Identify these to find the name of something you find in school.

- 1) reter _____
- 2) luegna _____
- 3) rentsdep _____
- 4) rideneero _____
- 5) thehelmleb _____
- 6) fastr _____

Extra Letter

<input type="checkbox"/>
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Extra Letter Answer:

Answers on page 28



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Christmas 2024

Royal Mail last recommended posting dates for UK addresses:

2nd Class

Wednesday 18 December

2nd Class Signed For

Wednesday 18 December

1st Class

Friday 20 December

1st Class Signed For

Friday 20 December

Royal Mail Tracked 48

Friday 20 December

Royal Mail Tracked 24

Saturday 21 December

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Monday 23 December

Information correct at time of going to press

An advertisement for Lisa Smith, a professional mobile hairdresser. The background is dark with a pair of silver scissors at the top. The word 'HAIR' is written in large, bold, yellow letters, with the 'A' replaced by the scissors. Below this, it says 'BY LISA SMITH' and '07969954401' in yellow. At the bottom, it says 'Professional Mobile Hairdresser' and 'Also Wedding Hair & Make-up and Special Occasions.' in yellow.

HAIR
BY LISA SMITH
07969954401
Professional Mobile Hairdresser
Also Wedding Hair & Make-up
and Special Occasions.

An advertisement for K.S. Electrics (SW) Limited. The background is yellow with a black border. The text is in black. It says 'K.S. Electrics (SW) Limited' in large letters, followed by 'For all your electrical requirements' and 'City and Guilds Qualified'. There is a logo for NICEIC Approved Contractor, which consists of the letters 'NICEIC' in a stylized font with a red vertical bar to the left of the 'I'. Below the logo, it says 'APPROVED CONTRACTOR'. To the right of the logo, it says 'No job too small'. At the bottom, it lists the telephone number '01935 823788' and the mobile number '07773 659401'.

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WORKING MEN'S
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and
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Friday & Saturday 12.00 pm – 12.00 am

Happy Hour:

5.00pm – 7.00pm daily
12.00pm – 2.00pm Saturday & Sunday

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December 2024 Live Bands:



Thursday 5 th	Open Mic	Boxing Day (Eve)	Garage Band
Saturday 7 th	Painkillers	Saturday 28 th	Electric Temple
Saturday 14 th	Rhythm Collective	New Years Eve	Bad Edukation
Saturday 21 st	DJ Craig		

It's been another busy year at the club as our refurbishment of the lounge bar stage area, hall and top skittle alley are now nearing completion.

The bar area has also enjoyed a significant upgrade with new oak shelving and lighting. We would like to thank the individuals involved and the many tradesmen (mostly local) who contributed to both these projects

That said, the highlight of the year once again must be the display of the poppies on the club railings in tribute to the fallen which was a powerful and poignant display in the heart of the village.

The committee would like to thank our staff for all their hard work and thank our members for their continued support.

**To all of them, and the rest of the community,
a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

Stoke Workings Men's Club

12-14 High Street, Stoke sub Hamdon, TA14 6PS

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www.arbtreeandgarden.co.uk

CHRISTMAS SUDOKU

Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the letters
S L E I G H

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Crewkerne And District Astronomical Society

Next CADAS Meeting – 18th December
Norton-Sub-Hamdon Village Hall 7.30pm
www.cadas.net

CADAS is the local astronomical society. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. The meetings are open to everyone.

Member short talks & social evenings

Members will give short talks and there will be a social element to the evening.

January Meeting.

January 15th Please come along for a new year meeting.

December Sky guide - Moon Phases

New Moon	1 st Quarter	Full Moon	Last Quarter
1 st & 30 th December	8 th December	15 th December	22 nd December

Conjunctions

On the 5th December the Moon and Venus will very low in the South West. If you look for them after 5.00pm you may catch a glimpse of the Venus and a 20% lit Moon.

Please wait until the Sun has set for your own safety.

On the 8th December the Moon is close to Saturn. They will be visible all evening.

On the 13th December the Moon is very close to the bright star called the Pleiades, it will be closest at around 5.30pm and on the 14th December the Moon is close to Jupiter

On the 17th December the Moon is between Mars and the bright star Pollux. They will form a straight line. On the 18th the Moon will pass in front of (occult) Mars. Mars will disappear behind the bright edge (limb) of the Moon and re-appear on the dark edge. The event will start at 9.26am and will end at 10.17am.

On the 20th December the Moon is close to the bright star Regulus in Leo.

The winter Milky Way is well positioned and with binoculars will show many star clusters.

The image is a wide angled photo of Comet C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS).



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And now...WRAPPING UP this series all about using small spaces to grow food to eat...

Still sowing in December!

It's difficult to grow much outside in December without a greenhouse, so make use of your window sills.

You can sow onion seeds now in trays of seed compost. The seeds are small, but try to space them at 1cm intervals so they are easier to tease apart as they grow. Lightly cover with compost and keep moist, but not waterlogged.

When the seedlings are a few inches tall, prick them out and transplant into modules of fresh compost. Once established, harden off and transplant seedlings into the garden 10-15cm apart.


The onions will be ready to harvest in late summer, when the leaves turn yellow and the stem bends over.

Window sills can also be used to grow herbs, sprouting beans and micro greens.

On dry days, check over your veggie patch & pots etc, keep on top of weeds and ensure perennials are protected.



Wet weather tasks are organising seeds, reordering favourites and planning next years growing! Which leaves me wishing you all a fruitful (and vegetable-full!) 2025.

Claire Ashton 

Christmas

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

Word search
Find the hidden words in the word search grid

rudolf	turkey	mistletoe
star	angel	stocking
tinsel	holly	sleigh



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Answers from page 17, 22 and 26

Spot the Differences

missing star, different coloured star, snowman's glove colour, missing button on snowman, colour of patch on sack, missing top present, missing shadow, tooth missing in mouth, different coloured band in sky, colour of snowman's hat.

Word Mix Up

1. Tree
2. Angel
3. Present
4. Reindeer
5. Bethlehem,
6. Star

Extra letter answer:

Rudolf

Word Sudoku

SLEIGH

S	H	E	L	G	I
L	G	I	S	E	H
I	L	H	E	S	G
G	E	S	H	I	L
H	S	G	I	L	E
E	I	L	G	H	S





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Carpet Cleaning

WillClean 29

Carpet Fitting

Steve Deane 25

Catering

Dorset Delights 27

Compost

Chedington Compost 5

Computer Help

GEM Home Computing 19

Computer Repairs

GEM Home Computing 19

Curtains and Blinds

Drapes Direct 11

Drives and Patios

James Down 18

Electricians

KS Electric 20

Events

Haynes Motor Museum 4

National Trust 1

Fencing

ARB Tree & Garden Services 22

The Fencing & Gate Co. 29

Flooring

Steve Deane 25

Financial Services

Roff Financial 22

Simply Advice 2

Funeral Directors

Stoodley & Son 16

Stuart Foster Funeral Services 25

Furniture Makers

DRA Woodwork 4

Furniture Restoration (Antique)

Reed Restoration 13

Gardener

Chris Kemp 25

Hairdresser

Lisa Smith Hair 20

The Hair Loft 10

Handyman Services

Chris Kemp 25

Hard Landscaping

James Down 18

Heating Oil

Northover Energy 23

Hedge Cutting

ARB Tree & Garden Services 22

Holiday Cottage

Bluebell Cottage 11

Kitchens

AP Kitchens 18

Kitchen Kind 13

Logs

Kevin England 10

Oil Tank Installations

Northover Energy 23

Oven Cleaning

Oven Gleamers 10

Pest Control

Pegasus 16

Plumbing & Heating

Beales 10

Sureheat Solutions 8

Printing Services

Wincanton Print 31

Pubs

The Phelps Arms 29

The Prince of Wales 8

Roofing

Parks Roofing 27

Social Club

Stoke Club 21

Stone Works

James Down 18

Wills Walls 5

Taxi

Freeway Taxis 5

Tree Services

ARB Tree & Garden Services 22

TV Aerials & Satellites

Sherborne Aerials 29

Upholstery Cleaning

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Vets

Isle Valley Vets 19

Minster Veterinary Surgery 16

Village Shop

Stoke Community Shop 8

Wood Restoration

Reed Restoration 13

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