

# Stoke Fleming Voice

*April 2026*



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## Editorial

We are delighted that the Stoke Lodge Hotel is sponsoring this edition of *Stoke Fleming Voice* and we hope you enjoy the Village Life article focusing on the hotel's talented chef, Jordan. We feel privileged to have this amazing amenity in the village, offering us the opportunity to enjoy balmy sunny summer evenings on the terrace, the ability to use their indoor and outdoor pools and to sample their Thursday night dinners at a special price for local residents.



Long awaited spring is at last in full bloom and the sunshine, although still a little watery, is streaming into our lounge. Jessica, the hedgehog we rehomed for Prickles in a Pickle, has awoken from her hibernation, and is eating voraciously.

As former urbanites, we are enjoying learning the names of the spring flowers growing wild near us, including fig buttercups, grape hyacinths, drooping catchflies, wild garlic and pennyworts. (See the Community Kitchen article on page 15 for a wild garlic and walnut pesto.) We're also interested in the parliament of rooks which has started visiting the trees around Mill Lane and seem to be challenging the seagulls' right to nest on the roof of the Old Telephone Exchange; who is winning we have yet to determine! (For more on seagulls see Ash Rescue Centre article on page 14.)



Thank you to the residents who attended our AGM in February and to everyone who came to the Voices Live event in the Village Hall in March, with some 30 organisations represented and more than 100 people attending in all. It proved to be an ideal occasion to run the April 100 Club draws and we have managed to capture the names of the winners in this month's magazine – as for the rest of the news of this event, well, we are now close to print date and so you will find full coverage of this in our May edition. We would like to thank everyone for helping to make the event a success, with a special vote of thanks to Liane Baldock, Juliet Lambert and Jenny Zagya for their support with refreshments

**The *Stoke Fleming Voice* team wishes everyone a very happy Easter.**

**Sandra Ingham**

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), or see our website [www.stokeflemingvoice.com](http://www.stokeflemingvoice.com). Your contribution can be published anonymously, but our team will need to know who you are. Publication is at our editorial discretion.

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(Cover photograph provided by Stoke Lodge Hotel.)

## Note to Little Cotton Farm Residents

This is the last copy of *Stoke Fleming Voice* we're able to deliver to you, as our additional funding has now ended. We hope you've enjoyed reading the magazine over the last year and that you'll want to continue reading about activities and other information related to our parish.

To do this, you can visit our website [stokeflemingvoice.com](http://stokeflemingvoice.com) where you can view or download pdf copies of the magazine.

If you prefer, you can also subscribe for emails containing links to each new magazine at <https://www.stokeflemingvoice.com/resources#sub>. If you don't want to subscribe now, you might like to keep the postcard we've included with the magazine for your ongoing reference.

You can still contact us at any time if you'd like some information about Little Cotton Farm to be included in the magazine: [stokeflemingvoice@gmail.com](mailto:stokeflemingvoice@gmail.com).

## Note to Other Readers

Residents in the rest of the parish will continue to receive a printed copy of the magazine as usual.

However, if you're happy NOT to receive a printed copy, please visit our website and let us know, using the form at [stokeflemingvoice.com](http://stokeflemingvoice.com).

You can also use the same form to subscribe for emails with links to magazine editions, or to let us know if you think you should be receiving the printed magazine.

If you have any questions, please contact us at [stokeflemingvoice@gmail.com](mailto:stokeflemingvoice@gmail.com).



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## Easter Reflection

I'm sure we can all agree the world is a difficult place to be at the moment; it seems that every day that passes the world becomes a more dangerous, sad place. Something that is mirrored in the story of Easter when Jesus is becoming a person the world needed at the time;



however, some who had power and influence decided that shouldn't be the case (sound familiar?) So, they acted to "cancel" the so-called Messiah. These days that just means you lose influence and followers on social media. But in Jesus' day there was a simple way to "cancel" someone and that was a permanent solution through crucifixion. In their mind it was job done; evil had seemed to triumph over good. (Still sounding familiar?)

However, the world and the people within it couldn't have been more wrong, because the reality is that darkness can NEVER win over light. The darkness appeared to succeed, but it was temporary. THE light proved that some things are greater than this physical world and our understanding of it. The world discovered the ultimate hero in Jesus that it didn't realise it needed. A hero with the power to defeat death and who, rather than being cancelled, came out bigger and stronger, with a message of love that is still transforming lives around the world every single day.

The reality is that none of us deserves the love and grace that this hero provides, we all make mistakes, we all mess up, that's part of being human. But despite this, we are offered a love that nothing in this world can destroy. People come and go in our lives, but we are loved by someone who was prepared to die a horrific death so that we always have the option of embracing this heavenly love.

Does acknowledging Jesus as our saviour fix everything? No, but what it does mean is that we are never alone. We have the greatest hero the world has ever seen walking alongside us, cheering us on, carrying us when we need it and celebrating every little win with us. So, this Easter, will you say a simple "yes" to the one who has already given everything to draw close to you. I may not know a lot, but I can say with 100% certainty it is a choice you won't regret.

**Blessings – Revd Matt**

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

## From the Registers

3rd March, Madeleine Maishman. Funeral followed by cremation.

## **Little Stars**

The Little Stars go from strength to strength. We look back on our children just starting Little Stars and see how much they have grown in height and in confidence. They are a pleasure to play and read with, starting our week with laughter and joy.

Everyone is welcome to join us on Monday mornings 9.00am – 10.30am in term time at St Peter's church.

**Heather, Sue and Peter**

## **St Peter's Church Services in April**

Thur 2nd ***Maundy Thursday***

7.00pm United Benefice Holy Communion and Watch at Blackawton.

Fri 3rd ***Good Friday***

11.00am United Benefice Reflective Service at Stoke Fleming.

Sun 5th ***Easter Sunday***

10.15am Prayer Time.

11.00am Holy Communion.

6.30pm Choral Evensong – with the Dartmouth Phoenix Choir.

Sun 12th 11.00am Morning Worship.

Sun 19th 11.00am Communion by extension.

Sun 26th 11.00am Morning Worship.

## **A Pilgrimage to Rome Led by Rev'd Alison Shaw**

**30 June - 5 July 2026**

“After I have been to Jerusalem, I must also see Rome” (*the Apostle Paul Acts 19:21*).

Join me and our fellow pilgrims on an enthralling journey to The Eternal City and for an exploration of its churches, piazzas, and its rich Christian and pre-Christian history. We are planning to attend a Papal Audience, but this will depend on His Holiness being in residence. Another highlight for me will be following in Saint Paul's footsteps in the final months of his life. So do please join us. For more details: [\*\*alishaw2001@yahoo.co.uk\*\*](mailto:alishaw2001@yahoo.co.uk).

**Rev'd Alison Shaw**

*Rev'd Alison was the Rector of St Peter's and the Coast and Country Benefice between 2016 and 2022.*

## News from the Hort and Sport

Here we are approaching May, and the big news from us this month is our ever-popular Spring Plant Sale and coffee morning in the Village Hall on Saturday 9th May. Please come and join us from 10.00am until 11.30am. It's a chance to buy locally grown plants for your beds, borders and pots. There's usually a good selection of house plants too!



We are reliant on your kind donations so please bring any seedlings, cuttings and plants from 9.30am on the day. We will also have a number of home-made cakes on offer, again donated by our wonderfully talented villagers. There will be coffee, tea, biscuits and a chance to sit and chat; we'd love to see you all.

*(Photo: Sarah Moseley – 2025)*

Preparations for the show in August are in full swing, and the committee is working hard ensuring that this, our 148th, is a great success. More details on show theme and special Divisions coming soon.

**Paula Johnston**

## Wednesday Ladies

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 8th April, at 2.30pm in the Village Hall, Ron Harris room. The speaker this month is **Rosemary Griggs**. This is a return visit from Rosemary. She will be continuing her tale about Lady Katherine Champernowne, mother of Sir Walter Raleigh. This time her talk is "**Bessie's Tale**".

New members are always very welcome. If you would like to join our group, just come to the meeting in April, or for more information contact Jill on 01803 771137.

## **Stoke Lodge Hotel**

### **Spring Awakening at Stoke Lodge**

As the days grow longer and the first signs of spring appear across the South Hams, it feels like the perfect moment to reflect on the past two years at Stoke Lodge Hotel.

One of the things we love most about hotels is that they were here long before us and will remain long after we're gone — but for a moment in time, we have the privilege of writing a chapter in their story. Over the past couple of years, we've been quietly working behind the scenes to care for the property, improve the experience for guests, and ensure the hotel continues to thrive as a welcoming place for both visitors and our local community.

### **Two Years of Improvements**

Our work began with the refurbishment of the hotel bar, creating a warmer, more modern and relaxed space for guests and locals alike.

Since then, we've completed a number of improvements across the property, including:

- Renovating all our ground floor guest rooms.
- Creating a new two-bedroom family suite.
- Refreshing the remaining rooms throughout the hotel.
- Installing a pressurised mains water system: a hot shower in seconds!
- An overhaul and future-proofing of the electrics.
- And a start on the full roof refurbishment, including the installation of solar panels.

Both the hotel gardens and woodland area continue to be cleared and replanted, opening up views and creating a peaceful haven for both guests and wildlife to explore and enjoy — we're looking forward to welcoming a new resident owl in our new owl nesting box!

Some of these changes are subtle and more gradual, but together they make a real difference to the appeal of the hotel. We're delighted to continue welcoming back returning guests, sometimes several times per year, as well as many new faces for their first visits.

### **A Place for the Community**

Alongside the physical improvements, we are truly appreciative of the ongoing local support from the village.

Over the past two years our food and beverage offering has developed substantially; we've introduced our popular Locals' Evenings and Sunday lunches, and have been delighted to host many celebratory occasions, gatherings and community events.

A heartfelt thank you to the village and wider community for your continued support. Whether you've joined us for a Sunday lunch, come for a swim, celebrated a special occasion, recommended us to visiting friends, or simply popped in for a drink at the bar — it means a great deal.

We look forward to welcoming you again soon.

## Looking Ahead

While spring is a moment to reflect, it also brings exciting plans for the future.

Over the coming months we'll continue with further bedroom refurbishments, ensuring more of our rooms receive the same thoughtful updates as those already completed.

Most exciting of all, we will be launching our new restaurant concept, *Wildflower*, on 1st May — inspired by the landscape around us and focused on seasonal, relaxed dining. We look forward to announcing the details of the soft launch very soon and can't wait to welcome you.

## A Huge Thank You

None of this would be possible without our phenomenal Stoke Lodge team.

From the kitchen and restaurant team, to housekeeping, reception, maintenance and management, every department plays a vital role in keeping the hotel running smoothly day after day, and the reviews and feedback we have received are a true testament to how wonderful they all are.

Many members of our team are familiar faces within the local community, and we're incredibly grateful for the pride, care and energy they bring to the hotel and the warmth of their welcome.



## Village Life: Jordan Bartholomew, Head Chef at Stoke Lodge Hotel



Jordan's journey into hospitality began at just 14, washing dishes as a Kitchen Porter at Rockfish in Dartmouth. It didn't take long for the kitchen to spark something deeper — particularly a fascination with desserts — and from those early days, the ambition to become a pastry chef was set.

After leaving school, Jordan stepped into a demanding professional kitchen under acclaimed chef John Burton-Race at an exclusive Berkshire hotel (owned by hard rock band, Iron Maiden). It was a baptism of fire: high standards, high-profile guests, and an uncompromising introduction to fine dining. Determined to refine his craft, he went on to train further, including time at The Ritz, before continuing his studies at South Devon College, where he was awarded Apprentice of the Year twice.

His early career saw him return to Dartmouth, working at the Royal Castle and Seven Stars hotels as a pastry chef, where he honed his skills and developed his attention to detail.

Jordan's next chapter took him to the renowned Thurlestone Hotel, celebrated for its fine dining. Over four years, he progressed to Head Chef — a testament to both his technical ability and leadership. Yet, as his career flourished, so too did his desire to be closer to home, alongside his fiancée and their dog.

A move to Torquay followed, where he led the kitchen at the newly relaunched Lincombe Hall Hotel, earning two AA Rosettes. When the hotel changed hands, Jordan chose to seek a new opportunity — one that would allow him to combine his experience, creativity, and connection to the local area.

For the past two years, Jordan has been at the helm of the kitchen at Stoke Lodge Hotel, working alongside Alex and Myles to shape a food offering rooted in seasonality and locality. Weekly locals' nights have become a firm favourite, reflecting his passion for approachable, high-quality dining.

Sourcing is central to Jordan's philosophy. Fish arrives fresh from Brixham market, while ice cream is crafted in collaboration with Dartmouth-based Good Intent, often inspired by his own flavour ideas. In the kitchen, he enjoys experimenting — blending his own butters and infusing oils with herbs grown in the hotel garden.

When asked about a favourite dessert, Jordan doesn't hesitate: iced honey parfait with rhubarb. Made using locally sourced wildflower honey, it perfectly captures his style — simple, seasonal ingredients elevated with precision and care. (He's even promised to share the recipe in next month's issue.)

Working with nature, however, is not without its challenges. As Jordan explains, the unpredictability of the seasons can have a direct impact on what appears on the menu. This year, for example, crab has been scarce and expensive — a knock-on effect of warmer sea temperatures last summer, which led to a rise in octopus numbers along the coast. And octopus, as it turns out, have quite the appetite for crab.

For Jordan, it's all part of the process: adapting, evolving, and letting the seasons lead the way — an approach he'll bring to life at the new *Wildflower* restaurant, celebrating exceptional local and wild produce through simple, thoughtful cooking.

## Nature Notes



The barn owl returned to Little Cotton development area at about 7pm on 24th February and gave a bubbly shriek. There are no tawny owl hoots about now. The barn owl went over to the housing development on 6th March and went over Venn Lane on 9th March shrieking, so it is territorial.

On 25th February the pipistrelle bats woke up at 7pm near Venn Cottages. This is still winter and on 13th March it came down to zero degrees centigrade during the night. A female sparrowhawk came again to my garden near Venn Lane and killed a bird, possibly a chaffinch, on 28th February. She returned briefly on 10th March. On 1st March I saw a female blackcap warbler in the front garden wintering. On the same night I saw another adult hedgehog in my front garden, so I gave it some food.



## Stoke Fleming Village Hall

**The Trustees of Stoke Fleming Village Hall  
Management Committee**

Invite all parishioners to the

Village Hall Annual General Meeting  
At 7.30pm on Monday 13th April 2026  
In the Ron Harris Room, Village Hall

At the above meeting, five persons will be elected to serve on the Management Committee as Public Trustees until the next Annual General Meeting in 2027. 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 the members of the Committee are Trustees of the Charitable Trust governing the Village Hall and the Old Hall Garden.

This is a summary of the chairman's report for the Village Hall AGM due to take place on 13th April. Preparing the report highlighted how busy we were in 2025 and I thought it would be of interest to pass this on through the magazine, for those who aren't joining us at the AGM.

The Fundraising Sub-committee did a wonderful job in raising the necessary funds required to retain our status as one of the best kept halls in the South Hams.

The Trustees decided to rename the Main Hall as "The John Goddard Room" in recognition of John's tremendous contribution over the years. We also kept in our thoughts village stalwarts, Joan Mason and Shirley Ruddlesden, who also sadly passed away in 2025.

We thank Kerry Southern, for his dedicated input into the role of Hall Manager, and Linda Morris (our longest serving Trustee); our appreciation also to Simon Dowden, who oversaw the transition of the 100 Club to the *Stoke Fleming Voice* magazine team, as well as securing the Lottery funding for the solar panel project.

We have been delighted to welcome so many new faces as Trustees. Liz Griffiths as Admin/Secretary, David Bone, who heads up the Solar Panel Project, Bella Johnston who has responsibility for Charity Commission policy compliance and Social Media, and Su Gorrie who leads on upgrading the Hall's operational policies.

2026 marks a very important milestone in the life of the Village Hall, as we reach our 25th birthday in April, so we are planning to run a series of themed events throughout the year to celebrate.

On Saturday 25th April (see poster) we have a fun themed Casino evening with a selection of roulette, blackjack and poker tables plus a bar and disco.

A relaxed Sunday afternoon cream tea event on 17th May featuring the "Brass Monkeys" band playing a selection of popular tunes.

A cabaret style evening on 20th June, featuring Stan Terry, one of the best Rod Stewart tribute acts.

**John Belli**

Stoke Fleming Village Hall urgently needs a

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## Stoke Fleming Bowling Club

Well, it's almost time to open the green for the start of this year's outdoor bowling season. Club members have been working hard throughout the winter to ensure that the green, grounds and buildings will be ready in time. So, if you fancy having a go at outdoor bowls then do come along to the green on **Saturday 18th April at 2.00pm**. (We're just up the road from the Green Dragon and St Peter's Church). We only ask that you wear flat soled shoes to protect the green, otherwise we have bowls you can try, friendly guidance to help you learn and refreshments.

You don't have to join the club there and then as you may have **3 free sessions** before making a decision about whether this is the sport for you! Also, we will be welcoming a representative from *Stoke Fleming Voice* to the green for the 100 club draw.

Hope to see you then and more information about the club can be found at <https://stokeflemingbowlingclub.co.uk>

**Liz Mallyon**



*Come and see  
for yourself*

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## **Stoke Fleming Library – Tel: 770076**

**At the Village Hall:** Monday 3.00pm to 5.00pm, Tuesday 10.30am to 12.30pm, Thursday 3:00pm to 5.00pm. (The Library will be closed on Easter Monday 6th April, but will re-open on Tuesday 7th as usual.)

For those of you who may have grandchildren visiting over the Easter Holidays don't forget you can borrow children's books on your cards. We have a good selection of board and picture books for the younger ones, plus many children's books to choose from for the slightly older visitors!

We're very happy to accept donated books – as long as they are in good condition. Thank you for continuing to support the Library and I look forward to seeing you soon.

**Sue Taylor**

## **Ash Rescue Centre**

Each summer, here at Ash we prepare for the arrival of “gull season”, a busy period when hundreds of young gulls need help after falling from rooftops, being abandoned, injured or found in dangerous situations such as on roads. Our teams are called the “Chick and Collect” groups, and it's 8 weeks until the young gulls are old enough to be released.



Although gulls sometimes receive mixed reactions from the public, volunteers who work closely with them often gain a new appreciation for their intelligence and adaptability. Gulls have complex social hierarchies and remarkable problem-solving abilities. They have existed for more than thirty million years and can live for up to twenty-five years, although some individuals have been recorded reaching forty.

Despite their resilience, gull populations have declined by more than fifty percent over the past twenty-five years. Overfishing and the loss of natural habitats have reduced their traditional food sources, pushing many birds into towns and cities.

The term “seagull” is misleading. Birds commonly called seagulls are usually species such as the common gull, the herring gull, the lesser black-backed gull, or the greater black-backed gull. Some of these species are now considered endangered, highlighting the importance of conservation efforts and the dedicated volunteers who rescue, rehabilitate, and return injured gulls to the wild, giving them another chance to survive and thrive again.

## News from the Community Kitchen



It was impressive that all our guests arrived for our latest lunch. The date was Friday 13th and the main road through the village was closed, BUT we negotiated with AirBand and we were waved through as “Here comes the Dinner Club!” Well done them, someone had a heart. It was a lovely lunch of Chicken Arrabiata with parmesan dumplings and the usual variety of puddings.

As the weather gets warmer and the days longer, our instinct – and our bodies – tell us to eat more fruit and vegetables and less carbohydrates and sugar.

English grown salads are now widely available, and the soft fruits are mainly European instead of South American, but climate change is proving troublesome for us all. Unseasonal heavy rain in Portugal and Spain is spoiling their early crops.

Of course, our wild garlic, or ramsons, are growing well at the moment. Pick some young leaves and make garlic and walnut pesto to add to pasta dishes or mushrooms on toast. Other names for wild garlic are “bear leeks” or “stag's garlic”, for obvious reasons; they love the bulbs.

There are lots of simple one-dish recipes of beans and vegetables – think colourful – carrots and chickpeas with Moroccan spices of cumin and coriander, cinnamon and ginger. Or sweet potatoes and butterbeans with paprika and feta cheese. Easy and cheap.

Our next lunch is on 17th April at 12.30pm. Tickets remain at £10 with £2 to pay on the day. They will be available just after Easter on Tuesday 7th at 8.30am from the village shop.

The Community Lunch is for anyone in the village. Do come and give it a try. A chance to:

- Have a home cooked hot meal.
- Meet some neighbours.
- No washing up.
- Exceptional choice of puddings.

Buy a ticket and bring a friend. What's not to like?

We hope to see you there. Just let us know of any dietary requirements, including vegetarians, because we are home cooks not magicians and we try hard to please you all!

**Mary Newman**

## Citizens Advice South Hams

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0808 278 7948  
southhamscab.org.uk

## Citizens Advice RESET energy advice

The Citizens Advice RESET energy advice team are helping people across Southern Devon tackle their bills.

More than 11% of households in the South Hams are in fuel poverty, according to official government statistics - but help is at hand. Our expert team works intensively with the most vulnerable households to see if they're paying too much for their gas and electricity, help them understand their bills, find ways of saving energy around the home and ensuring they're getting all the support they need, such as available benefits.

Anyone who needs help from RESET Energy Advice can contact the team on 0800-995-6890 or via the website at [resetenergyadvice.org.uk](https://resetenergyadvice.org.uk).

The service is open to anyone who meets at least one of the following criteria:

- is in fuel poverty (10% or more disposable income spent on energy costs).
- has health-related vulnerabilities/disability/long-term health condition.
- is digitally excluded, or has limited capability.
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## Caroline Voaden

MP for South Devon



Contact me if you need help with anything that is the responsibility of a national government department, such as pensions, passports or benefits.

If you are unsure, please email or call and I would be happy to guide you to whoever is best placed to help.

✉ [caroline.voaden.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:caroline.voaden.mp@parliament.uk) ☎ 01803658461

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## 100 Club March Winners!

March's draws took place at the SF Voices Live event in the Village Hall on Saturday 21st March and the winners were as follows:



1st prize winner of £73 – Mrs Sarah Riley, membership number 125.

2nd prize winner of £45 – Mrs C McGowan-Scanlon, membership number 74.

3rd prize winner of £27 – Dr John Fenton, membership number 35.

Shortlist draw entrant for the Christmas jackpot was Mr Adrian Lloyd-Edwards, membership number 46.

This is the first time the 100 Club has had a jackpot shortlist draw. We need to have this now as we're allowing people to join the 100 Club throughout the year and we want to ensure that the chance of winning, length of membership and your payment are all proportional. One number will be drawn and added to the shortlist each quarter. This is all fully explained in our rules, available at <https://www.stokeflemingvoice.com/100-club>.

If you'd still like to take advantage of the ongoing opportunity to join the 100 Club, the cost is now £11.25 but you'll need to join by **15th April** to participate in April's draw, as well as all subsequent monthly, quarterly and the jackpot shortlist draws taking place during 2026.

Simply confirm you are over 16 years old and transfer your payment of £11.25 for each membership number to *Stoke Fleming Voice's* bank account, putting 100 Club and your full name as the reference (truncate if necessary):

**Stoke Fleming Voice account number: 19250960**

**Sort code: 30-54-66 (Lloyds Bank)**

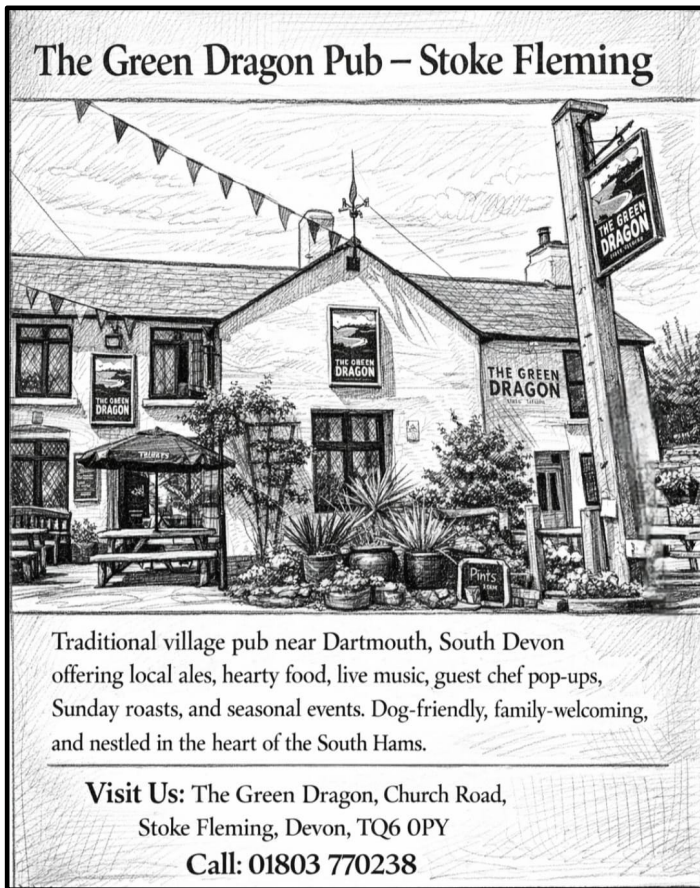
Half of the value of 100 Club subscriptions is returned as prizes, the remainder going to the continuation of *Stoke Fleming Voice*.

The *Voice's* editorial team hopes that groups which contribute content to the magazine, and residents who receive the printed copy of the magazine – and can afford to do so – will either donate or join the 100 Club to provide the *Voice's* main source of funding.

**Sandra Ingham**



## The Green Dragon



### **The Brew and Bake Stoke Fleming's New Café.**

Open Thur to Sat 9.00am to 3.00pm.  
Freshly baked pastries, breakfasts, smoothies and much more.  
We welcome you through the patio entrance.

**Easter Fun** – watch our social media for details. Or pop in to find out more.

### **Wine and Food Pairing Night**

Saturday 18th April.

with Dave Azam from Ellis Wines and The Greedy Table.

**Georgie, Alan and the Dragon team**

## Who Cares Club

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

**John Mitchell**

**THE  
GREEDY  
TABLE**

### **Local Private Chef & Small Party Caterer**

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Tailor-made menus to suit different budgets and tastes.

Email: [thegreedytable@gmail.com](mailto:thegreedytable@gmail.com)

Tel: 07720 764037

## Dartmouth and District Flower Club



The Flower Club will meet on Thursday 2nd April at the Village Hall. The demonstration starts at 2.15pm. This month we welcome **Caitlin Anning-Pile** with “**April Showers**”.

We welcome guests to any meeting. We charge guests £8 to include tea /coffee and cake. This charge will be deducted from the annual membership fee should a guest wish to join the club that afternoon. There is a raffle with lucky prize winners taking home one of the arrangements.

**Gail Wilks**

[gail.w.flowers123@gmail.com](mailto:gail.w.flowers123@gmail.com)

## Breast Cancer Support Group

Breast Cancer is the most common cancer in the UK, with 1 in 7 women diagnosed in their lifetime (and of course men also can be diagnosed). Women in the UK between the ages of 50 – 70 years, are offered a free mammogram on the NHS, every three years. Women in higher risk groups are also offered routine mammograms from the age of 30.



Early detection makes treatment more successful and less invasive, and often women have no symptoms and are unaware of the disease within their bodies. If you are called for a routine mammogram, you would be daft not to go.

If you notice any changes in your breast, contact your GP as soon as possible, rather than wait for your routine mammogram.

Our lovely group welcomes anyone who is concerned about attending their mammogram, or anyone who has been affected by breast cancer – whether newly diagnosed, currently in treatment, or in remission (however long ago).

We are a very warm and friendly group of all ages, and look forward to welcoming you at our monthly meet-ups. We often have guest speakers covering a variety of subjects, or we have general chats around the table with coffee and cake. Whatever we get up to, we would love you to join us.

Our group is held on the first Wednesday of each month, 5.30pm to 7.00pm at Dartmouth Caring, Health and Wellbeing Centre, Dartmouth.

For any questions, please call Dartmouth Caring on 01803 835384 or **Dawn Whiteley** on 07710 622896 or email [enquiries@dartmouthcaring.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@dartmouthcaring.co.uk).

# CRAB SHELL



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www.dartmouthicecream.com

## Dartmouth Caring

*Bringing people together, improving wellbeing, supporting those in need.*



We have many services to help you and your loved ones, including assistance with benefits and housing, hospital transport, and dementia support. Our regular programme of lunch clubs and social activities are for everyone - we support people of all ages in Dartmouth and the surrounding villages. Please contact us for more information or to join our growing team of volunteers.

[enquiries@dartmouthcaring.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@dartmouthcaring.co.uk)  
[facebook.com/dartmouthcaring](https://facebook.com/dartmouthcaring)  
Tel: 01803 835 384



**Dartmouth Caring**  
Supporting Our Community

Charity Reg No. 1187326



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[www.SouthHamsHandyman.com](http://www.SouthHamsHandyman.com)

## What to do in the Garden in April

Spring is well under way and the garden is bursting back into life. Here are some key jobs to keep your garden looking its best this month:



### General Garden Jobs

- Cut back **dogwoods** to encourage fresh, colourful stems.
- Start **mowing lawns**, keeping the blades set high at first.

### Flowers

- Brighten patios with **summer hanging basket plants**.
- Prune **summer and autumn flowering clematis** by around two-thirds.
- Remove unwanted **rose suckers** by pulling them away from the base.

### Fruit & Vegetables

- Sow **beetroot, broad beans, carrots** and **cauliflower**.
- Protect early sowings with **fleece** or **cloches** if cold weather threatens.
- Plant **seed potatoes**, covering with horticultural fleece if frosts are expected.

### Greenhouse

- Repot **pot-bound plants** into larger containers.
- Start feeding **houseplants** and **greenhouse plants** with a liquid feed.
- Prune indoor climbers such as **jasmine, passionflower** and **plumbago**.

At Gardentime: we've had lots of fresh stock arrive recently, including veg plants, summer bedding, geraniums, herbaceous perennials, specimen plants and much more — perfect for getting your garden ready for the season ahead. Pop in and take a look!



## 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. Address: 5-9 Victoria Road.

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


### Laundry Service


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



**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 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

### Bus – Service 93 (at Shady Lane)

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	

### Note on 93 bus times

At the time of writing, the timetable for buses between Stoke Fleming and Dartmouth has not changed (see above). Service 93 will be diverting from Kingsbridge Bus Station via the A381 and A3122 towards Strete as they are unable to serve the normal line of route. Buses will continue a normal routing from Strete onto Dartmouth, but Stagecoach is unable to serve the route between Torcross, Slapton and Strete.

Station Taxis in Totnes will be operating a replacement taxi service between Slapton, Stokenham, Kingsbridge and Strete. Journeys must be booked at least 1 working day in advance on 01803 732834. As the situation is evolving, if in doubt, please check Stagecoach's website or app.

## April 2026

Wed	1	19.00 – Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall
Thur	2	Last day of Term 14.15 – Flower Club – Village Hall
Fri	3	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>
Sat	4	10.00-15.00 – CHSW Easter Fair – The Old Market, Dartmouth
Sun	5	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>
Mon	6	<b>EASTER MONDAY</b>
Tue	7	Tickets for Community Kitchen Lunch go on sale – Village Shop
Wed	8	14.30 – Wednesday Ladies – Village Hall
Thur	9	10.00 – u3a – Flavel
Fri	10	14.00 – Craft Club – Village Hall
Sat	11	
Sun	12	
Mon	13	14.30 – TASDAK – Flavel 19.30 – Village Hall AGM – Village Hall
Tue	14	
Wed	15	
Thur	16	<b>COPY DATE FOR MAY MAGAZINE</b>
Fri	17	12.30 – Community Kitchen Lunch – Village Hall 19.00 – FoSP Fundraising Shanty Night – St Peter’s Church
Sat	18	14.00 – Bowling Club re-opens Wine and Food Pairing Night – Green Dragon
Sun	19	
Mon	20	Start of Summer Term
Tue	21	
Wed	22	18.00 – Loam Rangers AGM – Village Hall
Thur	23	10.00 – Friends of Rowcroft Coffee Morning – Stoke Lodge
Fri	24	
Sat	25	19.00 – Silver Jubilee Casino Evening – Village Hall
Sun	26	
Mon	27	17.00-20.00 – Prickles in a Pickle Open Evening – Village Hall
Tue	28	
Wed	29	
Thur	30	10.30-12.00 – Dartmouth Caring Coffee Morning – Village Hall

## **Parish Council Minutes Summary – March 2026**

A monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 4th March 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 Jack Handley, Cllr Bella Johnston, Cllr Belinda Duffy.

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Tilly Crowther, County Cllr Julian Brazil, Cllr Jay Floyd.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 4th February 2026, AND PLANNING SITE MEETING NOTES.

The Chairman signed as true and correct records.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** – emailed to clerk.

- Budget has been approved: a council tax increase of 4.99%.
- £19 million extra for road maintenance.
- An extra £1m for libraries to help with the transformation programme.
- A 7.7% increase in the children's budget.

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

- Balanced budget has passed 2.99% increase in council tax – 3-year financial settlement agreed.
- Core spending power down in following years, locked into raising to maximum council tax amount.
- Economic development provision budget has been included.
- Emergency council meeting tomorrow re future of leisure contractors.
- Local government reasonableness exemption for disabled toilet call pull system; see item re disabled toilet.
- Bus stop (shelter) has been requested at Cotton Farm.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Report from sub-committee. Site plan received. Drawings will be sent to the estate, and a meeting of the sub-committee will be arranged.

**COMMUNITY**

- a) Phone box Dartmouth Rd – Sub-committee update. Cleaning and painting is planned.
- b) Voices Live event is taking place in the Village Hall Saturday 21st March morning. Clerk's note: Cllr Moseley will be representing the council.

- c) Councillor visit to Stoke Fleming Primary School. Cllr Belli volunteered.

## **ROADS & TRANSPORT**

- a) Slapton Line – meeting report circulated by Cllr Moseley. Vulnerability of area discussed. Government Recovery Fund has been allocated elsewhere for this year. Council will continue to keep issue in focus and follow progress.
- b) Speed sign is working again and will be located in the village.

## **MAINTENANCE**

- a) Toilets – School Road
  - i. Works update – disabled toilet will be opened shortly.
- b) Advertisements have been posted for the following –
  - i. Vacancy for village grass cutting contractor.
  - ii. Renewal of pavilion toilet cleaning contract.
  - iii. Contract for cleaning School Road toilets.
- c) Ravensbourne Lane wall repair – now urgent. Section 171 for Emergency works application to be sent to Highways. Notice to local residents of road closure to be posted by Parish Council.

## **COUNCIL AND ACTIONS REGISTER**

- a) IT requirements for AGAR audit – all approved:
  - i. Policy as recommended via Small Authorities Proper Practice.
  - ii. Clerk to research new audit requirements for IT and website.
  - iii. Website updates and training for clerk.

## **PLANNING: Noted.**

## **APPLICATIONS**

### **a) Application Number: 0204/26/ARC**

Location Address: Development Site at Sx 862 483, New Road, Stoke Fleming.

Proposal: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 16 (WSI) of planning consent 1910/22/FUL. Status: Under Consideration. Application Type: Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions.

### **b) Reference: 0233/26/TCA**

Proposal: T1 & T2: Norway Spruce – poor form, recent branch loss, risk to property, reduce to ground level. Site Address: Shute Cottage, Church Road, Stoke Fleming, TQ6 0NS.

### **c) Reference: 3669/25/FUL**

Proposal: Application for installation of 104 ground mounted solar panels with associated infrastructure. Site Address: Worden Farm, Dartmouth, TQ6 0LD – site visit to be arranged.

**d) Application Number: 0259/26/CTN**

Location Address: Quarry Lakes Farm Ash TQ6 0LS. Proposal: Temporary Campsite Notification for a temporary pop-up campsite to operate from 15/07/2026 – 01/09/2026. Status: Under Consideration. Application Type: Temporary Campsite Notification.

**e) Reference: 0381/26/TPO**

Proposal: T1: Western Red Cedar – remove limb at 1m agl on west side to improve drive access. T2 – Himalayan Birch. Removal of dead/crossing/rubbing branches within crown to prevent further damage to adjacent branches. T3: Camellia – reduce overall crown height by 2m to restore shape. T4 – Cherry. Comprises of 2 x regrowth stems. Reduce x 1 stem on NE side to ground level. Weak growth with poor form. Remove to give neighbouring stem space as specimen tree. T5: Bay – reduce crown height by 2m to maintain boundary hedge height. T6 – Eucalyptus. Removal of cracked secondary growth from root plate. Crack gradually increasing in width and length. Risk to garden users and vehicles. T7: Beech – removal of boundary tree with poor form. T8 – Beech. Reduce regrowth stem from previous stump to ground level. Weak union on stump, poses increased risk as tree height increases. T9: Leylandii – remove group of x3 boundary trees with poor form. Site Address: Molverley, Ravensbourne Lane, Stoke Fleming, TQ6 0QR.

**f) Reference: 0343/26/HHO**

Proposal: Householder application for proposed rear single storey extension & veranda to the south elevation. Site Address: Ash House, Ash, TQ6 0LR. Query as to whether grade listed.

## **DECISIONS**

**a) Application Number: 3761/25/PDM**

Location Address: Buildings at Sx 829 494 Blackawton. Proposal: Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use of agricultural barns to 5no. dwellinghouses (class C3) & for associated development (Class Q (a+b)). Status: Approved. Application Type: Prior Approval Agricultural Building to Dwelling C3.

## **WITHDRAWN**

**a) Application Number: 3311/25/CLP**

Location Address: Ash House Ash TQ6 0LR. Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness for proposed single storey rear (east facing) extension. Application Type: Certificate of Lawfulness for Proposed Use.

**Date of next meeting: 1st April 2026 7pm**

**\*\*Annual Parish Meeting 6th May 2026 7pm\*\***

**Ron Harris Room, Village Hall. ALL WELCOME**

## **Dart Valley u3a**

On Thursday 9th April we will meet at 10.00am at The Flavel Arts Centre to hear a talk on artificial intelligence: **“AI: The Technology That's Reshaping Our World”**, presented by Richard Haycock.

Two years ago, AI had the potential to become a general-purpose technology. Since then, there has been unprecedented investment, extraordinary advances in capability, and the emergence of AI “teams” working together like humans. In just 24 months, artificial intelligence has moved from being a promising technology to an unstoppable force transforming everything from healthcare to home life.

Learn why global investors are pouring billions into building AI infrastructure, and what these extraordinary developments mean for our future.

As well as monthly general meetings where we always have interesting and informative speakers, there are about 39 interest groups in our u3a including the following groups which take place in Stoke Fleming: Archery at the Cricket Club, Book Group 1 (hosted) and new Beginners Yoga, iPads for Beginners, and Mahjong at the Village Hall.

**Tim Freeman**

## **Rowcroft Hospice**

The Rowcroft Soup and Dessert lunch at the Sportsman’s Arms was a great success; many thanks to them for looking after us so well. We never did find out who the extra 10 people were; but they were very welcome, and we were able to send in £575.00 to Rowcroft. This was a truly wonderful amount for a very happy occasion.



We have a Spring Coffee Morning by kind permission of Stoke Lodge Hotel on Thursday, 23rd April at 10am; we are always so well looked after. We will have the usual coffee and biscuits, cakes and produce and handicrafts stalls and the draw.

We then have a bit of a break with our next event being in the Royal Avenue Gardens on Thursday, 30th July from 10am to 4pm with the usual Tea Hut food and tables outside. We do appreciate all those who join with the Dartmouth Friends of Rowcroft to support Rowcroft Hospice financially, and that the people in our area know of the work Rowcroft does to look after as many people as possible who are going through a difficult time in their lives.

**Rosemary Minshall**

# ALADDIN'S CAVE



<i>Lost</i>	<i>Found</i>	<i>Wanted</i>	<i>Good Home Needed</i>
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 46. 20 Well Park Place.		Judy: 07891 657104 Alan: 07970 983608 01803 771086
FREE TO A GOOD HOME	Handmade wooden "Lion, Witch and Wardrobe" double door wardrobe, with furs. (24x30x12cm); 10 desert glasses; 12 standard wine glasses; 8 slotted plastic baskets. 29x19x10cm red, grey and yellow		01803 770446

*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*

## **Children's Hospice South West (CHSW)**

The popular Easter Fair in aid of Children's Hospice South West (CHSW) will take place this year on Saturday 4th April from 10am to 3pm in The Old Market in Dartmouth. Once again, lots of stalls will be selling lovely crafts, books, jewellery, cakes, gifts, honey and loads more. All proceeds from this event will help CHSW to provide essential specialist care and support for over 550 families with life-limited children in the South West.

We are a friendly group of volunteers who are always happy to welcome new people. We meet once a month, which can include a social element. If you would like to find out more about our group contact **Sue Tweed** for an informal chat. Remember you can do as little or as much as you wish, everything counts. And it's FUN!

[tweed833@btinternet.com](mailto:tweed833@btinternet.com) or 07955 197721



Registered Charity No. 1003314

Children's Hospice South West Friends Group

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

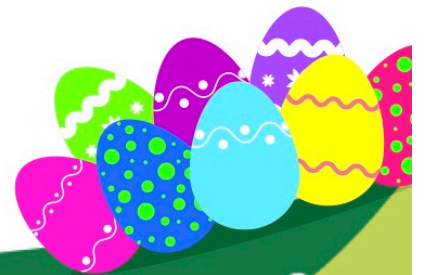
# Easter Fair

**Saturday 4th April 2026**

**10am-3pm**

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

**The Old Market  
Victoria Road  
Dartmouth  
TQ69QD**



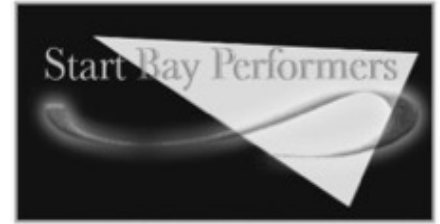
Making the most of short and precious lives across the South West  
Registered Charity No. 1003314



## Start Bay Performers

By the time you read this article the two one-act plays which formed our March production will be over.

I would like to thank all the cast both front and backstage, all our helpers on the nights, our esteemed chef, the lasagne maker Dan Putt, and most of all our faithful audience, without whom there would be no Society in our Village.



There were a number of issues leading up to the show, particularly our own Mary Rimell, who was visiting family in Dubai at the outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East. We were unsure if she would be able to return in time to take up her role of "Elizabeth" in the play "Anticlockwise". Fortunately, Dave Bone kindly agreed to read the part of "Elizabeth" as "Eli" and studiously learnt the lines. However, Mary thankfully was able to get a flight back so was able to return in time to take up her character and Dave seamlessly took over as Stage Manager.

We are continuing our appraisal of introducing a Film Night in collaboration with the Trustees of the Village Hall, and have chosen "The Graduate" as our first film. Dates are still to be agreed but hopefully will be in May or June. Please keep a look out on Social Media or for posters in the Village Shop and around the Village.

If you would like to request a specific film or a specific genre for future events, please contact me.

We meet every Monday evening at 7.00pm at Stoke Fleming Village Hall and would welcome anyone who would like to be involved in future productions or who just enjoy Play Readings.

Have a great Easter.

**John Belli** 07538 156864



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Two hour experience

What's included:

- Hands-on pizza making session
- Learn how to stretch dough & add toppings
- Bake your pizza and enjoy it fresh

£25 per person  
Call: 01803 927 232  
Instagram & Facebook: Trattoria\_Spaggia





# Dartmouth Caring COFFEE MORNING



**Stoke Fleming**

**Village Hall**

**10:30 to 12noon**

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April**

**Everyone is welcome to join us for a monthly social and enjoy free refreshments and homemade cake.**

**Chat with Dartmouth Caring staff and volunteers. Find out about our services and how we can help you, your family, friends and neighbours.**



**Dartmouth Caring**  
Supporting Our Community

## Stoke Fleming Primary School

It's been another busy three weeks since returning after the February half term; these are some of the things that the pupils have been getting up to.

We welcomed the School Governors for a visit; they play a vital role in supporting and challenging the leadership of the school. They help to ensure we provide the very best education for the children, oversee the strategic direction and hold the school to account for standards, safeguarding and financial oversight.



As part of their visit, they spent time in classrooms across the school. Once again, they were incredibly impressed by the calm and purposeful learning environment and by how hard the children were working. They commented on the focus, engagement and positive attitudes they saw in every class.

We also had an exciting visit from the Police, who came to speak to Class Compass. The children were fascinated to learn about the role of the police in keeping us safe. They asked some fantastic questions and were especially excited to see some of the equipment the officers use — including the police car! Back in class, the children channelled their enthusiasm into writing detailed accounts of the visit.

The pupils took part in this year's Readathon challenge to raise money for the school library, and they dressed up as their favourite book characters on World Book Day.

Two of the classes have been on a fantastic trip to visit The Eden Project.

**Christopher Harrison, Headteacher**

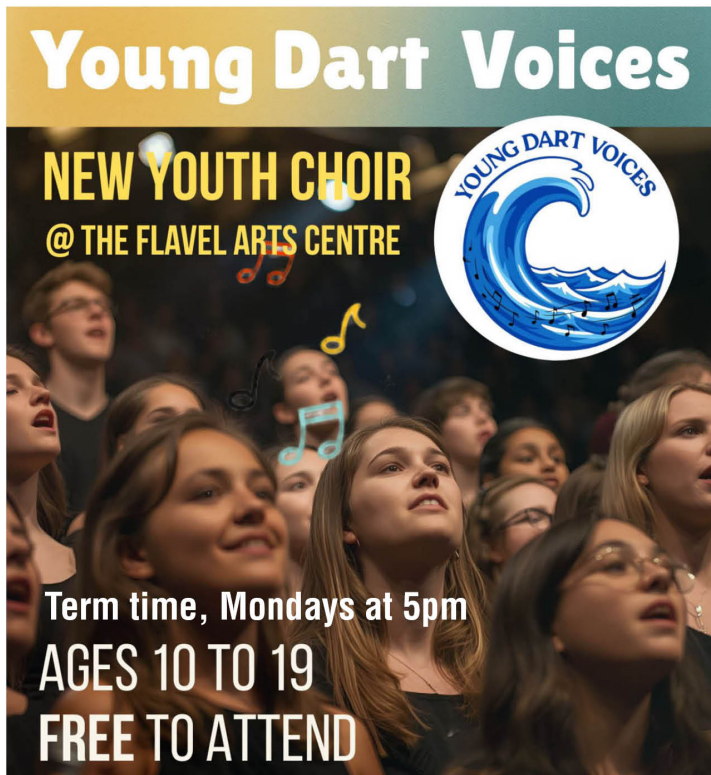
## The Arts Society Dartmouth and Kingswear (TASDAK)

Our lectures take place in The Flavel Arts Centre and cover a wide range of historical and arts-related topics.

The next TASDAK meeting will take place at 2.30pm on Monday, 13th April when art historian Catherine Wallace will give a talk entitled “**Colourful Characters**”, about the fascinating array of models portrayed by the renowned UK figurative painter Dame Laura Knight DBE RA RWS (1877-197).

**Juliet Lambert**

# The Flavel offers more exciting opportunities for young people



**Young Dart Voices**

**NEW YOUTH CHOIR**  
@ THE FLAVEL ARTS CENTRE

**Term time, Mondays at 5pm**  
**AGES 10 TO 19**  
**FREE TO ATTEND**

Singing in a choir is more than just a hobby. Research has shown that group singing increases positive emotions, reduces anxiety and enhances well-being: having a supportive place to feel creative and free can make a real difference. Thanks to a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund and fundraising by our Trustees, we have removed the financial barriers so that the choir is completely FREE to attend. At a time when many families could be experiencing the pressure of rising costs, this offers a wonderful route to supporting creativity and confidence in our young people.

**Find out more at [www.theflavel.org.uk](http://www.theflavel.org.uk)**

Young people can feel under pressure from schoolwork, social media or peer-groups, so safe and supportive environments where they can be themselves, and express themselves, matter more than ever.

Our drama group offers 2 age groups and caters for ages 7 to 18. Run by theatre practitioner Rachel Swain: a space to escape, relax, laugh and simply enjoy being themselves. Themed and taught through the performing arts of physical theatre, improv and scripted work, to help develop confidence. It costs £95 per term, and this can be significantly reduced for eligible families via our bursary scheme.



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## Loam Rangers



Well, we are certainly up and running for 2026, judging by the visitors to site in the early weeks of opening. It seems the unbelievably wet weather didn't put off the gardeners of Stoke Fleming getting to work on their gardens.

A reminder **we are open every Sunday 10:00-11:30** through to the end of November and, subject to enough volunteers, Wednesday evenings 17:30-18:00 June, July and August.

Unfortunately, the wet weather has put a delay on the production of new bags of compost – the aged compost that is ready for riddling and bagging is simply too wet and quickly clogs our riddler. We do have stock, but we would ask members to only take what is necessary until we can get back to riddling and build up our stock.

On that note, a plea to our wonderful riddlers to respond to Gary's call to action with the usual vigour and enthusiasm – as soon as we have a dry spell.

Membership renewals are progressing reasonably well, but we encourage you to renew as soon as possible as this allows us to plan and budget with much more certainty.

Our Sunday volunteer rota is also filling up, but we still need to fill quite a few places from May onwards – please contact Paul via the details below to get your slot booked. Remember we can only safely open with two volunteers on site – and it's only 1.5 hours on one or two Sundays a year.

We are still looking for someone to help with the treasurer duties, in particular the accounts. If you would like to get involved and help, please contact Steve on the details below.

Note: The SFLR AGM is scheduled for 22nd April at 6.00pm in the Ron Harris room at the Village Hall.

**Steve Shakespeare** – [sgshakespeare@btinternet.com](mailto:sgshakespeare@btinternet.com) 07970137311  
**Paul Noonan** – [pnoonan14@gmail.com](mailto:pnoonan14@gmail.com) (Volunteer enquiries)



Date	Time	Walk Level	Location of walk (£=bring money for ferry)	Meeting point
2 April	10.00 or 10.15	2	Broadsands Beach to Brixham via golf course and The Grove. (£)	10.00 #120 bus from Kingswear Banjo or 10.15 Broadsands/Churston Library.
9 April	10.30 or 10.45	3	To Dartmouth using South West Coast path via Redlap, Warren Point and Dartmouth Castle.	10.30 #93 bus from Dartmouth pontoon or 10.45 at Village Hall bus stop, Stoke Fleming.
16 April	10.22 or 11.02	3	Dartington walk to Cider Press and on to Week and Huxhams Cross.	10.22 #92 bus from Dartmouth pontoon or 11.02 at Totnes railway station (Plymouth side).
23 April	09.30	3	Malborough to Salcombe.	09.30 #93 bus from Dartmouth pontoon to Kingsbridge, then #164 bus to Malborough.
30 April	10.30	3	Long Wood circular. (£)	The bandstand, Royal Avenue Gardens.

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. Bring a bottle of water on warm days and medication if required. For more information on the walks please call **David** on 07309 090958. All walks are subject to change or cancellation at this time of the year.

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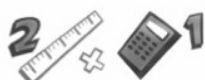


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Live Life in Balance

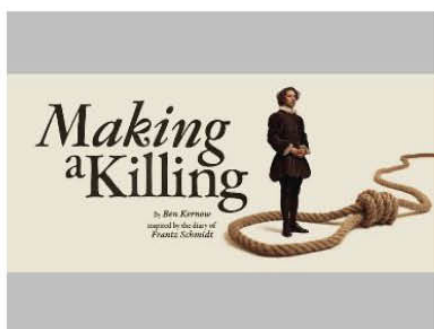


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<b>Underland (12A) Film</b>	From Apr 2
<b>Making a Killing – Live Event from Ha Hum Productions</b>	Fri Apr 10
<b>Folk at the Flavel: Angeline Morrison</b>	Sat 11 Apr
<b>Epic: Elvis Presley in Concert (12A) Film</b>	From Apr 13
<b>Comic Strip: Made in Devon</b> with Peter Richardson & Nigel Planer	Thu 16 Apr
<b>Comic Strip: Made in Devon</b> with Peter Richardson & Alexei Sayle	Fri 17 Apr
<b>Comedy @ The Flavel (18+)</b>	Sat 18 Apr
<b>RBO: The Magic Flute (Royal Opera)</b>	Tue 21 Apr
<b>NT Live: All My Sons</b>	Wed 22 Apr
<b>An Evening of Sea Shanties: In aid of local lifeboats</b>	Thu 23 Apr
<b>The Vintage Jazz Collective (Swing / Social Night)</b>	Fri 24 Apr
<b>Richard Digance (guitar)</b>	Sat 25 Apr
<b>Don't Be Prey (12A) Film</b>	From Apr 29
<b>Explorer Series: Belinda Kirk (LIVE)</b>	Thu 30 Apr
<b>The Invisible Man – LIVE from Our Star Theatre Company</b>	Fri 1 May
<b>RBO: Eugene Onegin (Metropolitan Opera)</b>	Tue 5 May

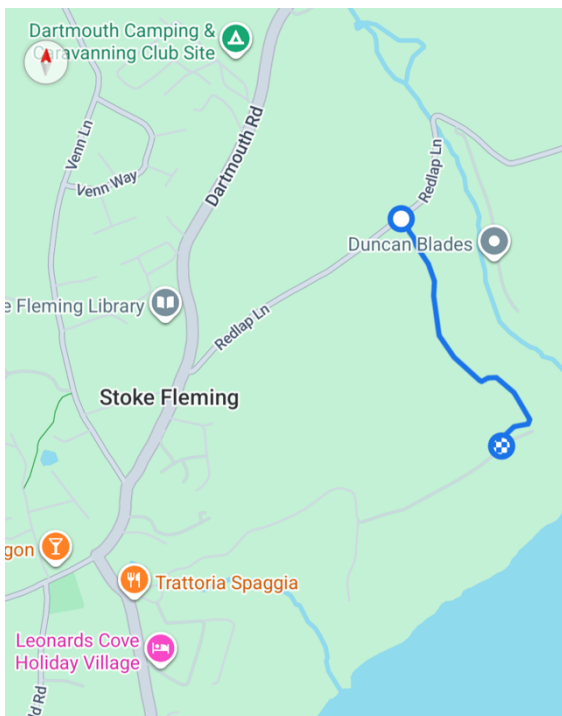


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## Changes to South West Coast Path

Walking locally has faced a few different challenges and opportunities recently. The coastal path to Beesands is still closed after the winter storms; however, the Slapton Ley section of the path is lovely and quiet (not that this makes up for the broader disruption here).

More locally still, the path up Blackpool Hill has been repaired with the installation of a new bridge, making the walk to the Sands a much more pleasant experience again.



On the Dartmouth side of the village, there's now a link between Redlap Lane and Shady Lane making this a good circular walk. From Redlap Lane, the path heads right a little way past the horse fields and joins with Shady Lane just before the steep, final section of that lane. We recommend walking the link in this direction as you'll have sea views in front of you all the way (although fencing obscures views looking east).



*Redlap Lane end*



*Shady Lane end*

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## **Sport, Exercise, Activity at the Village Hall**

### **Mondays**

19.00 Start Bay Performers.

### **Tuesdays**

09.30-10.30 Zest Stretch and Reset Yoga. Book [www.zest-yoga.co.uk](http://www.zest-yoga.co.uk) / Kirsty: 07534 441715.

10.45-11.45 Stretch & Stay Mobile. 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.

12.00-13.00 Beginners Yoga run by Kirsty Bradley for u3a members. Contact Julia Churchley: 07900 321681 / [julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk).

14.00-16.30 Short Mat Bowls. Contact Debbie: 01803 770305.

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 Ellie: 07778 208080. \*

10.30 Club de Pétanque, Village Hall recreation ground, for all skill levels. Contact John: 07811 102460.

### **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).

10.00-13.00 Mahjong - 1st and 3rd Friday each month. Contact Elaine French: 01803 832304/[frenchfamily1@live.co.uk](mailto:frenchfamily1@live.co.uk).

### **Sundays**

10.30 Club de Pétanque, Village Hall recreation ground, for all skill levels. Contact John: 07811 102460.

\*Please check for any last-minute changes.

*For Tiny Feet Yoga contact Thea: 07429 525294, <https://tinyfeetyoga.co.uk>.*

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## Friends of St Peter's

We are holding a fundraising Shanty Night in St Peter's Church on Friday 17th April from 7.00pm. See poster for details.



### News from the Living Churchyard Project

The daffodils along the main path have been flourishing again this year. FoSP and the PCC have agreed to the planting of more daffodils along the side of the new path to the Coffin Walk, and snowdrops and poppies in the wildflower area.

The brambles along the north and east walls were cut back during March, to keep them under control and not overtaking the gravestones in that area.

Meanwhile, we are still keen to engage volunteers to help with this project, so please get in touch if you'd like to help.

We wish our readers and members a very happy and peaceful Easter.



## Prickles in a Pickle

Whatever is happening to the time? Five minutes ago it was Christmas and now I am writing this in the second week of March! We are still sending our longer stay hedgehogs back home and bracing ourselves for the hoglet season. We seem to be collecting young rabbits at the moment, last year it was the year of the duckling and this year the year of the rabbit. Rabbits always do better in rabbit company. They are a bit like sheep in that they need no good reason to die except that they think it is a good idea. Thankfully, so far they want to live, albeit full of fluids, medication and food. They will be vaccinated pre-release, and released to their home ground.



Alan is busy making hedgehog houses and feed stations amongst other things; these are flying off the shelves with online orders coming in from our shop.

More reports of hedgehogs being out and about and sadly more reports of road kill. This has become more of a problem where new estates have been built, cutting off safe passage between what is left of their foraging grounds. It is not only loss of habitat that poses issues, it is the fact that pockets of habitat are not safely linked, pushing animals out on to the increasingly busier roads. The latest international conference for the European hedgehog has shown that the only way we can save these precious little mammals from extinction, is to manage and link our gardens for them, leaving out water for and food if you can.

One of our volunteers was speaking with a couple who had moved into a Plymouth suburb. They told her how much they loved and appreciated the bird song and the variety of birds they saw in their garden. Soon afterwards she met them again; they were disappointed that they no longer had birds coming into the garden. It turned out that they had removed all the mature hedges that made their boundaries and replaced them with fences. So no hedge, no habitat or shelter or insects and other food, no birds!

This is apparently happening a lot, older people leaving their houses and lovely old established gardens, to be replaced with a clean, easy to maintain, barren and sterile wasteland. I understand many of the reasons why people do this, but the bigger picture of why we shouldn't do this is far more pressing.

Three of our evening feed volunteers have moved on to pastures new; one has set up a new branch of her business in town, "Little Roglets. An amazing artist selling beautiful things, she is in the Market Square; visit if you can. Another has secured the position of Assistant Ecologist in Portsmouth, which is a huge step up for her and well deserved. Then we have another who will be moving away. The evenings available are, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday for a couple of hours, times negotiable. Come along and meet us.

**Judy, Alan & The Team @Prickles in a Pickle**  
[www.pricklesinapickle.co.uk](http://www.pricklesinapickle.co.uk)

## Where are we now?

Last month we were in North Sands, Salcombe, Jane Freeman, Clever Clogs and Jean Saunders were on the ball with the correct answer.



Let's see how you get on with this month's picture going back to 1970 - a lot easier - or is it?

Now the only question is where are we now?



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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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	Wellbeing Pharmacy, Health Centre	222117
	Dartmouth Medical Practice	832212
	Dart Vale Vets	832422
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	Micky's Taxis	07812 088935
	Prestige Taxis	714336

### Stoke Fleming Voice Editorial Team

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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 2026

(Area Code: 01803)

100 Club	Sandra Ingham, <a href="mailto:sfvh100club@gmail.com">sfvh100club@gmail.com</a>	07889 573087
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
Craft Club	Lorraine Forman, <a href="mailto:Lorraineforman@gmail.com">Lorraineforman@gmail.com</a>	
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	07970 137311
Parish Council	Sharon Whelon, <a href="mailto:clerk@stokefleming.org">clerk@stokefleming.org</a> or see <a href="https://www.stokefleming.org/councillors">https://www.stokefleming.org/councillors</a>	
Pétanque	John Sparks	07811 102460
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