

## Parish Diary February and March 2025

### Regular Monthly Events - see Events on inside pages for details.

First Thursday	7.30pm WI meeting. (Except August). February meeting in St Peter's Church Draycott. Michele Stevens 07811 253827. <a href="mailto:michelemarystevens@hotmail.com">michelemarystevens@hotmail.com</a>
First Saturday	10.30am – 12.00noon. St Peter's Church Coffee and Cake Morning. Karen Percival 07982 2263742. <a href="mailto:karenpercival199@btinternet.com">karenpercival199@btinternet.com</a> or any SOSF member
Second Sunday	8.00pm Quiz Night at Strawberry Special. Contact: Lori Toms 01934 742177 <a href="mailto:loritoms4@gmail.com">loritoms4@gmail.com</a>
Second Thursday	7.30pm Crib Night at the Strawberry Special. Beginners welcome. Contact Mike Kennedy 07938 940823 or email <a href="mailto:vortech.mk@gmail.com">vortech.mk@gmail.com</a>
Every Tuesday	Cheddar Male Choir. 7.30pm at Draycott Memorial Hall. New members welcome.
Every Tuesday	Mendip Players Youth Group. 5.00 – 6.30pm. at Draycott Memorial Hall. New members welcome. Contact <a href="mailto:mendipplayersyouth@gmail.com">mendipplayersyouth@gmail.com</a>
Every Wednesday	10.00 – 11.30am Drop-In. Term Time Only. Strawberry Tots Baby and Toddler group at Draycott & Rodney Stoke First School Hall Contact Mary Watt 07725 519062 or email <a href="mailto:mary_2011@hotmail.co.uk">mary_2011@hotmail.co.uk</a>

<b>February</b>		
Saturday	01	Coffee & Cake Morning. St Peter's Church 10.30am – 12.00 noon.
Thursday	06	WI Meeting. St Peter's Church. 7.30pm
Friday	14	Valentine's Bingo. DMH 6.45pm for 7.30pm Eyes down
Friday	14	Last day of School Term
Monday	24	First day of School Term
<b>March</b>		
Saturday	01	Coffee & Cake Morning. St Peter's Church 10.30am – 12.00 noon.
Thursday	06	WI Meeting. DMH 7.30pm
Monday	15	Coffee & Cake Morning. St Leonard's Church 10.30am – 12.00 noon.

### Deadline for April 2025 edition – Wednesday 19 Mar

Completed proforma to Mike Kennedy, Micawbers, New Road, Draycott, BS27 3SG  
07938 940823 or email [vortech.mk@gmail.com](mailto:vortech.mk@gmail.com)

### IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Parish Clerk: Helen Marshall 07423 283940, or [clerk@rodneystoke-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@rodneystoke-pc.gov.uk).  
Parish Council: [www.parish-council.com/rodneystoke](http://www.parish-council.com/rodneystoke)  
Village Agent: Bella Lapwood 07494 883541 or [bella@Somersetcc.org.uk](mailto:bella@Somersetcc.org.uk)  
Draycott Memorial Hall: [www.draycottmemorialhall.org.uk](http://www.draycottmemorialhall.org.uk)  
Neighbourhood Watch: Draycott - Roger Dollins 01934 741021 or [rogerdollins@btinternet.com](mailto:rogerdollins@btinternet.com)  
Neighbourhood Watch: Rodney Stoke - John Smith 01749 870976 or [ajsmithgb@hotmail.com](mailto:ajsmithgb@hotmail.com)



# Parish News



*Sponsored by Rodney Stoke Parish Council for Draycott and Rodney Stoke*

## FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

### Parish Councillor Vacancy

Do you have an interest in helping your community? Becoming a Parish Councillor is a great way to get involved, and influence what is happening in our villages. For more information on the role see our website or contact the Parish Clerk.

### Power Cuts

We will be writing to National Grid about the ongoing problem our villages are experiencing and hope to publish the response. In the meantime, take reasonable precautions and perhaps stock up on things like battery packs and torches if you can. If you have a vulnerable member in your household make sure they are registered for priority service via [www.nationalgrid.co.uk](http://www.nationalgrid.co.uk). The website also has a useful 'what to do in a power cut' leaflet with contact numbers you can save in your phone. If you have a power cut call 105 or 0800 6783105. In an extreme emergency the Red Cross can help.

15 March 2025 – Save the Date!

There will be a fundraiser live concert for the Memorial Hall with the excellent U3A rock band – but there's a twist .... there's no entrance fee but you have to donate to get out!! So dust off your dancing trousers and join in the fun. Keep an eye out for more details from the Draycott Memorial Hall Committee.

### Next Parish Council Meeting

Please remember that members of the public are always welcome at our meetings.

**Next Meeting – Thursday 20 March 2025 – 7.00pm Draycott Memorial Hall**

Members of the public are welcome and may speak during public participation. Alternatively written statements received by 12.00pm on the day of the meeting can be read out on behalf of a member of the public not wishing to attend in person.

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Did you know that Pension Credit qualifies you for other benefits?

If you qualify for just 10p of Pension Credit you will qualify for other help:

- Free TV licence £169.50.
- Help with electricity bills under the Warm Homes Discount Scheme
- Help with water and sewage charges, via Water Sure, if you meet other conditions e.g. if you use excessive water for medical reasons.
- Help with health costs, free prescriptions, dental care, sight tests and travel cost refunds to hospital.
- Budgeting loans and crisis grants
- Winter Fuel Allowance. £200 or £300 if 80+.
- Funeral payments and cold weather payments if you meet other qualifying conditions.
- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Reduction or additional reduction.

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS(cont.)

### The Draycott and Rodney Stoke Memorial Hall 100 Club

December Winners	£50	J Monks
	£25	M Whittle
	£15	R Peel
January Winners	£50	M Millard
	£25	J Quill
	£15	G Annuik

If you would also like to join the 100 Club and have the chance to win a prize every month e-mail [chris@thefultonfamily.co.uk](mailto:chris@thefultonfamily.co.uk) or ring 01934 253741 for details.

#### Draycott Diaries

From fascinating tales of bygone eras to interesting life stories from the characters who have shaped our community. Whether you're a lifelong resident or just curious about this corner of the world, visit [draycottdiaries.com](http://draycottdiaries.com) to listen to our podcast.

#### Rodney Stoke and Draycott WI

New to the villages of Rodney Stoke & Draycott? Want to try something new? Meet new people? Why not give the local WI a try. We are a friendly and inclusive group, holding our meetings at Draycott Memorial Hall. Our Members take part in various activities, such as skittles, book club, local walks, coffee and chat mornings and pub tours etc. throughout the month. New and previous members are always welcome – come along and just have a look with no pressure to join – give Michele a ring and she will meet you at the Hall door so you don't walk in alone. Please do call Michele on 07811 253827 for a chat.

#### SLINKY Minibus Service

Somerset Council offer a demand responsive minibus for those who do not have access to a public bus service or who have a disability which means you are unable to access a public bus. Prices. Journeys up to 3 miles: Single £2.50 and Return £4.00. Journeys over 3 miles: Single £3.50 and Return £5.00. 50% reduction if you have a concessionary bus pass. Further information at SLINKY services ([somersex.gov.uk](http://somersex.gov.uk)).

#### Surviving Winter and Household Support Fund

If you are on a low income the Government's Surviving Winter and Household Support Funds are open until the end of March 2025. Contact Citizens Advice Somerset helpline 0808 2787842 or use their website email.

#### Draycott Memorial Hall needs your help!

We are seeking people to join our committee as we are a small group of volunteers that are trying to provide fantastic facilities for our community. We need help to enable us to keep maintaining the best experience for hirers. If anyone can spare any time or would like any further information please contact Sarah Knight, Booking Secretary, using the Memorial Hall contact details [enquiries@draycottmemorialhall.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@draycottmemorialhall.org.uk) or 07851 410459.

#### An invitation from Draycott Community Shop

Following our Annual Members Meeting, we would like to invite all members of our community to join us at The Strawberry Special on Thursday 20 February at 8:30pm. You can meet the volunteers, committee members and managers. This will be an opportunity for us to demonstrate the benefits of our shop and how you can get involved if you'd like to. There will be snacks and nibbles and a warm welcome to all.

#### Defibrillators

The parish has three community automated defibrillators. They are sited at The Rodney Stoke Inn, The Strawberry Special and Draycott Memorial Hall. The cabinet access code is C123X. In the event of an incident:

- Dial 999 and call for an ambulance
- Start CPR (Chest compression)
- If a second person is available send THEM for the defibrillator – DO NOT STOP CPR

#### Save the Date for a Barn Dance!

26 April. Barn Dance. Grab your dancing boots and come and join us for a barn dance and hog roast! More info coming soon on Facebook and posters. Tickets will be available to buy from Draycott Community Shop. Yee hah! 7.00pm. Draycott Memorial Hall. Contact 07790 075327 or email [claire@lovejones.co.uk](mailto:claire@lovejones.co.uk).

#### Lights of St Peter's

St Peter's are planning to replace the coloured lights on the church path in time for Christmas 2025. They will be very expensive. We are asking for fundraising or donations from our lovely village neighbours, who enjoy seeing these lights, to help towards the cost. Contact Thea Oliver 01934 744739 or email [theaoliver@hotmail.com](mailto:theaoliver@hotmail.com).

## Events

### Rodney Stoke and Draycott WI meetings

**06 February. CHANGE OF VENUE FOR FEBRUARY ONLY. Presentation: The Bristol Channel.**

Competition: Something Coastal. 7.30pm. St Peter's Church, Draycott.

**06 March. WI AGM and Members Social evening - MEMBERS Only.** 7.30pm DMH.

Interested in joining the WI? There is no charge for your 1st meeting. £5.00 non-members at Open meetings. Contact Michele Stevens 07811 253827 or email to [michelemarystevens@hotmail.com](mailto:michelemarystevens@hotmail.com)

#### St Leonards PCC

**15 March. Coffee Morning.** A coffee morning with lots of lovely treats along with a sales table and raffle. All proceeds to church funds. 10.30am - 12.00 noon. St. Leonard's Church, Rodney Stoke. Contact Megan James.

#### Draycott Memorial Hall

**14 February. Valentine's Bingo.** Doors open 6:45pm for eyes down at 7:30pm. Raffle and refreshments during interval. You are welcome to bring your own. Cash and prize flyers, Everyone welcome.

For more information please contact the Draycott Memorial Hall Booking Secretary, Sarah Knight, 07851 410459 or email [enquiries@draycottmemorialhall.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@draycottmemorialhall.org.uk) or via Facebook.

#### Church Hall, Rodney Stoke

**22 February. Friends of St Leonards Quiz Night.** An enjoyable evening with a challenging quiz.

Fish and chip supper included, Bring your own drinks. There will be a raffle. Everyone is welcome. Adults £12.50 children under 12 years £7.00. 6.30pm. Rodney Stoke Church Hall. Contact Nikki Watts 07973 28061.

#### Draycott Community Cinema

**21 February. Mamma Mia.** Who's the daddy? Find out through the songs of ABBA! Rated PG. Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Entry £5.

**22 February. Frozen Sing-A-Long.** Will Elsa ever let it go? Doors open 1.30pm for 2.00pm start. Entry £2.

**21 March. Withnail and I.** You demanded the finest films known to humanity so here's one. Rated 15. Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Entry £5.

**22 March. Kung Fu Panda 4.** Time for Po to defeat a wicked sorceress using his own particular brand of martial arts – SKIDOOSH! Doors open 10.00am for 10.30m start. Entry £2.

All events at the Draycott Memorial Hall. Contact Draycott Community Cinema [info@draycottcinema.co.uk](mailto:info@draycottcinema.co.uk).

#### Supporters of St Peters (SOSP)

**21 February. SOSP Curry Night.** By kind invitation from Lori and Mick, SOSP would like to invite you to a Curry Night at The Strawberry Special. Tickets £15 available from Thea, The Community Shop and the Strawberry Special. 7.30pm for 8.00pm. The Strawberry Special. Contact Thea Oliver.

**01 March. SOSP Pre Lent Soup Lunch.** This year SOSP will be hosting a Pre Lent-Lunch. Raising funds for Christian Aid. A warm welcome to all those who would like to join us, for delicious home-made soups. 12.00noon – 1.30pm. St Peter's Church Draycott. Contact Thea Oliver or Karen Percival.

#### Mendip Players

**06, 07 and 08 February, Rumpelstiltskin Panto.** Tickets are still on sale for the Mendip Players pantomime – Rumpelstiltskin available from [www.themendipplayers.co.uk](http://www.themendipplayers.co.uk) or Draycott Community Shop. Join us for another fabulous family show where we join Rosa, Alfie the Elf and Fairy Laura Norder as they try and save Fairy-Brook from the hideous hobgoblin Rumpelstiltskin and his bumbling sidekicks, Hubble and Bubble. If you would like to sign up for the Mendip Players newsletter, please contact [themendipplayers@gmail.com](mailto:themendipplayers@gmail.com).

#### Draycott and Rodney Stoke PTAF

**08 March. Race night.** The PTAF for Draycott and Rodney Stoke is hosting a race night in the local hall in order to raise money for the pupils. There will be recorded races, with opportunities to bet on or buy horses in each race. There will be a Bar serving soft and alcoholic drinks and ticket includes fish and chips. This community event promises great fun and lots of laughs all for a great local cause. Tickets £10 per person. Table and sponsors packages available on request. Doors open 7.00pm. Draycott Memorial Hall. Contact the PTA via [DRSPTAF@gmail.com](mailto:DRSPTAF@gmail.com) for tickets.