

Stoke Fleming Voice

February 2025





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Editorial

By the time you read this the year will feel like it's moving on but, as I'm writing in early January, my mind keeps going back to New Year's Eve – not so much to the night with Lost Natives at the Green Dragon (although that was wonderful) but the broader idea of rejuvenation and the juxtaposition of the old with the new.

So first of all welcome to Stoke Fleming Voice, a new name for a new magazine in this historic village, hopefully building on the rich legacy and generous support provided to us by Joan and Trevor Mason.

This new publication is brought to you by a new editorial and development team, all of whom I'd like to thank for responding to my call to action in Joan's November magazine and for doing a fantastic job in putting everything together.

You can find out about this small but passionate team of volunteers on page 6 of the magazine and please feel free to approach any one of us at any time. Whilst we're delighted that Barry Morris is continuing to work with us and that several members of the team have lived in the village for some time, you may notice that some of us are quite new. If you're reading this and thinking that the magazine should be more firmly in the hands of born and bred or more established residents, then I'd agree. If this is you, I would encourage you to join us, both to help share the load and to make us even more representative of the parish as a whole.

Our team retains Joan's previous intent to provide you with a quality monthly magazine coupled with a newly reinforced aspiration, which we hope is signalled through the magazine's name, to make this your conduit to the rest of the parish. If there's ever anything you want to share or discuss, we'd love to hear from you. We want the magazine to be created from the parish for the parish and we're just here to help this happen. We need to say thank you to all those who have provided their content on the following pages and we look forward to continuing working with you all.

Our thanks as well to the magazine distributors – both those who have stayed with us and the new volunteers – without whom there would be no magazine.

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

In this our first issue, you'll find reports on end of year activities and celebrations (and wasn't the Christmas Tree Festival fantastic?), lots of New Year greetings and things to look forward to in February, including on Valentine's Day, and beyond. You'll also find interesting news on, for example, the Woodland Garden Project and opportunities at Start Point lighthouse.

Next month we plan to have more useful and engaging information for you. However, February is a short month and we'd ask for your understanding and forgiveness if we're late publishing. We're sure we will be fully up to speed shortly, although a couple more volunteers to help with content updates and desk top publishing would make producing the magazine more manageable too.

Jon Ingham – Chair and Treasurer



The bench in the churchyard installed adjacent to the Coffin Walk footpath by Stoke Fleming Living Churchyard, on behalf of Friends of St Peter's. Made possible by a generous contribution by Elizabeth Cutter in remembrance of her in-laws.

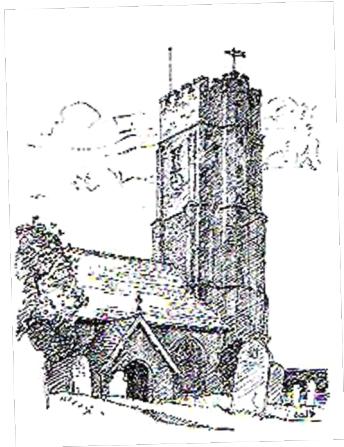
The inscription reads: "In loving memory of Jack, Constance and Julian Cutter"

For more information about Friends of St Peter's see page 17

Reflections from the Rectory

Over the past few weeks, we have had various readings about Jesus being baptised and as he came up out of the water the clouds parted and an audible voice was heard saying “This is my Son with whom I am well pleased.”

This reading for some reason always reminds me of the story of ‘the drowning man’ which goes: A fellow was stuck on his rooftop in a flood. He was praying to God for help. Soon a man in a rowing boat came by and shouted to the man on the roof, “Jump in, I can save you.” The stranded fellow shouted back, “No, it’s OK, I’m praying to God and he is going to save me.” So the rowing boat went on.



Then a motorboat came by. The fellow in the motorboat shouted, “Jump in, I can save you.” To this the stranded man said, “No thanks, I’m praying to God and he is going to save me. I have faith.”

So the motorboat went on. Then a helicopter came by and the pilot shouted down, “Grab this rope and I will lift you to safety.” To this the stranded man again replied, “No thanks, I’m praying to God and he is going to save me. I have faith.” So the helicopter reluctantly flew away.

Soon the water rose above the rooftop and the man drowned. He went to Heaven. He finally got his chance to discuss this whole situation with God, at which point he exclaimed, “I had faith in you but you didn’t save me, you let me drown. I don’t understand why!”

To this God replied, “I sent you a rowing boat and a motorboat and a helicopter, what more did you expect?”

So often in life we want or expect God to give us clear instructions just like he did with Jesus; the truth is, though, that he has done this a handful of times throughout all of history. The reality is you are far more likely to find yourself in a ‘drowning man’ situation where God does provide a solution, and for whatever reason, we think it’s either just a coincidence or less flashy and complete than we would hope or had asked for. The reality is that we never know what will happen next. 25 years ago ‘the drowning man’ was a joke. Now in the world we find ourselves there is more chance of finding ourselves in this drowning man situation than ever before, making it more of a story than a joke. But the one thing that hasn’t changed is the fact that God loves us, he always has and he always will and whatever start to the new year you have had, I’m sure if you look back you will see something, however large, small or seemingly insignificant, that God has had his hand in. In fact I reckon if you did this every month you’d start to see just how much God is part of your life, whether you acknowledge it or not.

Blessings. **Revd Matt**

From the Registers

Tuesday 17 December: Funeral followed by cremation, Eric James Pengelly.

St Peter's Church Services for February

Sunday 2 Feb	Candlemas	11.00 Holy Communion
Sunday 9 Feb	4th Sunday before Lent	11.00 Morning Worship 16.00 THE 4
Sunday 16 Feb	3rd Sunday before Lent	11.00 Communion by extension
Sunday 23 Feb	2nd Sunday before Lent	11.00 Morning Worship

Little Stars

Our Little Stars have settled in after an exciting December. We are always ready to welcome new Little Stars and their Mums or Dads; our church is open every Monday morning during term time 9am – 10.30am. Come along and see how happy our Little Stars are, and that includes Heather, Peter and myself; we take so much pleasure from the laughter of children.

Heather, Sue and Peter.

Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Day

There will be a Pancake Afternoon in St Peter's church on Tuesday 4 March, starting at 14.00, with pancake races for the children after school at 15.30. This will be followed by a very short service and the burning of last year's Palm crosses. More details in the March Magazine.



Thank You

Trevor and Joan would like to thank all those who have sent goodwill wishes to us in various ways as we pass on the Stoke Fleming Magazine to the Stoke Fleming Voice team. It wasn't until we started to collate the information we had for the new team, that we realised quite how much knowledge we had acquired over the years – from delivery rounds to who contributes what and when. We wish the new team all the very best and are delighted that a group is willing to take the magazine forward into 2025 and beyond. *Good Luck and Good Sailing!*

Eric James Pengelly (9 Jan 1931 – 29 Nov 2024)

Eric was 93 years old when he died, and a true gentleman of the village. He was born and lived in the same house on the corner of Chapel Lane for all that time and could tell a tale or two of village life over the generations. He was proud to be the oldest honorary life member of the Hort & Sport show.

On Eric's behalf I would like to thank the people of the village who were involved in his wake, setting up the village hall, preparing refreshments and lovely cakes, for all their help and support given to mark Eric's passing; they know who they are. He would have been so pleased with the turn out from family and dear friends.

For ever in our hearts; a true honour to have been part of his life.

Julie

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 17.30-19.30 during term time. Thank you so much to Rev 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

Meet the Stoke Fleming Voice Team

We hope that you enjoy our first magazine. Now that it has arrived on your doorstep we would like to introduce ourselves (left to right in the photo).



Sandra and Jon Ingham moved into one of the new houses next to Stoke Fleming School in the summer of 2024. Jon is a consultant in organisational effectiveness and runs a digital academy. He is currently writing his third book and is a keen athlete. Sandra is a director of Jon's company and has a background in freelance journalism and magazine editing; she was a local councillor and Town Mayor while at their previous home in Berkshire. They both enjoy taking exercise in the local countryside and Sandra sings with the Britannia Choral Society.

Jenny Hailstone has lived in the village for eight years and before that ran the Castle Tea Rooms for four years. Her previous experience was in the travel industry. Jenny leads the Living Churchyard project and she and her husband Tim divide their time between Stoke Fleming and their house in France.

Pam Sanders and her husband Pete came to Stoke Fleming part time five years ago and finally moved here in September, but she still runs a garden marquee hire company in Kent. She has always taken part in church activities and has sung in church choirs for over 20 years; she looks forward to starting a new chapter of her life in Stoke Fleming.

Anna Barrow attended one of the local schools after moving to Kingsbridge from Somerset, and later graduated from Exeter University. After living in Surrey for

some years, she and her husband returned to the village in 2024. She enjoys walking along the many stretches of beach and coastline on the doorstep.

Anne Bailey retired with her husband Peter to Stoke Fleming in 2008, after a career in the Royal Navy and later in IT support for solicitors. She has supported various Stoke Fleming activities, including Friends of St Peter's and the Living Churchyard project, and is moderator for the Stoke Fleming Community Forum Facebook page. Her hobbies include sailing and church bellringing; she rings the bells regularly in St Peter's Church.

We will continue to be supported by the photographic skills of **Barry Morris** who is a semi-professional photographer. Barry moved to the village in 1976 and has been a longstanding contributor to the Magazine providing the popular regular feature "Nothing Ever Changes", as well as his pictures of community events.

The team members bring a range of skills and experience to the production of Stoke Fleming Voice and we hope to keep it going from strength to strength. If you would like to join this enthusiastic and friendly group, and help in the production of our magazine, for the benefit of Stoke Fleming please do get in touch; our roles and contact details are on the inside back cover. We look forward to meeting you around the village.

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The Green Dragon

Happy New Year to all our customers!! Thank you for your continued support. We will be closed for our annual refit and staff holiday **3-21 February**. Re-opening **Saturday 22 February** at 14.00.

Georgie and Alan

Valentine's Day Dinner at Stoke Lodge Hotel

Join us for a romantic Valentine's Day dinner at Stoke Lodge Hotel on Friday 14 February.

Enjoy a welcome glass of bubbles on arrival, followed by a delicious four-course set menu, complete with a decadent 54% dark chocolate, rose and pistachio dessert to share with your significant other.

Valentine's Day Dinner

Welcome Drink

Amuse-Bouche

Onion Consommé | Confit Onion | Black Garlic

Driftwood Goats Cheese | Beetroot | Honey | Hazelnut

Scallop | Cauliflower | Golden Raisin | Apple | Roe | Cracker

Duck | Celery | Fondant | Confit Leg | Five Spice Jus

54% Dark Chocolate | Rose | Pistachio

Petit Fours

£47pp

Please do let our team know of any dietary requirements when booking and we can arrange appropriate substitutions.

Call us on 01803 770523 or email us on hello@stokelodge.co.uk to make a reservation.

The Dartmouth and Kingswear Society

We are dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of Dartmouth and the Dart villages including Stoke Fleming. Sign up for a single annual subscription at a cost of £7 or £12 for a couple.

Our next member event will be a Winter Warmer Lunch at the Stoke Lodge Hotel in the village on Tuesday 18 February and this will need to be booked in advance.

Children's Hospice South West

Thank you to everyone who braved the storm on Saturday 7 December to support Children's Hospice South West's Christmas Fair in the Market at Dartmouth. Also a big thank you to Stoke Lodge Hotel for giving us four tables at their indoor fair when some of our stallholders were unable to erect gazebos due to the storm. Although a slightly reduced size we were amazed at the wonderful turn-out of people who made the event worthwhile, including the excellent singers of Dartmouth Rock Choir. And worthwhile it certainly was as we raised the brilliant total of £1,065 for the charity – much-needed funding in difficult times for charities who, like businesses, are having to cope with increased costs for National Insurance payments for staff, for example. Thank you to our stallholders, volunteers and friends who helped, customers, and the kind people making donations – it was truly heartwarming – thank you all and Happy New Year!

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you or someone you know has a problem with alcohol this weekly meeting in the Dartmouth Health Centre may be the way to a solution. The meeting is private, anonymous and closed – meaning it is for AA members. It takes place every Thursday evening from 18.30-19.30. The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees. Parking at the Health Centre is free from 18.00. Come at or just after 18.30 and have a cup of tea before the meeting begins.

Defibrillators

There are two defibrillators in the village, bought with donations after fundraising around the area. One is in the porch of the Village Hall; the second at the rear entrance to the Green Dragon Pub. They are both owned, maintained and checked weekly by a small group of volunteers; they are not owned by the Hall Management Committee or the Parish Council. To gain access in an emergency – go to the site of the defibrillator – dial 999 – say where you are, and they will give you the code. We hope you won't need to use them.

For more information – contact barry219morris@btinternet.com

Stoke Fleming & District Probus Club

Probus is a social club bringing together retired and semi-retired people from a broad mixture of backgrounds and professions. We meet at the Stoke Lodge Hotel twice a month.

At our Wednesday 12 February Lunch Meeting, beginning 10.30, Jim Redman will give a talk entitled "**Robert Burns. From 'Auld Lang Syne' to his 'Address to a Haggis'**". Burns' work is intrinsically linked with Scottish culture. Jim will tell us all about Burns' journey from humble rural beginnings to international renown—the story of a man inspired by nature, class culture and love.

On Wednesday 26 February the meeting will commence with coffee, followed by a talk by Bryan Short entitled "**Last man standing: the fate of Alexander the Great's Generals**". Much is known about Alexander the Great, but rather less about his highly competent and talented band of generals. Bryan will tell us about their action packed story. After the talk, drinks will be available at the bar.

Peter Hales (07969 248397 / 770739)

Craft Club

Our December Christmas party meeting was graced by some special visitors when Judy brought two baby hedgehogs all warmly snuggled up, to come and meet us and we were able to give her a further donation for 'Prickles'.

January's meeting was quite a contrast as several members had gone down with one or other infection, as well as those who were unable to come for other reasons. We hope to see more of you at the February meeting on Friday 7 February at 14.00 in the Village Hall as usual.

Anyone interested in stitching of all kinds, crochet or knitting is most welcome to join us – and we are happy to pass on our skills if there is something you would like to learn.

Dart Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Dart PPG is seeking new members who are motivated to improve medical care and patient services at the Dartmouth Health Centre. If you wish to champion a specific type of care or medicine that would also be most welcome. Contact Paul Green for more info: 07799 772709.

Village Hall

Happy New Year to all our users and supporters from the Trustees of the Hall and may 2025 be a year of good health and success! Congratulations as well to the newly formed contributors of Stoke Fleming Voice for putting this first edition together.



You probably don't think about the Trustees when you visit the Hall, but an enormous amount goes on behind the scenes with Trustees, caretakers, cleaners and gardeners, booking officer and accounts; most of their time is given freely and generously. They keep the place looking very good and ready for such a variety of bookings.

Our on-going maintenance is to keep the Hall shipshape and to upgrade what is necessary but of course this costs money, so we are very grateful to the Friends of the Library for their recent generous donation. Thank you so much. It will be put in the maintenance fund for the future.

The Trustees have agreed to support the new magazine with an annual donation as we realise the value of the monthly magazine to every household with all the village information readily available. MN

Stoke Fleming Village Hall 100 Club

December saw the last draw for 2024. Winners were: 1st Josie Hainsworth, 2nd John Belli, 3rd M. Linsell, and the Christmas bonus prizes were won by both Mr and Mrs Franks, Mrs Latham, Mrs Foale, Mr Barlow and the Pétanque Club.

Membership of the 100 Club is just £12 a year, giving you the opportunity to win monthly cash prizes while supporting the Village Hall. The Club has already raised over £600 for the Village Hall. As a member, you'll also enjoy the excitement of bigger quarterly draws with two extra prizes and an extra-special Christmas draw with multiple prizes including a jackpot prize. For more details email: sfvh100club@gmail.com.

The February draw will be at the Community Kitchen Lunch on Friday 14 February in Trattoria Spaggia. The March draw will be at the Community Kitchen Lunch back in the Village Hall, on a date to be advised, when the first quarterly super draw will take place. *Good luck to all 100 Club members.*



Christmas Tree Festival

What an amazing effort everyone put into this event – the standard of the decoration of the trees was outstanding. It's really hard to express in words how this event has developed over the years – this year being the 17th Festival – and how important it has become as a celebration of our community here in Stoke Fleming. Every year visitors are amazed that this Village/Parish can be home to so many different clubs, organisations and businesses. Well done everyone.

Of course, there is a whole host of people to thank that enable us to stage this event: all the sponsors, the lifters and shifters (especially David and Stuart Harris), the set-up team who cover the boards with paper, sort out the electrics and set up the backdrop, help pack away on Sunday evening and Monday morning, also all the unsung heroes who just come and do a bit. Thank you all – we couldn't possibly do this without your support.

In 2024 we had more visitors than ever before – in the region of 850. This figure does not include all the school children who visit on Friday morning, so what a turnout over the three days. As ever, the 'Spot the Oddity' competition was very popular. There were 147 entries in the box, but only 16 had spotted all the oddities! We're delighted to announce that our prize-winner, picked at random from the correct entries, was long term supporter and sponsor of The Little Lanterns tree – Laura Malley. Hope you enjoyed the biscuits, Laura.

All this fun has a serious purpose too. It is a major fund-raiser for both St. Peter's Church and our chosen charity which this year was Rowcroft Hospice. We are delighted to announce that through the sponsorship, the generous donation of all the mulled wine, the sale of refreshments and the donations made by all our visitors this year, we have raised a staggering total of £2,526.00! This amount will be divided between the Church and Rowcroft to enable the work they carry out to continue during 2025.

Thank you all for your support. We look forward enormously to doing this all over again in December 2025 when the dates will be 12, 13 and 14 December.

Shirley (770468) and Caroline (07976 836509)

Christmas Tree Festival Pictures



(Credit: Barry Morris)

News from The Hort and Sport

Well here we are – into 2025 and a new look Stoke Fleming Voice publication for us to keep you up to date with our plans. We wish the new team well.

It might only be February, but we are already working on plans for this year. We are deciding on a theme for The Special Division and will be tweaking the schedule very soon. We hope to keep all your favourites in whilst ringing the changes a bit to keep things fresh. If you feel we haven't included your particular hobby then do please let me know and we'll do our best to include it. We're also working through our 'shopping list' of updating some of our equipment or purchasing new things – nothing lasts forever it seems!

February is still a little early for gardening, but a good time to browse all the plant and seed catalogues and dream about what we might grow. Why not challenge yourself to grow something a little different this year? We have no control over what the weather might be doing by August but there's no harm in trying – something colourful or a new variety of an old favourite might be a good idea.

Enjoy watching for shoots of spring colour and we'll let you know how our plans are developing further next month.

Shirley (770468)

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: 6 February: **Gretchen White: "Spring Surprises"**

Contact: Gwendoline (833270)



Stoke Fleming Horticultural
& Sports Society

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Community Kitchen

Christmas seems a long time ago but we hope everyone who went to the Christmas Tree Festival enjoyed our tree – decorated entirely out of pasta!

After a lovely Christmas Lunch in early December we moved to Trattoria Spaggia with Anita as the host, in January. Anita has helped us with the cooking for several months and we thought a change of venue would be fun. This worked well and we will stay in the Trattoria Spaggia for February before moving back to the Hall in March.

Our next lunch will be on Friday 14 February – Valentine's Day – look out for a themed lunch. Please come and buy your tickets from Laura on Monday 3 February. They will cost £10 in the shop with an extra £2 to pay on the day which will avoid Laura having to find change. We hope this is still regarded as very good value for money for a main course and vegetables and a choice of puddings. Please give a donation for a cup of coffee and tea at the end of the meal. Bring your own tipple to drink and enjoy the company of others. Meet some neighbours, chat to old friends and no washing up!

We always have a vegetarian option but we would appreciate a call or email if you would like to choose this so we don't have too much waste. Details are at the end of this article.

The Community Kitchen chefs have a lot of fun choosing the menu and deciding who cooks what. We do try to produce a balanced meal but the calories rack up with the puddings They seem very popular, so much so that one suggestion was to have a whole meal of puddings!! We can only produce this lunch with the help of so many 'home' cooks who get paid for the ingredients but give their time willingly. I would like to thank them very much.

We hope to see you in February and thank you for your support over the years.

Mary Newman
houseonthehill661@gmail.com

Wednesday Ladies

Wednesday Ladies will be meeting as usual on the second Wednesday in February (12 February) at 14.00 for a Valentine's Lunch and annual meeting.



Dartmouth & District Food Bank

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<https://dartmouthanddistrictfoodbank.org.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/DartmouthFoodBank>

U3A Dart Valley

Members are generally retired or semi-retired but there is no minimum age; anyone who is not in full time employment is welcome. There are about 39 different interest groups taking place where you can meet other people, learn and have fun. Some groups meet in members' homes, most hire a room and there is often a small per session charge, typically £2 pp, to cover this cost.

Who were the ancient Britons?

Our next big event will take place on 13 February 10.00-12.00 at The Flavel Auditorium. This talk by Dr Iain Watt will introduce you to a small number of folks from our past who have fascinated our speaker and will inform you about the people of our Isles. Cost: £2

Friends of St Peter's



We are a group of people who feel the Church building and grounds are a wonderful asset of the village and as such we fund-raise to continually improve the facilities and help with the restoration of various parts of the property.

FOSP has helped with the restoration of the bells and supporting beams in the bell tower. This provided the opportunity to tune the bells, acquire two new bells (thanks

to Rokie Shiffner for sourcing funds from Johnson Matthey) and convert the clock to electric winding, as well as renewing the face of the clock.

Next, we supported the refurbishment of the stained-glass windows, replacing the lead to hold in the glass, renewing the metal frames and parts of the stone where needed. In addition, the metal grilles on the outside were removed. Now the light on a sunny day is truly beautiful.

After this we went on to replacing the weathervane and flagpole. The village is now able to celebrate special events with appropriate flags.

Currently the re-wilding of a corner of the churchyard is being undertaken by an enthusiastic group who have removed brambles to discover hidden graves, seeded the area with wildflowers and planted tête-à-tête narcissi in the walk to the front doors. Generous donations from Gardentime were greatly appreciated.

FOSP has placed an oak bench along the walkway from the war memorial. This was part funded by Elizabeth Cutter in remembrance of her in-laws. It is a lovely place to contemplate the beauty of the church and its surroundings. We also plan to create a story telling area with suitable bench in the far southeast corner of the churchyard.

The servery and disabled toilet project is nearing faculty approval and we will help to support the Church's fund raising. This will provide a larger and more usable toilet, a refurbished kitchen with a washing up area and servery in the corner of the main body of the church. Some pews will be removed, and the floor made good, providing an area with multiple uses. This project has been nearly two years in the planning and permissions phase.

If you would like to help with these projects, or provide a donation, details are on our website:

<https://www.fospstokefleming.com> or email: fosp@fospstokefleming.com

Suzie Dodsworth, acting Chair of FOSP

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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.

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seaparr01@yahoo.co.uk

The Arts Society Dartmouth and Kingswear (TASDAK)

Our lectures take place in The Flavel Art Centre at 14.30 on the second Monday of the month. Membership is £58 for the year single or £110 joint. Guests are very welcome £10 per lecture which is deducted on joining and includes refreshments. Please telephone Juliet on 01803 832315.

Our next lecture will take place in The Flavel at 14.30 on Monday 10 February entitled "**The loose and airy lightness of flowers – Carving of Grinling Gibbons**" by **Justin Reay**. The best sculptor in wood ever to lift a chisel, Grinling Gibbons rose from obscure apprenticeship in Rotterdam to reach the height of his profession in England... collaborating with Wren and Vanburgh to become The King's Carver. Much of his work survives in country houses, large churches and state apartments. This lecture covers his life and career and the techniques he used to create convincing illusions of reality making a case for identifying Gibbons as a major artist.

Start Point Lighthouse

The Lighthouse will be opening to visitors at Easter and we are actively looking for more volunteers to train as tour guides.

The learning is not complicated, and it keeps those grey cells active! You work in pairs, and you won't find a more spectacular setting to be in. Any interest in the sea and sailing, marine life, history and shipwrecks all help but full training is given. The commitment would be to work a minimum of 2 days a month from Easter to the end of September. The job does include stairs – quite a lot of them! You can reach me on info@startpointdevon.co.uk or 07855 483865.

Mary Newman

Dartmouth Caring Audio Book Club

The February meeting of the Audio Book Club will take place on Thursday 6 February, 14.00-16.00. We supply books on disk and listening equipment may be available.

The club meets on the first Thursday of each month at the Health and Wellbeing Centre, Wessex Way, Dartmouth, TQ6 0JL. Tea and biscuits are provided free of charge. Booking is not required, but please phone Dartmouth Caring on 01803 835384 to let us know if you'd like to come along. If you need assistance with transport, we are happy to help. The March Audio Book Club Meeting will take place on Thursday 6 March.

Restoration of the Woodland Garden at Stoke Lodge Hotel

Many of you who walked along Stoke Fleming's Birdwalk in December may well have noticed some activity and work going on around the pond and in the woodland garden of the hotel grounds as we cleared some of the overgrown wildness of this lovely spot and opened up the views.

Overseeing this work is our good friend and award-winning horticultural wizard Jon Wheatley of Stonebarn Landscapes. Jon is a highly respected RHS judge for Britain in Bloom UK Finals, as well as Chair of Southwest in Bloom, and an RHS Vice President.

We are delighted that Jon has brought his experience, enthusiasm and breadth of knowledge to join us at Stoke Lodge Hotel, with his wonderful team to manage the design and landscaping work in the grounds and to restore the woodland garden to its full potential.

Naturally, this will be a gradual process but our initial objectives are to improve the age and diversity of the woodland, focusing on indigenous species, to increase biodiversity and create habitats for wildlife and to improve the view of the pond from within the grounds and the SW Coast Path Birdwalk.

A detailed outline of our proposal was submitted to the South Hams DC in October 2024, copying Stoke Fleming Parish Council; we look forward to working with them and local community organisations as we restore this beautiful and special corner of Stoke Fleming.

We hope you will enjoy following the changes with us!

Myles, Alex & Families



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Dartmouth Banking Hub (opens Mon-Fri 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	Lloyds
Wednesday	NatWest
Thursday	Barclays
Friday	Santander

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

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Stoke Fleming Information

Stoke Fleming Library – Tel: 770076

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

Stoke Fleming Village Shop and Post Office

**	Shop – Tel: 771119	Post Office – Tel: 770229	
Sunday	09.00 – 12.00	Closed all day	
Monday	08.00 – 17.00	08.00 – 17.00	** Until Easter the
Tuesday	08.00 – 17.00	08.00 – 17.00	Shop will close at
Wednesday	08.00 – 17.00	08.00 – 13.00	17.00 weekdays
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)

Sunday 9 February 10.00 to 11.30

Bus – Service 93 (at Endsleigh Hotel)

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

Service 93 runs from Dartmouth to Kingsbridge

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

February 2025

Sat	1	
Sun	2	
Mon	3	Community Kitchen Lunch tickets available in Village Shop Green Dragon closed for refurbishment
Tues	4	17.30 Stoke Fleming Youth Club
Wed	5	19.00 Parish Council, Village Hall
Thurs	6	14.00-16.00 Audio Book Club, Health Centre 14.30 Dartmouth & District Flower Club, Village Hall
Fri	7	14.00 Craft Club, Village Hall
Sat	8	
Sun	9	10.00-11.30 Loam Rangers site open
Mon	10	14.30 TASDAK, The Flavel
Tues	11	17.30 Stoke Fleming Youth Club
Wed	12	10.30 Probus Lunch Meeting – Stoke Lodge Hotel Wednesday Ladies Valentine's Lunch and annual meeting
Thurs	13	10.00 U3A Meeting, The Flavel COPY DATE FOR MARCH MAGAZINE
Fri	14	Valentine's Day Community Kitchen Lunch – Trattoria Spaggia Valentine's Dinner, Stoke Lodge Hotel
Sat	15	
Sun	16	
Mon	17	School Half Term starts
Tues	18	Dartmouth & Kingswear Society Lunch, Stoke Lodge Hotel
Wed	19	
Thurs	20	
Fri	21	
Sat	22	14.00 Green Dragon re-opens
Sun	23	
Mon	24	
Tues	25	17.30 Stoke Fleming Youth Club
Wed	26	10.30 Probus Meeting – Stoke Lodge Hotel
Thurs	27	
Fri	28	

Parish Council Minutes Summary – December 2024

A monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 4 December 2024 in the Ron Harris Room, Stoke Fleming Village Hall at 19.00. 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 Tim Moseley (Vice-Chair), Cllr John Belli, Cllr Jay Floyd, Cllr Jack Handley

Also invited: County Cllr Julian Brazil, District Cllr Simon Rake, Parish Clerk – Sharon Whelon

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Cllr Bella Johnston, Cllr Phil Elliott, Cllr Tilly Crowther

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- Slapton Line – will be appointing an Adaptation Manager. Blackawton and East Allington are keen to join the group.
- Devolution – The Bill will be published on Monday.
- Local Government re-organisation – future plans may follow.
- Household Support Fund – council to contact County or District if there is anyone who qualifies (means tested).
- Replacement salt bin requested by council.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- South Hams Festival has been postponed to 2026.
- Car parking charges – residents' discount rate proposal consultation is live.
- The bin by School Road toilets needs repair.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Proposed new car park. The Working Group report was presented by Cllr Moseley. Two alternative plots identified: land off Bidders and BT site Mill Lane. The original plan has seen some progress and a meeting is planned in the near future.

FUNDRAISING AND VOLUNTEERING sub-committee report

a) Toilets – School Road insurance quote questions:

1. How long have the Public Toilets been unoccupied prior to council taking ownership? *More than 4 years.*
2. If any Contract Works for the refurbishment and value. *Yes – £6,000 fund set aside.*

3. After the refurbishment will they remain as toilets? Yes.
- 4.. Expected Start date of the refurbishment and expected timeline? *Early to late Spring 2025.*
5. What inspection regime do you have in place for the unoccupied toilets? *External, daily.*
6. Meter readings required the day of completion: *Cllrs Harris and Moseley volunteered*

b) Pavilion – change of use.

Football club use of playing field update. Cllrs Floyd and Belli have been in conversation re figures to align with Club needs. It was **Agreed** £50 per month for the pavilion rental (inc. storage).

It was also **Agreed** £15 per hour pitch rental, with a minimum of two hours – waived for the first 12 months. Regular grass cutting will be required, and it was proposed that the Football Club be responsible for this. Utility costs will be monitored for the use of the pavilion, including charging of floodlights. The Football Club must also arrange appropriate insurance. **Agreed.**

COMMUNITY

- a) Slapton Line Partnership update. MP has written to the minister. A petition to raise the profile of the site has been started and will be circulated.
- b) Free Landmark Tree from Devon Wildlife Trust for the Parish: suggestion of silver birch or hornbeam. Two silver birch and one hornbeam nominated. **Agreed.**
- c) Proposed meeting by Dartmouth Town Council (DTC) to meet with Clerk and Chairman re Little Cotton collaboration. Much could be done to open the channels of communication; council will await an email from the Residents Association. Chairman and Clerk to meet with DTC in the New Year.
- d) Donation from Baker Estates for playpark equipment. Baker Estates suggested the council apply to South Hams District Council (SHDC) for Section 106 funds, the bulk of which is earmarked for the 'Dartmouth Area Sports Hub Project'. Council to approach SHDC for grant.

MAINTENANCE

Ravensbourne Lane insurance claim. Two further quotes are awaited.

COUNCIL AND ACTIONS REGISTER

Councillor vacancy update. Poster placed on Cotton Farm noticeboard.

PLANNING: All noted.

APPLICATIONS

a) Reference: 3434/24/ADV

Proposal: Advertisement consent for site entrance monolith sign

Site Address: Bayards Court Care Home, Cotton Road, Dartmouth TQ6 0FF.

b) Application Number: 3413/24/AGR

Location Address: Land at SX 830 514, Blatchmore Lane, Bugford.

Proposal: Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed lean-to storage extension to an agricultural building measuring 18.3m (length) x 6.1m (breadth) x 5m (height to ridge).

Application Type: Agricultural Determination

DECISIONS

a) Application: 2800/24/TPO

Proposal: T1: Horse Chestnut – overall crown reduction by 1-2m to maintain shape & pruning to lower limbs at 2m from ground level to ensure safety of residents, removal of all dead boughs.

Location: Seascapes, Redlap Lane, Stoke Fleming TQ6 0QU.

Decision: Works to a TPO Tree REFUSAL of CONSENT with AGREED LESSER WORKS.

b) Application Number: 2480/24/HHO

Location Address: Sunnyhurst Baileys Meadow Stoke Fleming TQ6 0QD

Proposal: Householder application for new porch extension & sliding vehicle gate.

Status: Approved.

Application Type: Householder Application.

WITHDRAWN

None.

Date of next meeting:

8 January 2025, 19.00

Ron Harris Room, Stoke Fleming Village Hall

More memories of the Christmas Tree Festival – Closing Service

(Thanks to Barry Morris and Teri Larson for the photographs)



Parish Council Minutes Summary – January 2025

A monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 8 January 2025 in the Ron Harris Room, Stoke Fleming Village Hall at 19.00. 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 Tilly Crowther, Cllr Phil Elliott, Cllr John Belli, Cllr Jay Floyd

Also invited: County Cllr Julian Brazil, Parish Clerk – Sharon Whelon.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: District Cllr Simon Rake, Cllr Jack Handley, Cllr Bella Johnston.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 4 December 2024, AND PLANNING SITE MEETING NOTES. Amended and agreed, and signed by the Chairman as true and correct records.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- District Council (SHDC) – Is in budget setting process – car parking charges will be increasing, but residents should get a discount. Feedback included fears that increased charges may drive visitors away.
- Government has withdrawn grants which have left SHDC with a shortfall.
- County Council – government grant funding reflects a real time cut for funding.
- Devolution and re-organisation – Local government re-organisation is complicated. Government plans to split the country into unitary authorities from 2026-28. This upheaval will be at cost to the taxpayer.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Devolution issues report received in absence.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

a) Proposed new car park. Positive meeting with owner has taken place, a promise to come back with ownership proposal or 50 year lease was received and figures are awaited. A pre-app and planning application will be needed. Original plans are out of date and will need to be updated.

FUNDRAISING AND VOLUNTEERING sub-committee report

a) Toilets – School Road insurance quote pro rata £251.22 – **Approved. Exchange and Completion will now go ahead.** Insurance to be reviewed prior to renewal in June.

- b) Pavilion – change of use. Reminder re planning application to be sent to Cllr Rake.
- c) Football Club use of playing field update – Update following Football Club committee meeting expected.
- d) For information: mobile coffee shop may apply to rent out space in the Village Hall car park, Cllr Belli to update.

COMMUNITY

- a) Slapton Line Partnership update. No update.
- b) Road salt issues (TM). Rock salt stored at Loam Rangers site. Contamination of compost is feared. Alternative storage discussed, but will be confirmed. Cllr Harris will store for the time-being.
- c) Little Cotton meeting. Attended by Cllr Moseley. Landlords and social issues discussed. A residents association will be formed. Townstal or the Football Club as a venue for future meetings discussed.
- d) Dog bins have been requested from South Hams, Cllr Moseley wrote to District Cllr Rake regarding this issue. Cllr Crowther offered to attend the next monthly meeting at Market Square.

ROADS & TRANSPORT

- a) Venn Lane (JBr) - Resident concerned about a house being damaged by passing traffic. More signage suggested to be supported by parish council. Locality budget may be available. Width restriction and ignore Sat Nav signage will be requested to Highways. Existing abandoned 'Unsuitable for HGV' sign at the top of Venn also to be reinstated.
- b) Welcome to Dartmouth sign also needs reinstating. Clerk to contact Highways.

MAINTENANCE

- a) Ravensbourne Lane insurance claim – still insisting that quotes are too high. Clerk to chase.
- b) Defects play area. Cllr Harris to meet with inspector.
- c) Bus stop vandalism. Maintenance team to address.
- d) Birdwalk lights have been tripping. Possible fault. Cllr Elliott to investigate.
- e) Property Cinders Lane overgrown foliage. Clerk to contact owner.

PLANNING: Noted.

APPLICATIONS

- a) Application Number 3820/24/NMM
Location Address Land at Sx 855 508 Violet Drive Dartmouth.

Proposal Non-material minor amendment to planning consent 0278/24/ARM for amendments to the eastern boundary treatment.

Status: Under Consideration.

Application Type: Non-Material Minor Amendment.

b) Reference: 3373/24/VAR

Proposal: READVERTISEMENT (amended development description): Variation of condition 6 (boundary treatment) of planning consent 0647/22/FUL.

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

DECISIONS

a) Application Number 3075/24/VPO

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

Proposal: Application for modification of Section 106 Agreement on 1996/22/FUL

Status: Approved.

Application Type: Variation of S106 Agreement.

b) Application Number 3413/24/AGR

Location Address Land at SX 830 514 Blatchmore Lane Bugford.

Proposal Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed lean-to storage extension to an agricultural building measuring 18.3m (length) x 6.1m (breadth) x 5m (height to ridge).

Status: Decision Made.

Application Type Agricultural Determination – Prior approval not required.

c) Application Number 3329/24/HHO

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

Proposal Householder application for extensions and alterations to existing garden store.

Status: Approved.

WITHDRAWN

None.

Additionally:

Clerk will be on leave from 5 – 27 February 2025, Magazine will need a three-page precis of Minutes after the meeting, which will be minuted by council member.

Please contact the clerk if you are interested in serving as a Parish Councillor for Stoke Fleming.

Date of next meeting: 5 February 2025

19.00 Ron Harris Room, Stoke Fleming Village Hall

Friends Of Stoke Fleming Primary School

Set sail in the world...

Happy New Year to Stoke Fleming village from the school!

Throughout December the school enjoyed many festive events and activities including the nativity, pantomime and carol concert performances. All were a huge success – well done to all the children who took part. The children also had a visit from Father Christmas who arrived on a trailer towed by a tractor rather than his traditional sleigh – did you spot it out of your window en route to the school?



Events

This year the PTA have not sat on their laurels post-Christmas and organised a 'Clubbercise' event at Stoke Fleming Village Hall on 28 January. Perfect timing for those feeling the need to get up and moving after all that Christmas food. It was great fun as well as a workout.

How you can help...

Chess Club request

A chess club is being started at Stoke Fleming school but currently there is a shortage of chess sets. If anyone has one to donate, please drop in to reception at the school or, if it is from a local address, collection can be arranged.

Reading

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Dr. Seuss

One area that remains a key focus in primary school is teaching children to read. The above quote fits perfectly with the school's motto of helping children to set sail in the world. To do this the children need much practice and time given to this area of learning. Volunteers are needed to come into school and listen to children read. If you, or someone you know, would like to know more then please contact the school for more information.

The PTA have also set a Readathon challenge for the children in February. If you know of a child from the school, consider sponsoring their efforts to encourage them to complete the challenge. All funds will go towards the school improvements.

If you think you can help in anyway then please get in touch with the school on 01803 770244.

Nature Notes

On 23 December I saw a male firecrest in the scrubs at Little Dartmouth on the border with Stoke Fleming, the second this year; the other was seen in my garden on 14 September. The peregrine falcon was seen flying from Warren Cove to mature trees at Redlap on 30 December. On the same day I saw a male kestrel flying over Weeke Hill and perched in a mature sycamore near the A379. In my garden a coal tit came on 12 December and a male blackcap on 16 December and stayed at present.

On 10 December I saw a great white egret on the north of Slapton Ley over The Gara, the second I had seen. The first was over the Venn Stream to Venn Pools on 10 February 2021. In November the Nature Diary from the Dartmouth Chronicle stated that four great white egrets flew up together. A little egret was seen in one of the Riversbridge Pools on 10 January and a heron at the big pond at Combe.

On 16 December at 18.30 three roe deer thundered down the field next to NT Little Dartmouth Track. A jay was seen in the north Little Dartmouth car park on 22 November. On 8 December there was a mistle thrush in Venn Lane near Cotton and a dozen long-tailed tits in Cotton Track on 22 December. I conversed with the tawny owl from my front door at 17.30 on Christmas Day until 27 December and I saw another tawny owl at the same time near Riversbridge on 11 January.

DW

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Thank you, everyone. Your encouragement has truly made this meaningful, and we look forward to many more moments together. As we grow, we are committed to serving you with great food, excellent service, and providing a place where you can feel welcomed.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for believing in and supporting us.

Anita & the Trattoria Spaggia team

Loam Rangers

A short update to start 2025 – firstly, a happy and healthy New Year to everyone. Secondly, how great it is to see the magazine continuing so a huge thanks to all those involved in keeping it going

A reminder that the winter opening has one more Sunday:

Sunday 9 February 10.00 – 11.30.

We have an excellent stock of compost thanks to our wonderful riddling team.

Normal opening will commence in March along with membership renewals – so look out for the subscription renewal email in February.

January proved to be a busy month for us up on site with a couple of major pieces of work undertaken.

Our annual site clean and tidy took place on 19 January. The site always benefits from us keeping a good level of general maintenance and keeps access easy – for you the members but also the larger machinery for shredding and cycling the waste.

The installation of a drainage ditch and a soak-away pit has truly started thanks to all those involved it will certainly help keep the site in good shape.

We will be announcing the AGM date, most likely late February – early March so watch this space.

Steve Shakespeare – sgshakespeare@btinternet.com

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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)	Meeting Point
6 Feb	10.30	3	Kingswear circular with estuary and river views (£)	Kingswear Railway Station
13 Feb	10.00 or 10.10	3	Churston to Dartmouth via Long Wood and Higher Ferry	10.00 no. 120 bus from the Banjo Kingswear or 10.10 Churston Bridge by the Steam Train Station
20 Feb	10.30 or 11.05	2	Slapton Ley and village circular	10.30 no. 93 bus from Dartmouth Pontoon or 11.05 at Torcross Post Office
27 Feb	10.00 or 10.20	2	Berry Head, Brixham circular (£) Optional lunch at Shoals	10.00 no. 18 bus from Kingswear Banjo or 10.20 Bank Lane Brixham
6 Mar	10.30 or 11.05	3	Torcross to Beesands circular	10.30 no. 93 bus from Dartmouth Pontoon or 11.05 at Torcross Post Office

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Prickles in a Pickle

Happy New Year to all. What strange and disturbing things carry on all around the world. Meanwhile in Hedgehog land we are already on the 13th admission.



Last year the figures showed a 79% success rate which is very high in the world of rescue but of course we always strive for better. We are hoping for a bit more respite over the next few weeks and patients coming in in single rather than double figures each day while we prepare for the spring babies. Sometimes it is like living through a groundhog day!

Each year we compile a graph and a chart to show numbers and initial presentation and, if you are interested, the figures regarding the charity funds are on the Charity Commission web site. Funny to think that it all comes at such a cost. 2023 showed an increase in running costs from £42,000 per annum to £70,000 per annum, what is even more remarkable is that with the help of people like you reading this and all our followers, we managed to raise this money. We receive no other funding other than donations and fund raising.

This year we have submitted plans for moving the hospital away from our home and our pre-application has been approved so we are well on the way. Fingers crossed.

So a little reminder, 'out in the day is not okay', please secure the hedgehog before calling us, in a high sided box with a towel, not leaves or straw, bring inside your house not a shed, greenhouse or garage. Place in the box a hot water bottle filled with hand hot water, leaving enough for the hedgehog to move closer and away from the heat as it needs. If you have a dog just put the hedgehog in a bathroom or loo and shut the door. Not all hedgehogs have fleas, those that do, they are host specific, ie they can only thrive on hedgehogs and will not infest your dog, cat or mother-in-law, or make a home in your soft furnishings. Then make the call to us.

Mums and babies: if you disturb a nest, secure mum first, put the babies in with her and bring inside to a quiet place. Mum will run off if you disturb her but she will come back when you are gone and look for her babies.

We still need some extra help here if you have any hours free: washing up, feeding or the full Monty, give us a call.

Lovely to see the magazine continuing, well done to all who have made it possible.

Best Wishes Judy and Alan and all at PIAP.

G.P & S. Lock

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Sport and Exercise at the Village Hall and Recreation Ground

Tuesdays

09.30-10.30 Zest Stretch and Reset Yoga, designed to improve flexibility, strength and to help you de-stress. 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.

Fridays

09.15-10.15 Move with Grace Pilates, a mixed level mat work class. Contact Grace: 07757 907025 / www.movewithgrace.co.uk.

18.30-19.45 Ju-Jitsu and Self-Defence Children's class. Contact John: 07783 334746.

19.30-21.15 Ju-Jitsu and Self-Defence Adult class followed by guided Buddhist Meditation 8.15 – 9.15 pm Graham and John are certified Black Belts with over 80 years experience in Martial Arts. Contact John: 07783 334746.

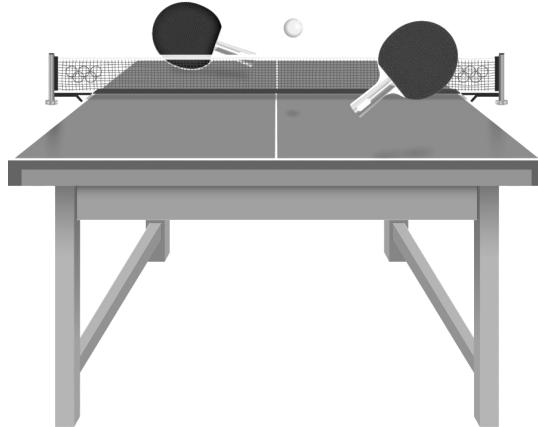
Sundays

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.*

If you are interested in helping to start up a new Stoke Fleming Martial Arts Gentle Exercise and Movement Class on Mondays contact Caroline Hart on 07492 681677.

STOKE FLEMING TABLE TENNIS CLUB



Would you like to join us?

TABLE TENNIS

at

STOKE FLEMING VILLAGE HALL
on
TUESDAY EVENINGS

from 7 pm to 9 pm

No membership fee, just £4 per session
Over 18's only

***Five Table Tennis tables available**

***Bats & balls can be provided**

We play all year except for August time and over Christmas
- please check for details

For more information contact Kim on 07594 223673

Dartmouth Club de Pétanque

We would like to wish our members and everyone in the community a very happy New Year. As we say farewell to 2024, and enter the club's 36th year, we can look back on a good year with plenty of play, competitions and camaraderie.

During the year we have been delighted to welcome at least 10 new members; this has given the club 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 any new residents recently arrived in the village, to come and try their hand at this very sociable game. Commonly known as French Boules, Pétanque derives its name from “pied tanque”, meaning “feet tied together”, which is the starting position at the commence of play.

Dartmouth Club de Pétanque's terrain is situated in the lower part of the playing fields, and meets on Wednesdays and Sundays, from 10.30, 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!)

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.

Edo Ju-Jitsu in the Village Hall



Happy New Year wishes from Graham and John who are certified Black Belts with over 80 years of experience in Martial Arts. They offer a full range of grappling, locks and throws according to the Samurai unarmed defence system of Japan. They also offer a comprehensive system of boxing, Thai boxing and Wing Chun Kung Fu trapping – all mixed together for a real-world self defence system. They look forward to seeing you at their Friday training events at the Village Hall.

Nothing Ever Changes

The first picture in the new magazine, I hope you enjoy the challenge, so let's see how you get on with this month's picture going back to 1900.

Now the only question is where are we now?



B J Morris Tel: 770754 email – barry219morris@btinternet.com

Who Cares Club

This is a friendly group of those who are or have been caring for a friend or loved one. All will have experienced the heartbreak and problems associated with being a carer although when we meet we have some fun and enjoy each other's company and there is a special bond engendered by experiences. Please contact John Mitchel to find out more: 835030.

ALADDIN'S CAVE



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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

WANTED Prickles in a Pickle needs lots of steriliser, newspapers, etc.

20 Well Park Place. Judy: 07891 657104

Alan: 07970 983608

Alan: 07970 983608

01803 771086

"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 us on 01803 771086.

Volunteers are needed to listen to children reading at our Primary School. Please contact the school on 01803 770244.

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.

Come to Townstal Community Hall on a Friday 10.00 – 13.00 and chat about volunteering opportunities at our Dartmouth & District Foodbank.

To volunteer at Start Point Lighthouse for a minimum of two days a month from Easter to the end of September contact Mary Newman on 07855 483865.

Please contact the Parish Clerk if you are interested in serving as a Parish Councillor for Stoke Fleming.

The Community Kitchen is often looking for good confident home cooks to join our team. Training given. Contact houseonthehill661@gmail.com



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Useful Contact Details

(Local Area Code: 01803)

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

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Stoke Fleming Voice is a charity run by parish volunteers for parish residents.

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	John Haynes	07375 069975
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	Suzie Dodsworth	770134
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, Sec to Trustees	770305
Wednesday Ladies	Jill Fell	771137
Youth Club	Rev Matt Gorton, stokeflemingyouthclub@gmail.com	906861