

Stoke Fleming Voice

April 2025





STOKE LODGE

H O T E L

Situated in the heart of Stoke Fleming, Stoke Lodge Hotel is a family-run hotel offering cosy coastal stays, deliciously fresh food, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, and a terrace leading from the bar, which boasts stunning sea views.

01803 770523

hello@stokelodge.co.uk



Celebrate in style!

Join friends aboard to explore the River Dart whilst enjoying the best local flavours washed down with a glass of bubbles.

Please contact us on

07306 239830

www.thebanquetboat.co.uk

POSH POOCH

Canine beautician from the London Academy of Grooming

*All Breeds Groomed - Bathed - Clipped
Hand Stripped & Trimmed
Now Offering Cat Care
in Your Own Home*

Local Collection and Delivery Service Available

For Appointments & Enquiries

Mobile: 07970 877431

e-Xplore Devon

E-BIKE HIRE, SALES & SERVICE

01548 859745

info@e-xploredevon.co.uk

www.e-xploredevon.co.uk

Unit 2L, South Hams Business Park TQ7 3QH

ANDREW WATSON - CARPENTRY

Fitted Kitchens & Bespoke Carpentry

**Complete Design & Full Installation Service
From a complete kitchen to a single unit**

Free initial consultation

Tel: 01803 770125 or 07976 574108

15 Deer Park Road, Stoke Fleming, Dartmouth, TQ6 0QW

Editorial

April: the beginning of beginnings, heralded by the unfurling of leaves and buds, bees busy seeking out the early nectar and finally bidding farewell to the winter months as we welcome the joys of Spring.

This month we can find plenty to celebrate and cause to be joyful – from Easter to St George's Day and International Children's Book Day to name a few. April 23rd marks the birth of Shakespeare, who fittingly wrote of the "Primrose Path", a flower-strewn path of pleasure and indulgence. What better excuse, then, to get out and walk along our beautiful primrose-lined lanes and enjoy these pretty flowers with their humble beauty. It is a cheerful happenstance that National Walking Day falls on the 2nd of this month, too, perhaps a great opportunity to join a Dartmouth Walk &Talk event – read on for more ways to get involved in all the wonderful events, and volunteering and charitable causes taking place in April.

For the first time we are delighted to welcome Little Cotton Farm to our distribution area! We hope that you, too, enjoy the magazine and agree that it is a wonderful resource to deliver the voice of the parish, written by its readers and for its readers.

Anna Barrow – Secretary



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

From the Rectory

I am writing this whilst sitting on Blackpool Sands on a gloriously clear day, stunning blue sky, glistening emerald water and feeling the warmth of the sun.

These are some of the signs people look for to make them think that Spring has arrived. I'm sure if I asked every one of you who reads this what your 'signs' of spring are, they would each be different, ranging from lambs, daffodils to even just leaving and returning from work in daylight. For me though it has always been Easter. Now I know this may seem a cliché "the vicar thinks Spring starts at Easter, how surprising!"

But it's a lot deeper than that. For me having grown up sporadically going to church, I at least knew the story of Easter if not a lot else. That little I did know in my mind tied in very clearly with my understanding of Spring. Firstly, it's lighter, and our understanding of Jesus is that he is THE light, and as we all know where there is light, darkness can't exist. Secondly, it's warmer, when we feel warmth we feel safe. Whether that warmth is a physical one after being out in a cold breeze or the emotional warmth we receive from a loved one or an act of love received. Finally, everyone seems happier. I don't know your personal story or experience of church and Christianity, but as far as I am concerned having a faith in Jesus should bring joy and this relationship should make you happy; if it doesn't maybe it's time to revisit the Bible.

So, as we experience more daylight, warmer weather and greater happiness I would encourage you to be reminded of the creator of, not just the seasons, but also us. Pray you have a special Easter.

Blessings **Revd Matt**



From the Registers

No entries this month

St Peter's Church Services for April

Sun 6th	Lent 5	11am Communion by extension.
Sun 13th	Palm Sunday	11am Morning Worship. 4pm THE 4.
Thur 17th	Maundy Thursday	7pm United Benefice Holy Communion and Watch at Blackawton.
Fri 18th	Good Friday	11am United Benefice Reflective Service at St Peter's.
Sun 20th	Easter Sunday	11am Communion by extension.
Sun 27th	Easter 2	11am Morning Worship.

Little Stars

Thank you to "Pancake Pam"; our little stars and siblings had a wonderful time on Pancake Day in church. The pancakes were thrown in every direction and the favourite filling was choc spread and cream.

We've had a few new mums and children; always a pleasure. Come along to our church St Peter's on a Monday morning 9-10.30 during term time. We have such a special bond with all our little stars, everyone welcome.

Heather, Sue and Peter



Children's Easter Workshop

Bring the kids to a jolly craft workshop in St Peter's church on Monday 14th April between 9.30 and 12.30. All kinds of creative crafts will be available, including egg painting and other imaginative activities. For more information contact **Pam** on 07950 74030.

Stoke Fleming Youth Club

Stoke Fleming Youth Club is running again this year. We welcome all young people from year 5 upwards on a Tuesday evening from 5:30-7:30pm during term time. Thank you so much to Matt for running the sessions.

We also hire the hall out to help raise money for the club. We offer a low cost and flexible space, with all the proceeds used to keep the club running for the young people of Stoke Fleming. Please do consider using the club if you have a group or event.

Any further questions please message our Facebook page or email stokeflemingyouthclub@gmail.com.

St Peter's Church, Stoke Fleming

Jeremy Capey



J.S. Bach

Cello Suites 1-3



Jeremy, cellist with the Lyric Chamber Orchestra, says: *"I believe the solo Bach Suites will appeal to those just wanting to enjoy the music, and also to those seeking a more meditative experience in Lent."*

Friday, April 4th at 5.30pm

Retiring Collection in aid of the Church Servery/Toilet Project.

Dartmouth Club de Pétanque

From its humble beginnings at Deer Park in 1989, thanks to the efforts of the late Claire and Orson Stretton, Dartmouth Club de Pétanque continues to thrive.

And over the years, the club has had several “homes”: two years at Deer Park, 15 at Woodlands Leisure Park, eight at Norton Park, and 10 years in its current home situated in the lower part of the playing field in Stoke Fleming.

Commonly known as French Boules, Pétanque derives its name from “pied tanque”, meaning “feet tied together”, which is the starting position at the commencement of play. And while members take the game very seriously, it also gives opportunities for fun, camaraderie and socialising.

During the year the club has welcomed at least 10 new members, which has given it a well needed boost and helped to secure its future in Stoke Fleming.

But there is still room for more, and we would like to send out an invitation to everyone, in particular to any new residents recently arrived in the locality, to come and try their hand at this very sociable game.

Dartmouth Club de Pétanque meets on Wednesdays and Sundays, from 10.30am, throughout the year and more or less in all weathers (although the start of 2025 has been somewhat challenging even for our most stalwart of players!). In spite of that, out of 26 possible days of play members have only lost six to the weather!!!!

If anyone is interested and would like to give it a try, please, just come to the terrain, there are boules one can use.

Or if you'd rather find out more details, call **John Sparks** on 07811 102460.





Registered Charity No. 1003314

Children's Hospice South West Friends Group

For more information please contact Sue
07955197721 - tweed833@btinternet.com

Easter Fair

**Saturday 5th April 2025
10am-3pm**

**Gifts, Cakes, Crafts ,
Jewellery and more!!**

**The Old Market
Victoria Road
Dartmouth
TQ69QD**



Making the most of short and precious lives across the South West
Registered Charity No. 1003314

Children's Hospice South West

Firstly, a reminder that the very popular Easter Fair in aid of Children's Hospice South West will take place on Saturday 5th April from 10am to 3pm in The Old Market in Dartmouth. Lots of lovely stalls, balloon sculpting by Lez the Fez and the Easter Raffle Draw taking place at 12.00. All stalls are booked. Raffle tickets available from Winkworth Dartmouth or at the event before 11.30. Nice prizes!

Also, CHSW volunteers and supporters will be out on the streets of Dartmouth from 10am to 2pm on Friday 11th April for a street collection to raise funds for this wonderful charity. Proceeds from all our events help CHSW to provide essential specialist care and support for over 550 families with life-limited children in the South West. We would be very grateful for your support. Contact **Sue Tweed** on 07955 197721 or tweed833@btinternet.com for further details or to help in any way.

River Dart Rotary Club

We would like to introduce ourselves for those who have not seen us in action as yet. We are River Dart Rotary and we would like to help you in Stoke Fleming if you are considering a project or an idea? We are an enthusiastic group with a variety of skills so why not get in touch with us. We look forward to hearing from you.



Kirsty Cook / 07921 554894
Caroline Martin / 07976 836509

Who Cares Club

Our club is for those who are caring for their loved ones or who have in the past been carers. We meet on the first Monday of each month at the Sportsman's Arms at 12.45 for lunch, and at 10.30 in The Flavel Foyer for coffee mid-month on a Friday.

Contact **John Mitchell** on 01803 835030

Easter Sunday Lunch at Stoke Lodge

Join us for Easter Sunday lunch on 20th April at Stoke Lodge Hotel!

Reservations required with availability from 12.30. £40 per adult and £20 per child with some special Easter bunny treats!

Easter Sunday Lunch Menu

Starters

Wild Garlic Soup, Pesto, Parmesan

Pressed Ham Hock, Celeriac, Remoulade, Apple

Mackerel, Satay, Pickled Cucumber, Peanut

Mains

Leg of Lamb, Shepherd's Pie, Minted Baby Veg, Lamb Jus

Megrim Sole, Saffron Velouté, Tomato, Cumin, Fennel

Goat's Curd Ravioli, Pear & Walnut Salad, Honey Butter

Desserts

Egg Custard Tart, Nutmeg, Rhubarb

Iced Chocolate Parfait, Hazelnut, Coffee, Blackberry

Three Cheeses, Garnish, Breads

Dartmouth Caring

Attendance Allowance: You or someone you know may be entitled!

Attendance Allowance is a non-means tested benefit for people of state pension age who have disabilities or health conditions that make it hard for them to look after themselves.

We know that some people find applying for benefits a daunting process; this is where our experienced Support Workers can step in to help. We are fully trained by Citizens Advice and so we can guide you through the whole process from start to finish. Our approach is flexible and we will work around your needs; we can see you in person at the Health and Wellbeing Centre or visit you at home.

We can also help with other benefits, for example Personal Independence Payments, Universal Credit, etc. and with Blue Badge applications.

To find out more visit us or call 01803 835384.



Supporting Our Community

THE GREEN DRAGON

Traditional home cooked lunches & evening meals

Local real ales, quality wines, gin shelf, log fire and plenty of outdoor space

Your family & dog friendly village pub



Phone: 770238

The Green Dragon

Spring is on the way and we are looking forward to the Easter break looming... Putty's delicious Breakfast is being served every Friday and Saturday mornings from 10-12pm.

On Saturday 5th April from 8pm we have live music with the wonderful Isabelle Nutton Music.

Keep an eye out for our Guest Chef Pop up nights, in March The Greedy Table held a sell-out Asian Night and Dart Valley Dining visited us with beautiful Sri Lankan dishes.

Our next one is on Tuesday 8th April by the fantastic Greedy Table, booking for these events is essential!

Save the date for this year's Dragonfest - 11-13th July.

We wish you all a happy and healthy Easter.

Georgie and Alan

Blackawton Women's Institute

Our April meeting will take place on Wednesday 16 April, 10.30 at Blackawton Village Hall. Our speaker will be Julia Fox, from Totnes Museum, with "**The Secrets of a Victorian Lady's Toilette**". This is a return visit by Julia, as we all loved it last time around. Competitions are for a Victoria Sponge as well as the usual Bloom of the month.

The WI is an inclusive organisation for women of all ages and backgrounds; Blackawton is the nearest branch to Stoke Fleming. We may spread jam but we certainly don't sing Jerusalem! We would love to welcome some more members, so if you've been a member in the past, in Blackawton or the surrounding villages, or have never tried it, please do come along – you would be very welcome. For more details please call Sue on 01803 712145 or Sandra 01803 712622.

Craft Club

We are continuing with our monthly meetings on Friday April 4th at 2pm in the Ron Harris room at the Village Hall. We are a small band who enjoy stitching, knitting etc whilst having a sociable afternoon. You are always welcome to come and join us.



Locals' Evenings at Stoke Lodge

Stoke Lodge Hotel is very excited to be hosting Locals' Evenings each Thursday from 6.30pm! *

Enjoy our daily changing a la carte menu with 2-courses for £20 and 3-courses for £25.

Sample Menu

Starters

Gin-Cured Salmon, Dill, Cucumber, Lemon, Blini

Pig's Cheek, Savoy Cabbage, Apple, Crackling

Goat's Cheese Mousse, Walnut, Beetroot, Apple

Mains

Corn-Fed Chicken, Carrot, Pomme Purée, Saffron Cream

Hake Stew, Fennel, New Potato, Tarragon

Chestnut Gnocchi, Mushroom Velouté, Wild Mushrooms, Thyme

Desserts

White Chocolate, Rhubarb, Honeycomb

Pink Grapefruit Tart, Greek Yoghurt, Almond

Brioche Pudding, Orange, Dark Chocolate, Vanilla

Email us at hello@stokelodge.co.uk or call us on 01803 770523 and quote your 'TQ' postcode to book. Reservations required. * T&Cs apply

Stoke Fleming Village Hall

Last month the Hall hosted a wonderful wedding reception. Please look at the Hall website for an endorsement from the family and some brilliant photographs of what can be achieved with some thought and creativity. It really looked wonderful.



We are lucky to have a very good projector and screen and sound system in the Hall. A few years ago there was a Film Club in Dartmouth and the Hall Trustees wondered if anyone would like a club to start in the village? We envisage it once a month from September to March, perhaps starting in the autumn. Do let Debbie Morris, Village Hall Management Committee, know if you are keen and supportive.

Fundraising continues so we can keep the Hall looking good for the future, up-to-date and improve our facilities. There is a Bingo evening – eyes down at 7.30pm on Friday 9th May – in Moreleigh Village Hall. They have regular Bingo evenings and this one is for our benefit. We shall be supplying the prizes and refreshments and looking to see how a successful evening is run. Do please come along and join the fun.

MN

The Members of Stoke Fleming Village Hall Management Committee

invite all parishioners to the

Village Hall Annual General Meeting

at 19.30 on Monday 7 April 2025

In the Ron Harris room, Stoke Fleming Village Hall

At this meeting, FIVE persons will be elected to serve on the Management Committee as Public Trustees until the next AGM in 2026. Other Trustees are appointed directly by the committees of those clubs and societies using the Hall regularly. Trustees are responsible for all matters relating to the running of the Hall and are expected to take an active role.

Please note that Members of the Committee are Trustees of the Charitable Trust governing the Village Hall and Old Hall Garden.

Exciting News from the 100 Club!

We're thrilled to announce that Michael Bell was the lucky winner of our February draw with ticket number 58. He takes home a prize of £22 – congratulations, Michael.

The 100 Club March Quarterly Draw was held at the Community Kitchen Lunch in the Village Hall on 21 March. The lucky winners of the three prizes draw are:

- Christine Linsell who won the 1st Prize of £55 with ticket number 83.
- William McGowan-Scanlon who won the 2nd Prize of £33 with ticket number 86.
- Mandy Foale who won 3rd Prize of £22 with ticket number 144.

Congratulation to all the winners

Save the Date: The next draw will take place on **Wednesday 16 April** during the u3a iPad Session at Stoke Fleming Village Hall. Could you be our next winner?

Joining the 100 Club not only gives you a chance to win these amazing prizes but also helps support our Village Hall.

Good luck, and see you at the next draw!

Wednesday Ladies

Wednesday Ladies next meeting is on 9th April at 2.30pm in the Village Hall, Ron Harris room. The speaker this month is one of our members, Debbie Morris. Her topic is "**On Being the Mayor of Dartmouth**".

If you would like to join Wednesday Ladies just come to our meeting on 9th April or for more information phone Jill 01803 771137.



Local Private Chef & Small Party Caterer

Offering food deliveries for dinner parties and special occasions, or in house cooking.

Tailor made menus to suit different budgets and tastes.

Contact: thegreedytable@gmail.com

Stoke Fleming Loam Rangers (SFLR)

Well, we opened with a bang on 2nd March, coinciding with a bit of sunshine; the gardeners of Stoke Fleming had obviously been pretty busy and we already have a substantial pile!

As we start the new year, and as a result of a number of tremendous “riddling sessions”, we are particularly well stocked with our high-quality compost – and until further notice, members will be allowed to take 5 bags per visit. Even better value for your £10 subscription.

Talking of subscriptions, existing members should have received an email reminder regarding our 2025 subscription – with details on how to pay and collect your new membership card. Your prompt payment is appreciated. New members: just pop by and see us on site at the school car park on a Sunday morning 10.00-11.30am.

Also, as we start the season it is worth a reminder as to what is and isn't acceptable.

ACCEPTED

- Hedge clippings
- Lawn mowings
- Leaves
- Old bedding plants
- Pond weeds
- Prunings
- Shavings
- Wood chippings
- Weeds

NOT ACCEPTED

- Bamboo
- Cordyline / Phormium
- Russian Vine
- Bindweed
- Ground elder
- Japanese Knotweed
- Leaves which cannot be torn with fingers
- Metal objects
- Stones
- Wood no more than 1.5" diameter

A big thank you to all the volunteers who have provided dates to cover our Sunday rota – we are still a few slots short – especially into June / July - so if you haven't yet responded please do so ASAP.

In last month's edition we made the offer to other parish organisations to apply for a donation from SFLR, as we have done in previous years. Requests needed to be submitted by 31st March and organisations will be notified of the outcome in April.

Please note an application does not guarantee a donation or an amount.

Finally, our AGM is scheduled for 6pm, Wednesday 9th April 2025, in the Ron Harris room, Stoke Fleming Village Hall. Attendance is open to all.

Steve Shakespeare – sgshakespeare@btinternet.com 07970 137311

News from The Hort and Sport

We are hard at work, planning for the Annual Show on Bank Holiday Monday, 25th August, so we hope you are also busy with your plans to enter the vegetable, flower and cookery classes. Talking of cookery, don't forget the Spring Plant Sale is on 10th May in the Village Hall so we would be very grateful for donations of any homemade cakes, buns, scones or sausage rolls etc for the cake stall, always popular, as well as any plants, seedlings etc, labelled if possible. Not forgetting anything suitable for a draw prize. If you are not interested in gardening just come along for a cuppa and a chat and perhaps make some new friends.



Stoke Fleming Horticultural
& Sports Society

Founded in 1875

Barry (770754)

Stoke Fleming Living Churchyard

Pat Tucker did the first strim of the wildflower area at the end of March and our volunteers will be clearing up after him.

Some other tasks planned for the coming months which will need willing helpers include the following:



- Moving snowdrops & primroses from the south boundary of the churchyard to the wildflower area to increase the numbers of spring flowers.
- Preparing the ground for a story-telling bench, which will be situated inside the west wall, by the side entrance to the churchyard.
- Apply protective coating to the new bench by the Coffin Walk path and place it into supports.

If you think you could spare an hour or so to help, please contact

Jenny: jennyhaley029@gmail.com.

Dartmouth & District Flower Club

All meetings are held in Stoke Fleming Village Hall at 14.30.

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: 3 April: **Amy Thomas.**



Contact: **Gwendoline (833270)**



Dartmouth Friends of Rowcroft Coffee
Morning at
Stoke Lodge Hotel
Stoke Fleming, 10-12 noon
Thursday 15th May 2025

in aid of Rowcroft Hospice

Craft Stall
&
Raffle

Delicious
Homemade
Cakes



Good
Company

rowcroft
hospice
Registered Charity No. 282723

Community Kitchen

We were back in the Village Hall for our March lunch and it was good to welcome some new faces and old friends. Our tickets are in constant demand, but we can only cater for 30, so if you cannot use your ticket – do please contact me as I usually know someone who wants one. An email or message up to the morning of the lunch and we will do what we can to move it on.



We had a more international flavour to this lunch and five puddings to enjoy. The old saying 'Cast not a clout 'til May is out' rings true and hot food is still very necessary and welcome in the middle of the day.

We are coming up to that difficult time when winter vegetables are becoming boring and the spring vegetables are not yet ready. Try to pep them up with herbs and spices and stronger seasoning. Certainly salads don't hit the spot for me in April!

Our next lunch will be in the Village Hall on 11th April at 12.30pm. Tickets remain at £10 each with £2 to pay on the day to avoid difficulties with change in the Village Shop. They will be on sale at 8.00am on Tuesday 1st April. Don't forget that we need advance notice for any dietary requirements. Hope to see you there.

Mary Newman
(houseonthehill661@gmail.com)

Stoke Fleming & District Probus Club

A lunch meeting will be held beginning at 10.30am at the Stoke Lodge Hotel on Wednesday 9th April. The meeting will commence with coffee, followed by a talk by Mike Rowley entitled "**Newcomen to Trevithick**". The history of the industrial revolution lies on our doorstep. Thomas Newcomen was born in Dartmouth in 1664 and made a huge contribution to industrial progress with his steam engines designed to pump water from mines, until Richard Trevithick came along later with his ideas for steam motive power.

Also at the Stoke Lodge Hotel, our second meeting of the month will be held on Wednesday 23rd April beginning at 10.30am with coffee. Martin Farrant will give a talk on the work of Joseph Bazalgette, Public Health Engineer entitled "**The Great Stink**".

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

Peter Hales (07969 248397 / 770739)

CRAB SHELL



"Probably the best seafood sandwiches you'll ever taste"

*Open daily
Easter till November
mid morning-afternoon
Seafood sold loose*

1 Raleigh Street, Dartmouth Tel: 01803 839036



MAKERS OF FINE ICE CREAM AND FUDGE

HOMEMADE ICE CREAM - HOMEMADE FUDGE -
CREAM TEAS - CLOTTED CREAM -
LUXURY DEVON HAMPERS

The Good Intent, 30 Lower Street, Dartmouth, TQ6 9AN t:01803 832157
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

All aspects of tree & hedge work
Tree Surveys & Inspections
Mobile log splitting service

Professional, qualified, experienced & insured

Nathan Brown 0751 3030476
RFS Cert Arb, Arb Assoc. Technician Member

Property Services,
Gardening & Design



Contact Mark
07561 881132
seaparr01@yahoo.co.uk

News from Stoke Fleming Primary School

On Friday 28th February we had a visit from Alex Mack from Devon Waste. Alex delivered several engaging workshops across the school, teaching the children about recycling, composting, and growing plants. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to learn more about sustainability and how they can help care for the environment.



On Monday 3rd March and Tuesday 4th March, we welcomed parents into school for our Spring Term parents' evenings.

On the afternoon of Monday 3rd March, a team of our footballers took part in a tournament at KEVICCs. They were a real credit to the school, demonstrating great teamwork and sportsmanship, and won four out of their five matches—finishing in a close second place behind Christow Primary School. We look forward to attending more events in the summer term!

Thursday 6th March was a highlight of the week as we celebrated World Book Day. The children took part in a range of activities designed to develop a love of reading, and there were some incredible costumes on display. Christopher Harrison the headteacher said he felt particularly safe in school that day, with so many superheroes under one roof! Every child also received a book to take home, helping to build their personal libraries and encourage a lifelong love of reading.

On the same day in the afternoon, Year 2 had a visit from a team of dental professionals to learn about oral health. Around one in three children in the UK experience tooth decay by the age of five so regular brushing with fluoride toothpaste and reducing sugary snacks are key steps in keeping teeth healthy. We encourage all of our pupils to brush twice a day for two minutes to help maintain good oral hygiene.

We rounded off the week with a book fair on Friday 7th March, where children had the chance to explore a wide selection of books. Book fairs are a fantastic opportunity to get children excited about reading; every book purchased helps to raise funds for new books in school.



An Update on the Stoke Lodge Hotel Woodland Garden

There has been much progress since our February update, both from us and Mother Nature! It is wonderful to see signs of spring emerging: bulbs, buds and fresh, new green growth.

At the Parish Council's February meeting we were very pleased to present our plans for the garden and to answer any questions; our warmest thanks to all the council members, we are very grateful for their support. February also saw a further visit from the South Hams Tree Officer, meeting with Jon Wheatley, our garden consultant, and ourselves. It was very constructive and we are thrilled to confirm that we have just received approval of our planning application from SHDC.

Further work was carried out over two days in February, clearing the gardens and removing debris, and this will continue at intervals as needed. However, we will also begin the removal of some of the smaller non-native trees to open up space for new plantings of shrubs, particularly camellias and hydrangeas, and native trees. After a large limb fell from a medium-sized sycamore tree on the Bailey's Meadow side of the garden during recent strong winds, we discovered the tree was diseased and we await permission to fell this tree. We hope that this work will be completed in the next few weeks.

The pond will also receive some much-needed TLC, initially to clear some of the weed and do everything possible to discourage algae growth. And encourage the ducks to visit!

In order to keep everyone updated on the garden's progress, notices will be posted on the Birdwalk fencing and at the Village Hall...and hopefully we can continue to chat to everyone in the hotel and over the fence as we work!

Myles, Alex & families



The Arts Society Dartmouth and Kingswear (TASDAK)

Monday 14th April at 2.30pm: Douglas Skeggs – “**David Hockney, The Old Master of the New World**”.

From the early ‘60s when he left the Royal College of Art more famous than his teachers, Hockney’s paintings have demonstrated a charm and humour that sets him apart from his contemporaries. His love of ingenious and visual devices led him to experiment with a whole range of techniques from stage design to coloured paper making. This lecture at The Flavel Arts Centre follows the career of an artist whose wit and imagination has never faltered.

Juliet Lambert

Stoke Fleming Shop and Post Office – Opening Hours over Easter

	Shop	Post Office
Good Friday	09.00 – 14.00	closed
Easter Saturday	08.30 – 13.00	09.00 – 13.00
Easter Sunday	09.00 – 12.00	closed
Easter Monday	09.00 – 14.00	closed

Dartmouth Food Bank



**DARTMOUTH & DISTRICT
FOOD BANK**

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.

LEONARDS COVE HOLIDAY VILLAGE



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!

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).

For enquiries and our full price list, call, email or just pop into reception!

01803 770206

info@leonardscove.co.uk

New Road, Stoke Fleming, TQ6 0NR

garden
time

Your local garden centre,
café and farm shop.

Open 7 days a week
9am-5.30pm Mon to Sat,
10am-4pm Sun.

Gardentime, Hemborough Post,
Blackawton, Totnes, Near Dartmouth,
TQ9 7DE.
01803 712345 www.gardentime.biz

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

(For opening times over Easter see page 20)

	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 (Not Sat)	
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.

April 2025

Tue	1	08.00, Tickets on sale for Community Kitchen Lunch, Shop
Wed	2	19.00, Parish Council, Village Hall
Thur	3	14.30, Dartmouth & District Flower Club, Village Hall
Fri	4	14.00, Craft Club, Village Hall 17.30, Concert by Jeremy Capey, St Peter's Church
Sat	5	10.00-15.00, CHSW Easter Fair, Old Market. See page 7 11.00-17.00, Field Open Day, The Shippen, Bugford, TQ6 0LT 20.00, Live music at the Green Dragon
Sun	6	11.00-17.00, Field Open Day, The Shippen, Bugford, TQ6 0LT
Mon	7	School Holidays Start 19.30, Village Hall AGM
Tue	8	Guest Chef night at the Green Dragon
Wed	9	10.30, Probus meeting, Stoke Lodge 14.30, Wednesday Ladies, Village Hall 18.00, Loam Rangers AGM, Village Hall
Thur	10	10.30, u3a talk, Flavel
Fri	11	12.30, Community Kitchen Lunch, Village Hall
Sat	12	10.00-12.00, Prickles in a Pickle coffee morning, Village Hall
Sun	13	Palm Sunday
Mon	14	14.30, TASDAK lecture, Flavel 09.30-12.30, Children's Easter Workshop, St Peter's Church
Tue	15	
Wed	16	10.30, Blackawton WI meeting, Blackawton Village Hall COPY DATE FOR MAY MAGAZINE
Thur	17	Maundy Thursday
Fri	18	Good Friday
Sat	19	14.00 – Start of Outdoor Bowling Club season
Sun	20	Easter Sunday From 12.30 – Easter Sunday Lunch at Stoke Lodge
Mon	21	Easter Monday
Tue	22	School Summer Term starts
Wed	23	10.30, Probus meeting, Stoke Lodge
Thur	24	
Fri	25	
Sat	26	
Sun	27	
Mon	28	
Tue	29	
Wed	30	

Parish Council Minutes Summary – March 2025

A monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 5th March 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: Cllr David Harris (Chair), Cllr Tim Moseley (Vice-Chair), Cllr Phil Elliott, Cllr John Belli, Cllr Jack Handley, Cllr Bella Johnston, Cllr Belinda Duffy.

Also invited: District Cllr Simon Rake,

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr Jay Floyd, Cllr Tilly Crowther, County Cllr Julian Brazil.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 5th February 2025, AND PLANNING SITE MEETING NOTES were agreed, and signed by the Chairman as true and correct records. The meeting was preceded by two presentations by the applicants for the remaining councillor position – the council agreed to invite Belinda Duffy for co-option to the council.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- Balanced budget has been passed, which will be challenging.
- Residents' discounted parking scheme is now live, discount applicable until the end of the month.
- Double council tax for second homes will come into force from April.
- Devolution – district councils have discussed way forward for reorganisation, ie Devon split into three unitary authorities, at own pace preferred.
- Further meeting with Cotton Estate residents has taken place
- S106 funding – Baker Estates has not given extra funds to parish council; District Council has funds for a multi-use sports pitch at Norton (DASH). Drawings to be sent to clerk for circulation.
- Funding has been given by Cllr Rake to new Stoke Fleming publication 'Stoke Fleming Voice'.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN Proposed new car park. No update. Another sub-committee will be arranged to look at alternatives.

FUNDRAISING AND VOLUNTEERING sub-committee report.

Cllr Bella Johnston to join sub-committee.

- a) Toilets – School Road, purchase in process. Clerk to chase for a date.

b) Pavilion – change of use. No update from football club. Possibility of coastguard station suggested by Cllr Handley, problem with garaging mentioned.

COMMUNITY

- a) Slapton Line Partnership update. SHDC has recruited Adaption Manager – due to start in June.
- b) Little Cotton residents meeting – social issues discussed. Council to lobby police for more action.

ROADS & TRANSPORT Parking on School Road, staggered cars are worsening the problem. Council to encourage drivers to be more considerate.

MAINTENANCE

- a) Ravensbourne Lane insurance claim. Council agreed to accept the offer plus vat, with the intention to find a cheaper quote for repair.
- b) Drain clearing. Exjet has been contacted and meeting due to take place. Drains have been counted by Cllr Moseley. Village, School Road, Venn to be prioritised.

COUNCIL AND ACTIONS REGISTER

Metal detector policy – clerk to adapt policy.

PLANNING: Noted.

APPLICATIONS

a) Application Number 0082/25/VAR

Location Address: Redcroft, Dartmouth Road, Stoke Fleming.

Proposal: Application for variation of Condition 1 (approved plans) and Condition 9 (landscaping) of planning consent 3148/20/VAR.

Status: Within Consultation Period.

Application Type: Variation or Removal of Condition

b) Application Number 0138/25/VAR

Location Address: 1 Rose Cottages Dartmouth Road Stoke Fleming TQ6 0NT.

Proposal: Application for variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) of planning consent 3329/24/HHO. Status: Within Consultation Period.

Application Type: Variation or Removal of Condition.

c) Application Number 0529/25/CLP

Location Address: 19 Barton Way, Dartmouth, TQ6 0FL.

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness for proposed erection of a veranda to the rear elevation of an existing dwelling house. Status: Under Consideration.

Application Type: Certificate of Lawfulness for Proposed Use.

d) Application Number 0289/25/CTN

Location Address: Land At Sx 836 505 Ash.

Proposal: Temporary Campsite Notification for up to 60 days of camping between and including 16/07/25 - 01/09/25. Status: Under Consideration.

Application Type: Temporary Campsite Notification.

e) Application Number 0212/25/ARC

Location Address: Barn At Sx 844 512, Norton.

Proposal: Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 10 (WSI), 11(CMP) and 12 (Hard & Soft Landscaping Scheme) of planning consent 0122/22/FUL. Status: Under Consideration.

Application Type: Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions.

f) Reference: 0111/25/HHO

Proposal: Householder application to merge 2 bedrooms on first floor into 1 bedroom with master bedroom on second floor Site Address: 8 Redcroft Heights Dartmouth Road Stoke Fleming TQ6 0FB

DECISIONS

a) Application Number 0183/25/TCA

Location Address: Old Pound House Dartmouth Road Stoke Fleming TQ6 0NU.

Proposal: T1: Evergreen Magnolia - crown reduction by 1mtr. T2: Bay - crown reduction by 0.5mtr. T3: Bay - crown reduction by 0.5mtr. T4: Ash - reduce crown to give 1.5mtr clearance of property, (only reduce limbs that are within 1.5mtr of property) no cuts to exceed 50mm. To stop damage to property.

Status: Approved Application. Type: Works to a Tree in a Conservation Area.

b) Application Number 4076/24/ARC

Location Address: Land At Sx 855 508, Violet Drive, Dartmouth

Proposal: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 2 (Materials / Finishes) of planning consent 0278/24/ARM. Status: Approved. Application Type: Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions.

c) 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: Under Consideration.

Application Type: Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions.

d) 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: Within Consultation Period.

Application Type: Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions.

e) Application Number 3373/24/VAR

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

Proposal: Variation of condition 6 (boundary treatment) of planning consent 0647/22/FUL. Status: Approved

Application Type: Variation or Removal of ConditionTrees at Stoke Lodge discussed, following comments from Tree Officer.

Cllr Belinda Duffy and Cllr Bella Johnston welcomed to join Planning sub-committee.

Additionally: New batteries for VAS system to be purchased.

Suggestions for guest presenters at Annual Parish Meeting requested.

Date of next meeting: 2nd April 2025

7th May 2025, Annual Parish Council Meeting 6pm, Annual Parish Meeting 7pm

Stoke Fleming Parish Council

Annual Meetings

7th May 2025

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
(council elections and co-options)
will be held at 6pm
followed by

The Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm

In the Ron Harris Room, Stoke Fleming Village Hall

The Annual Parish Meeting will include reports from the Parish Council together with District and County councillors on the events of the last twelve months, and from community organisations:

Stoke Fleming Primary School

Dartmouth Academy

Friends of St Peter's

Plus special guests to be announced

Nature Notes

From the Atlas of the Mammals (Mammal Society 2020) the field vole was extinct in Stoke Fleming in 1992 but I saw one come from the Dartmouth border into Stoke Fleming at Redlap Lane on 3rd March.

The hedgehogs were out of hibernation despite the freezing nights but there's no ice on the water. The first was out on 1st March after midnight scouring the bird food on the lawn in my garden and another at the same time on 13th March outside the front gate. I saw a pipistrelle bat also out of hibernation on 21st February outside the Cotton cow shed, Venn Lane, and afterwards elsewhere.



The noctule bat could be absent in Stoke Fleming which is ginger and the largest bat because there are two other noctule bats around, the Leisler's bat and the serotine bat. The Leisler's bat is probably the one in Stoke Fleming which is smaller, darker and has long thin wings. I will look at them later on when I've got my night-vision binoculars.

There's no recording of that in Stoke Fleming from the Atlas of the Mammals but there are some west of Halwell. So probably that it is the bat which I saw is out of hibernation on 9th March at 6.45pm dusk on the mid-Riversbridge Lane from Venn Cross. The grey squirrel returned to my garden on 25th February but the ivy is dying off and the squirrel can't hide in the future. Also there was a pipistrelle bat out on 5th February at 6.15pm near Rylands Copse, Riversbridge.

On 21st February the same female sparrowhawk came over to my garden and I adopted a stance like a cat and it didn't come back. The coal tit came back on 11th to 13th February and the last blackcap visit was on 2nd March. A heron flew to Pleasant Valley at 4.30pm on 9th March but returned to the Riversbridge Pools at 6.30pm during dusk. At 5.30pm on the same day I saw a little grebe again in Combe Pond and a pair of mallards including the pond opposite the Bowden House. There were tawny owls between Little Dartmouth coast and the NT car park on 11th March and another on a tree between Pleasant Valley farm and the bungalows the next day.



DW

South Hams Parking – Discounted Scheme for Residents

You've probably seen the note with your council tax bill that the District Council are introducing a new residents' discount parking scheme from 1st April. The scheme has received quite a bit of criticism suggesting that tourists and others will be put off coming to the South Hams if they have to pay more than locals but the council believes it's fair for visitors to pay more towards the extra bins and services their visits require. Residents' savings are also quite small and require an annual payment of £5 per vehicle so everyone should think carefully about whether they will benefit. You will also have to use the PayByPhone app to gain the savings, or you can pay by cash (where this is still possible) and get an extra 30 minutes of free parking.

The council will also be continuing the residents' concessionary parking scheme which provides a year's use of some car parks between 3pm and 10pm every day for £57. See <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/parking/parking-permits>.

Are you ready for the elections?

Are you ready to vote in the Devon County Council elections on 1 May? Here are some key dates to remember:

Register to vote by **Friday 11 April**

Register for a postal vote by **Monday 14 April**

Register for a proxy vote by **Monday 14 April**

Don't forget.. you need photo identification (ID) to vote at a polling station.

For more information, including the full list of accepted forms of photo ID, visit the [Electoral Commission website](#) (or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280).

If you need voter ID, you will need to [apply online](#) by **Wednesday 23 April**.

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

Come and see us: The Flavel Arts Centre, Flavel Place, Dartmouth, TQ6 9ND.
Every Tuesday 9.30am to 12.30pm.
Call us on: **0808 278 7948** southhamscab.org.uk

STOKE FLEMING VILLAGE SHOP & POST OFFICE



Confectionery, Newspapers, Stationery, Groceries
Good Selection of Wines and Spirits
Food & Drinks to go - Beach Goods & Toys
Postal Services - Personal Banking & Withdrawals
Bill Payments - Travel Money - Open Daily



Tel: Shop 771119 - Post Office 770229

Lyn Drury

PAINTER

*Painting & Decorating
Interior & Exterior*

*Wallpapering, Floor & Wall Tiling
Fencing, Paving, Decking etc.*

Competitive rates - Free estimate

Phone: 07870 269 609 or 01803 770 688

email:- drurylyn1@gmail.com

Darmech



Cars, Light Commercials
and Motorcycles
The Old Abattoir
Dartmouth

(01803) 834234)

Proprietor: John Darby

VANITY TAILS

DOG GROOMING & TEETH CLEANING



NICKI

To Book Phone:
07548500792

25% deposit required to secure all Bookings

shoreline

**design, plant,
maintain**

07989 564082
julie_elliott@hotmail.com



Relax, unwind. Reclaim your health, vitality and wellbeing. Release pain, stress anxiety and fatigue. I combine the power and depth of Kinesiology with the principles of Life Coaching and a range of energy balancing tools from Traditional Chinese Medicine, Zero Balancing and Indian Head Massage.

Kay Scott
01803 770 276 / 07816 758 107
www.intouchdevon.co.uk
connect@intouchdevon.co.uk



Live Life in Balance



Designed to suit all abilities, come along and join our sociable group, and enjoy walking in some of the most scenic areas in the country! Walks are graded Level 1 (easy) to Level 3 (more challenging).

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 this time of the year.

Date	Time	Walk level	Location of walk (£=bring money for ferry)	Meeting Point
3rd April	10.30	3	Kingswear circular with estuary and river views (£)	Kingswear railway station.
10th April	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.
17th April	10.30 or 11.00	2	Slapton Ley and village circular	10.30 no. 93 bus from Dartmouth pontoon or 11.00 Slapton Turn/War Memorial car park.
24th April	10.30	3	Bluebells at Gallants Bower	The Bandstand, Royal Avenue Gardens.



MICHAEL SUTTON'S CELLAR

Celebrating 40 years in business

Wine Shop & Tastings

07736 245701

www.michealsuttonscellar.co.uk



Riversbridge, Blackpool Valley, Stoke Fleming. TQ6 0LG

RGC mobility

KITCHENS & BATHROOMS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

**Wet Rooms • Walk-in Baths
Wash & Dry Toilets
Grab Rails • Raised Toilets
Seated Showering
Level Access • Adapted Taps**



Collingwood Road Dartmouth TQ6 9JY
01803 834622 rgcbuildingsupplies.co.uk



TRATTORIA SPAGGIA

Italian flavours in the heart of Stoke Fleming! Fresh pasta dishes made with love. Join us for a taste of Italy!

New Rd, Stoke Fleming,
01803 927232



A.F. Brown & Sons Ltd

Landscaping & General Building

Family Business since 1976
Gatcombe Mill - Littlehempston
Totnes TQ9 6LW

Tel/Fax: 01803 864871
Email: enquiries@afbrown-sons.co.uk
Web: www.afbrown-sons.co.uk



Stoke Fleming

*Tailor made
treatments*

18 years experience

Contact: Samantha on 07572 430242
www.Hideawaybeauty.com

South Hams HANDYMAN

BUILDING • RENOVATION • REPAIR

Kitchens & Bathrooms • Carpentry & Joinery • Patios & Paving
Landscaping • Plastering & General Building Maintenance

07779-558897

SouthHamsHandyman@outlook.com
www.SouthHamsHandyman.com

EZEBAG

The Easier
Way to
Clear Away
Your Rubbish



HOUSEHOLD • GARDEN • DIY • GENERAL BUILDING

**You Fill it Up
We Pick it Up**

From £135

Including bag delivery & collection

ezebag.co.uk 01803 834622

Sport, Exercise, Activity at the Village Hall

Mondays

19.00 Start Bay Performers

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. Contact Adrian: 01803 712159

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

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

18.30-19.15 Ju-Jitsu and Self-Defence Children's class. Contact John: 07783 334746

19.30-21.00 Ju-Jitsu and Self-Defence Adult class. Contact John: 07783 334746

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.*

Anyone for Racquets?

The village is lucky to have a thriving table tennis club operating out of the village hall with sessions on Tuesday evenings, from 7-9pm, for over 18s only. The cost is just £4 per evening and bats and balls can be provided.

Other racquet sports involve a bit more of a journey. In particular, squash and racketball require a trip to Kingsbridge, Dartington, Torquay or elsewhere.

However, with the weather improving, how about tennis in Coronation Park where a variety of group and organised sessions are held? You can also just book a court for £6.90 for an hour or take out an annual membership.

You can also book badminton and pickleball courts at Dartmouth Leisure Centre. Group sessions for pickleball run on Sundays 10-12am, Tuesdays 4-5.30pm and Fridays 4.30-6pm. The cost for each of these is £3.50 per session.

There are two badminton clubs operating from the Leisure Centre. One takes place on Wednesday evenings, from 7-9pm and uses feather shuttlecocks. The cost of this is £5 per session but the club breaks for Summer from the end of this month. The other club is for over 40s and meets on Monday afternoons, from 3.45-5.45pm and uses plastic shuttlecocks. The cost of this is currently just £3 per session, and you can even have a trial session for free.

"Ask not what Stoke Fleming can do for you, but"

(to paraphrase JFK)

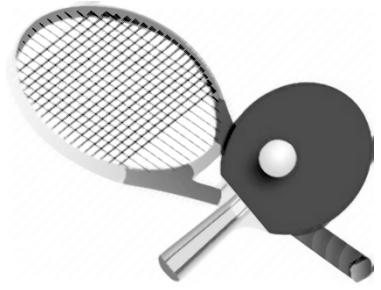
If you can help Prickles in a Pickle in any way, including looking after the hedgehogs, please contact Judy on 01803 771086.

Volunteers are always welcome at Loam Rangers to help on Sunday mornings between March and October. Contact Steve Shakespeare on 07970 137311.

Start Bay Performers welcome players and backstage helpers to join their team. Contact John Belli on 07538 156864

Stoke Fleming Living Churchyard will need helpers during the summer, to look after the wildflower meadow. Please contact jennyhaley029@gmail.com.

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.



Prickles in a Pickle

Lovely to see the sun for a few days, even though it is still cold, the brighter days are much welcomed and just give a little lift to how you feel.



Like many people, we have been encouraged out into the garden wilderness, to assess how much we need to do to help it back to life. From now on, we start to get much busier, as with all the gardening going on, sleepy hedgehogs will be unearthed, wobbling out of the winter in need of food and water.

As we have said many times before, hibernation is becoming a thing of the past for most prickly people. We are especially temperate in the South West. With global temperatures rising faster than predicted, our flora and fauna are all getting a bit confused.

Even so, winter is still a hard time for our wildlife. Like most animals, cold and dry is tolerable but cold and wet not so. Sources of food, like earth worms, disappear deeper into the ground and are hard to get hold of. Beetles and bugs vanish altogether. It is vital that food and water is left out to supplement their meagre diet. Even in the once bountiful spring and summer, our insect population here and world wide has declined so much that many rescue centres report all species of animals and birds being admitted starving.

It is funny that we have thought nothing of feeding the birds for years but the idea of feeding other animals is somehow, alien.

We have had our first bonfire victim admitted. Alongside the clearing up, the bonfire to dispose of the detritus causes more victims. A bonfire is an attractive hibernaculum to a nesting hedgehog. In making one, you are providing a hedgehog with a home! Then you set fire to it! The only defence a hedgehog has is to roll up and hope the danger goes away, and of course it doesn't.

If you are going to have a bonfire, consider building it just before lighting. Or even better, join the Loam Rangers and take your garden clippings to them.

I joke that every year, the hedgehogs find a new way of killing themselves but it is just that each year we find a new hazard to put in their way. So please be mindful when gardening.

We have chosen to have our annual Easter Coffee and Cake morning in Stoke Fleming Village Hall this year. There are artisan craft stalls, and ours of course, a raffle, guess the weight of the hedgehog, (not a real one) and lots of cake. It is on 12th April from 10.00 -12.00.

Best wishes, Judy and Alan PIAP

Sending Love to Ukraine



You might be interested to hear how I became involved with donations to Ukraine.

I have a friend who is a skipper on the Lower Ferry. He works with a phenomenal group of people, 'Cornwall and Devon sending love to Ukraine'.

They regularly drive supplies out to Ukraine, every few weeks, collected by Devon and Cornwall residents. They have also supplied and equipped 3-4 ambulances and taken them out too. There are specific requests and different times, dependent on need.

At the moment, the request is for warm blankets and sleeping bags or duvets. These must be new or clean. There are precious little resources to wash large items especially. Medical supplies, specifically, dressing packs, bandages, antiseptic, first aid kits, medicines, (these can be out of date). Torches and batteries, feminine hygiene items, hygiene items generally. Tinned and dried food. Baby nappies and formulae. Dog and cat food and medicines, these medicines can be out of date too.

Please nothing else, we have on occasion resembled a recycling centre, and we then have to dispose of the unwanted items ourselves. Please check before you bring if you are not sure.

I am a mother, grandmother, sister, daughter and nurse. I cannot begin to imagine what life is like for people in war-torn areas everywhere. I felt that having a contact helping Ukraine, this was a little something I could do to make a difference and it really does. If my link was to another country then I would be helping them. Sadly none of us can rescue everyone, but if we all do one small thing then added up it is huge.

Judy - 07891 657104
20 Well Park Place

Dart Valley u3a

This month's talk, "**Principles of Garden Design**", will take place at 10.30am on Thursday 10th April at The Flavel Arts Centre, Dartmouth. **Jacquie Felix-Mitchell** will give a talk which looks at the main principles of garden design and aims to give you some inspiration regarding your own outdoor space. Entrance only £2 for members and £3 for guests. Tea and coffee will be available from 10.00 to 10.30am; please bring a reusable cup.

Tim Freeman

G.P & S. Lock

Building & Property maintenance

Interior & Exterior Decorating
Tiling & Property Refurbishments
UPVC Supplied & Fitted, Guttering Cleaning
Pressure Washing & Fencing
Carpentry Work & Repairs
Husband & Wife Team

Phone: 01803 712942 - Mobile: 07811 866862

MOBILE HAIRDRESSING

in



Stoke Fleming Village
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
Ladies Cut/Blowdry & Dry Cuts
Men's Cuts

Phone Helen on 07398167873



SELLING UNIQUE HOMES

01803 835 788

www.thecoastalhouse.co.uk

WINKWORTH

for PROPERTY in the VILLAGE,
by the SEA and in the COUNTRY

Stephen Levy

for service and results - 07941 402910
your resident Stoke Fleming Estate Agent

slevy@winkworth.co.uk 01803 832288



Stunning Sea Views
Comfortable Walk to Beach
All Bedrooms En-Suite
Free Wi-Fi
Guest Lounge
Dogs Welcome
Ample Off-Road Parking

Channel View Guest House, New Road, Stoke Fleming

Tel: 01803 770 389
EMail: relax@channelviewguesthouse.com
Web: www.channelviewguesthouse.com

TQ6 ELECTRICAL

RICHARD DIXON Part P registered

Telephone: 01803 834916
Mobile: 07988818120
email: enquiries@tq6electrical.co.uk

R.C.Pillar & Sons Ltd FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Ensuring your loved one
receives a funeral with care
and dignity throughout.

We are independent Funeral Directors
offering a high quality, compassionate
and personalised service since 1870.

We offer a 24 hour service
and pre-paid Funeral Plans.

Dartmouth 01803 832121
www.rcpillar-funerals.co.uk



Friends of St Peter's

Work behind the scenes continues on our projects:

Resurfacing the side path from the main gate to the Coffin Walk – the path will be resurfaced in an environmentally friendly, non-slip surface and widened slightly so that it can be used by those in wheelchairs. Permissions from the church authorities were delayed because they had no record of the previous path and because extra caution is needed when doing any work near graves. The Rev Matt has been working to speed up the final church permissions, FoSP has all the funds in place, and contractors are lined up so we hope soon to have a start-date for the work.



The new Servery and Toilet - FoSP members continue to research grant-making trusts and are working to put together the information each trust needs - always the tedious stage of applying for grants. The new Servery has been designed to be entirely in keeping with the church, and will, we think, look wonderful.

FoSP AGM - 9th May at 6.00pm.

We welcome both non-members who would like to know more about our work, and, of course, all members, to our AGM which will be held on **Friday 9th May at 6.00pm** in the church.

We'll be there from 5.30pm to provide refreshments, including wine and nibbles, and look forward to talking with you.

To find out more, and to support our work, go to: <https://www.fospstokefleming.com>.

Wander around the field at Bugford – Supporting FoSP



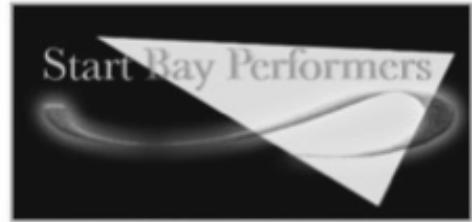
Stoke Fleming parishioners are welcome to walk around the field and garden at The Shippen, Bugford, TQ6 0LT on Saturday 5th or Sunday 6th April, from 11am till 5pm. Entrance and parking near the granite rollers. Wellies necessary if we have much rain! Any donations for the Friends of St Peter's.

Well-behaved dogs are welcome.

Jenny Wreford-Brown

Start Bay Performers

Having chosen a play we are busy rehearsing our next production which by popular demand is a comedy: **Last Panto in Little Grimley** – A play by David Tristram.



It will be performed at Stoke Fleming Village Hall on **Friday June 7th and Saturday June 8th**. Doors and Bar will open at 6.30pm. A delicious hot supper prepared by the wonderful Dan Putt will be served at 7.15pm. This will be followed by a short raffle and then the one act play.

Synopsis

A local Village Ad Dram Society are endeavouring to put on a play with only four members for their next production. One of the cast considers herself something of a singer and wants to stage a musical. Gordon their long suffering Director has decided to write a Pantomime but is having to deal with a challenging cast!

We are really pleased to have two new members making their debuts in this play but are still looking for more new members for our group. We meet on Mondays at 7pm in our wonderful Village Hall, so if you are interested in being on stage or helping backstage you will be very welcome to join our team. You can always call me on 07538 156864 for more details.

Tickets will be available nearer the date at Stoke Fleming Village Shop and from Mary Rimell, 07909 970150.

John Belli



Visit The Shippen, Bugford

EDO's COLUMN – Our Muse for April

Today we provide you a very brief history of the Japanese Samurai era and how Ju-Jitsu was developed, which we hope you will find interesting. The Samurai era lasted for over 700 years from 1100s to the late 1800s ending in the Edo era. The majority of the Samurai became teachers or advisors on various topics which encompassed their moral code of Bushido (conduct).



Samurai were required to master various techniques to perform their roles effectively. Swordsmanship, Archery, Grappling and Horsemanship were constantly being honed. Traditional karate techniques proved ineffective because of the tough and rigid armour of the warriors. Consequently, the system of Ju-Jitsu was developed as a restraining and throwing art to address these challenges. The proving ground was the battlefield where Ju-Jitsu was used as a supplement to close combat.

Although Samurai Ju-Jitsu includes kicking and punching in its syllabus, the majority of the techniques are takedowns, throws, trips and grappling, ending in locks to the wrists, arms shoulders and legs.

Senseis John and Graham (07783 334746)

Stoke Fleming Outdoor Bowling Club

As the weather warms, the days get longer, and we emerge from winter hibernation, it's time to look at what we can do outdoors but have you considered giving outdoor bowling a try? Stoke Fleming Bowling Club has been going since 1919 and, I can hear you say, some of their members probably have been too! But it's not just a sport for people of a 'certain age'.



Come along and see for yourself on **Saturday 19th April at 2.00pm**, when the club and green are officially opened for the bowling season (April – September). If that day doesn't suit, there's always our club nights on **Tuesdays from 6.00 pm**, starting on **22nd April** and we're also opening the green to the public on **Sunday 25th May 10.00am - 4.00pm** as part of the Bowls England Big Bowls Weekend, where you can come along, have a go at bowling and enjoy some light refreshments. There'll be club members on hand at all events to welcome and help you. For more information, please contact the Club's Secretary, **Liz Mallyon**, on 01803 712799.



The Flavel Arts Centre
Dartmouth
01803 839530
www.theflavel.org.uk

The Flavel is the heart of entertainment in Dartmouth: cinema, live music, theatre, cafe, art gallery, youth drama, venue hire, art workshops, wellbeing clubs and classes - something for everyone!

Event	Date
The Royal Opera : Puccini's TURANDOT (Event Cinema)	Tue 1 Apr
Bridget Jones: Mad About The Boy (15)	Thu 3 Apr
Billy Elliot The Musical Live (on screen – event cinema)	Fri 4 Apr
BRNC Concert Band Spring Concert	Sat 5 Apr
Dog Man (U)	Mon 7 - Wed 16 Apr
Becoming Led Zeppelin (12A)	Thu 10 Apr
Bonhoeffer: Paster. Spy. Assassin (12A)	Sat 12 & Thu 17 Apr
Family Easter Bingo & Beetle Drive. with Easter Egg Prizes	Tue 15 Apr
Disney's Snow White (PG)	Fri 18 - Thu 24 Apr
Folk at The Flavel: Harbottle & Jonas with Wild Goose Choir	Sat 19 Apr
Mr Burton (12A)	Fri 25 Apr - Thu 1 May
Rebeca Ortega Flamenco - Silences	Sat 26 Apr
The Return (15)	Fri 2 May – Tue 6 May

Check our website www.theflavel.org.uk for full details.

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 35. 20 Well Park Place.	Judy: 07891 657104 Alan: 07970 983608 01803 771086
FOR SALE	Ikea Antilop High Chair with tray and washable padded seat cushion, in very good condition. Detachable legs and tray for easy storage. Sold with three tray toys. £10	01803 770433
FOR SALE	FLYMO EASIMO Lawn Mower, corded. Good working order, with grass box. Suitable for small lawns. £20. Dartmouth.	01803 712755 07971 529305



Kindling and Logs, in aid of Prickles in a Pickle

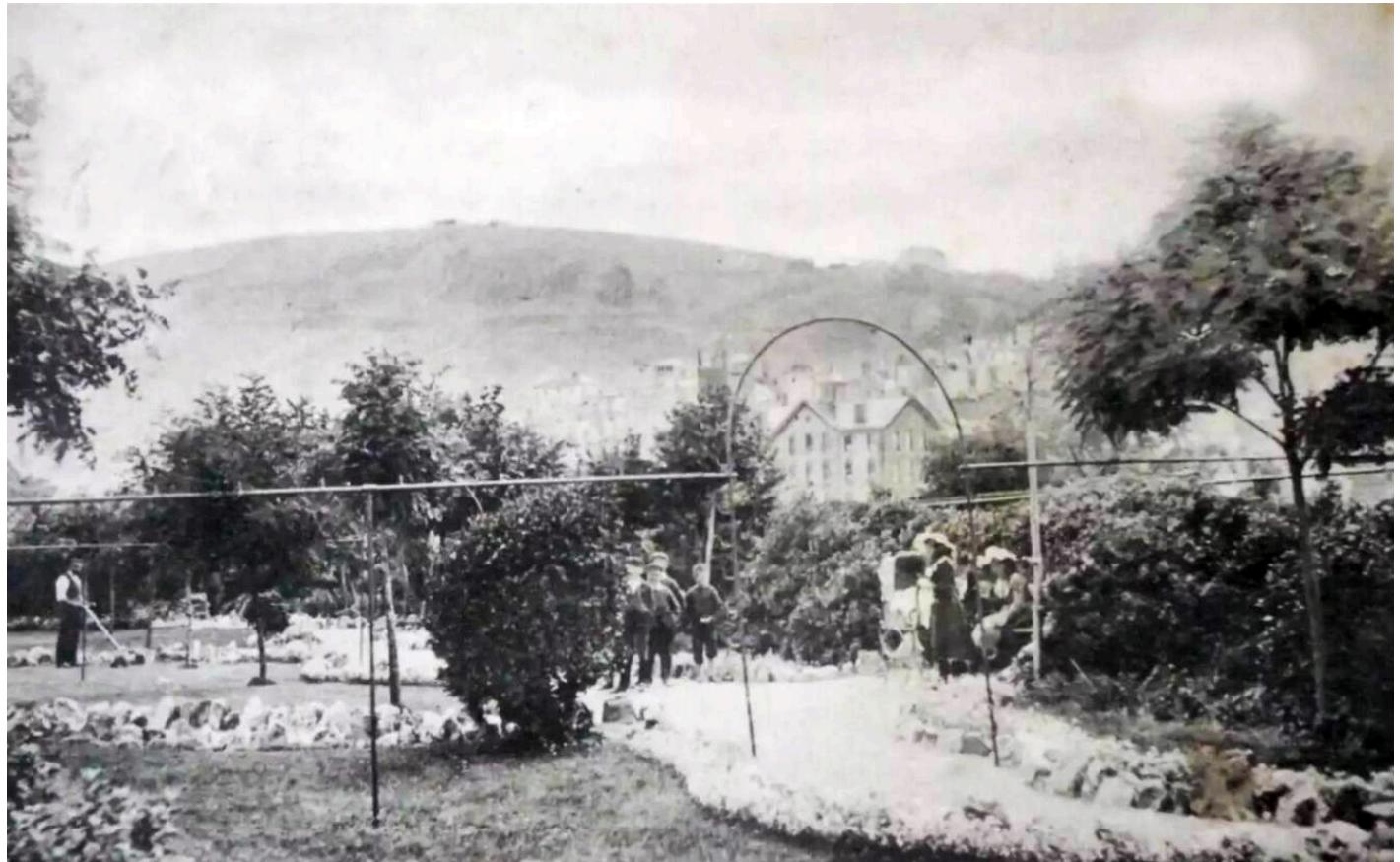
Where are we now?

Clever Clogs and Alex Knight were top of the class to know we were in Sherford, last month.



So, let's see how you get on with this month's really easy picture going back to 1909.

Now the only question is where are we now?



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



01803 770787 - 07974 382158 philip@elliott-construction.co.uk
elliott-construction.co.uk



Gill's Autos

MOT welding specialist
bodywork & spraying

Mr I Gillard

Unit 3
The Old Abattoir
Jawbone Hill
Dartmouth

01803 835998
01803 770491

Dart Roofing

Tiling, Slating, Flat Roofing
Fascias, Guttering or Leadwork
No job too small
46 years experience

Ring Nigel on 770105 or 07969 561365

ANDREW MOLD

Plastering and General Building

The First Choice for all your Plastering and Building needs

*Plastering - Alterations - Restorations
Extensions - Patios - Kitchen & Bathroom fitting
General Maintenance
Locally Established Reputation for a Friendly, Reliable Service
& High Quality Work
Over 25 Years Experience*

Tel: Dartmouth: 01803 832 360 Mobile: 07970 193 995

P R PLUMBING & HEATING

Central Heating installation
Underfloor Heating, Solar installation
Boiler changes, L/L Safety checks
Bathrooms
Natural Gas, LPG
Phone Paul on: 01803 770204 or 07932 328428



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 (South Hams)	https://www.southhams.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling	861234

Stoke Fleming Voice Editorial Team

Co-editors	Sandra Ingham, 07889 573087, Jenny Hailstone stokeflemingvoice@gmail.com	07770 373981
Advertising	Jenny Hailstone, jennyhaley029@gmail.com	07770 373981
Photographer	Barry Morris	01803 770754
Treasurer	Jon Ingham	07904 185134
Publishing	Anne Bailey	07885 948254
Distribution	Pam Sanders	07950 740301

© Items published in this Magazine are copyright and permission must be sought from the editors before reproducing them in any form.

An article or advertisement in this magazine does not mean that the Magazine Team endorses any of the views expressed, or the goods or services offered.

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
Cricket Club	Stacey Gilbert	07931 384017
Dart Valley u3a	Suzie Dodsworth	770134
Friends of St Peter's	Annie Worsfold	07969 990443
Hort & Sport Show	Shirley Ruddlesden	770468
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	Debbie Morris, Secretary to Trustees	770305
Wednesday Ladies	Jill Fell	771137
Youth Club	Rev Matt Gorton, stokeflemingyouthclub@gmail.com	906861