

Stoke Fleming Voice

September 2025



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Editorial

The Voice team hope you had a fabulous time at Hort and Sport. As the magazine had already gone to print we'll report on the day, and our own SFrabble game, in next month's magazine. However, we'd like to go ahead now to express our admiration for all the excellent work undertaken by everyone involved, especially the Hort and Sport committee.

This month's 'Village Life' on p6 features Barry as Chairman of this committee, but he also emphasises the show could not have gone ahead without Mary stepping in as Secretary and all the other members stepping up too. We share our joint appreciation for all the other volunteers helping with the show on p5. The old adage, "It takes a village" definitely rings true!

Whilst on the subject of stepping up, we've heard that Jason and Laura recently came to the aid of an elderly couple on the Overseas Estate who had not collected their morning paper due to ill health. We are lucky to live in a village with such kind people in it.

More broadly, as we receive content from the various village groups, we're reminded of the many talented volunteers generously providing their time to organise all the events and activities you can read about in Voice. These groups often need more support and you can see a summary of these opportunities in 'Volunteering in Stoke Fleming' (p33). Remember this adage too: "Use (and support) it or lose it!"

Outside of Voice, my own rather limited volunteering, also with Sandra, includes stewarding and bar work at the Flavel. Our next shift is for Inter Alia on Thursday 4th. This has received rave reviews at the National Theatre but it's now sold out there, and the live recording at the Flavel allows people to get much closer to the acting more cheaply and easily. Do say hello if you're able to come along.

This month also sees the return of the Dartmouth Book Festival to the Flavel, and we include our first book review, featuring one of the festival author's books describing the traditional life of the hedgelayer, on p12 of this magazine. **Jon.**

If you would like to contribute an article, Reader's View or Letter to the Editor, please email stokeflemingvoice@gmail.com . Your contribution can be published anonymously, but our team will need to know who you are. Publication is at our editorial discretion.
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(Cover photograph of Stoke Fleming (circa 1910) from Barry Morris' postcard collection

From the Rectory

Dear Friends,

Isn't it interesting how life can change so rapidly? Sometimes in a devastating way and sometimes in the most glorious way. We do our best to navigate these twists and turns. The contrast can be stark but not always in a bad way, for example recently we went to Italy and spent some time at the beautiful lake Orta, and as I bobbed (technical term) around in the water I could see the vast still lake around me as far as I could see in one direction and in another direction, majestic mountains full of trees in all their beauty. It was both relaxing and a wonderful reminder that there is more to life than our own little worlds we live in. Then less than 24 hours later I am digging an ashes plot before helping a family say a final goodbye to their loved one, with a beautiful view of the village one way and the crystal blue sea the other way. Again, I was reminded about how small our lives can seem compared to the vastness, beauty, majesty and glory of this world both in this present moment, the time that has gone before and whatever is to come.

I am one of the worst people for getting stuck in my head, a place that it is just my world and all its joys, sadness and problems. But actually that's not true, because the creator of the universe and the creator of us, is always there. Whether we are on top of a Swiss mountain, in an Italian lake, the hustle and bustle of New York City or here in a village in south Devon that 99.999999% (roughly) of the rest of the world doesn't even know exists. God is present and with us, no matter where we are, or however sharp the turn our lives take we can never escape his grace and love. Something we all needed to be reminded of from time to time.

If you want to know more or understand more about this great life adventure that is never journeyed solo, come along to church for a service, one of our other gatherings or just enter your Father's house and sit in stillness with him or come and talk to me because adventures are always more fun when we do it with others!

Blessings

Revd Matt

Church website: <https://www.stokeflemingchurch.org>

From the Registers

16th July: John Goddard, funeral followed by burial, John Goddard

26th July: Wedding, Martin James Harron to Joanna Foules

St Peter's Church Services for September

Sun 7th	10.15am	Prayer time
	11am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong
Sun 14th	11am	Morning Worship
	4pm	THE 4
Sun 21st	11am	Communion by extension
Sun 28th	11am	Morning Worship

Evensong will be sung at 6.30 pm on Sunday 7th September in St Peter's, Stoke Fleming. The service will be led by Licensed Lay Minister Jenny Harris with the 'Dartmouth Phoenix Choristers' singing. All are welcome!

Little Stars

We welcome our little stars back into church, we have some exciting new projects coming up so watch this space. Term time, Monday morning 9-10.30 in the church. All welcome.

Heather, Sue and Peter

Stoke Fleming Youth Club

We welcome all young people from year 5 upwards during term time. Please check Facebook for dates of sessions. Thank you so much to Matt for running the sessions.

Subscribe to receive Voice outside Stoke Fleming

Did you know that you, your family or friends can subscribe to receive this magazine elsewhere in the UK?

The cost of this is £25 for which we'll post you all ten copies of Voice each calendar year.

If you or someone you know would be interested in this, please email us at stokeflemingvoice@gmail.com and we will send you or them a form to subscribe.

John Goddard (1933 - 2025)



Originally from Kent, John moved to Stoke Fleming in 1988, and soon became a well known figure involved in a variety of different village activities. He died in Torbay Hospital on 30 June 2025 with his health having deteriorated in recent years and then a short illness. When he first came, he was teaching Physics at the Britannia Royal Naval College (BRNC), retiring in 1994.

It was at BRNC where he became involved in the Britannia Choral Society and indulged his love of drama, producing various plays in the Casper John Hall (Daisy Pulls It Off, Little Shop of Horrors and several others). The love of drama continued in Stoke

Fleming where he helped form the Stoke Fleming Operatic and Dramatic Society (SODS), writing, directing and starring in various plays over a 20 year period.

John's contribution to the village was notable. He was instrumental, together with others on the committee, to the building of the village hall, applying for and obtaining funding from the National Lottery, Devon County Council, South Hams District Council, the Sports Council and Stoke Fleming Parish Council. To help the fundraising he created the village 100 club which he ran for many years.

John also established various community groups including 'Shows Unlimited', a play reading group, a poetry circle and the Short Mat Bowls Club. He also became a member of the Stoke Fleming Probus club, twice taking on the role of president.

John was a remarkable man, recognised as someone who was happy to give his time for others and support the community.

Thanks from Hort and Sport

Thank you from the Hort and Sport committee for everyone working at and behind the scenes for this year's show, without whom none of it would be possible. This includes all the stallholders; Alan, Georgie and the Green Dragon team for the bar; Anita and the Trattoria team for the BBQ; the teams putting up the tents, moving chairs and tables, and sorting out the car parking; all the helpers on the gates; stewards; judges, cake makers, etc; and of course, to everyone for coming!

Look out for stories and photos of the day in the October magazine.

Barry

Stoke Fleming Cricket Club



As we rush towards the end of the season and the kit goes back in the loft, I'd like to use this opportunity to call out to anyone in Stoke Fleming or the surrounding hinterland that would like a game cricket. We are a friendly bunch and are not just old men in tight fitting shirts. Indeed, half of our team is under the age of 25 whilst the rest of us think we are, but our bodies let us down horribly. So if you fancy a game or maybe you just want to come and have a chat, contact Ed on eddie.church@yahoo.co.uk and you will be welcomed with a smile.

Stacey Gilbert

Stoke Fleming Table Tennis Club

The Stoke Fleming Table Tennis Club has been running successfully for many years (for the over 18s), and we are always pleased to welcome new members at any time - whatever your age and level of play. Sessions are on Tuesdays from 7 - 9pm in the Stoke Fleming Village Hall.

We are lucky enough to have the use of four fantastic table tennis tables, and bats & balls are available to use if you don't have your own. It's just £4 per session. Why not come along? We are a friendly bunch and I guarantee it is a lot of fun!



For more info please call Kim on: 07594 223673.

Village Life – Meet Barry Morris

He was just nine years old, with a school history project weighing heavily on his shoulders, when his Gran dug deep into her sideboard to share old postcards including one which she gave him of herself leaning out of the window of his Great Grandfather's dairy. He was hooked! From that day onwards Barry has collected old postcards, an outstanding collection which is now categorised and will be presented to the Museum of Dartmouth when the time comes. His favourite postcard was recently found by chance at a Yeovil fair. He was surprised to uncover an old postcard of his father, aged 12, playing the drums in the Royal Avenue Gardens bandstand with the Dartmouth Accordion Band!



A freelance photographer, Barry with his wife Linda moved to Stoke Fleming in 1976 and over time Barry took on a number of important Stoke Fleming roles including photo editor for the previous parish magazine, Chair of the Parish Council and Chair of the Trustees of the Village Hall (where Linda is still the longest standing Village Hall Trustee). Currently, he is Chair of Hort and Sport having joined the committee in 2016 and finds the time to manage the Poppy Appeal. Understandably, Barry has an endless supply of entertaining stories, which we feel sure, if prompted, he will happily share with you if you see him passing through the village on his mobility scooter, Linda at his side.

As Chair of the Parish Council Barry worked with the Clerk John Gutteridge to introduce the 20mph speed limit through the village. While helping build a fence for the Primary School, they identified a highly suitable site for composting and secured the funding to start up the now highly successful Loam Rangers. He is also responsible for the structure of our village bus shelters which were sourced and built locally.

It was Barry who originally led the fund-raising for our village defibrillators which now belong to the village and are checked every week, one at the Green Dragon and one at the Village Hall.

Perhaps most of all, the village should thank Barry for Chairing the Hort and Sport Committee and with the whole committee, for taking on all the jobs usually done by our late Secretary Shirley Ruddlesden. With the enthusiasm and determination of the whole committee, they were able to overcome numerous bureaucratic and administrative hurdles for the show to go on!

The Voice Team also thank Barry for helping to start up the new parish magazine and for continuing to contribute photographic features from his collection.



Christmas Lunch at Stoke Lodge Hotel

This Christmas, join us right here in Stoke Fleming for a festive lunch to remember.

Our chefs have prepared a delicious seasonal menu, perfect for celebrating with family and friends in a magical Christmas setting.

- £75 per person + 10% service charge
- Children 4-12 years old: half price
- A £10 per person deposit is required to secure your booking

Spaces are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment!

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Stoke Fleming Village Hall

It's been another busy few months at the hall with new maintenance projects undertaken and fundraising events to help pay for them.



On that note I would like to thank everyone involved with our recent Table Top Sale which was a huge success and something we have decided to repeat again on the 8th November, so look out for more news soon.

We are also planning a Christmas Carol singalong, with a live band, on the 13th December and will be linking this into a seasonal raffle with tickets available across the village beforehand.

Project-wise we will be installing a new audio system later this year which will not only improve the sound in the main room but help to increase the building's marketability. Don't forget we are still on the lookout for someone to set up and run a village film club next year so do get in touch if that could be you.

Our oil tank needs replacing too as it is showing signs of decay so we are looking at options there, but on a much larger scale we also plan to install solar panels at the hall in 2026.

This will need additional funding and control so I am pleased to report that we have elected three new Trustees to support the rest of the team.

Su Gorrie has a wealth of experience in Building Policy implementation and Bella Johnston brings her expertise in Charity Commission compliance issues. Our third new recruit, David Bone, is an expert in Property Strategic Planning and has agreed to lead the solar project as well as manage the Hall's insurance requirements.

Simon Dowden has been actively searching for grant funding for the new panels, and will continue heading his vital funding role.

We are also still looking for help in an admin and secretarial capacity so if you are interested in this position, or would like to know more, then please call me.

Finally, I know that Barbara has written a fitting tribute to her husband **John Goddard** in the magazine, so I will respectfully not attempt to duplicate it.

John was however a major driving force in setting up the hall nearly 25 years ago and we all owe him a great deal. His vision, fundraising efforts, leadership and passion have given us the marvellous building we have today. To recognise such a valuable contribution, we have decided to rename the main hall area in memory of John so that he will continue to be remembered by all future users of our amazing community asset.

John Belli

Nature Notes

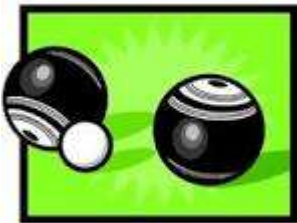
On 14th August evening before dusk a barn owl flew over Pleasant Valley and then over Riversbridge Lane near Pleasant Valley Wood hunting for food. On 31st July a pair of firecrests were seen under the leaves at the top of the trees in Rectory Wood near Cinders Lane. They're definitely resident now. There are about twenty house martins over Combe Lake in spite of the numbers being down this year. The old pond opposite Bowden House is dried up which I haven't seen before, a drought? There are a few clouded yellow butterflies on the field next to Combe Lake. A Nathusius' pipistrelle (a rare bat in the UK) was seen near the National Trust car park down Little Dartmouth track at about 10 pm on 29th July and 15th August. The second went in front of my face. They are resident now and not wintering like before.



DW

Short Mat Bowls

Join Our Friendly Short Mat Bowls Club – Free Taster Sessions in September!



Looking to try something new, gentle, and sociable this autumn? Why not come along to the Stoke Fleming **Short Mat Bowls Club**, where we meet every **Tuesday from 2.00–4.30pm** at Stoke Fleming Village Hall.

Short mat bowls is a gentle yet engaging activity suitable for most abilities—and no previous experience is needed.

Alongside the game, we enjoy a good chat over **tea and biscuits**, and we also arrange **seasonal socials** for a bit of extra fun.

We warmly welcome new members from our village and surrounding towns and villages. If you have any **admin or organisational skills**, we'd love your support on our small committee too!

Come along, have a try, and enjoy the company—you'll be made very welcome.

To find out more or book your taster session, please call Erica on 07807 948020.

Local businesses you like

We asked in the recent survey about local businesses you have been impressed by, which we thought might be useful to share, and could help us add to the existing advertising in Voice. Here's what you said. We hope you find the list interesting, but please note, Voice does not endorse any of these firms, and social commentary like this should always be treated with care!



Top responses:

Nathan Brown* (tree surgeon): “reliable, reasonable price”; “did a wonderful job”; “excellent work, quick, very tidy, helpful advice”

Blackpool Sands Café: “it is such a sophisticated local beach”; “food, staff ambience”

Stoke Lodge Hotel*: “delicious food and great dinner venue”; “great improvements by new owners including lake renewal”

Village Shop*: “instrumental in selling tickets for village events and promoting information, well done Laura and Jason”; “excellent in every way”

Ian Gillard (Gill's Autos*): “does an excellent job”; “does brilliant bodywork and spraying”

Also mentioned:

Adrian Langman (builder): “quality work, reliable”

Britannia Shellfish, Beesands: “quality”

Dartmouth Fine Foods: “delicious 'home made' dishes - deliver orders”

Dominic Thompson (DT Roofing): “excellent work - roofing, insulation, window fitting”

Gardentime*: “helpful and good knowledge, keeps improving”

Jenny Koo's Kitchen, Dartmouth: “the staff are all so friendly and the food is tasty”

Michael Sutton's Cellar*: “great local wine tasting sessions”

Owens Coffee, Ivybridge: “freshly roasted beans”

PR Plumbing & Heating*: “very efficient & quick to act”

Prestige Taxis: “always so reasonable and friendly”

Sea Horse restaurant, Dartmouth: “class apart for dining experience”

South Hams Plumbing & Heating: “reliable, friendly service”

Southfield Windows: “reliable, efficient, reasonably priced”

TQ6 Electrical*: “prompt, reliable, friendly”

People also mentioned BBH Architects, Dartmouth; GPS Lock* (building maintenance), Nick Pitcher (joiner) and Pat Tucker (gardener). In addition, we had some comments suggesting there are many other impressive tradespeople locally, so well done to all, and keep up the good work!

* see adverts from these firms in Voice

Call for more service providers

Voice is planning to start a new paid advertising reference section listing local (mainly TQ6) service providers in the New Year. If you are a local tradesperson or know of some suppliers you think we should include (just their contact details and what they do - we’re not after your comments on them this time) then please get in touch: stokeflemingvoice@gmail.com.



Book review: Of Thorn & Briar by Paul Lamb

One service nobody mentioned in the survey (see p10-11) was hedgelaying, or steeping: partially cutting (pleaching) and bending stems of living hedgerow plants to create a dense animal-proof barrier and windbreak.

Not that this was a surprise. Whilst hedgelaying was once widespread throughout the country, most hedgerows are now left to grow freely apart from regular trimming, with barbed wire fences used to confine livestock. I've not seen many examples of laid hedges around the village either, although you can see what I think are some previously laid ones at the top of School Road when these have been recently trimmed (photo).

However, when I moved to Devon I wanted to understand as much as I could about life here. So I went to the Devon Show and got the car stuck in the mud, went shopping at Trago Mills and came away with a car full of things I hadn't known I needed, and bought a few books which were set here. Our house abuts a rather decrepit Devon bank and I'd become interested in hedging and the wildlife this supports so one of these books was 'Of Thorn & Briar' which describes a year in the life of Paul Lamb, 'The West Country Hedgelayer'.

Lamb leads a solitary and nomadic life at one with nature and whilst it's not a life I would have ever wanted to lead; he still manages to describe it in a very compelling way. I found some of the descriptions of his craft a bit unclear, but I write this as someone to whom references of elder, hawthorn, yew and other species remind me mainly of Ollivander's wand shop in Harry Potter! And you do get a very deep sense of the seasons moving on outside his horsebox and along the hedgerows.

It's a bit of a shame that Lamb's year didn't bring him quite into the South Hams but he does lay several hedges in the 'Devon style', with cut stems laid horizontally on top of a bank. And he is coming to Dartmouth on 20th September to speak at the Flavel's book festival – booking at <https://theflavel.org.uk>.

If you still want to find out more, the Devon Rural Skills Trust run courses

<https://drst.org.uk/courses/>. I think I need to do the 'stone faced earth bank' one to repair the nearby bank first though!





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The Probus Club of Stoke Fleming and District

The Probus Club has enjoyed a short summer break through August. Meetings will resume at The Stoke Lodge Hotel on Wednesday 10th September at 10.30am, when Peter Hales will deliver an illustrated talk about the Piper Alpha disaster in the North Sea. It is nearly 40 years since the tragedy which destroyed an offshore platform in hours and took many lives. Peter will reflect upon what happened that night, the subsequent public enquiry led by Lord Cullen, and the lessons learned by the industry and the government. Along the way, he will touch on some aspects of the world of offshore oil and gas production, an industry whose vocabulary and practices may be poorly understood by many. After the talk, the bar will be open, and an optional 2-course lunch will follow at about 12.45pm.

There will also be a further coffee morning meeting at the same location on Wednesday 24th September at 10.30am. The speaker and subject for that meeting are yet to be announced.

The Club is keen to attract new members, and a warm welcome will be given to guests. If you would like to come along and be a guest at a meeting, please contact us in advance.

Peter Hales (07969 248397 / 01803 770739)

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Dartmouth Caring
Supporting Our Community

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01803 835384

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you or someone you know has a problem with alcohol this weekly meeting in the Dartmouth Health Centre may be the way to a solution. The meeting is private, anonymous and closed – meaning it is for AA members. It takes place every Thursday evening from 6.30-7.30pm. The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Breast Cancer Support Group – Dartmouth Caring

A pink poster for a Breast Cancer Support Group. At the top left is a pink ribbon icon. The title 'Breast Cancer Support Group' is in large pink letters. Below it, in smaller black text, is 'Informal, friendly drop-in group for all those affected by Breast Cancer.' Further down, it says 'A space to come and relax, have a coffee with others, share, listen and get support and guidance.' The event details are: 'The first group to be held on Wednesday 3rd September 2025, 5:30pm to 7:00pm, Dartmouth Caring Health & Wellbeing Centre (and thereafter on the first Wednesday of each month)'. There is a circular photo of a smiling woman with blonde hair. To the right of the photo, contact information is listed: 'For any questions, please call Dartmouth Caring on 01803 835384 or Dawn on 07710 622896 or email enquiries@dartmouthcaring.co.uk'. At the bottom left, it says 'Group will be facilitated by Dawn Whiteley Dip (HE) Specialist Counsellor, BACP Reg No. 381657 Breast Cancer Survivor'. At the bottom right is the Dartmouth Caring logo, which consists of a blue oval with 'DC' in white, and the text 'Dartmouth Caring Supporting Our Community' and 'CHARITY REG NO. 1187326' below it.

We are pleased to launch a new, informal and friendly drop-in group for all those affected by breast cancer.

A space to come and relax, have a coffee with others, share, listen and get support and guidance.

Held on the first Wednesday of each month, 5.30pm to 7pm at Dartmouth Caring, Dartmouth Health & Wellbeing Centre.

For any questions, please call Dartmouth Caring on 01803 835384 or Dawn Whiteley on 07710 622896 or email enquiries@dartmouthcaring.co.uk.

We look forward to meeting you.

Children's Hospice South West

Join us for a cream tea, home made cake, sandwiches and fun stalls in the Royal Avenue Gardens, Dartmouth, on Tuesday 23rd September, 10 - 4 pm. If you would like to get involved with our friendly group contact **Sue Tweed** to find out more. Tel: 07955 197721 Email: tweed833@btinternet.com

Ann Green, Communications volunteer

Who Cares Club

Are you right now caring for a loved one or friend or have been in the past? I, together with all our members, have been through difficult, sad and lonely times. We would make you very welcome to join us for a monthly lunch at the Sportsman's Arms (at a very special price) and a coffee morning. We will provide you with an aura of understanding and any support you may seek. You would be joining a group who have become friends, so please join us by calling me on 01803 835030.

Thorn Farm – An Alpaca Anecdote

I was the first cria (baby) to be born at Thorn Farm in 2010. I took my mother and neighbour by surprise. Katie was racing back from a grand-daughter's christening so lovely neighbour, Belinda, had to disentangle my feet from the stock-fence where my mother 'Rose' had 'unpacked' me. I was named Daniella.

As I grew up, I often heard tales of how Thorn Alpacas started. Friends would come to see us (me, my mother and aunt). Our owner Katie related how, when they lived in Kent, she had looked after goats but on meeting an alpaca owner, decided to have alpacas when they moved to Devon (to the relief of her husband Nicko).



A grown-up Daniella with her cria

An old friend of theirs in Devon had started breeding alpacas so Katie bought my mother who was pregnant with me, plus a companion female. A search for a grey alpaca took them to Wales and a visit to the Devon County Show resulted in acquiring another. We were a small and happy herd. Visiting male alpacas arrived to be 'put in pens' with my mother and aunties and funny 'orgling' noises went on while they were in the pens. When I was a little older I understood what they were doing!

When I was two my fleece was sent to a show in North Devon to be judged. The results weren't brilliant but my owner was learning what to look for in a good fleece and how to improve. She often rushed off to lectures to learn more and then came back to practice on us. I think we made her laugh but sometimes if we misbehaved, she would be cross and we would try to be sorry and stand quietly round her. My black auntie, Louisa, was naughty one day and pushed Katie into the mud while she was inspecting her new cria. There were a lot of words!

I didn't go to shows but Louisa's 2 crias went to the Devon County Show and won rosettes which was very exciting for Katie. That was the beginning of the round of county shows. Each summer more crias were born after an 11 month gestation period and always in daylight. Where our ancestors lived in South America, a cria would die if born at night because of the low temperatures.

When we held Open Days people would come and make a lovely fuss of us and it enabled us to raise money for charities

Katie loved training us crias when we were about 7 months old. We had to learn to be touched and have a halter put over our heads - our noses are very sensitive and it's important for a halter to be in the right position. We learnt how to be led, to stand patiently, have our teeth inspected and the worst thing was walking up a ramp into a tin box (trailer). Being shorn each year in May made us more comfortable so we didn't suffer from heat stress. During my 15 years I had four crias, (one was reserve champion at Devon County Show) and all went to lovely new owners. Sadly my 20 year old mother died this year so now I'm in charge! Daniella x

Katie Franks



Blackpool Sands



We have talented local musicians playing at Blackpool Sands every Saturday morning from 10am - 12 noon. You can book a table through our website and enjoy a delicious breakfast with fantastic views, whilst listening to wonderful live music! Our delicious Sunday roasts will be starting up again from October; we can't wait to welcome you. Did you know we also offer private hire of our restaurant in the evenings? Why not book your Christmas party with us now! We also have more evenings planned at Blackpool Sands, follow our social media for more details.

<https://www.blackpoolsands.co.uk>

Lisa

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www.dartmouthicecream.com



Dartmouth Caring

Supporting Our Community

We are a local charity, reliant on self-funding. We support the vulnerable and those in need in Dartmouth and surrounding villages.

We are here to assist when someone you know needs support.

Some of our services are listed alongside.

- General Advice, Support & Advocacy
- Outpatient Transport
- Various clubs:

Lunch Club—Memory Café—Monday Makers—Souper
Thursday—Baby Weigh & Play—Table Top Gaming Group—
Bereavement Group

- Housing & Benefit advice
- Palliative and Oncology Nursing support
- Visually Impaired Reading Club
- Dementia Carers Support
- Social Prescribing
- Befriending
- Counselling Support

01803 835384

enquiries@dartmouthcaring.co.uk



TREE SURGEON

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Mobile log splitting service

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Nathan Brown 0751 3030476

RFS Cert Arb, Arb Assoc. Technician Member

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Gardening & Design

DECORLEAF



Contact Mark

07561 881132

seaparr01@yahoo.co.uk



Devon is undergoing a major transformation in how local government works.

This information is taken from the Devon County Council website.

The number of Devon councils is due to be reduced as part of UK Government proposals to create 'empowered, simplified, resilient and sustainable' unitary authorities. This means that the current district and county council model will be replaced by a unitary council, responsible for delivering all services within a particular area; a new Devon <https://devoncountycouncil.commonplace.is>.

The council want to hear what's important to us and how we think Devon's councils and services could be structured to ensure the best services for all people in Devon.

Visit the website to find out more or to complete the online survey which closes on 14th October 2025.

There is also the opportunity to discuss your views in person. On Tuesday 9th September between 8.30 – 10.30am members of Devon County Council will be at Royal Avenue Gardens to listen to you 'have your say'.

**DARTMOUTH & DISTRICT
FOOD BANK**

**Friday Hub
Cafe**

Monday 5:30pm - 6pm
Friday 11am - 12:45pm

Townstal Community Hall, TQ6 9LJ

**We know that if you work on min
wage you may still need help, so we
are open Monday tea time NOW**

Dartmouth Banking Hub (opens Monday to Friday, 09.00 – 17.00)

The banking hub provides basic banking services including counter services run for the major banks by the Post Office. You can pop in on any day to access these services.

You can also talk to a community banker from your bank on the day your bank is in the Hub.

Monday	HSBC
Tuesday	NatWest
Wednesday	Lloyds
Thursday	Barclays
Friday	Santander

There is a private space where you can talk face-to-face about more complicated banking enquiries like payments and transfers, managing your account, and how to use online banking. Community bankers usually take their lunch breaks between 12.00 and 13.00.

<p>LEONARDS COVE HOLIDAY VILLAGE</p>  <p>Laundry Service</p> <p>Fed Up with Endless Sheets & Duvets? We provide professional washing, drying & ironing services, plus linen hire. We handle bed linen, towels & bedding essentials- from pillowcases to super king duvets!</p> <p>Perfect for guest houses, Airbnb hosts, & busy households! Drop off your laundry & schedule a pick-up, or enjoy our collection & delivery service (small fee applies).</p> <p>For enquiries and our full price list, call, email or just pop into reception!</p> <p>☎ 01803 770206 ✉ info@leonardscove.co.uk New Road, Stoke Fleming, TQ6 0NR</p>	 <p>Your local garden centre, café and farm shop.</p> <p>Open 7 days a week 9am-5.30pm Mon to Sat, 10am-4pm Sun.</p> <p>Gardentime, Hemborough Post, Blackawton, Totnes, Near Dartmouth, TQ9 7DE.</p> <p>01803 712345 www.gardentime.biz</p>
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Stoke Fleming Information

Stoke Fleming Library – Tel: 770076

At the Village Hall: Monday 15.00 to 17.00, Tuesday 10.30 to 12.30, Thursday 15:00 to 17.00.

Stoke Fleming Village Shop and Post Office

	Shop – 771119	Post Office – 770229
Sunday	09.00 – 12.00	Closed all day
Monday	08.00 – 17.00	08.00 – 17.00
Tuesday	08.00 – 17.00	08.00 – 17.00
Wednesday	08.00 – 17.00	08.00 – 13.00
Thursday	08.00 – 17.00	08.00 – 17.00
Friday	08.00 – 17.00	08.00 – 17.00
Saturday	08.30 – 13.00	09.00 – 13.00

Stoke Fleming Little Lanterns (Pre-School) – Tel:770244

Children from 2 years old. Mon to Fri, 08.30 – 15.00

Baby and Toddler Stay and Play. Tuesday 09.00 – 11.00

Loam Rangers Community Composting (School Road)

Every Sunday 10.00 to 11.30.

Bus – Service 93 (at Endsleigh Hotel)

Stoke Fleming to Dartmouth			Dartmouth to Stoke Fleming	
Mon – Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon – Sat	Sun
08.32	08.30		06.15 (<i>Not Sat</i>)	
09.35	09.35		07.30	
11.00	11.00	11.38	09.30	09.55
12.00	12.00		10.30	
13.00	13.00		11.30	
14.00	14.00		12.30	12.25
15.00	15.00	14.08	13.30	
16.28	16.25	16:38	14.30	14.55
17.15	17.15		15.30	
18.15	18.15		17.15	17.25
19.15	19.15	19.13	18.45	

Service 93 runs from Dartmouth to Kingsbridge

Service 3 Some of the buses continue from Kingsbridge to Plymouth as service 3 on weekdays and Saturdays. Please check before travelling.

September 2025

Mon	1	08.00 – Community Kitchen tickets on sale – Village Shop
Tue	2	School Term starts
Wed	3	19.00 – Parish Council – Village Hall
Thur	4	14.30 – Dartmouth & District Flower Club – Village Hall
Fri	5	
Sat	6	20.30 – Green Dragon. Live music with Nick the Fish
Sun	7	18.30 - Evensong at St Peter's with Dartmouth Phoenix Choristers Start Point Lighthouse last open day for 2025
Mon	8	19.00 - Start Bay Performers first get together for play readings
Tue	9	08.30-10.30. Royal Avenue Gardens. Devon County Council Roadshow – Have Your Say 18.00 - 20.00 – Green Dragon – Pop up chef night with The Greedy Table
Wed	10	10.30 – PROBUS – Stoke Lodge Hotel 14.30 – Wednesday Ladies – Village Hall
Thur	11	10.00 – u3a – The Flavel 12.30 – Community Kitchen Lunch – Village Hall
Fri	12	
Sat	13	19.00 – Green Dragon. Ballsy Bingo charity night for testicular cancer
Sun	14	
Mon	15	
Tue	16	COPY DATE FOR OCTOBER MAGAZINE
Wed	17	
Thur	18	
Fri	19	
Sat	20	
Sun	21	12.00 – Green Dragon – Sunday roasts are back
Mon	22	
Tue	23	10.00-16.00 Children's Hospice South West Fundraising Day Royal Avenue Gardens
Wed	24	10.30 – PROBUS – Stoke Lodge Hotel
Thur	25	
Fri	26	
Sat	27	
Sun	28	
Mon	29	
Tue	30	

Parish Council Minutes Summary – August 2025

A monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 6th August 2025 in the Ron Harris Room, Stoke Fleming Village Hall at 7.00 pm. A full version of these Minutes is at the library and on the website.

The following Parish Councillors were present at the meeting of the Parish Council: Cllr David Harris (Chair), Cllr Tim Moseley, Cllr Tilly Crowther, Cllr Jay Floyd, Cllr Phil Elliott, Cllr Jack Handley, Cllr Belinda Duffy. Also invited: District Cllr Simon Rake, County Cllr Julian Brazil, Clerk S.A. Whelon.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr John Belli, Cllr Bella Johnston, County Cllr Julian Brazil, Clerk S.A. Whelon.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 2nd July 2025 AND PLANNING SITE MEETING NOTES were signed by the Chairman of the meeting as true and correct records.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Moseley declared an interest with respect to Leonards Cove and chairman David Harris declared an interest with respect to land for the proposed car park.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – A representative of Dartmouth Caring gave a presentation on the activities of Dartmouth Caring.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: None.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Rake advised that there was a shortfall of £2 million in funding for SHDC but a clearer picture would be available in November. Ideas for savings were being sought. The focus was to protect statutory core services.

Revenue from doubling the precept on 2nd homes was being ringfenced for new housing but only 8% of the total revenue raised went to SHDC.

New pathway called “The South Hams Way “ has been opened.

Emergency Household Support funds are again available from SHDC.

Cllr Floyd raised an anonymous complaint he had received concerning use of fields on Leonards Cove Campsite for camping contrary to planning agreements. Cllr Rake said that the matter was in the hands of SHDC Planning Enforcement Team.

Cllr Duffy raised the issue of DASH (Dartmouth Area Sports Hub) which is trying to develop Norton Fields for community sports using Little Cotton S106 funds. Simon Rake advised that the new SHDC Head of Assets was expediting progress.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Proposed new car park. The Landowner has sent a detailed proposal to rent land for a new car park. The car park sub-committee has had initial discussions but due to the complexity of issues raised will meet again promptly. Acknowledged that the proposal represents significant progress with the project and Cllr Handley was thanked.

FUNDRAISING AND VOLUNTEERING

a) Toilets – School Road: yellow hash markings needed to discourage blocking the access ramp. Action Cllr Elliott.

Disabled toilet – Cllr Crowther advised that under Equalities Act any toilet having the attributes of a disabled toilet was required to have an alarm system. It was suggested that Heavitree Inns were a direct beneficiary of reopening the disabled toilets and should be contacted for a contribution towards alarm costs. Action Cllr Crowther.

Cllr Duffy advised she cannot progress fitting of a smart meter until the Clerk returned.

b) Pavilion – no update. Pavillion toilets have been subject to antisocial behaviour. In addition, playpark equipment and a number of park benches have been vandalized. Damage in excess of £1000. Residents are encouraged to report incidents to the Clerk or the Police as appropriate. Cllr Floyd to highlight the issue on social media.

COMMUNITY

a) BT phone telephony removal – Dartmouth Road. Council has adopted the box. Insurance has been arranged.

b) General waste bins for Cotton Farm estate – £650 received from Cllr Rake's Locality Fund. Location of bins to be confirmed.

c) Funding from Bakers earmarked for DASH, discussed under District Councillors Report.

ROADS & TRANSPORT

a) Dartmouth Road wall – Cllr Elliott has discussed with Highways. Estimated cost to demolish and rebuild to a proper standard £650. Clerk to discuss with Highways.

b) Parking during bowling evening. Concerns were raised at difficulties caused by double parking, parking on pavement during events in the village.

c) Woods Way, Blackthorn bush has self-seeded adjacent to the path and is a potential hazard. (Scatches from Blackthorn can cause arthritic poisoning) Cllr Elliott to remove.

MAINTENANCE

a) Hemborough bus shelter is now cleared of ivy. Repairs quotation needed for refurbishment. DCC prepared to contribute 50% of cost.

b) Birdwalk – complaints received overgrown. Landowner informed, will take action.

c) Bus shelters – ivy and other issues.

d) Kissing gate pillar. Pillar repositioned. Cllr Elliott will finalize repair

COUNCIL AND ACTIONS REGISTER

a) Annual Asset Inspections allocated. Councillors reminded to complete.

PLANNING: All noted.

APPLICATIONS

a) Application Number: 1803/25/ARC. Location Address: Barn At Sx 844 512, Norton Proposal: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 12 (Hard & Soft Landscaping) of planning consent 0122/22/FUL. Further investigation will be carried out prior to comment. Application Type: Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions.

- b) Reference: 1941/25/TPO. Proposal: T1: Lawsons Cypress - Fell dual stem tree, one stem dead, poor form. Site Address: Meverley Ravensbourne Lane TQ6 0QR.
- c) Reference: 1910/25/ADV. Proposal: Advertisement consent for site entrance monolith sign board (2 No.) and Wall Sign (illuminated). Site Address: Bayards Court Care Home Cotton Road, Dartmouth TQ6 0FF.
- d) Reference: 2152/25/TCA. Proposal: T1: Pieris - Reduce height by 1m, T2: Crinodendron – Reduce height by 1m & T3: Varigated Holly - Reduce height by 1m. All works to improve light levels into building. Site Address: The Causeway Dartmouth Road, Stoke Fleming TQ6 0NU.
- e) Application Number 2070/25/ARC. Location Address: Barn At Sx 844 512, Norton. Proposal: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3 (External Cladding) of planning consent 0122/22/FUL. Status: Decision Made. Application Type: Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions.

DECISIONS

- a) Application Number: 1803/25/ARC. Location Address: Barn At Sx 844 512, Norton. Proposal: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 12 (Hard & Soft Landscaping) of planning consent 0122/22/FUL. Status: Approved. Application Type: Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions.
- b) Application Number: 0435/25/ARC. Location Address: Lower Ash Farm, Ash, TQ6 0LR. Proposal: Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3 (Windows/Doors), 4 (Structural Repairs), 5 (Cob/Stone) and 6 (Materials) of planning consent 2130/22/FUL. Status: Approved. Application Type: Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions.
- c) Application Number 0436/25/ARC. Location Address: Lower Ash Farm, Ash, TQ6 0LR. Proposal: Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3 (Windows/Doors), 4 (Structural Repairs), 5 (Cob/Stone) and 6 (Materials) of planning consent 2131/22/LBC. Status: Approved. Application Type: Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions.
- d) Application Number: 1261/25/HHO. Location Address: 19 Barton Way Dartmouth TQ6 0FL. Proposal: Householder application for erection of roof canopy to rear elevation. Status: Approved. Application Type: Householder Application.
- e) Application Number: 2009/25/ARC. Location Address: Land Off Townstal Road Sx 858 508, Townstal Road, Dartmouth. Proposal: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 2 (External Materials) of planning consent 2622/23/VAR. Status: Approved. Application Type: Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions.
- f) Application Number: 1560/25/FUL. Location Address: Ash House, Ash, TQ6 0LR. Proposal: New photovoltaic panels to serve existing dwelling. Status: Approved. Application Type: Full Planning Application.

WITHDRAWN

None.

Clerk's Report. Council insurance has been updated – School Rd toilets now open, red BT box adopted at a value of £4,500 – no change in premium

Date of next meeting: 3rd September 2025



Information Alert

The Voice team thought it would be useful to highlight the following information from a couple of Facebook posts made by the Parish Council recently.

Parking

The Parish Council have received a number of complaints about parked cars on pavements. We appreciate it's a busy time of year with tourists but if you have visitors to your home from friends and family, belong to a Club, run an Airbnb or other, can you help spread the word so drivers that park in the village remain considerate to people using the pavements. This of course especially applies to people with disabilities, parents with pushchairs, visually impaired and so on.

Please help make the village safe for Parishioners and visitors to walk freely on the pavements :-)

Vandalism in the recreation field

Unfortunately, we have seen a few issues with vandalism in the recreation field (park). Benches have been targeted, the park toilets have been left in a mess and the children's play park, specifically the plastic dome over the tunnel was smashed. It has been covered with plywood to make it safe but it looks like it will cost circa £1000 to replace.

Benches, children's play equipment, toilets and many other assets belong to you, Parishioners (managed via the Parish Council), meaning a very small % of your council tax has to fund replacements.

With that said, may we ask all Parishioners to remain vigilant and **if you witness acts of vandalism, please contact the Police on their non-emergency number (101) and if something has been damaged, please contact the Parish Council via email: clerk@stokefleming.org**

The Arts Society Dartmouth and Kingswear (TASDAK)

The Art of the Cartoon by Harry Venning

This lecture will take place on Monday 13th October at The Flavel Arts Centre, starting at 2.30pm. More details will be published in next month's magazine.



Juliet Lambert

Loam Rangers



IMPORTANT UPDATE: WE ARE CURRENTLY OUT OF COMPOST

On Wednesday 29th July we hosted a number of other “community composting groups” up on site followed by a visit to Hunters Moon (Dartington) and Marldon. The “event” was organised by Sustainable South Hams and attended by Cllr Jacqi Hodgson.

I think even with my SFLR bias I can say we run the best operation - accepting the other two both provide a great community service. We certainly have the best site and listening to the others our general organisation is so much more professional. So a big pat on the back for us all – and it really emphasised the importance of the support from David Harris, the volunteers and riddlers. It was good to share ideas and challenges although I am not sure we can benefit from anything we saw, except to be reassured we are doing a good job. We know there is a potential future challenge regarding SHDC and the shredding service but keeping our profile high whilst starting to consider the options is probably our priority right now.



Pictures from Marldon – an older relative of our riddling machine – riddlers note it’s a manual turn!

HOME COMPOSTING WORKSHOP – OPPORTUNITY

The offer of a free three-hour Home Composting workshop from Sustainable South Hams is still available. However, for this to go ahead we need a volunteer to act as the “champion/point of contact” for Sustainable South Hams.

The champion would need to:

- provide a suitable venue for approximately 20 people (preferably outdoors, but with a back-up rainy day venue)
- help spread the word and take bookings

SFLR will fund the venue – we are currently investigating the use of the Village Hall and any support we can get from the Parish Council.

Sustainable South Hams will:

- provide one of our experienced Compost Mentors for a free hour workshop
- free Composting for All booklets and fact sheets for all participants, poster design, newsletter and social media.

By the end of the three hour session, participants will have the knowledge and confidence to start or improve their composting system with lots of ideas on different options, techniques and dealing with common challenges.

If this is something you can take on please contact Steve Shakespeare: sgshakespeare@btinternet.com / 07970 137311 or Paul Noonan: pnoonan14@gmail.com.

Dartmouth & District Flower Club

All meetings are held in Stoke Fleming Village Hall at 2.30pm. Subscription for the year is £35, with a small charge of about £3 at each meeting. There is always tea and cake served after the demonstration. Next meeting will be on:

4th September: **Christine Harrington – “With or Without”.**

Contact: **Gwendoline** (833270)



Dart Valley u3a

A general meeting will be held on Thursday September 11th at the Flavel. Our General Meetings are open to all members and normally cost £2. Tea and coffee will be available from 10 to 10.30am. Please bring a reusable cup.

John Davidson will be speaking on the race to discover the Northwest Passage and the North Pole.

In the 19th century there was a race to discover the Northwest Passage through the Canadian Arctic and expeditions were mounted to reach the North Pole. Polar conditions were very challenging and the Arctic was one of the last great unknowns. We look at who went on these voyages of discovery, why they went, what happened to the expeditions and what they finally discovered.

Tim Fleming

Start Point Lighthouse

Start Point Lighthouse will be open on Sunday 7th September for the final time this year. A private tour can be arranged at any time but permission has to be granted by Trinity House which may take a week to authorize. Email info@startpointdevon.co.uk for further details.



The walk down to the lighthouse is very popular with parents with pushchairs, mobility scooters and other wheels but the push back up the hill is not for the faint hearted! Keep your eyes peeled for wildlife whilst at Start Point. We have seen this year a whale, Risso's dolphins, Blue fin tuna, grey seals and bottle nosed dolphins. A spectacular show at any time.

Mary

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Start Bay Performers



We will be recommencing Play Readings in preparation for a future production on Monday 8th September at the Village Hall at 7pm and each following Monday.

We are always looking for new talent whether it be on stage or back stage or even if you would like to just read plays. You are all welcome, particularly the younger members of our village. If you need some encouragement please call me on 07538 156864.

John Belli



Dartmouth Walk & Talk

We are an informal walking group based in Dartmouth. Anyone is very welcome to join our walks, but you do so entirely at your own risk. Listed walks may be changed or cancelled at short notice, for example should inclement weather make walking conditions unsuitable or hazardous.

There is no charge for attending these walks, all we ask is that you bring enough money to join us for refreshments at the end if you would like to; and for the ferry where indicated in the 'Location' column with (£).

The Walk Levels shown give an indication of the difficulty of the walk. Level 1 is an easy walk of less than an hour using mostly flat, hard surfaced paths with no steep hills or steps. Level 3 walks can use a variety of footpaths, roads and tracks, some of which may be uneven, muddy and slippery. These walks may involve steps, inclines and stiles and will usually take over two hours.

Additional Information

- Please wear suitable clothing (layers are best) and comfortable, supportive footwear.
- Light coloured clothing is recommended where walks involve using busy roads.
- Dogs are welcome on the walks. Please clear up after them and ensure they are on a lead at all times.
- Please bring a bottle of water on warm days. Please bring medication with you if required.

For more information about the walks please ring John on 07570 848446

Date	Time	Walk Level	Location of walk (£=bring money for ferry)	Meeting point
4 Sept	10.30	3	Kingswear circular with Estuary and River views (£).	Kingswear railway station.

11 Sept	10.15	2	Blackpool Sands via Venn Lane.	Meet outside Sainsbury's (opposite Medical Centre) at 10.15. Return from Blackpool Sands on no. 93 bus or walk back.
18 Sept	10.30	3	Dittisham & the Dart Valley Trail.	Sandquay Wood car park, Old Mill Lane, Townstal.
25 Sept	10.30 or 10.55	3	Strete to Torcross via Strete Gate and Slapton Ley. Optional fish & chip lunch.	10.30 no. 93 bus from Dartmouth pontoon or 10.55 at Strete Kings Arms Car Park. (2nd bus stop in Strete).

Dartmouth and Kingswear Society programme

This society supports community, social and economic interests in Dartmouth and surrounding villages and coastline, and, in particular, planning matters, parking and transport issues, heritage and conservation protection. Single membership is just £7 and includes the following events, talks and social meetings during 2025/26:

14 October	Commodore Jake Mores (High Sheriff of Devon)
11 November	Marion Marshall (former BBC World Service announcer)
9 December	Tim Freeman on arsenic
17 February 2026	Winter warmer lunch at Stoke Lodge Hotel
17 March 2026	AGM at the Flavel

More details at <https://www.dandksociety.org.uk/>.

Wednesday Ladies

We meet this month on 10th September at 2.30pm in the Village Hall, Ron Harris room. If you would like to join us on Wednesday, or for more information, phone Jill 01803 771137.

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The Green Dragon

What's on this September @ The Dragon....

What a busy, beautiful sunny summer it's been!

Looking ahead to September we have the following events at the pub...

Saturday 6th Sept - Live music with Nick The Fish from 8.30pm

Tuesday 9th Sept - Pop up Chef night with The Greedy Table 6-8pm, booking
advisable

Saturday 13th Sept - **Ballsy Bingo**, Charity Night raising awareness of
Testicular Cancer. Bingo starts at 7pm, come earlier to grab your table.

Sporty attire preferred, prizes for the best outfits. £10 a ticket.

Sunday roasts will start again from 21st September.

Georgie and Alan

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Volunteering in Stoke Fleming

"Ask not what Stoke Fleming can do for you, but" (to paraphrase JFK)

There is no excuse for being bored in Stoke Fleming!

- If you can help Prickles in a Pickle in any way, including looking after the hedgehogs, please contact us on 01803 771086.
- Join Stoke Fleming Voice and help us produce our magazine, for the benefit of the village. Our contact details are on the inside back cover.
- The Community Kitchen is often looking for good confident home cooks to join our team. Training given. Contact houseonthehill661@gmail.com.
- Friends of St Peter's needs new committee members to carry forward work on the church and churchyard. Contact Peter Barker – latrator@btinternet.com.
- Help the Short Mat Bowls club in their hour of need! Go along to the club or join the committee to help keep this club going. Call Erica on 07807 948020.
- Dartmouth Caring always needs volunteers. Contact April Faulkner – april.faulkner@dartmouthcaring.co.uk.
- The Village Hall is looking for 2 people – a volunteer Secretary and administrator to the Board of Trustees and someone to run a Film Club.
- Poppy Appeal. Volunteers to help Barry and Linda Morris with the annual poppy appeal: barry219morris@btinternet.com.



Thank you to the waterers of the village planter tubs

Thank you to those who have kept the plants alive in the tubs positioned around the village. Kate and Rob at Deer Park, Teri, Bob and the very helpful man from Bidders Close. The dry summer has meant the tubs needed to be watered more frequently than previous years. If you are able to help with the watering please contact Jenny on 07770 373981/jennyhaley029@gmail.com. It would be great to share the work amongst more people.



Chris Aresti

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NT Live: Inter Alia (Event Cinema)	Thu 4 Sep
Four Letters Of Love (12A) Pierce Brosnan, Helena Bonham Carter & Gabriel Byrne	From Tue 9 Sep
Helena Clews – LIFE DRAWING Workshops	From Wed 10 Sep
DRAMATICALLY DIFFERENT Youth Drama Weekly Workshops	From Wed 10 Sep
Dartmouth Comedy Club – LIVE Simon Evans, Jacob Nussey & Tom Glover	Sat 13 Sep
Daid Gilmour Live at the Circus Maximus, Rome (Event Cinema)	Wed 17 Sep
Dartmouth Book Festival – 29 events running over 3 days, top authors, talks & book signings	Fri 19 to Sun 21 Sep
Love Never Dies – Andrew Lloyd Webber Sequel to Phantom of the Opera (Event Cinema)	Wed 24 Sep
Los Pacominos – LIVE UK's leading TEX-MEX band Formed by pop star Paul Young – pre-show supper also available	Sat 27 Sep
The Roses (15) Olivia Coleman and Benedict Cumberbatch – filmed in Salcombe & South Devon, including Blackpool Sands	From Tue 30 Sep
RBO: Tosca (Event Cinema)	Wed 1 Oct
ABBA Tribute: Take a Chance on Me – LIVE	Sat 4 Oct
The Naked Gun (15) Liam Neeson, Pamela Anderson	From 9 Oct
The Paper Cinema – LIVE Theatre – Puppetry	Fri 10 Oct
Folk at The Flavel: Ninebarrow – LIVE	Sat 11 Oct

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Sport, Exercise, Activity at the Village Hall

Tuesdays

- 09.30-10.30 Zest Stretch and Reset Yoga, designed to improve flexibility, strength and to help you destress. All levels welcome. Book www.zest-yoga.co.uk / Kirsty: 07534 441715.
- 10.45-11.45 Stretch & Stay Mobile, a gentle, chair-based class designed for people with injuries or limited mobility. Most of the exercises are seated, with some optional standing ones using the chair to improve balance. Book www.zest-yoga.co.uk / Kirsty: 07534 441715.
- 14.00-16.30 Short Mat Bowls. New players always welcome. Contact Erica 07807 948020 (see p9).
- 19.00-21.00 Table Tennis, new players (over 18) are always welcome. Contact Kim: 07594 223673 (see p5).

Wednesdays

- 09.15-10.15 Yoga with Ellie, no experience required. Contact Kirsty, Ellie or Lara: 07778 208080 / 07534 441715.*
- 10.30 Club de Pétanque, Village Hall recreation ground, for all skill levels. New members are welcome. Contact John: 07811 102460.
- 17.00-18.00 Outdoor Yoga on the Playing Field. Contact Tegan on 07490 731087.

Thursdays

- 13.00-14.00 Tiny Feet Yoga, a friendly, relaxed, weekly class to enjoy with your baby, helping your body heal and recover after birth and pregnancy.

Fridays

- 09.15-10.15 Move with Grace Pilates, a mixed level mat work class. Contact Grace: 07757 907025 / www.movewithgrace.co.uk.
- 10.00-13.00 Mahjong. 1st and 3rd Friday each month. New players always welcome. Elaine French. 01803 832304/frenchfamily1@live.co.uk.
- 17.00-18.00 Outdoor Yoga on the Playing Field. Contact Tegan on 07490 731087.

Sundays

- 10.30 Club de Pétanque, Village Hall recreation ground, for all skill levels. New members are welcome. Contact John: 07811 102460.

**Please check for any last minute changes.*

Prickles in a Pickle

August is a massively busy month for all of us at PIAP. Lots of fundraising events and the second wave of hoglets being born. All rescues up and down the country and also in the rest of Europe have reported greater losses of the hedgehogs in rescue. This is due to how frail and sick they are when they eventually arrive in appropriate care. Research tells us that by the time they show themselves in the daytime, on the first day they are 70% dead, day 2 90% dead, and by day 3 we are unlikely to be able to save them. Please, please, please remember that, 'Out in the day is not ok'. The sooner they come in to rescue, the better chance they have of being saved.



Hedgehogs are complicated little animals. They need so much more than feeding and watering, as our running costs will inform you. DO NOT try and 'rescue' them yourselves, you will cause immense suffering.

We have, to date, taken in 500 hedgehog patients, a bull finch, several pigeon squabs, 3 sparrows, 18 ducklings and 2 tawny owls.

We are experiencing high volumes of calls daily, and these include other rescues asking for or sharing information. Networking is very important, many rescues are having to close due to lack of available funding or unable to find a supportive veterinary practice. We are very fortunate to have Dart Vale working with us. Did you know that we have two veterinary inspections a year?

Our team has increased in number with some new people joining us and we also have a large transport group ready to pick up casualties when the finders are unable to make the journey to us.

This year we have admitted several 'blondies', these are not to be confused with 'albinos' but they are much paler in colour and look like they are wearing eyeliner! The genetics of these 'little beauts' are from the Channel Islands.

A couple more facts for you, did you know that hedgehogs are immune to snake venom and an adult hedgehog can have between 5000 and 7000 prickles, these are made out of keratin and are hollow.

The mothers amongst us will be relieved to hear that the hoglets are born with their baby prickles just under the skin and once born they start to show.

Thank you for all the donations of things big and small and in particular Peter Hunkin for his diligence and hard work with the newspapers.

Take care and best wishes from **Alan and Judy and all at PIAP.**

www.pricklesinapickle.co.uk

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Stoke Fleming Library News

We have a good selection of children's books on display, together with a lovely stock of picture books and board books for the younger borrower. Grandparents please note if you need some assistance in keeping those little visitors entertained - you can borrow children's books on your cards. Jigsaws available too! All for free.

Did you know you only need a Library Membership card and a PIN number to borrow a huge range of magazines, newspapers, e-books and e-Audiobooks from Devon Libraries via BorrowBox App.

Our usual opening hours at the Village Hall are on the magazine's information page - and of course there's ample free parking!

It's not too late for the children to sign up to this year's Summer Book Quest. The theme is The Deep Sea Adventure. Just come along and we can get them started.

And if you're looking for a good home for those books you've finished with, please think of donating them to your local library.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Sue Taylor

Community Kitchen

The summer has flown past and it is time to focus on our next Community Lunch. This is being held on Thursday 11th September in the Village Hall. Please do note the change of day. We shall be trialling Thursdays for a couple of months to see whether it is popular with our trusted followers.



Tickets will be in the village shop on Monday 1st September but we will keep 10 tickets back and anyone who wishes to come to the September lunch and who cannot get to the shop at 8.00am is asked to drop their name and contact details into the box by the end of the week. We will contact you if we have space and you can pay on the day.

We are keeping the price at £12 for the time being. £10 payable when you get your ticket and £2 on the day to save Laura the faff of finding change.

Please let us know of dietary requirements **in advance**. We are enthusiastic home cooks but it is difficult to rustle up specific meals on the day. This also means vegetarians.

There is so much choice at the moment with a glut of plums and greengages, lots of apples coming, figs everywhere, pears on the tree, blackberries ripe along the hedgerows. It is the first time I have picked ripe blackberries in July! We shall be thinking up some delicious puddings using them.

I read in the paper that English puddings were dying out according to English Heritage. Not in this village!

We look forward to seeing you at our first lunch in the autumn.

Mary Newman

Friends of St Peter's (FOSP)

May I add to the lovely report last month from the Village Hall, by Simon Dowden, and say a big thank you to the late, lamented, missed and mourned Shirley Ruddlesden. Despite organising the Hort & Sport and Xmas Tree Festival, Shirley found time to get the Village Hall and FOSP together to arrange a Dartmouth Rock Choir event, as well as participating in the planning of the event.



As I was acting Chair of FOSP, it fell to me to organise the event but I had outstanding support from both organisations. Particular praise should be given to Mary Bell, Jenny Farmer and Annie Worsfold who I joined in making 120 rounds of sandwiches for four hours on the morning of the event. These were to feed the attendees and the choir once they had finished singing.

The choir were wonderful and the music superb. The Village Hall group, particularly Gary Rapps and Kerry Southern organised the tables and chairs, bar contents and many other things I have forgotten. Debbie Morris and Linda Morris ran the hot and soft drinks bar while Peter Barker and Gary Rapps manned the main bar. It was a wonderful event which raised £1,394 divided by the two groups to boost their funds. Thank you Shirley.

Suzie Dodsworth

Stoke Fleming Living Churchyard

August has been a quiet month following the flurry of activity in July with the moth and wild meadow surveys. The key task belongs to Kevin who mows the paths through the area throughout the mowing season. Thank you Kevin!



The next seasonal job will be strimming the grass in early September. After strimming it will be left to lie for a week to allow the seeds to drop before we rake and take the grass to Loam Rangers. We will be asking for help with the raking when the time comes and a message will be put on the Stoke Fleming Community Facebook page. If you are interested in being involved from time to time over the year, please contact me: jennyhaley029@gmail.com/ 0777 373981 and I will put you on the contact list.

Jenny Hailstone

ALADDIN'S CAVE



Lost	Found	Wanted	Good Home Needed
FOR SALE	Kindling and logs, all recycled from builders' waste and in large feed bags. Kindling £15, Logs £6. All proceeds to Prickles in a Pickle.		Alan: 07970 983608
WANTED	Prickles in a Pickle needs lots of steriliser, newspapers and other items. See page 38. 20 Well Park Place.		Judy: 07891 657104 Alan: 07970 983608 01803 771086
FOR SALE	Garden bench in need of easy restoration. Cast iron ends in good condition. Wooden slats of seat need replacing.		Pat Evans: 01803 770723

Stoke Fleming Voice does not make a charge for advertising in "Aladdin's Cave" but if your advert is successful we would much appreciate a donation. See inside back cover for our bank details.

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Where are we now?

Jean Saunders, Clever Clogs, Alex Knight and Emily Bridge all knew we were in Avonwick for the August picture.



So, let's see how you get on with this month's picture going back to 1950.

Now the only question is where are we now?



Barry Morris (Tel: 01803 770754, email: barry219morris@btinternet.com)



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Useful Contact Details

(Local Area Code: 01803)

County Councillor (Devon)	Julian Brazil	01548 511109
District Councillor (South Hams)	Simon Rake, cllr.simon.rake@southhams.gov.uk	861129
MP for South Devon	Caroline Voaden, caroline.voaden.mp@parliament.uk	658461
Medical services	Boots	832742
	Wellbeing Pharmacy, Dartmouth	832474
	Wellbeing Pharmacy, Health Centre	222117
	Dartmouth Medical Practice	832212
	Dart Vale Vets	832422
Stage Coach buses	Customer Services	01752 495200
Refuse and Recycling	https://www.southhams.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling	861234
Taxis (Dartmouth)	Kestrel Taxis	832526
	Mickys Taxis	07812 088935
	Prestige Taxis	714336

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Stoke Fleming Voice is run entirely by parish volunteers, for the benefit of parish residents. Our editors work hard to ensure factual accuracy; however, readers may want to check provided information for themselves. Please notify us of any changes to contact details.

Donations towards the production of this magazine are always welcome. Our Bank details are: Stoke Fleming Voice, A/c: 19250960. Sort code: 30-54-66.



Stoke Fleming Village Directory 2025

(Area Code: 01803)

Bellringing	John Dietz	770515
Bowling Club	Liz Mallyon	712799
Church – Rector	Rev Matt Gorton, revgorton@hotmail.com	906861
Church Visiting Group	Rosemary Minshall	770300
Churchwarden	John Dietz	770515
Craft Club		
Cricket Club	Stacey Gilbert	07931 384017
Dart Valley u3a	Suzie Dodsworth	770134
Friends of St Peter's	Peter Barker	770556
Hort & Sport Show	enquiries.hortandsport@gmail.com	
Little Lanterns	Lisa Callard	770244
Loam Rangers	Steve Shakespeare	07979 137311
Parish Council	Sharon Whelon, clerk@stokefleming.org	
Pétanque	John Sparks	07811 102460
Primary School	Christopher Harrison, Head Teacher	770244
Primary School (Friends)	Annabel Harris	770244
Probus Club	Peter Hales	770739
Short Mat Bowls	Adrian Kyte	712159
Start Bay Performers	Mary Rimell	07909 970510
Table Tennis	Kim Fricker	07594 223673
Village Hall Bookings	Emily Handley, enquiries@stokeflemingvillagehall.org.uk	07450 075734
Village Hall Management Committee	John Belli, Chairman of Trustees	07538 156864
Wednesday Ladies	Jill Fell	771137
Youth Club	Amanda stokeflemingyouthclub@gmail.com	07813 113873