

April 2025

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a magazine for the villages around Ham Hill

Yandles

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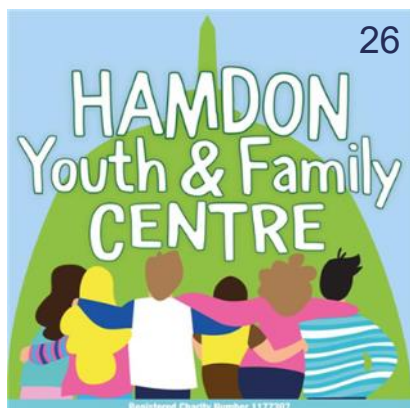
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Please support our local businesses as much as you are able.

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

Copy deadline for the May issue is Tuesday 15th April

The small hall with the **BIG** reputation **David Hall**

Catrin Finch and Aoife Ni Bhriain

Saturday April 12th at 8pm £22.50 -£21.50 concs.



Following Catrin Finch's amazing performance for us in February 2024 a quick return requested by all. Being able to secure a return with fiddle player Aoife Ni Bhriain, was beyond our wildest dreams.

Dervish

Saturday April 26th
8.00pm £26.00 - no concs.



This fantastic band, who were last with us in August 2012, are back for what will be their third visit. Irish music gets no better than this. A massive thank you to Cathy Jordon and the boys and their agent for making this happen again.

Phoenix Brass Band Open Rehearsal

Sunday 27th April - 2.00pm - 4.00pm

APRIL 2025 EVENTS at The David Hall

Roving Crows with support Concrete Prairie

Saturday April 5th at 8.00pm £18.50 - £17.50 concs.



Roving Crows are the perfect band to get you moving with their great musicianship and driving rhythms. Absolutely brilliant live, they are certain to yet again make a big impression!

An Evening With The Maggie Arc

Sunday April 20th at 7.30pm
£25.00 - £24.00 concs.



The Maggie Arc is a cross-border band featuring acclaimed musicians Nancy Kerr, Findlay Napier, Tom Wright, Alex Hunter, and UK folk legend Martin Simpson on electric guitar. Formed to blend their song-writing and musicianship into a fresh take on the British folk/rock sound of the '60s and '70s.

Crystal & Tibetan Singing Bowl Sound Bath

Reserve at ahiahel@live.com or 01935 389655

NOT FORGETTING OUR REGULAR EVENTS

ACOUSTIC NIGHT - Sunday 27th April 7.30pm - 10.30. Contact folk@chriswatts.org to book a spot
COFFEE MORNING - Wednesday 30th April 10.00am - 12.00 Coffee, cake and live music.
PETHERTON PICTURE SHOW - Friday 11th & Friday 25th April.
TRIO PARADIS - Wednesday 2nd April - Spring Song - 11.00 Coffee & cake - Donations

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PLANT SALE
And
CRAFT MARKET

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11.00 AM — 3.00PM

NORTON VILLAGE HALL TA14 6SF



The Wall

Stoke Gardening Club

Saturday 26th April
ANNUAL PLANT SALE!

Lots of home-grown bargains to get your garden started for the spring and summer! Tea, Coffee, Cake on sale. All Saint's Hall ("The Lighthouse"), Stoke-sub-Hamdon. 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon. Tell your friends!

HAMDON YOUTH & FAMILY CENTRE

EASTER OPEN HOUSE INVITATION

The new trustees of the HYFC warmly invite you all to come on Saturday 19th April from 2 - 4pm. Easter Scavenger hunt, puzzles and refreshments.

Please pop in and say hello and have a look around our wonderful village asset. For more information contact Jackie 07779354320

Hamdonyouthcentre@gmail.com

WEST AND MIDDLE CHINNOCK WOMEN'S INSTITUTE Formed 1949

Think the WI is all just "Jam and Jerusalem"?
Then think again!

If you would be interested in joining us please contact either:

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

ODCOMBE MOVIE NIGHT

Gladiator II (15) 2h 28m (2024)

After his home is conquered by the tyrannical emperors who now lead Rome, Lucius is forced to enter the Colosseum and must look to his past to find strength to return the glory of Rome to its people.

Monday 14th April at 7:30pm
Village Hall doors open at 7:00pm
There will be an interval partway through.

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

Email: odcombemovies@gmail.com
or phone Denise: 07843 973561
for tickets and payment details.
Refreshments / Bar available.

The Village Artists Group


Are you looking for a new challenge and have a little spare time?

The Village Artists Group's Summer term commences on Tuesday 22nd April at Stoke-sub-Hamdon Memorial Hall.

Come and join a very friendly self-guided group of artists for painting, drawing etc. on Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9:30 pm and Friday mornings 10.00 to 12.00 noon during school term time. FREE first visit to see how you get on!

Please contact Andrew on 01935 823691
SSHTheVillageArtistsGroup@gmail.com
Fb: Stoke Sub Hamdon The Village Artists Group.

TABLETOP SALE **at West and Middle Chinnock Village Hall**

26th April 2025, 2-5pm. 

Bric-a-brac plus

Traditional Cakes & Bakes by Denise

The Jam Shed, jams and preserves

Richard Winfield Ceramics, seconds sale

Felt Craft, Cards and more

Raffle, Teas, Admission free

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

Hatch Somerset exhibition

THINKING INSIDE THE BOX

15th – 30th March, weekends only, 11am - 4pm. 38 artists exhibit in a Secret Barn location near Langport. Open to visitors on Saturday and Sundays only from 11am-4pm for 3 weekends, 15th – 30th March.

This is a free event and suitable for all the family.

For further information and booking please go to:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/hatch

Martock and District u3a

Wed. 9th April - 2.15pm for 2.30 start, The Parish Hall Martock:

Ann French – 40 Years On: A Career in Textile Conservation. All adults with time for themselves are welcome to the event and to enjoy a chat over refreshments. For more information about Martock and District u3a:

E: martocku3amembership@gmail.com, telephone 07555 033027.

website: www.martocku3a.org.

Music for Holy Week Concert

Friends of Norton Church warmly invite you to enjoy an evening of music specially chosen for Holy Week featuring a production of Pergolesi's Stabat Mater.

Directed by Jenny Broom with Jonathan Delbridge accompanying, the evening commences at 6:30pm for 7:00pm in

St Mary's Church Norton-sub-Hamdon, on Saturday 12th April 2025.

Local performers will present a programme including solos from Jenny Hillman and Ros Weber and group items from the newly formed Venite Voices and the established Mosaica.

Tickets at £10 are on sale from the Norton Shop or on the door.

Stoke Gardening Club

Wednesday 23rd April 2025

Neil Ross has dedicated over 30 years to creating beautiful gardens and landscapes.

He's delighted to come and share his knowledge in a talk:

"The X-Factor – 10 Tips to Give Your Garden the Wow Factor".

Free refreshments; plant sales; raffle.

Visitors very welcome - £5.

Doors open: 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. start.

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

April Stoke-sub-Hamdon Health Walks.

Walk with trained leaders, start from Lighthouse Café. Dress for the weather, stout footwear recommended. Well-behaved dogs on leads are welcome.

Refreshments in café after Monday walks.

Mondays 14th, 28th Start 9.30. Shortest 'Make Every Step Count', 40 mins on pavements.

Mondays 14th, 28th Meet 9.50 Walk start 10.00 Medium walks 3-4 miles 90 minutes, mixture of pavements/footpaths.

Tuesday 1st Longer walk 5-6 miles, option of a pub lunch. Meet 9.50, start walking 10.00.

For more information contact

Sue 07792311736



HAM HILL VILLAGES BENEFICE

Wanted – New Vicar! The Vacancy Process

Following Rev Nick's retirement at the end of last year, the process of choosing a new vicar has begun with the 7 PCCs across the Benefice meeting with the Bishop, Arch-deacon and others to get the ball rolling. This process usually takes between one and two years but we are hoping to appoint a new vicar by early 2026.

We now have a team with a member from each parish to put together a Benefice Profile which tells any job seeking vicar who we are and who we are looking for. This profile will be finished in June, with job ads posted in July and interviews in September. If an appointment is made, then they could be licensed by the bishop in January 2026, but if we are unsuccessful first time, it will take longer.

In the meantime, the church is kept going by the benefice administrator, a ministry team of 3 vicars and 5 lay ministers (readers) and many volunteers filling the more than 50 roles on the activity list Rev Nick left us with. If you would like to help in any way, or need to discuss any church matters, please contact our benefice administrator, in the first instance and she will contact Colleen, our churchwarden or one of our vicars.

Contact details for our Benefice Administrator : h hv.keep@outlook.com



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One in four children leave primary school unable to read to the expected standard.

This will have a negative impact on their secondary education and future life chances.

Children's literacy charity Schoolreaders is recruiting volunteers across England to listen to children read in primary schools.

If you have some time to spare, a good grasp of written English, and if you enjoy spending time with children, you could become a Schoolreader.

Volunteers are asked to listen to children read once a week in term time and to commit to a full academic year, though of course holidays and weeks off on occasion are no issue.

This is a fantastic opportunity for retirees, and will have a lasting impact on the next generation.


If you can spare just an hour a week to listen to children read, you can help to change their life-story.

**To find out more about Schoolreaders please visit
www.schoolreaders.org**

Schoolreaders CIO Registered Charity Number: 1159157. Registered in England and Wales



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Introducing SEND Solutions South West:

Supporting Families on Their SEND Journey



SEND Solutions South West

After an incredible 30-year career in education, specialising in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), I'm excited to introduce my new venture:

SEND Solutions South West. Drawing on decades of experience as a SENCo, teacher and qualified specialist advisory teacher and assessor within a local authority, I've designed services to provide advice, support, and solutions tailored to schools and parent carers navigating the complexities of SEND.

What do we offer? At SEND Solutions South West, my goal is to empower schools and families across the south west by identifying and addressing learning difficulties in children. For parent carers, whether your child is struggling with maths, reading, writing, and spelling or you suspect they may have dyslexia, I provide comprehensive assessments and actionable strategies to help them thrive. I also provide advice to parents with SEND related queries on how best to approach your child's school with a concern you might have, the questions to ask and what would be expected from the school to support your child.

Why choose us? Passionate about inclusion, I believe in fostering true partnerships between parents, schools, and children. With a focus on better outcomes, I offer support rooted in compassion, expertise, and a commitment to collaboration. My approach ensures every child's unique needs are identified, understood, and met.


Who do we help?: My services are designed for parent carers who are seeking clarity, reassurance, and practical tools to advocate for their children. Together, we can help your child unlock their full potential so that they achieve well and grow in confidence.

About me: I am experienced education consultant specialising in SEND. My career in teaching across a variety of schools both in the UK and abroad has included being a SENCo and class teacher. Following my passion for SEND, 12 years ago I qualified as a specialist teacher and assessor for SpLD dyslexia taking on a teaching and learning consultant role then specialist assessor and advisory teacher for a local authority learning support service. I have a breadth of experience working with pupils from age 5 – 25 across over 150 schools and colleges in Somerset. I have been lucky enough to have lived and brought up my own children, with my husband in one of the villages near Ham Hill for 20 years and you will often see me walking my Black Labrador in the local area.

To find out more about how I can help please go to the **SEND Solutions South West** website www.sendsolutions-sw.co.uk and complete the 'contact me' form. I look forward to working with you!



Helen Berryman


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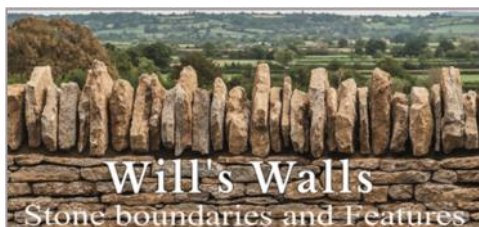
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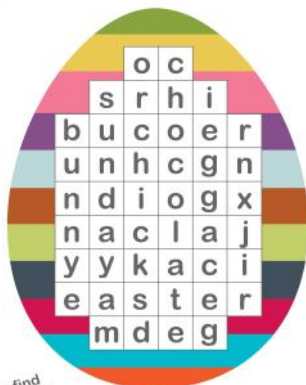


Easter Sudoku

Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the letters B A S K E T.

		A	T		
	K			S	
B					K
A					B
	T			A	
		S	K		

HAPPY EASTER



ANSWERS ON PAGE 28

Can you find these words?

Easter
egg
hen

bunny
Sunday

chocolate
chicks



Somerset
Council



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Ham Hill Update

Ranger's update

April marks the end of the 'cutting season' as spring is well and truly on its way.

During March the volunteers and ranger team cleared and widened the bottom path running from Little Norton lane to Stoke (Shelves) to ensure it is more accessible for horse riders and walkers for the spring & summer.

Stage 1 of the rampart clearance on the Northern Spur is now complete with volunteers having removed 0.41ha of scrub over the winter season to protect these archaeologically important earthworks, as advised by Historic England.

Cambian College have been continuing to bring students with additional needs to create a quiet wildlife area on the site for all visitors to enjoy.

The Monday volunteer team have done a fantastic job in restoring the steps that run alongside the road down to Stoke. We would recommend using them to avoid the narrow steep road on your way up to the hill!

Assistant Ranger Geo-Geoff delivered a geology session about stratigraphy where students could learn how to map rock faces.



Wildlife

The woodlands are the place to be in April. Before the leaves on the trees emerge and soak up all the sun's rays, the carpet of the woodland floor is adorned with wildflowers, making the most of the open canopy. Celandine, primrose, dog violet and wild daffodil have already started to appear across site to add a splash of much-needed colour. Into April the bluebells start to emerge and wood anemone carpet the woodland floors. Wood Anemone are an indicator of ancient woodland as they spread just 1m every 100 years.

Take a closer look at our hazel coppices and you may spot the very small pink flowers at the top of each catkin. These very overlooked flowers offer a tiny splash of colour in our woodlands.

Spring is well on its way now and you may have already heard skylarks singing over the flat fields. As we move through into April and May, these birds will be establishing their nest sites in amongst the grassy tussocks across the flat fields. It is that time of year when we ask that you, please put your dogs on a lead in ALL the flat fields during this short nesting period from April to June. These birds are in a serious decline across Britain and their ground-based nests are very vulnerable to disturbance from dogs. Please help us to look after Ham Hill's wildlife. There are many other spaces you can walk with your dogs off the lead, including the Northern Spur and our woodlands. Why not discover a new area of the site this spring?



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

It has suddenly got very busy at Ham Hill! There is lots of building work happening on site to enable the building of our new visitor centre. Cable is being laid to connect services to the Visitor Centre site, and the visitor centre itself is starting to be built, with foundations going in during April. The car parks are also being widened and resurfaced. We thank you for your patience during this period and ask that you please respect the closures and diversions in place. We can't wait to open the doors to you in the autumn! For all this building work to take place, the rangers have carried out lots of grassland & scrub management and surveys for slowworms so that the new building doesn't damage any wildlife during its construction.



Skylark

The new waymarking system is being finalised for the site and the exhibition in the new visitor centre is being progressed at pace with lots of fun and engaging information and activities for people to see and do.

The walling volunteer team have cleared a section of the old parish boundary wall between Montacute and Norton at the south-west corner of Strouds Meadow. This needed to happen before bird-nesting season, and we can now restore the wall, which dates back to around 1600.

The wall contains the unusual feature of small purpose-built holes or 'lunkys' at its base. Possibly for netting or trapping rabbits or hares, or for drainage. We'll keep them as wildlife routes through the wall.

Unfortunately, we said goodbye to our Engagement Ranger Lucy as she left the team for new opportunities. There is now a vacancy for this exciting post, please check www.somerset.gov.uk/jobs for more information about this role and how to apply. In the meantime our community ranger, Edd Chilcott will be helping visitors, school groups and community groups to explore Ham Hill. If you would like to arrange a session or get involved, please contact Edd by emailing him:

Edward.Chilcott@somerset.gov.uk.

Events

All of our events require booking unless otherwise stated as we have limited spaces available. Please visit **www.visitsouthsomerset.com/events** for more details and how to book a place.

Saturday 5th April, Super Spears and Celtic Blazes day, 10am.

Sunday 6th April, Forest Bathing, 10am, adults only.

Thursday 17th April, Egg-stravaganza, 10am.



Stoke Sub Hamdon,
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"In the early years, children are happy and enjoy learning".

Ofsted June 2023.



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- ☎ Call 01935 826739 ✉ email info@cps.clf.uk 🖱 castleprimaryschool.com

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1st Thursday of the month
2pm - 3.30pm

- + 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:
Cath Holloway
cathh@somsetrcc.org.uk
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HAMDON YOUTH & FAMILY CENTRE

EASTER OPEN HOUSE INVITATION
The new trustees of the HYFC warmly invite you all to come on

Saturday 19th April from 2 - 4pm.
Easter Scavenger hunt, puzzles and refreshments.

Please pop in and say hello and have a look around our wonderful village asset.

For more information contact Jackie
07779354320

Hamdonyouthcentre@gmail.com

HAMDON YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTRE

We are thrilled to announce subsequent to an appeal that we now have 4 new trustees who have filled the vacant positions within the committee. Jackie Poole has become Chairperson, Alison Woolley, Secretary, Sarah Bagwell, Bookings Secretary and Natasha Woods, Treasurer. As these four settle into their new roles, it is hoped that the centre will grow within the community and be able to host more events and activities for the children and young people of our village.

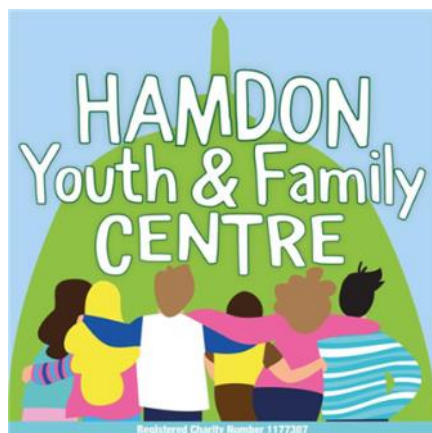
We are holding an Easter Open House which will give everyone the opportunity to come and meet the new team, have a look around the centre whilst participating in various Easter themed puzzles and activities and even winning a prize! We are trying to make it

a free afternoon (apart from the "Guess the number of eggs in the jar" so make sure you bring a little bit of cash for that) with refreshments also available for the grown-ups as well as the children. Donations of course will always be welcomed! The event will be held on Easter Saturday, 19th April from 2pm until 4pm. Please come along and support us.

Hopefully this will be the first of many community events to be held at the centre, so keep your eyes peeled on social media and around the village for advertisements.

Remember that the hall already hosts many activities and classes including the Youth Club, Brownies, Dragon Gymnastics and Star Dance and Black Rock Irish classes, and in the future a children's yoga class but is still available for children's parties at very reason-

able hourly rates. Being located in an ideal position along West Street, just opposite the football and cricket playing fields we have 2 halls, a fully fitted kitchen and a walled garden at the back. We will welcome new enquiries and can be contacted by email-
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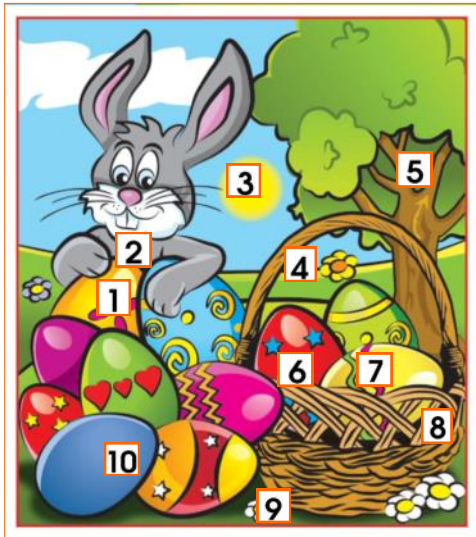
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Answers from page 17

Easter Sudoku

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T	K	E	B	S	A
B	S	T	A	E	K
A	E	K	S	T	B
K	T	B	E	A	S
E	A	S	K	B	T

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