

# Stoke Fleming Voice

*August 2025*





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## Editorial

Welcome to another summer edition of the Stoke Fleming Voice, packed with useful information about services and events. We aim to keep local folk and visitors alike updated on village life.

Pete and I have now lived here through all four seasons. We've watched small buds springing into flower offering an array of colour, giving a warm welcome. We've observed new life appear with noisy birds watching over their young, waiting for them to take flight and keeping them safe from predators. I hadn't realised how absorbing nature watching could be!

We did not find Stoke Fleming, it found us. Having no former connections, something was drawing us in and now here we are living our dreams, finally finding peace away from our busy life in the London suburbs.

Summer brings many visitors; lanes become busy and using narrow roads can be quite challenging, especially on the corner by the shop, passing Nick's house with its superb floral display. Here negotiating "give way" is almost an honour but patience eventually always prevails.

Stoke Fleming benefits from having a Community Facebook page. Recently I posted an SOS message as a neighbour had fallen in his front garden. I was amazed at the quick response and the help provided to get him back on his feet; he was most appreciative.

It is nice to see the renovations to the Green Dragon. The fabulous combination of new look and Dragon Fest has given a real buzz to the village.

The Stoke Fleming Voice team looks forward to meeting you at the Hort & Sport Show. Please come and find us and have a go at playing "SFrabble"; those who like Scrabble will love this! Thank you in advance to everyone involved with Hort and Sport for all your hard work.

Many thanks for all your donations to Stoke Fleming Voice and for completing the questionnaires. "Getting it right" is important to us and although we cannot always please everyone our aim is to at least try.

Lastly, a big shout of thanks to everyone in the village who makes such an effort to keep Stoke Fleming a lovely place to live and to visit.

**Pam Sanders – Distribution**

*(Cover photograph of Stoke Fleming (circa 1910) from Barry Morris' postcard collection)*

## Thank you for your donations

Stoke Fleming Voice is produced and delivered free by a non-profit team and broader group of volunteers and relies on donations as well as grants and advertising to continue.

Thank you to everyone who donated to us during our recent appeal. Receipts were down on those given to the previous magazine in earlier years, and less than we were hoping we'd receive, so we'll need to be creative about securing additional funding to continue long-term!

If you missed the appeal and would still like to donate, payments can be made direct to our bank account (Stoke Fleming Voice, sort code: 30-54-66, account number: 19250960) or via our GoFundMe account at <https://bit.ly/SFV-GoFundMe> or via the QR Code.



### Statement on Street Collection Permit SHSC0170 for South Hams District Council

Permit granted to Jon Ingham, Stoke Fleming Voice for collection points taking place in Stoke Fleming village between 1st and 13th June 2025.

Amounts collected were £313 from the street collection as well as £320 via the Village Hall mailbox and £468 by bank transfer or credit card payment (total £1,101).

Our related expenses were £30.63 for 600 envelopes.

Voice would like to thank Simon Rake and South Hams District Council for facilitating the collection, John Belli for providing us access to the Village Hall mailbox and Steve Shakespeare for welcoming us to Loam Rangers. We would also like to express our gratitude to accountant, Edward 'Woody' Case of Swell Consultants <https://www.swellconsultants.com/> for certifying the collection.

In addition, we'd like to thank those groups and organisations which have donated to us during the first half of the year, including the previous magazine (Joan and Trevor Mason), Loam Rangers, Hort and Sport, McCarthy Stone, the Village Hall, Start Bay Performers and Stoke Lodge Hotel.

## Thank you for your survey responses

We received 64 responses to our recent survey, so from about 10% of first homes in the main parish (not including Little Cotton Farm). 42% of you suggested your overall view of Voice is a “5”, the highest score, with another 33% giving us a “4”, and 25% a “3”. You also provided some useful suggestions for making Voice even more valuable to you.

On this, we understand your concern not to lose what is so special in the magazine. At the same time, there was some feeling that the current format and content is a bit dated, with some of you congratulating us for the changes we have already been making. So, we will be trying to further improve the magazine whilst maintaining an appropriate balance between change and continuity.

As well as Voice, we asked a few questions about Stoke Fleming itself. We recognise that the magazine is mainly a conduit for sharing news and events with you; however, we also see it as a major communication vehicle in the parish and we would like that to be a two-way channel, helping you share your voice, concerns and needs with others in the parish.

As part of this, we asked you for three adjectives you would use to describe Stoke Fleming. Your responses are shown in the “word cloud” below. The most popular of these were “friendly” (suggested by 40% of you!), “beautiful” and “peaceful”, all of which definitely resonated with us. However, we may also want to reflect on some of the less positive words used, including “isolated”, “divided” and “snobby”. Voice will continue to do what we can to help make Stoke Fleming an even more welcoming and pleasant place for us all.

If you would like to contribute an article, Reader’s View, or Letter to the Editor, please email [stokeflemingvoice@gmail.com](mailto: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.



## Reader's Corner

### Water

I am writing this as we come to the end of the third heatwave of the year. Heatwaves make us appreciate water – water to drink, water to cool off in and water to shower away the sweat and grime of the day. Gardeners and nature lovers have been busy watering plants, topping up bird baths or leaving out water for passing dogs.



Water is essential for life. We can live for weeks without food. Jesus fasted for 40 days in the wilderness and saints have followed His example throughout history. However, we feel ill after a few hours without water, in some form, and die after two or three days.

When the ancient Hebrew people escaped from slavery in Egypt, Moses led them through the desert. On several occasions they ran out of water and rebelled against his leadership. On each occasion God answered Moses' prayers by miraculously providing water. (You can read the stories in Exodus, the second book of the Bible.)

One of the three great festivals of Jesus' day celebrated the giving of the Ten Commandments and their safe journey through the desert to the promised land. On the final day of the feast the High Priest would pour water down the steps of the Temple to symbolise the day God would pour out His Holy Spirit on His people and satisfy their spiritual thirst. Jesus interrupted the service by shouting "If anyone is thirsty let him come to me and drink".

Jesus used water in many other illustrations. On one occasion He led His disciples to a vineyard. There He told them that He was like the stem of a grapevine, and they were like the branches. So long as they stayed connected to Him life flowed into them and they were productive. But if they became separated from Him they would no longer be able to live the "abundant life" He came to give to all of us.

Jesus is telling us that just as we need water to sustain our physical bodies, so we need Him to sustain our souls and our spiritual lives. So, if you are feeling spiritually dry, that something is missing from your life, then ask Jesus for His help. "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest". (Matthew's gospel Chapter 11 verse 28.)

**Jeff Hacon**

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

## **From the Registers**

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

## **St Peter's Church Services for August**

Sun 3rd	10.15am Prayer Time (An opportunity to join with others to pray for the community, the world and anyone or any situation in our hearts). 11am Communion by extension.
Sun 10th	11am Morning Worship.
Sun 17th	11am Communion by extension.
Sun 24th	11am Morning Worship.
Sun 31st	11am United Benefice Holy Communion at Blackawton.

## **Little Stars**

Not a lot to report this month; our little stars and mums and dads are having a well-earned break. We look forward to seeing everyone in September.

**Heather, Sue and Peter.**

## **Stoke Fleming Youth Club**

Stoke Fleming Youth Club is pleased to have received a generous donation which has allowed us to continue offering a youth club through the next school year.

The club has scheduled meetings for the committee and community to attend. These will be on 11th November and 10th March at 7pm at the youth club. We will attempt an online link for those who can't attend. The youth club belongs to the community in Stoke Fleming so please do have your say about how it is organised. A special thank you to Matt Gorton for running the youth club this year. It's been a real success and is so valued by young people in Stoke Fleming.

Please consider the Youth Club as a venue for activities or for a change of scene for your children over the summer. The rental rates are £10 an hour or £30 a day. If you have any further questions, please message our Facebook page or email [stokeflemingyouthclub@gmail.com](mailto:stokeflemingyouthclub@gmail.com).

## Stoke Fleming Cricket Club

Mid-season has led to a cabinet reshuffle in the top echelons at the home of cricket. John is no longer chairman – the King is dead, Long Live the King – but is still groundsman, Gossy is now chairman but not bar steward, Chan is now not treasurer, Ed is not captain, Freddy is now captain. Are you still following? Simon is now not Prince of Gibraltar, but Dave is treasurer and head of asking people for money, Popey is still head of fixtures, Stacey is still secretary and rather brilliantly and luckily for us all Perky is still Perky!! Phew, I'm going for a lie down!



Amongst all of this we're playing some cricket, on which more to follow next time!

*(Editors' Note: We're not sure what all this means but it sounds fun!)*

### **Fixtures for August**

3rd Aug	South Brent - Away
10th Aug	Cavendish - Away
17th Aug	East Prawle - Home
24th Aug	Madri Boys - Home
31st Aug	Stoke Gabriel - Away

**Stacey Gilbert**

## **Dart Patient Participation Group (PPG)**

The Dart Patient Participation Group is a group which aims to help Dartmouth Medical Practice focus on the needs and aspirations of its patients for the services it provides. We are very lucky to have a very active PPG who act as a critical friend of the surgery, focused on the patient experience of not only the surgery itself, but the wider local health community.

Dartmouth Medical Practice is currently running a survey to help us understand more about your current experiences using the Practice and how you think they might be improved. The survey is now open; it can be accessed on-line at <https://forms.office.com/e/6kbfgsHqXx>, or paper copies can be collected at the Health Centre.

Stoke Fleming's representative on the PPG is Dawn Whiteley, (email address [whiteley125@btinternet.com](mailto:whiteley125@btinternet.com)). If you can't get to the surgery for the survey and you are unable to do it online, please contact Dawn and she will get one for you and drop it off.

## News from the Hort and Sport

Time marches on and here we are again in August awaiting the tent to go up, the field to be ready and the running races marked out. The tent will have all the produce and flowers, and the Village Hall will be full of baking, artwork and photographs! It will be Show Day on Monday 25th August.

If you have never entered before, find a schedule and read the "Important Notes for Exhibitors" and find some classes you could manage, there are loads to choose from including baking, jams and jellies, and lots of vegetables and flowers to show. There is a separate section for children to enter and cups to win.

Your entries need to be delivered to Laura in Britannia House by 8.00pm on Friday 22nd August. The schedules are all around the village and in Gardentime and the entry form is in the centre of the schedule.

Your help would be appreciated by all the committee for an hour or two over the weekend. There is always lots to do from lifting and shifting, helping with the tents on Sunday, marking out, moving books, sorting out and at the end of the show .... all the packing up and taking down. Ring Gary Rapps on 07885 348435 or Paula on 07812 199058 or email [enquiries.hortandsport@gmail.com](mailto:enquiries.hortandsport@gmail.com) if you could manage an hour or two on the day to offer your muscle power.

There will be a Book Stall (good quality hardback or paperbacks acceptable), a Plant Table where donations are very welcome and cakes are needed for the refreshment side. We would like to start having ingredients listed on our donated cakes to avoid any allergies so it would be very helpful if you could do this. Cakes can be left on Monday morning in the kitchen of the village hall.

It will be our 147<sup>th</sup> Show and we mean to make it a BIG one. It is a real village occasion and fun for all the family, so we hope to see you there.

Mary Newman





Stoke Fleming Horticultural  
& Sports Society

Founded in 1875

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## Hello, August!

August is a vibrant month for gardening. The days are long, and the gentle colours of early summer have given way to the fiery dazzling oranges and reds of dahlias, crocosmias and cannas out for their summer grand finale.



### Gardentime's Top 10 Gardening tips for August

1. Deadhead dahlias, daylilies and petunias regularly to keep them flowering through to autumn.
2. Camellias and rhododendrons need regular watering now, as they're producing the buds for next year's flowers.
3. Trim lavender once the flowers have faded, taking care not to cut back into old wood.
4. Prune rambling roses, removing one in three flowering stems, and tying the remaining stems into supports.
5. Give wisteria its summer pruning, cutting back all this year's long whippy shoots to five or six leaves.
6. Pinch out the growing tips of cordon tomatoes, runner beans and squash plants. This will focus the plants' energies on producing more fruit.
7. Strawberry plants will be producing runners now. Peg these down in the ground or in little pots, and they will grow into new plants for next spring.
8. It's time to start harvesting maincrop potatoes. Once their foliage fades, wait a week or two, then lift them carefully with a border fork.
9. Sow salads like rocket, mizuna and lamb's lettuce for a supply of tasty leaves through autumn into early winter.
10. Finally, it might be mid-summer, but it's never too early to think about next year's garden. Spring bulbs will be in stock soon, so start planning your planting now.

## Triple Win for Heather Harris

At this year's Devon County Show, Stoke Fleming's Heather Harris won first prize for Light English Honey, for the Pollinators Flower Arrangement and for her home baked Honey and Orange Cake. Congratulations Heather!

## Nature Notes

A rare small copper butterfly was seen on the flower bed near the Recreation Ground on 3rd June. Hopefully they will breed in the "wilderness sector" near the gate because there is a lot of sorrel which the caterpillars eat. At 8 pm I saw another little egret from Riversbridge Pools going to the River Dart over Venn Lane on 22nd May.

A hobby (small, very swift falcon) was seen near my house on Venn bungalow estate at 7.30 pm on 28th May and went to a roof on Venn Close end. On 8th June a female sparrowhawk went towards my house and the next day I saw her down "the avenue" in Venn Lane near Wheatlands Farm.

On 11th June there were about thirty swifts over the village near the post office and singles over the parish including my house. A whitethroat was seen on the hedge at Venn Lane near Worden Track on 2nd June and a garden warbler on the telephone wires at Cotton Track on 13th June. A wood warbler was seen on the telephone wires near Pleasant Valley Farm. It is larger than the willow warbler with pure white underside. The wood is mainly coniferous, and the wood warbler preferred oak woods, but they can use them anyway. It is rare and lives in the moors like the pied flycatcher. At 11 pm I saw a greater horseshoe bat circulating over Warren Creek at the coast near Stoke Fleming border on 24th June. The glow-worms are now clearly visible.



DW

## Children's Hospice South West – Dart Art Day

With a bit of help from our friends – we raised a whopping amount of money for Children's Hospice South West (CHSW).

The annual Dart Art Day, organised by Dartmouth and District Friends Group, raised an amazing £3,290 for Children's Hospice South West. There are three purpose-built hospices within the South West for children with life limiting conditions and they largely rely on fundraising to continue their brilliant work.

The group is grateful for the support of our friends which included the Captain and Officer Cadets of BRNC (plus a generous donation), Dartmouth Rotary and singers Hands on Deck, Dancing Beggars and Viki Philps. Denise Gallagher, a loyal supporter created a beautiful handmade quilt which was our popular raffle prize and fundraiser (£428 alone). All in all, a brilliant effort from volunteers, cake makers, stall holders, grafters and erectors, those of you who promoted our event and of course the people of Dartmouth and surrounding areas who came to the event and contributed their cash and good wishes.

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](mailto:tweed833@btinternet.com)

**Ann Green**, Communications volunteer

## News from the Community Kitchen

We were sorry we were unable to find a date for a Community Kitchen lunch in July but some of our key players were off on holiday chasing fair winds, enjoying French weather and chasing a small white ball round the local golf course.



We are back on Thursday 11th September in the Village Hall.

Please note the change of day! We will give it a month or two to see if it suits us – and you – before making a final decision.

We are also tweaking the ticket sales a little – 20 tickets will be on sale in the Village Shop on Monday 1st September and we will hold back 10 tickets for those who cannot get there so early. We would ask those who would like to come to the lunch on 11th September and who cannot get to the shop at that early hour, to put their name and contact number / email in the box with the tickets and we will invite a further 10 later that week. We hope this will provide more chances for those who are not early birds.

Summer produce is all around us now with lots of salad and fruit. It looks like being a bumper year for apples and pears too. Think local when shopping and use herbs and spices for additional flavour. Courgettes are plentiful and can be versatile making salads, fritters with feta cheese, summer soup, risotto and even courgette cake.

A salad which went down really well at a couple of our lunches was tomato, watermelon, cucumber and red onion with nigella seeds. Put a French dressing on just before serving. It is very refreshing and different.

Our range of puddings is expanding, and we have outsourced to some other home cooks who are happy to try their hand. If you are keen to have a go, do let us know and we will be in touch.

As always, this lunch is for anyone in the Stoke Fleming Parish, which includes Little Cotton and our outlying hamlets. It is a chance to get out, come alone or with a neighbour, meet others in the village and have a good two course lunch for £12. The tickets cost £10, and you pay £2 on the day. There is always a list of ingredients on hand if there are foods you wish to avoid and the option for a vegetarian meal IF you let us know in advance. Coffee and tea are extra for a donation.

Our surplus funds go to local good causes including the Dartmouth and District Food Bank.

We hope to see you in September.

**Mary Newman**

## Craft Club

Like many other organisations we are not meeting in August, but all being well we hope to see you all on 5th September. August means Hort & Sport Show time, so we hope members will enter the Craft Classes. Details of where to get a schedule can be found on page 7.



## Public Toilets in School Road

Children needing the toilet on their way to school, walkers passing through the village and others are now able to use the reopened toilets opposite the bowling green.

These are now owned by Stoke Fleming Parish Council and councillors have invested much personal time cutting back trees and shrubs, power washing the building, sweeping around, clearing guttering, arranging plumbers, electricians, painting, deep cleaning, administrative tasks and more.

The Parish Council would like to express thanks and gratitude to Simon Hawke (plumber), Andy Hawkins (electrician), Keith and Chris Ellis (painters), Alan and Georgie at the Green Dragon and Heavitree for their donation of paint.



# THE GREEN DRAGON

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## The Green Dragon

What an amazing summer we are having so far! Thanks to everyone who joined us singing and dancing at Dragonfest. And a huge thank you to all our neighbours for your support and patience during the event.

Here is what's on @The Dragon in August:

### Tuesday 12th August

The Greedy Table Mediterranean "Club Med".

Bookings taken now.

### Monday 25th August – "Hort & Sport".

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our "pop up" bar during the Hort and Sport show.

The pub will be shut during the day, so come and see us at the Show. The pub will open at 6pm.

### Saturday 30th August

End of season bash!! Live music with Mafia 4 with their funky grooves to keep you dancing all night long. From 8.30pm.

We look forward to seeing you.

Georgie and Alan

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## 2025 Christmas Tree Festival

As I write this, Wimbledon is on in the background, so I thought: what better time to start thinking about Christmas?

First of all, I would like to pay tribute to my friend and mentor, Shirley, who I will miss more than I can say in the run up to the wonderful Christmas Tree Festival. We would start our meetings around the end of July and meet sporadically through the following months, tweaking what had become a well-oiled machine.



All this to say I am delighted to announce that the **18th Stoke Fleming Christmas Tree Festival** will be going ahead. I will need all your patience and help in the coming months in order to maintain Shirley's high standards. With the support of our sponsors and all the extraordinary folk who work so hard to produce amazing trees, we look forward to welcoming the many hundreds of people who visit the festival.

So, make a date in your diary: the festival will take place in St Peter's Church from **Friday 12th December to Sunday 14th December**. I look forward to seeing you there! For any enquiries or to volunteer, please call me on 07976 836 509 or email [martincm516@gmail.com](mailto:martincm516@gmail.com).

Caroline Martin

## Loam Rangers – July 2025



What a great milestone – 20 years of successful operation, and how the site has developed over that time, thanks to the wonderful people of Stoke Fleming.

It was so right to have a celebration at the Green Dragon on the 4th July. How fantastic it was to see such a great turn out of current volunteers, riddlers and committee members.

Even better to see key people from the early days of the Loam Rangers and hear stories of how it was established and the vision for the future development - which it seems we are fulfilling.

The event was received with great enthusiasm and some pride, with a groundswell building to make it an annual event – a great way to say thanks to all those individuals who give up their time to make this a superb example of a successful community initiative.

Maybe the free beer and pizza also helped! A big thank you to Alan and Georgie (and staff) who looked after us so well.

## **COMPOST RUNNING OUT.**

As you know we started the year allowing 5 bags of compost to be taken at each visit – this was recently revised back to 3 as stocks started to run low.

We expect to run out very soon and are restricted in producing any more until our riddling machine is repaired.

So please be aware there will not be any compost for collection until we get chance to replenish.

## **HOME COMPOSTING WORKSHOP – OPPORTUNITY**

Sustainable South Hams are offering some 3-hour Home Composting workshops for local communities between now and October. Thanks to our growing reputation we are fortunate enough to be offered the chance to host one of these workshops.

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 approx 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 3-hour workshop
- free “Composting for All” booklets and fact sheets for all participants.
- poster design, newsletter and social media

By the end of the 3-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 via the details below:

**Steve Shakespeare – [sgshakespeare@btinternet.com](mailto:sgshakespeare@btinternet.com) 07970137311**

**Paul Noonan – [pnoonan14@gmail.com](mailto:pnoonan14@gmail.com)**

## **Stoke Fleming Village Hall**

Over the past year the Trustees have been actively engaged in raising funds to pay for the necessary expenditure required to ensure that our Village Hall remains arguably the best kept Village Hall in the South Hams.

Nearly 25 years of wear and tear has had a huge impact on the Hall's fabric upkeep. Thanks to our Hall Manager Kerry Southern, all issues have been raised promptly via our Maintenance Subcommittee and they have managed successfully to remedy them. To raise the necessary finance to fund all the required works we formed a Marketing and Fundraising Subcommittee, headed by Vice Chairman Gary Rapps. Thanks to the excellent teamwork of our Trustees and the support of our village members we have managed to put on some memorable functions. Our Strictly Evening – thanks to Jenny Thomas and Darryl Pitt; The Rock Choir Concert – a joint enterprise with the Friends of St. Peter's; a Bingo Evening at Moreleigh, thanks to Kerry and Nikki Southern. Our recent very successful Tabletop Sale organised by Jill Wallis will be repeated in October.

We continue to receive very generous donations from a number of our Hall hirers, parishioners and local associations – Gardentime, Loam Rangers and Hort & Sport and the Estate of Eric Pengelly. A very big thanks to all.

However, we have more work to do. Proposals are in place to replace the existing oil tank and to upgrade the sound system in the Hall. There is a need to replace all the chairs in the Hall. We are currently finalising details of the contract to commence installation of solar panels to the roof and detailed news on the grant application for these will be in the next addition of the Voice.

We would like to extend our thanks to Mary Newman for her contribution towards the running of the Village Hall. Mary has stepped down as a Trustee because of other commitments but is still offering her valued support. We would also like to thank Debbie Morris who has recently retired as our Meetings Secretary, for her contribution in managing the admin tasks. We are pleased that she is continuing her role as a Trustee.

We do have three new proposed members but are still looking for a Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

We mourn the loss of our ex-Village Hall Chairman and beloved Trustee stalwart, John Goddard. This loss follows those of Shirley Ruddlesden and Mike Jordan who all contributed so much to the Village of Stoke Fleming, its community activities as well as the Hall. They will all be sadly missed.

The success of our Village Hall is directly linked to the hard work of our team. We continue to make progress this year, thanks to every team member's energy, commitment and consistency in the running of the Village Hall.

## Exciting News from the 100 Club!

The winners of the June 100 Club Draw held at the Community Kitchen Lunch in the Village Hall on 27 June were: Geraldine Latham who won £55 with number 97; Barbara Goddard won £33 with number 1 and Helena Rapps won £22 with number 23.

**Simon Dowden**

## New Thai outlet

Thai food is now available in the village cooked by Nong from Kid Hod Thai in Kingsbridge which you may know from a recent pop up at the Green Dragon. You'll find this at Summer Corner, in the top field by the main entrance to Leonards Cove. At the time of writing, this was opening from Thursday to Saturday, 5 to 9pm until the end of August, but this may be extended. There's a fairly limited menu with most dishes costing £12. You can take your food away or grab some chairs and benches and sit out taking in the view.



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**McCarthy Stone**

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## Village Life – Meet Councillor Jack Handley



You may see Jack riding his white 411cc Royal Enfield into Dartmouth where he works as Assistant Harbour Master, or you may see him on site at Dartmouth Coastguard, based in Bidders Close, or driving the Coastguard Rescue Vehicle to assist at an incident.

Jack and Emily moved into School Road in 2013. They now have two children: Teddy who starts school in September and Margo who will enter Year 2. Bea is their golden lab, a gentle, loyal companion. Jack

enjoys reading non-fiction and his film of choice is a family favourite: Shrek!

Being one of three Assistant Harbour Masters, Jack ensures safety and compliance on the River Dart, organising pilotage and supporting big events including the Regatta. He investigates all incidents from oil spills and fires to slips and falls.

An established member of HM Coastguard, Jack works out of the Stoke Fleming base. The team run regular recruitment drives seeking volunteers who are resilient team players. There is no age limit although you will need to pass a Coastguard medical.

Two recent examples of the kind of incidents Jack attends include a “false alarm with good intent” when a paddleboarder was spotted well out at sea off Blackpool Sands. Also, he has worked with the Royal Navy to safely explode an old World War II mine in the shallows at Slapton beach.

When asked what three things people need to remember to do to keep safe when they go out on the water or walking the coast path, Jack was quick to reply: 1. Let someone know where you plan to go and when you plan to return; 2. Carry a communications device; 3. Be prepared.

Jack also has years of experience as a Stoke Fleming Parish Councillor. As a young parent forging a career and renting in Stoke Fleming, Jack presents a different attitude to those parish councillors who represent senior, established residents.

In winter months you may see Jack metal detecting in one of Dave Harris’s fields, laying sods after his finds which include a silver hand-struck 6-pence from the time of Charles I.

*We hope you have enjoyed reading this feature which has been produced in response to our survey results.*

## Friends of Rowcroft Hospice

Just a little update on the two functions we have had in May and June for Rowcroft.

The Coffee Morning at Stoke Lodge Hotel made £303 and as usual was a very happy occasion, we so appreciated on top of having the venue the lovely cakes they made for us, enjoyed by all!

The new venture of a Soup and Dessert Lunch which the Sportman's Arms hosted for us was very well attended. We didn't think it would be a big fundraiser, but people were so generous, I was able to bank £427 for Rowcroft and there was a lovely atmosphere with lots of chatter too.

We will be able to tell you how the Rowcroft Royal Avenue Garden's went later this month in the next Stoke Fleming Voice, and we have a planned coffee morning in the Royal Avenue Gardens, 10.00 to 13.00 on 28th October for Christmas Cards and hopefully diaries. We may also have a couple of other events confirmed for then as well.

Thank you all for your support of Rowcroft Hospice; it is very much appreciated by the Dartmouth Friends of Rowcroft and of course Rowcroft Hospice itself.

**Rosemary Minshall**

## Open Gardens at Thorn Farm

Meanwhile – a very successful Open Day was held at Thorn Farm, also in aid of Rowcroft. The Thorn Farm gardens were looking immaculate in their wonderful surroundings, excellent teas and cakes were served, and alpacas, sheep, goats and ponies were admired. Star attractions were the 12 classic cars on display for the occasion. A total of £1,231 was raised for Rowcroft. The Thorn Farm team thank all the volunteers who helped and the generous visitors who made this such an enjoyable afternoon.



## 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.
- To volunteer at Start Point Lighthouse from now until the end of September contact Mary Newman on 07855 483865.
- The Community Kitchen is often looking for good confident home cooks to join our team. Training given. Contact [houseonthehill661@gmail.com](mailto:houseonthehill661@gmail.com).
- Loam Rangers needs volunteers to assist on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Contact Paul Noonan – [pnoonan14@gmail.com](mailto:pnoonan14@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](mailto:latrator@btinternet.com).
- Dartmouth Caring always needs volunteers. Contact April Faulkner – [april.faulkner@dartmouthcaring.co.uk](mailto:april.faulkner@dartmouthcaring.co.uk).
- The Hort & Sport Show needs helpers for lifting and shifting before and after the Show, helping with tents and tables. Contact Gary or Paula on [enquiries.hortandsport@gmail.com](mailto:enquiries.hortandsport@gmail.com).
- The Village Hall is looking for a volunteer Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

## Citizens Advice South Hams

Free, confidential and impartial advice

We give **up-to-date** advice on: benefits, work, domestic energy use, debt and money, immigration, consumer rights, housing, family issues, law and courts, problems with healthcare and more.



South Hams

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Every Tuesday 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Call us on: **0808 278 7948** [southhamscab.org.uk](http://southhamscab.org.uk)

## Dartmouth Caring

At Dartmouth Caring we are incredibly proud to have a team of 90 volunteers, each making a meaningful impact for our community, using their “gift” in a way that’s right for them, to help others. We have a wonderful team of Volunteer Cooks, who lend their talent and love of preparing food for others, to provide nutritious meals every week. We have dedicated, caring, Volunteer Drivers who give their time to ensure vulnerable people make it safely to healthcare appointments. We have Volunteer Befrienders whose warmth and kindness give companionship to lonely members of our community. We have many roles, and every volunteer makes Dartmouth Caring what it is.

In June we had a Volunteers’ Barbecue at the Health & Wellbeing Centre to say “thank you” to our team. It was a lovely social occasion and an opportunity for Volunteers to meet each other. Every month we also enjoy a Volunteers’ Tea & Cake get-together to show our appreciation to everyone who helps us.

We all have a gift to give, whether its friendship, or practical skills, or the willingness to help, and we would love to welcome you to our team. We are especially keen to reach more vulnerable people in the rural areas of our community, isolated by lack of transport or without the help of friends and family.

For an informal chat about volunteering, contact **April Faulkner**: tel 01803 835 384 or email [april.faulkner@dartmouthcaring.co.uk](mailto:april.faulkner@dartmouthcaring.co.uk).

## Good news from Stoke Fleming Primary School

As the academic year comes to a close, Year 6 children have taken part in Bikeability to learn how to ride a bike safely on the roads. Children in Class Discovery have researched and created their own animal fact files. Children in Class Endeavour have created their own characters in the form of shadow puppets.



Thanks go to Dart Harbour for funding swimming lessons for Year 5 and 6 children and to Tim from the South Devon Nature Trust for delivering engaging mini-beast workshops. In Forest School children practised first aid skills and learnt to build an emergency stretcher out of tarp & sticks.

The School Gardening Club has produced its first harvest of lettuces and other vegetables. Stoke Fleming came second in the annual inter-school Sunflower Growing Competition with a height of 206cm, winning a gift of gardening tools, gifts and seeds.

Last but not least, Year 6 SATS results are above the national average in all subjects: Maths, Reading and Writing which shows just how much our children can achieve when they feel supported, challenged and inspired.

Well done everyone!

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## 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](mailto:enquiries@dartmouthcaring.co.uk)



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07561 881132

[seaparr01@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:seaparr01@yahoo.co.uk)

## 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.

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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**

	<b>Shop – 771119</b>	<b>Post Office – 770229</b>
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
Bank Holiday Monday	09.00 – 13.00	Closed all day

### **Loam Rangers Community Composting (School Road)**

Every Sunday 10.00 to 11.30; every Wednesday from 4th June 17.30 to 18.00.

### **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.

## August 2025

Fri	1	Dartmouth Shakespeare Week– Dartmouth Castle
Sat	2	Dartmouth Shakespeare Week– Dartmouth Castle
Sun	3	Start Point Lighthouse tours
Mon	4	
Tue	5	
Wed	6	19.00 Parish Council Meeting – Ron Harris Room
Thur	7	
Fri	8	
Sat	9	
Sun	10	
Mon	11	Regatta programme available: Dartmouth & on Regatta website
Tue	12	“Club Med” evening at Green Dragon
Wed	13	
Thur	14	
Fri	15	
Sat	16	<b>COPY DATE FOR SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE</b>
Sun	17	
Mon	18	
Tue	19	
Wed	20	
Thur	21	
Fri	22	Latest date for Hort & Sport entries
Sat	23	Regatta Family Fun weekend
Sun	24	Regatta Family Fun weekend
Mon	25	<b>Late Summer Bank Holiday</b> Hort & Sport Show Regatta Family Fun weekend
Tue	26	
Wed	27	Dartmouth Regatta – 20.00 Opening Ceremony
Thur	28	Dartmouth Regatta
Fri	29	Dartmouth Regatta
Sat	30	Dartmouth Regatta – 21.00 Regatta Fireworks Tribal Clash – Blackpool Sands Live Music at Green Dragon
Sun	31	Tribal Clash – Blackpool Sands

## **Parish Council Minutes Summary – June 2025**

**A monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on 4th June 2025 in the Ron Harris Room, Stoke Fleming Village Hall at 7.00 pm.** Please note: 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 John Belli (Vice-Chair), Cllr Tim Moseley, Cllr Phil Elliott, Cllr Jay Floyd, Cllr Bella Johnston, Cllr Belinda Duffy.

Also invited: County Cllr Julian Brazil, Clerk S A Whelon.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** District Cllr Simon Rake, Cllr Jack Handley, Cllr Tilly Crowther.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 7th May 2025, AND PLANNING SITE MEETING NOTES** were signed by the Chairman as true and correct records.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None.

### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

- AGM was held on 22nd, a new administration is in place.
- One cabinet meeting has been held, next on 25th June – when strategic plan will be discussed.
- Offer for foster carers has been improved.
- Lease for SF library is due for renewal. Cllr Brazil said that innovative thinking as a county is expected and added that his locality budget could be offered, but renewal is expected to be a "peppercorn" rent.
- Cllr Brazil offered his apologies for the next Parish Council meeting.

### **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** emailed to clerk:

- Cllr Rake was delighted to hear that the Village Hall has received £20,000 from the National Lottery to fund the project to install solar panels on the Village Hall roof. He had written to congratulate the VH team and to offer some additional funding from his sustainability localities budget if this is necessary.
- He will follow up the broken dog-waste bin on School Road.
- He is trying to get more information on future changes to the SHDC compost shredding service; it seems however, that he will have to wait until the District-wide meeting in July.
- Clerk to email Cllr Rake about several broken dog bins in the village.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Proposed new car park. No update. Two possible options are awaited.

## **FUNDRAISING AND VOLUNTEERING sub-committee report**

### **a) Toilets – School Road –**

i. Refurbishment update – plumbing has started and pressure washing outside has taken place. Paint has been offered from Heavitree. Volunteers have come forward and extra help is encouraged. Toilet signs have been researched. Internal works were discussed. Fittings for the disabled toilet are underway. List of tasks will be circulated on group chat by Cllr Floyd.

Clerk's note: SHDC issued a non-domestic rate public convenience demand with a full rebate for 25/26.

### **b) Pavilion – Cllr Floyd spoke to a member of the public regarding the football club's possible use of the pavilion.**

## **COMMUNITY**

a) BT proposed phone telephony and box removal – Dartmouth Road. Clerk has contacted SHDC and British Telecom with the proposal that council wishes to adopt the box for community use. Update at July meeting.

b) Possible cutbacks at SHDC - Loam Rangers shredding service. SHDC Tractor is due to be replaced so shredding may not be able to take place. Meeting on 19th June organised by Sustainable South Hams, and a further SHDC meeting in July is planned.

c) General waste bins for Cotton estate - £500 capital expenditure per bin (full capital costs offered for 2 bins from Cllr Rake locality fund). Ongoing costs to South Hams DC of £365/year per bin for maintenance and emptying to be funded by parish council. Council **Agreed** to go ahead. Clerk to email Cllr Rake.

## **ROADS & TRANSPORT**

a) Dartmouth Road wall. Damage discussed. **Agreed** to repair at a cost of no more than £350.

b) Venn Lane sign 'unsuitable for HGV' is still off its post. Further signage "do not use sat nav" requested.

c) Pinch point at Norton. Letter received and discussed, and a reply will be sent - to be drafted by Cllr Duffy and emailed by clerk.

## **MAINTENANCE**

a) Future maintenance of Royal British Legion garden area. Cllr Harris will maintain area on a voluntary basis.

b) TPO will be applied for the oak tree on School Road/Mill Lane.

c) Biodiversity area update for S106 – path will be widened. Area will be cut down in the autumn, birds and wildlife are thriving – all going to plan. Cllr Floyd offered practical assistance if required. Clerk to invite SHDC to an onsite meeting

- d) Bus shelter – Hembrough post. Ivy needs removal and repair possible.
- e) Pétanque parts need replacing.

## **PLANNING: All noted.**

## **APPLICATIONS**

None.

## **DECISIONS**

- a) Application Number: 0135/25/FUL.

Location Address: Deer Park Caravan and Camping, Dartmouth Road, Stoke Fleming, TQ6 0RF.

Proposal: Retrospective replacement of existing storage shed, proposed enlargement of an existing staff pitch & retention of a bathroom pod for wardens.

Status - Approved. Application Type - Full Planning Application.

- b) Application Number: 1149/25/ARC.

Location Address: Harber, Overseas Estate, Stoke Fleming, TQ6 0PJ.

Proposal: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 13 (External lighting) to planning consent 0647/22/FUL.

Status - Approved. Application Type - Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions.

- c) Application Number: 0768/25/PDM.

Location Address: Barns at SX 856 506, Dartmouth.

Proposal: Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use of agricultural buildings/barns to 7No dwellinghouse (class C3) & for associated development (Class Q (a+b)).

Status: Approved. Application Type: Prior Approval Agricultural Building to Dwelling C3.

- d) Application Number: 1240/25/TPO.

Proposal: T1: Pittosporum - Coppice back to stool at 1m above ground level due to excessive lean & end weighted limbs & T2: Drimys - Reduce whole crown due to strong new growth at 2m from ground level due to poor form due to location between surrounding Pittosporum.

Location: Melverley Ravensbourne Lane Stoke Fleming TQ6 0QR.

Status: Conditional Approval.

## **WITHDRAWN**

None.

## **Parish Council Minutes Summary – July 2025**

**A monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 2nd July 2025 in the Ron Harris Room, Stoke Fleming Village Hall at 7.00 pm. Please note: 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 John Belli (Vice-Chair), Cllr Tim Moseley, Cllr Tilly Crowther, Cllr Jack Handley, Cllr Belinda Duffy.

Also invited: District Cllr Simon Rake, Clerk S A Whelon.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllr Jay Floyd, Cllr Bella Johnston, Cllr Phil Elliott, County Cllr Julian Brazil.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 4th June 2025, AND PLANNING SITE MEETING NOTES** were signed by the Chairman of the meeting as true and correct records.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None.

### **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT –**

- Cllr Rake asked to investigate bin lorry collection timing during school drop off.
- Cllr Rake thanked for sorting dog loo problems in village.
- Local government reform is taking considerable time. SHDC has a consultation regarding this which the council was encouraged to visit online. Two options to consider: service delivery and accountability.
- SHDC has adopted Plymouth & South Devon Community Forest Plan.
- Water Quality monitoring pilot scheme launched.
- Workshop Day 15th July for South Hams Festival.
- Finance 24/25 – on paper small surplus reported. Reality overspend in waste, and temporary accommodation for homelessness.
- Bus Shelter outside Sportsman's Pub – needs tlc. Maintenance team will attend. Blackawton PC may share costs of repair and refurb.
- 20th July – Little Cotton Community Fun Day 12-4pm.
- Cllr Rake requested to investigate any plans of a register to drop off on waste disposal sites.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Proposed new car park. Landowner is working with land agent who is concerned about commercial value of the field. Lease to public authority may present difficulties to land owner. Community use of the car park is Council's intention and is looking for the acquisition of the land for this purpose only. Landowner requested possible Council's co-operation for an alternative entrance to land on Mill Lane. Also, possible facilitation for camping access.

Cllr Handley to chase requested options. Alternative sites may now need to be considered.

## **FUNDRAISING AND VOLUNTEERING sub-committee report**

### **a) Toilets – School Road:**

i. Refurbishment update – progress has been made: door fitting, painting, deep cleaning, plumbing. Disabled toilet - conversion into accessible unisex toilet discussed - other parishes to be researched.

Timing of lighting discussed. A contract cleaner will need to be engaged – starting from twice a week, rising to more frequent in high season.

Cllr Crowther to investigate lead and whether pub cleaner would be interested. “Hashes” to be painted on pavement adjacent to building.

The council thanked Simon Hawke for his plumbing work and the Green Dragon and Heavitree Brewery for donating paint. Opening date to be announced.

ii. Electricity supplier – smart meter to be installed, clerk to pursue best deal for one year fixed.

### **b) Pavilion – no update.**

### **c) Playing field for Yoga sessions twice a week – to be offered free for 6 months provided user has adequate insurance.**

## **COMMUNITY**

a) Loam Rangers tractor shredding service update. Cllr Moseley reported that main threat was from government re-organisation which will take some years to sort out. Loam rangers should have a contingency plan in place by then.

## **ROADS & TRANSPORT**

- a) Dartmouth Road wall – Highways site inspection requested on quality of work.
- b) Speed camera – batteries are being charged. It is due to be moved to a different location in the village. Solar panels to be investigated.
- c) Bay View parking on public street. Clerk to chase Highways.

## **MAINTENANCE**

a) Playpark. Report received. Toddler swings and post highlighted. Parts cannot be purchased easily. New swings will be £2,000. One swing will be out of commission whilst new posts are investigated.

b) One bench needs replacing. Clerk to investigate prices of recycled material benches.

## **COUNCIL AND ACTIONS REGISTER**

### **a) Annual Asset Inspections allocated.**

## **PLANNING: All noted.**

### **APPLICATIONS**

a) Reference: 1620/25/TCA.

Proposal: T1:Cherry - fell dead tree. Site Address: Stoke House Gardens Road Off Church Road, Stoke Fleming.

b) Reference: 1261/25/HHO.

Proposal: Householder application for erection of roof canopy to rear elevation. Site Address: 19 Barton Way, Dartmouth TQ6 0FL.

c) Reference: 1605/25/ADV.

Proposal: Advertisement consent for 3 x internally illuminated, high level building fascia signs, 2 x internally illuminated, high level building projecting signs, 1 x internally illuminated, ground mounted, double sided totem sign, 1 x internally illuminated, wall mounted, double sided projecting roundel, 1 x internally illuminated, entrance fascia sign & 1 x non-illuminated, ground mounted, double sided directional sign. Site Address: Land at Sx 855 508 (Premier Inn Hotel) Violet Drive, Dartmouth.

d) Reference: 1560/25/FUL.

Proposal: New photovoltaic panels to serve existing dwelling. Site Address: Ash House, Ash, TQ6 0LR.

### **DECISIONS**

a) Application Number: 1082/25/VAR.

Location Address: Ash Cross Kennels, Ash, TQ6 0LR.

Proposal: Application for variation of conditions 2 (approved drawings) & 3 (structural report) of planning consent 1996/22/FUL.

Status: Approved. Application Type: Variation or Removal of Condition.

b) Application: 1620/25/TCA

Proposal: T1: Cherry - fell dead tree Location: Stoke House Gardens, Road Off Church Road, Stoke Fleming.

Decision: No Objection.

### **WITHDRAWN**

None.

### **Additionally,**

A presentation by Dartmouth Caring will be at the August parish council meeting.

**Date of next meeting: 6th August 2025**

**Ron Harris Room, Stoke Fleming Village Hall at 7.00 pm.**

## Start Bay Performers

Last Panto in Little Grimley by David Tristram was performed on 6th and 7th June at Stoke Fleming Village Hall.

The action of the one-act play takes place in the Village Hall of Little Grimley.

Their local Am Dram group are in dire need of cash. They are meeting to decide on their next production. Then, they begin to rehearse.

The actors: Graham Mewis, Rosie Cooke, David Bone and Val Phillips, worked very hard on their characters and an enthusiastic audience reacted vociferously to the very amusing script. Special mention to John Darby, who looked after the lighting and audio effects. He went far beyond the extra mile to the point of wearing a banana co-ordinated outfit that resonated with the plot of the play.

It's time for a break after this production but Start Bay Performers will recommence readings for a future production on Monday 15th September at 7.00pm at Stoke Fleming Village Hall. Please come along if you would like to be involved. We would particularly welcome younger people to increase the range of our future productions.

A big Thank You to all our supporters who attended the play and for your contribution towards a very enjoyable evening.

**John Belli**



## The Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta

Regatta returns from **Wednesday 27th to Saturday 30th August**, bringing entertainment, tradition, and community spirit to the river and town.

Start the fun early with our **Family Fun Weekend, Saturday 23rd to Monday 25th August**, featuring performances from Professor Bumble, fascinating encounters with Animal HQ, and lively displays from the Dartington Morris Men. Don't miss the popular Dog Show, where talented four-legged friends show off their skills, and browse vibrant stalls offering unique gifts, delicious treats, and local crafts.

Each day runs from 10am to 6pm, after which Royal Avenue Gardens transforms into a party zone for the ever-popular Silent Disco — a fun and inclusive way to dance under the stars.

Monday 25th August is dedicated to environmental awareness, with engaging displays and activities from British Divers Marine Life Rescue, Till the Coast is Clear, and The Seal Project, highlighting marine life and local conservation efforts.

The official Regatta programme begins with the **Opening Ceremony at 8pm on Wednesday 27th August** in Royal Avenue Gardens, setting the scene for three days of traditional rowing competitions and live music each evening. The Shopping Parade is open daily showcasing some great local crafts stalls, food and drink.

Don't miss the thrilling **Regatta Firewalk on Thursday 28th August** in the Market Place Car Park, and sign up for iconic events including the River Parade, Kontiki Raft Race, road race, tennis, golf, and more.

The Regatta concludes with a spectacular **fireworks display at 9pm on Saturday 30th August**, accompanied by live music from Riviera Dogs.

For the latest updates, follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Event details and registrations are available on our website.

Programmes go on sale Monday 11th August at outlets in Dartmouth, or on-line from the Regatta website. <https://www.dartmouthregatta.co.uk/>



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## Stoke Fleming Living Churchyard

It has been a busy month in the “wild area” of the churchyard where grass and wildflowers have been allowed to grow.

We needed to repeat the moth survey and meadow surveys carried out two years ago to assess if the “wild area”, where grass and flowers have been left to grow long, was increasing the diversity of plant and insect life. Kate and Victoria of the organisation *BeWild* lent us their expertise and led the surveys, joined by several of our volunteers. We were all delighted with the results.



The moth survey took place on 23rd-24th June. We counted 147 individual moths and 49 species; this compares with 68 moths and 30 species counted in the last survey. Two traps were used this time, so the increased quantity is not a surprise but the increase in species is very encouraging. The most common were Dark Arches, Elephant Hawk, Large Yellow Underwing and the Buff Tip. There were several migrant species including the Spotted Mottled Willow who will have been blown/ flown across the Channel. Thanks are due to Teri Larson for going to churchyard at daybreak to close the traps to protect the moths from waking birds and the sun.

The meadow survey on 2nd July found a good variety of wildflowers and grasses and various insect species. In *BeWild*'s report they stated that it was clear that leaving the “wild” patch has allowed biodiversity – benefitting plants to spread. It also helps to build a good insect population, and the 20 or so swifts they saw flying overhead whilst doing the survey would be enjoying those. The brambles and nettles are a good source of food for caterpillars, moths and butterflies. We found 35 species of wildflowers and shrubs, and 7 grasses and rushes plus a variety of butterflies, day-flying moths, bees, beetles and bugs.



You'll find the full survey results on the Friends of St Peter's website.

<https://www.fospstokefleming.com/>

If you would like to be notified when we are carrying out activities in the churchyard please email [jennyhaley029@gmail.com](mailto:jennyhaley029@gmail.com). No commitment is necessary. It's just nice to know people are interested and may like to get involved from time to time.

Thank you to those who came to help with the survey, thank you to Kevin Sumner for his mowing of the paths and a huge thank you to Victoria Benns and Kate Purver from *BeWild*. To find out more about *BeWild* please see page 35.



## More About BeWild

It's been a real pleasure to come and see how your "wild patch" at St Peter's is developing and hosting more plants and insects. Light-trapping in June found 49 moth species; then we were pleased to come and join some of you to survey the wildflowers.



Who/what is BeWild? We're a non-profit, made up of volunteers, working locally to help bring the natural world back into all our lives.

We think that if we were all more aware of the amazing biodiversity which is just beyond our doorsteps, it – and we – would fare better. And we want to turn good intentions into action, right here where we live, work, and can welcome wildlife back. At Blackpool Sands we're creating habitat on the vegetated shingle; in Dartmouth, working with the churches towards installing swift nest-boxes; at Coastal Trail café we've hosted talks and created an interactive sightings wall; and we're connecting with more and more local businesses to identify what they can do, and to support and promote their efforts. We're always keen to engage with community groups too - and hopefully inspire more people to join the BeWild movement!

Find out more at <https://bewild.uk/> – where you can also follow us on social media and sign up for our newsletter – we hope some of you will!

**Victoria and Kate**



*The Living Churchyard team on the wildflower meadow survey with BeWild*

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Please wear suitable clothing and comfortable supportive footwear. Dogs are welcome, please clear up after them and ensure they are on a lead at all times. Please bring a bottle of water on warm days and medication if required.

For more information on the walks please call **07570 848446**. All walks are subject to change or cancellation at short notice, should inclement weather make walking conditions unsuitable or hazardous.

Date	Time	Walk Level	Location of walk (£=bring money for ferry and refreshments)	Meeting point
7th Aug	09.22 or 10.10	3+	Totnes to Harbertonford with a break for coffee/lunch at The Watermans, Tuckenhay.	09.22 no. 92 bus from Dartmouth Pontoon or 10.10 in Totnes, at the bus terminus opposite the Seven Stars.
14th Aug	10.00 or 10.10	3	Churston Greenway circular walk. (£)	10.00 no. 120 bus from the Banjo, Kingswear or 10.10 Churston Bridge by the Steam Train station.
21st Aug	10.22 or 11.05	2	Dartington River walk with the option to extend it.	10.22 no. 92 bus from Dartmouth Pontoon or 11.05 at Totnes railway station bus stop (Plymouth side).
28th Aug	10.30 or 10.45	3	To Dartmouth using the South West Coast Path via Redlap, Warren Point & Dartmouth Castle.	10.30 no. 93 bus from Dartmouth pontoon or 10.45 at Village Hall bus stop, Stoke Fleming.



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<b>The Mayflower &amp; Newcomen Experiences</b> Interactive storytelling and Dartmouth history experience for ages 5 and up (and their families).	From <b>Tue 29 Jul</b>
<b>Flow</b> (U) This film has a multitude of awards & 2 nominations for BAFTA & the Academy Awards.	From <b>Tue 29 Jul</b>
<b>The Adam Dyer Jazz Quartet</b>	<b>Fri 1 Aug</b>
<b>Lilo &amp; Stitch</b> (U)	From <b>Tue 5 Aug</b>
<b>Lions led by a donkey:</b> An illustrated talk about The Falklands War (Prickles in a Pickle Fundraiser)	<b>Wed 6 Aug</b> 7pm
The Flavel Fundraising Fete (Royal Avenue Gardens)	<b>Fri 8 Aug</b> 10am to 4pm
<b>The Mushroom Show:</b> Scratchworks Theatre Company. A brand-new children's show full of fun, fungi, music and science for ages 5+	<b>Fri 8 Aug</b> 2pm
<b>How to train your Dragon</b> (PG)	From <b>Tue 12 Aug</b>
<b>The Last Journey</b> (PG)	From <b>Wed 13 Aug</b>
<b>The Gabriel Latchin Trio</b> play Gershwin	<b>Fri 15 Aug</b>
<b>Thomas Atlas</b> - British Soul Blues singer-songwriter and guitarist	<b>Sat 16 Aug</b>
<b>The Phoenician Scheme</b> (15)	From <b>Tue 19 Aug</b>
<b>Wind, Tide &amp; Oar</b> (PG)	<b>Thu 21 Aug</b>
<b>NT Live: Inter Alia</b>	<b>Thu 4 Sep</b>

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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](http://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](http://www.zest-yoga.co.uk) / Kirsty: 07534 441715.

19.00-21.00 Table Tennis, new players (over 18) are always welcome. Contact Kim: 07594 223673.

## **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](http://www.movewithgrace.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.*

*We are sorry to report that Jujitsu classes have been withdrawn due to a lack of support.*

## **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.

The public computer here is available or 2 hours free each day and we can also do A4 photocopying and printing in both B&W and colour for you.

Did you know you only need a Library Membership and PIN number to borrow a huge range of e-books and e-audio books from Devon Libraries via Borrowbox App? Also magazines and newspapers – these are all free - and there's a terrific range for you to choose from.

Ample free parking when you visit in person which is a bonus!

For your information there is a copy of Nick Teage's "History of Stoke Fleming" which anyone is welcome to peruse in the library.

We are also very happy to accept donated books - as long as they are in good condition.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

**Sue Taylor**

## **Stoke Fleming Outdoor Bowling Club**

Since our last update Stoke Fleming Bowling Club has had a great summer in more ways than one.

Firstly, a huge thank you to all the club members for helping with the club's first ever open day as part of the Bowls England Big Bowls Weekend and, especially, to the visitors who came along and spent a few hours with us "having a go" at bowling and joining us for tea and plenty of cake! It was great fun to meet you (some of whom have since joined the club).

There have also been several successful social events during the past few months, including a pasty night and card / board game evening with supper. A BBQ and a quiz night are also planned.

Oh, and then, of course, there's the bowling! The club is, at the time of writing, top of the first division of the Mid Devon League and the club's internal competitions are well underway. But it's still not too late to come along and try your hand at bowls. Our club nights are held on a Tuesday evening from 6.00 pm and there's always our website for more information <https://stokeflemingbowlingclub.co.uk>.



**Liz Mallyon**

## Little Cotton Farm (LCF)

Voice enjoyed participating in LCF's Community Fun Day on 20th July. The Residents' Association put on a great, well organised event and everyone we spoke to enjoyed it. Well done, Sharon, Belinda, Christine and Christina!

The fair also gave us an opportunity to pilot our newly developed game of chance and skill named SFrabble which we'll be running again (with prizes!) at the Hort and Sport Show. Top scores were achieved by Debbie Burgess (156), Howard Sones (140) and Rita Clifford (126). LCF residents seemed to find it a lot of fun and we hope the rest of the Village will do so too.



It might also be useful to explain why Voice was at the fun day and why we feature LCF in the magazine, especially as some comments in the recent survey suggested that we shouldn't include the development in Voice as "it's nothing to do with the village"; although others praised us for doing this and asked whether magazines are being delivered there too (they are).

For us, LCF doesn't just lie within the parish boundary. It includes a group of people who we believe would benefit from seeing themselves as part of this parish as well as part of Dartmouth. We also think that LCF residents doing this could benefit the rest of the parish – the recent closure of the Edo Jujitsu group being just one example of how attracting a group of new, often younger people into the village could help us keep activity here going strong.

We therefore appreciate a grant from South Hams District Council to extend the distribution of Voice to LCF (although continuing this into 2026 will depend on additional funding). Well done too, Cllr Simon Rake, for your creditable SFrabble score (100) and equally impressive Hawaiian shirt!

## Prickles in a Pickle

We had a late start to the baby hedgehog season this year. Each year our data shows a month shift of each season which is alarming, to say the least.



From 1st January this year to the date of writing this, 13th July, we have taken in 420 new admissions, and we have 160 in residence at the moment, 40 of which are babies. Added to this have been ducklings, rabbits, pigeons, goldfinch, and tawny owls.

The barn filled up very quickly with mums and babies who have kept Alan extra busy on top of all the other things he does for PIAP.

We have lots of events coming up and we've already marched our way through the first clutch of these. We have some new volunteers to add to our 47. These are badly needed as we need six every day. We are still in need of a washer up and an evening feeder for Mondays.

Please, please, please leave out dishes of water in your gardens; it has been so hot and dry there is nothing to find for wildlife of all kinds. Imagine you are an animal trying to access a safe supply of water to drink. How far do you have to go to find it? How many hazards do you have to face?

We now have talks booked up for most of the year, many organisations book the year before. I have picture presentations via digital projector and presentations for all ages. It stirs a lot of interest and gets people looking after their own little patch, making a haven for wildlife. If we all did this and the patches linked up we would create so much habitat and safety for everything from the earth dwelling invertebrates to the birds and larger mammals.

If you would like to visit us and see what we do, phone or send an email and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Thanks for all the donations.

**Best wishes from all at PIAP.**

## Outdoor Yoga with Tegan – a new class in Stoke Fleming

On Wednesday and Friday evenings from 5.00 - 6.00pm on the Village Hall Playing Fields.

Step outside, tune in, and let go.

This class is all about softening the ego, dropping into the body, and creating space through gentle movement and deep stretching. Come as you are—no pressure, no performance. Just you, your breath, and the earth beneath you.

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## Friends of St Peter's

There have been a number of developments since the AGM in May. We are delighted that Sandra Ingham has joined the FoSP Committee. The application for charitable status has been accepted and FoSP officially registered as a charity (thank you, Tim and Anne W, for all your work on this).



The "story telling" bench (pictured) has been delivered and installed (thank you, Ashley, as well as Jenny for doing the ordering). It is located south west of the tower with a fine view over the churchyard towards the sea. It has already won plaudits for its appearance, sturdiness and comfort. The tree stump seats to go with it should follow soon.

Suzie has found a new contractor for the "Coffin Way" path. He has met with Suzie and John on site and submitted a quotation for an attractive resin bonded and stone edged path. Ali Girardot is assisting with the application to South Hams planners. Thank you to all involved.

Regarding the Servery/Toilet project, the first two applications to grant awarding bodies have been submitted (thank you, Anne W. and Revd Matt) and we are waiting hopefully.

At its June meeting the committee discussed possible future events. It was also decided to have a gazebo at Hort & Sport, so we look forward to seeing you all there to share some fun as well as information. The next committee meeting is on 30th July, and we would warmly welcome further members.

**Peter Barker**

## Start Point Lighthouse

We will be open on Sunday 3rd August from 11.00am to 3.00pm for guided tours up the lighthouse. We have adapted the day, with more help within the tower, so we can take people up every 30 minutes rather than having to wait for a tour on the hour.

Credit card payments can (usually) be made by standing on a certain spot outside and if this fails, we can accept a bank transfer or cash.

Although our public openings are now limited, we do welcome a private tour if you have a group who would be interested in sharing the cost. For more information email [info@startpointdevon.co.uk](mailto:info@startpointdevon.co.uk).

There is a lot of history and information on the tour and even seasoned sailors enjoy seeing Start Bay from 28m above the ground.

**Mary Newman**

# ALADDIN'S CAVE



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**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 42. 20 Well Park Place.

Judy: 07891 657104

Alan: 07970 983608  
01803 771086

*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.*

## Dartmouth Shakespeare Week: 29th July – 2nd August

The Inn Theatre Company have, for over twenty years, been bringing Shakespeare to life in the open air at Dartmouth Castle in the latter part of July. And this year they are staging their first ever history play: "Richard III" every evening from 7.30pm. Bring a picnic to the Castle and enjoy the atmosphere before being transported to 15th century England and witness a blood-soaked story of greed and the battle for power, full of family feuding, black comedy and high drama. Tickets are available now via the company website [www.theinntheatrecompany.co.uk](http://www.theinntheatrecompany.co.uk). Come along and "welcome destruction, blood and massacre!"

## Tribal Clash: 30th to 31st August

Lots of people don't seem to know about Tribal Clash, taking place on Blackpool Sands at the end of August but it's a great event to spectate. I write that as someone who is not generally interested in watching team sports, preferring participation and personal challenges. But even I have found Tribal Clash totally compelling. The men and women taking part in this are true athletes, undertaking team challenges which sound like they're out of "It's a Knockout" but definitely aren't. So, some impressive activities will be taking place most of the time during both days of the weekend. Plan to be there a little bit longer than you think you'll want to be!

Where are we now?

Clever Clogs and Emily Bridge both knew we were in East Portlemouth for the June/July picture.



So, let's see how you get on with this month's picture, going back to 1916.

Now the only question is where are we now?



**Barry Morris** (Tel: 01803 770754, email: [barry219morris@btinternet.com](mailto:barry219morris@btinternet.com))



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District Councillor (South Hams)	Simon Rake, <a href="mailto:cllr.simon.rake@southhams.gov.uk">cllr.simon.rake@southhams.gov.uk</a>	861129
MP for South Devon	Caroline Voaden, <a href="mailto:caroline.voaden.mp@parliament.uk">caroline.voaden.mp@parliament.uk</a>	658461
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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, <a href="mailto:revgorton@hotmail.com">revgorton@hotmail.com</a>	906861
Church Visiting Group	Rosemary Minshall	770300
Churchwarden	John Dietz	770515
Cricket Club	Stacey Gilbert	07931 384017
Dart Valley u3a	Suzie Dodsworth	770134
Friends of St Peter's	Peter Barker	770556
Hort & Sport Show	<a href="mailto:enquiries.hortandsport@gmail.com">enquiries.hortandsport@gmail.com</a>	
Little Lanterns	Lisa Callard	770244
Loam Rangers	Steve Shakespeare	07979 137311
Parish Council	Sharon Whelon, <a href="mailto:clerk@stokefleming.org">clerk@stokefleming.org</a>	
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, <a href="mailto:enquiries@stokeflemingvillagehall.org.uk">enquiries@stokeflemingvillagehall.org.uk</a>	07450 075734
Village Hall Management Committee	John Belli, Chairman of Trustees	07538 156864
Wednesday Ladies	Jill Fell	771137
Youth Club	Rev Matt Gorton, <a href="mailto:stokeflemingyouthclub@gmail.com">stokeflemingyouthclub@gmail.com</a>	906861