

# Stoke Fleming Voice

March 2025





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H O T E L

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## Editorial

Welcome to the March edition of Stoke Fleming Voice, the second issue of our magazine.

I wondered if I should have a theme for my turn writing the editorial, then I realised I had been given one by all the contributors to the magazine: Activity! Information has flooded in over the last week about events taking place throughout March, in our village and the surrounding area.

- A broad variety of fitness classes including a martial arts club just forming.
- Pancake races up the church aisle on Shrove Tuesday!
- A TASDAK lecture called “**The Shakespeare of Dogs**” which for a dog friendly area seems an appropriate title. (Whilst on the subject of dogs, there has been an increase in the number of dogs who are performing their daily functions without their human companion noticing. Please can we all take care and clean up after our dogs).
- The Start Bay Players are working on their next production.
- The Green Dragon will be showing the Six Nations rugby matches for those wanting to watch activity!
- The Flavel has a packed calendar this month including several live theatre screenings, a piano recital and Dartmouth Rock.
- The top ten jobs to do in your garden this month from Gardentime, with Loam Rangers re-opening on 2 March.
- Food tips from the Community Kitchen.
- Good news from Prickles in a Pickle about a very nice new home in Somerset for some of their hedgehogs.

The above is just a fraction of what is happening in March. Read on to start planning your month.

In this magazine you will find a leaflet from The Village Hall. The Hall is an important resource for the village and in recognition of this we have agreed to distribute this on their behalf.

Thanks to Debbie who notified us of an error in the Dartmouth Banking Hub details which has been corrected for this edition.

On behalf of the team, thank you for your support and please pass on any comments or ideas when you see us, or email [stokeflemingvoice@gmail.com](mailto:stokeflemingvoice@gmail.com).

**Jenny Hailstone – Co-editor**

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

## Readers Ramblings

It is said that there are two certainties in life – death and taxes. I think there is a third. Whatever you buy, from cars to cookers, it will have a guarantee/warranty. It doesn't matter what cover you have, the thing will go wrong within days of your cover running out! Of course, many of them are designed to last just the length of the cover you have .... but, nevertheless, you now have no cover.



There are no guarantees; and life treats us very differently. I cannot begin to imagine what it must be like to lose a child to "knife crime"; or what it must be like to walk into the rubble that was once your home. And I cannot offer any clever words that might make anyone feel just that bit better. My own experience with bereavement was that you can't walk around it: you have to walk through it.

At the risk of upsetting anyone who simply cannot accept this, I have to say that I believe we are never actually alone.

Life for most of us, and a lot of the time, is pretty damn good. We live in a beautiful place, we have friends and family, and some other wonderful people around us. Rather than being depressed by the seemingly endless news in the media, wouldn't it be wonderful if we look for the joy of being alive? If we give out love, we will feel it reflected back to us.

I am reminded of a story told by the late Rabbi Lionel Blue: Mannie Cohen was well known and rather wealthy. When he died, his widow was told that she really should put an announcement in "The Times" newspaper. She enquired and found that it was quite expensive, especially if you exceeded a rather limited number of words. She thought long and hard about her dear husband, and decided on these words: "Mannie dead. Volvo for sale".

You have to keep a sense of perspective, don't you?

God bless you all.

**Frank Robinson**

## From the Registers

4 December. Richard Thomas Howard. Funeral followed by cremation.

## St Peter's Church Services for March

Sun 2 Mar	Sunday before Lent	11.00 Holy Communion
Tue 4 Mar	Shrove Tuesday	Pancake Day (see page 4)
Wed 5 Mar	Ash Wednesday	19.00 United Benefice Holy Communion with Ashing at Blackawton
Fri 7 Mar	United Benefice World Day of Prayer.	15.00 Service followed by tea at St Peter's
Sun 9 Mar	Lent 1	11.00 Morning Worship 16.00 THE 4
Sun 16 Mar	Lent 2	11.00 Communion by extension
Sun 23 Mar	Lent 3	11.00 Morning Worship
Sun 30 Mar	Mothering Sunday	10.00 Special Mothering Sunday Service

## Little Stars

Our little stars were very spotty last month, some quite poorly with chickenpox. Hopefully they will be blooming soon like the spring flowers, our church will be open every Monday 09.00 – 10.30 school term time.

Everyone welcome.

**Heather, Sue and Peter**

## Stoke Fleming Youth Club

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 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.

If you have any further questions please message our Facebook page or email [stokeflemingyouthclub@gmail.com](mailto:stokeflemingyouthclub@gmail.com).

## St Peter's Pancakes – Tuesday 4 March

Shrove Tuesday is Pancake Day; to commemorate this together with the beginning of Lent, there will be a special pancake event in St Peter's Church on Tuesday 4 March. All are welcome. No tickets are required but donations to St Peter's church would be much appreciated; come and go as you please.



The approximate programme is as follows:

14.00: Afternoon Pancakes with refreshments – especially for those who don't like to venture out too late in the day. (Vegetarian and wheat-free options are available.)

15.30: After school Pancakes, with pancake races up the aisle of the church for young people of all ages.

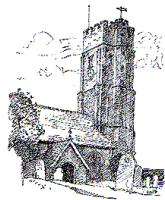
16.00: Short service in the churchyard (weather permitting) including the story of the pancake and how it relates to Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, followed by the burning of the palm crosses from last year's Palm Sunday.

I hope to see you there.

**“Pancake Pam”**

St Peter's Church  
warmly invites all families  
to the special  
**Mothering Sunday Service**

at  
10.00 on Sunday 30 March



Tea and Coffee, Bacon Rolls and  
Croissants from 09.30

Toys out for the *Little Stars*  
Short Service at 10.00



Small bunches of flowers for children to give their Mums

# **Shrove Tuesday**

# **PANCAKE DAY**

**Pancake Afternoon  
in St Peter's Church**

**Tuesday 4 March  
starting at 2pm**

**Pancake races for the children  
after school at 3.30pm**

**Followed by a very short service  
and the burning of last year's Palm crosses**



## Get growing with Gardentime!

March heralds the start of spring and with it comes the optimism of better times on the horizon. Longer days, brighter weather and warmer soils all give us the energy we need to get out and tackle our gardens and allotments!



Vegetable and flower seedlings can now be hardened off ready to plant out when the weather allows. If you've not sown yet, there is still plenty of time to get started. Our shop at Gardentime is kitted out with everything you will need for successful propagation of all your favourites. Don't forget, it's also time to plant summer flowering bulbs too - gladioli, dahlias and lilies are amongst our range.

The garden centre is now packed with fresh new plants ready for your patio pots and borders. New season roses, fruit bushes, seasonal shrubs, rockery plants and herbs are all looking superb. If you do not have much outside space you might want to visit our amazing new houseplant emporium, filled with foliage and flowering plants to enhance your home.

It's time to stock up with compost, soil conditioners and bark – let us take the strain – make use of our delivery service. We'll get those heavy bags placed where you need them. Our 50%-off pot range has been topped up with wonderful new pots, including colourful glazed and terracotta.

Don't forget to visit our newly refurbished Café, it has a fresh new look for spring! We have a new look menu too, including delicious new breakfasts and a kids' menu, as well as our established favourites.

### Top 10 garden jobs for early Spring:

- Plant out onions, shallots and chitted potatoes.
- Keep on top of the weeds, hoe and mulch now to save time later.
- Protect young plants and shoots from slug and snail attack.
- Plant summer flowering bulbs such as dahlias and gladioli.
- Cut back winter stems of willow and dogwood.
- Tidy planted containers ready for the coming season, add fresh compost and feed.
- Continue to feed the garden birds, they're busy nesting and need your help!
- Lift and divide perennial plants to multiply your plants and avoid overcrowding.
- Prune bush and climbing roses, top dress with soil conditioner and feed.
- Start mowing the lawn on dry days if required.

## Children's Hospice South West

The very popular Easter Fair in aid of Children's Hospice South West (CHSW) will take place this year on Saturday 5 April from 10.00 to 15.00 at 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. All stalls are booked.

Contact **Sue Tweed** on 07955 197721 or [tweed833@btinternet.com](mailto:tweed833@btinternet.com) for further details.



### Local Private Chef & Small Party Caterer

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## News from Stoke Fleming Library

The public computer here at the Village Hall is available for two hours free and we can also do A4 photocopying and printing in black and white and colour for you.

There is a free legal clinic on the first Friday of every month 10.00 – 12.00 at Dartmouth Library. You can speak to a professional from Start Point Law for help and advice. Please contact Dartmouth Library to book an appointment on 01803 832502.

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

Stoke Fleming Library opens

Mon: 15.00 – 17.00, Tue: 10.30 – 12.30 and Thur: 15.00 – 17.00.

Ample free parking here at the Village Hall when you visit in person, which is a bonus!

# THE GREEN DRAGON

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## The Green Dragon

It's been lovely to welcome everyone back since we re-opened following our break; we are raring to go for the spring and summer ahead!

Everywhere has had a lick of paint and lots of work has gone on in our kitchen and behind the scenes. We have updated some of our furnishings for a fresh but subtle new look; I wonder if you've noticed..?

### ***What's on @ The Dragon....***

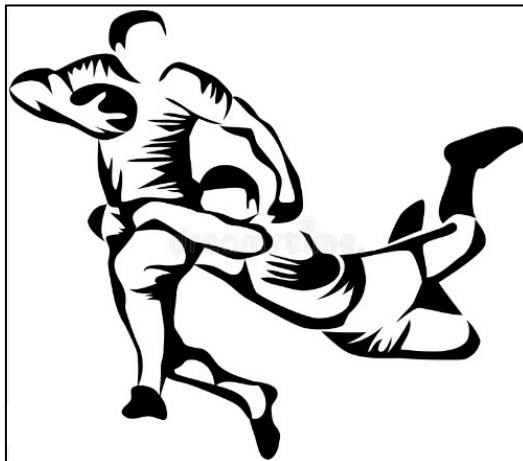
Come and watch the Six Nations with us and catch all the action live on our screen!!

We are now serving "Putty's Amazing Breakfasts" every Friday and Saturday from 10.00 – full English, veggie options and freshly baked croissants.

Our music programme will start with a live act every month, and we are also looking forward to hosting more Guest Chef pop ups!!

Keep an eye on our social media pages and our notice board outside the pub for further information.

**Georgie and Alan**



## Craft Club

The March meeting will be held on Friday 7 March at 14.00 in the Ron Harris room at the Village Hall. We welcome any ladies who would like to join us for a sociable afternoon when we knit, stitch and sew our various projects and have that important cup of tea. We are happy to offer tuition to anyone interested in taking up a new hobby.



## Start Point Lighthouse

Why is Start Point Lighthouse painted white and not red and white?

Why do we still need lighthouses? Who runs it?

If you are curious about this iconic building, come and join me and learn about being a tour guide or an assistant. We shall be open one or two days a week from Easter. Full training given – just ring 07855 483865 or email [info@startpointdevon.co.uk](mailto:info@startpointdevon.co.uk).

**Mary Newman**

## Mother's Day at Stoke Lodge



Celebrate the significant lady in your life with afternoon tea at Stoke Lodge Hotel this Mother's Day!

Start your afternoon with a glass of bubbly to toast the occasion followed by savoury bites such as Devon crab tartlet with bronze fennel salad. Choose between plain or honey and pear scones with clotted cream and jams, and of course no afternoon tea would be complete without sweet treats; why not indulge with rhubarb custard tart or dark chocolate cremeux with pecan brittle.

Email us at [hello@stokelodge.co.uk](mailto:hello@stokelodge.co.uk) or call us on 01803770523 to book.

## Stoke Fleming Village Hall

The Trustees of the hall are working towards a more sustainable heating system but in the meantime they will be installing a “Heat Miser” app which makes the control of the heating in both the hall and the Ron Harris room much simpler for the caretaker.



There will be some re-decoration done in the hall in April. The dates to be confirmed when forward bookings are known. It will take 3-4 days at no cost to the Trustees.

The hall is being well used after the Christmas break with several pilates and yoga groups, short mat bowls and table tennis on a regular basis. The Village Hall web site has the bookings posted each week. See also page 33 for the exercise programme.

We are lucky to have this hall in such good shape that it can have a birthday party one day, pilates the next, Mum and Baby Postnatal Yoga and then the usual village meetings that keep us interested and informed over the month and we don't have to feed the meter with 50p's....! Our kitchen area has sufficient room to cook and heat food, and masses of plates and cups and saucers for any amount of entertaining, together with a commercial dishwasher. Instructions on how to use the machines are in the kitchen for all to use.

Fundraising will continue throughout the year so we can keep ahead of the upgrades to the various systems after 25 years of village use.

The annual AGM takes place in early April. Details on page 11. Do come and support the Trustees and hear how they intend to keep the hall in excellent shape for the next 25 years.

MN

## Wednesday Ladies

Wednesday Ladies March meeting is on Wednesday 12 March, 14.30 in the Ron Harris room. The speaker this month is Nicola Darling and her topic is “**Easter flower wreaths**”. There will be a demonstration followed by a chance to have a go ourselves.

We always welcome new members; just come to our meeting on the 12 March or phone Jill (01803 771137) for more information.

## **The Members of Stoke Fleming Village Hall Management Committee**

invite all parishioners to the

### **Village Hall Annual General Meeting**

at 19.30 on Monday 7 April 2025

In the Ron Harris room, Stoke Fleming Village Hall

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

Nominations in writing, which must be both proposed and seconded, and have the agreement of the nominee, should be sent to:

The Hall Chairman, Mr J. Belli, Oak Tree, Rose Farm, Bowden, Dartmouth, Devon TQ6 0LH. Email: [johnbelli@btinternet.com](mailto:johnbelli@btinternet.com) by 28 March 2025.

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

## **Exciting News from the 100 Club!**

We're thrilled to announce that **Mr Cliff Bailey** is the lucky winner of our January draw with ticket number 164. He takes home a prize of £22 – congratulations Cliff!

### **This year's prizes are:**

- **Monthly prize:** £22
- **Quarterly prizes:** £55, £33 and £22
- **Christmas jackpot:** Quarterly prizes plus a festive £68!

Joining the 100 Club not only gives you a chance to win these amazing prizes but also helps support our Village Hall. Good luck, and see you at the next draw. For more details contact [sfvh100club@gmail.com](mailto:sfvh100club@gmail.com).

## **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.

## Stoke Fleming Loam Rangers

We approach the new “open season” for the SFLR with the weekly Sunday opening commencing on 2 March.

The team supported by our army of volunteers (seen here enjoying a break) have been busy up on site with a couple of key activities over the winter months:



- A new drainage channel installed to address a flooding issue we had around the final riddling bay. A special thanks to Gary, Simon Holmes and Dave Harris for their work, and SHDC for their financial support.
- Thanks to everyone who turned out for our annual tidy up on 19 January – the site is looking pretty good ahead of the new season.

Talking of volunteers, it is fundamental to our operation to have two volunteers on site every Sunday – helping members with their waste, keeping things tidy and dishing out our wonderful compost.

As ever we are grateful to all our volunteers but would ask everyone to respond to the request for preferred dates on our “duty rota” – I know Paul has had quite a few but we desperately need to fill in a few gaps particularly in the next couple of months.

**The AGM is scheduled for Wednesday 9 April 18.00 at the Village Hall.**  
Please also look out for the membership renewal emails in March – a prompt response and payment would be greatly appreciated.

As a “not for profit” organisation we pride ourselves on being able to support other parish groups and organisations with a financial contribution where our funds allow. I am pleased to be able to say that it looks as though this can continue in 2025.

I therefore invite requests from any parish group or organisation to apply for up to £250 – requests should be by email to [sgshakespeare@btinternet.com](mailto:sgshakespeare@btinternet.com). Please give details of your organisation and what the money would be used for. Requests need to be submitted by 31 Mar 25 and organisations will be notified of the outcome in April.

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

**Steve Shakespeare** ([sgshakespeare@btinternet.com](mailto:sgshakespeare@btinternet.com), 07970 137311)

## News from The Hort and Sport

Very well done to the new Village Voice Team for producing their first publication at the end of January. All the news we're used to and some extra bits besides – an excellent start.

Here we are thinking about March and hoping for some lovely spring sunshine. We have certainly endured some stormy and wet weather, although I did read that January had been one of the sunniest Januaries ever – not entirely sure that covered the South West!! Lots of reasons to be starting some gardening and seed sowing this month as well as enjoying all the spring blossom. There are lots of hints and useful information available on the RHS website; just visit [rhs.org.uk](http://rhs.org.uk) for some inspiration. We are already planning for our Annual Plant Sale on Saturday 10 May so will be very pleased to receive donations of surplus seedlings, plants and perennials on the day.

We are, of course, also hard at work planning for the Annual Show on Bank Holiday, Monday 25 August. We are working on the schedule and already looking for ways to make the day even more enjoyable for all our visitors and supporters. There are lots of ways everyone can help out so please get in touch if you have an hour or two to spare. We are looking for cake bakers and people prepared to serve teas, help with the barbecue, games, stalls and all sorts of events on the field. We also need help to set everything up on the Saturday and Sunday and pack away on the Monday. Pop the date in your diary now and let's all work together to put on another fantastic day for Stoke Fleming.

**Shirley** (770468)



Stoke Fleming Horticultural  
& Sports Society

Founded in 1875

## **Stoke Fleming Living Churchyard**

Despite the cold, wet and windy weather in January and February, there are signs that spring is on its way. The tête à tête narcissi we planted either side of the main church path two years ago are starting to bloom, as are the snowdrops and primroses in other parts of the churchyard. Thoughts are turning to planning for the new season.



By the time you read this the group of shrubs beside the path to the Coffin Walk will have been trimmed, and the remaining brambles along the east and north walls will have been cleared. We thank Nathan Brown and Pat Tucker for this work, and for clearing away all the rubbish afterwards. The latter especially is one less job for our volunteers to undertake and is much appreciated.

There will, however, be work for our volunteers before long. Towards the end of March the grass in the wildflower area will be strimmed once again, and the cuttings will need raking and taking to Loam Rangers. Also during March, after flowering, we intend to move some primroses and snowdrops into the area. If you would like to join our enthusiastic working party, and have the occasional hour or so to spare for work in March and throughout the summer, please contact [jennyhaley029@gmail.com](mailto:jennyhaley029@gmail.com).

Stoke Fleming Living Churchyard is a Friends of St Peter's project, and more information can be found on the FoSP website ([www.fospstokefleming.com](http://www.fospstokefleming.com)).

## **Dartmouth & District Flower Club**

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

Subscription for the year is £35, with a small charge of about £3 at each meeting. There is always tea and cake served after the demonstration.

Next meeting: 6 March: **Julia Harrison:**  
**“Relax and Play”**



Contact: **Gwendoline (833270)**

## Community Kitchen

We had a terrific lunch in Trattoria Spaggia on Valentine's Day when love was in the air! We started with a glass of prosecco and a cheese canapé, followed by Chicken Arabiatta with a parmesan dumpling and vegetables and then our usual spread of five puddings. It was well received and our special thanks to Anita for inviting us to use Trattoria Spaggia for our January and February lunches.



We will be back in the Village Hall for our next lunch on Friday 21 March. The tickets will be on sale from the Village Shop on Monday 3 March. Tickets cost £10 with an extra £2 to pay on the day of the lunch to save Laura the hassle of finding change in the shop. This is our 6th year of running the lunches – what a journey!

Come with a friend, be prepared to be sociable, meet new folk, enjoy a hot meal and be amazed at the variety of puddings. More importantly – no washing up.

The Community Kitchen team are all enthusiastic home cooks but we never know who has bought tickets for the lunch so we need to know your dietary concerns BEFORE the lunch. We cannot magic up a different meal on the day.



February and March are still chilly months and we need hot, varied food until the warmer weather comes. Try to think "colourful" for variety using cans of beans or packets of lentils, add to some mince or chicken and flavour with chopped herbs, lemon zest, salt & pepper. Make homemade soup out of all the wonderful local vegetables – cauliflower, beetroot, leeks, brussels sprout tops.

Grill fish with just a squeeze of lemon juice and salt and pepper and do try to avoid the "air miles" of imported soft fruit (however colourful they look!). It is the season of citrus fruit when a variety of satsumas/tangerines/clementines are in the shops all providing valuable vitamin C, along with English apples and pears. Use local shops if you are able to, likewise local butchers if you value the farmers we have in our area.

**Mary Newman**  
[houseonthehill661@gmail.com](mailto:houseonthehill661@gmail.com)

## Dartmouth & District Food Bank

DARTMOUTH & DISTRICT  
**FOOD BANK**

Townstal Community Hall  
Friday 11am to 12:45pm

.....  
.....

**We are looking for  
volunteers to help us:**

**> Fridays 10am to 1pm**

**> Mondays 5.15pm to 6.15pm**

Come have a chat on a Friday to see  
what is involved

New volunteers will always be with an  
experienced volunteer



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

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

## Stoke Fleming & District Probus Club

A Probus Club lunch meeting will be held at the Stoke Lodge Hotel on Wednesday 12 March, commencing with coffee at 10.30, followed by a talk by Andy Gilbrook entitled "**MI6 - Life in the British Intelligence Service**". Ever wondered what it would be like to be a real-life spy? Andy will tell us a harrowing story all about his recruitment, his life inside the Secret Intelligence Service and how he eventually came to leave.

Our second meeting of the month will be held at the Stoke Lodge Hotel on Wednesday 26 March, beginning at 10.30 with coffee, followed by a talk by David Hinchcliffe entitled "**Kiwis in Torquay Between 1917 and 1919**".

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

**Peter Hales (07969 248397 / 770739)**

# CRAB SHELL



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## Dartmouth Caring

Supporting Our Community

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

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

Some of our services are listed alongside.

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

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

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

01803 835384

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



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

## News from Stoke Fleming Primary School

Little Lanterns have been looking at the book “Here comes Jack Frost” by Kazuno Kahara and finding out about Winter. We then worked together to make some artwork inspired by the pictures in the book.

We also had a special visit from one of Mrs Rowdon’s new lambs.

Class Challenger have been learning about the importance of our Emergency Services. This week we have been finding out about the role of Firefighters. We have drawn and painted fire engines, written about Firefighters and discussed the importance of checking our smoke alarms at home. We have learnt the number for phoning the Emergency Services.

Class Challenger have also been practising their drawing skills. They have carefully followed a tutorial and learnt how to draw a penguin.



Class Invincible have been minibeast hunters! We explored two microhabitats on our school field looking for minibeasts! We found lots of woodlouse, worms, slugs and snails. In our Science lessons we are investigating all living things in their habitats. It was a very exciting afternoon!



We have also been growing sunflowers in support of our English text “Seed to Sunflower”. We were very excited this week to have been able to watch our little seedlings growing at a rapid pace!

At Forest school, class Victory have been exploring and repairing storm damage. This has been the perfect opportunity to discuss the life cycle of trees, animal habitats and how we use wood.

Class Discovery have been busy learning about fractions in our Maths lessons and prepositional phrases in our Writing sessions.

Year 4 have been enjoying their swimming lessons, while year 5 have been evaluating a range of stuffed toys. These evaluations will support the children in

making decisions when they all create their own stuffed toys, in their Design Technology lessons.



Last month we were thrilled to have Drum Devon working with our Year 4 children. They learned the basics of drumming and spent the session creating a brilliant piece of music. The children had an amazing time, and I was so impressed with what they achieved in such a short space of time. Their final performance to their classmates was outstanding! You can find a video of their performance on our Facebook page—be sure to check it out!

In January some of our Year 6 children went to Dartmouth Academy for *Youth Speaks*. This is a public speaking competition organised by Rotary International, designed to develop young people's communication skills, including debating, presenting, and performing. I was incredibly proud of the children who represented our school with such confidence and skill. We entered four teams, and I'm thrilled to share that Stoke Fleming B team won the Dartmouth heat.



**Chris Harrison – Headteacher**

## 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](mailto:barry219morris@btinternet.com)

## **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 subjects. Our March lecture entitled: “**The Shakespeare of Dogs – The life and work of Sir Edwin Landseer**” will be on Monday 10 March 2025 at 14.30.

In his heyday Edwin Landseer was hugely celebrated and loved for his paintings of dogs and highland stags ...and for his lions in Trafalgar Square. He was a child prodigy who later became known for his vivid and varied textures of fur, skin and hair which he achieved with specially designed brushes. He was much in demand with the aristocracy and with Royalty and taught Queen Victoria how to etch. Sadly, he became exhausted and demoralised and retreated to the wilds of Scotland where he became a recluse.

## **Knit & Natter**

An excellent chance to get to know others over a drink – while knitting, the Dartmouth Caring Knit and Natter group meets in the Dartmouth Health Centre from 14.00 to 16.00 every Wednesday.

This is an opportunity to knit and crochet in a warm and supportive space with others who enjoy everything “Wool” and learning from one another. As well as getting on with your latest creation it is a chance to get advice on those tricky stitches and patterns you are struggling with.

Free tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits are provided. Why not come and join us – just give us a call on 01803 835384 to let us know you are coming.



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

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

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

Monday	HSBC
Tuesday	<b>NatWest</b> **
Wednesday	<b>Lloyds</b> **
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.

*(\*\* Correction: In the last edition the days for NatWest and Lloyds were reversed. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.)*

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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)**

Every Sunday 10.00 to 11.30 from 2 March.

### **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.

## March 2025

Sat	1	
Sun	2	10.00 – 11.30 Loam Rangers site re-opens
Mon	3	Tickets for Community Kitchen Lunch available at Village Shop
Tue	4	Shrove Tuesday 14.00 Pancakes in St Peter's church 17.30 Stoke Fleming Youth Club
Wed	5	19.00 Parish Council, Village Hall
Thur	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 19.30 Village Hall AGM
Sat	8	Dinner and bingo at Blackpool Sands, for Stoke Fleming School
Sun	9	
Mon	10	14.30 TASDAK, The Flavel
Tue	11	17.30 Stoke Fleming Youth Club
Wed	12	10.30 Probus Lunch Meeting, Stoke Lodge Hotel 14.30 Wednesday Ladies, Ron Harris Room
Thur	13	10.00 U3A Meeting, The Flavel
Fri	14	
Sat	15	
Sun	16	COPY DATE FOR APRIL MAGAZINE
Mon	17	
Tue	18	17.30 Stoke Fleming Youth Club
Wed	19	
Thur	20	
Fri	21	12.30 Community Kitchen Lunch, Village Hall
Sat	22	
Sun	23	
Mon	24	
Tue	25	17.30 Stoke Fleming Youth Club
Wed	26	10.30 Probus Meeting, Stoke Lodge Hotel
Thur	27	
Fri	28	Deadline for village hall trustee nominations (see page 11) 15.00 Pre-loved uniform sale, Stoke Fleming School
Sat	29	
Sun	30	Mothers' day
Mon	31	Deadline for "early bird" brown bin subscription

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

A monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 5 February 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 at the meeting of the Parish Council: Cllr David Harris (Chair), Cllr Tim Moseley (Vice-Chair), Cllr Tilly Crowther, Cllr John Belli, Cllr Jay Floyd, Cllr Bella Johnston

Also invited: County Cllr Julian Brazil, District Cllr Simon Rake,

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Parish Clerk – Sharon Whelon, Cllr Phil Elliott, Cllr Jack Handley

### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 8 January 2025, AND PLANNING SITE MEETING NOTES.**

Agreed and signed by the Chairman of the meeting as true and correct records

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Bella Johnston declared an interest with respect to the Stoke Lodge planning application.

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.** Five members of the public attended to share an outline of the proposed Woodland Management Plan for Stoke Lodge which involves removal of alien species and replacement with native trees. The council was broadly in support of the proposal but highlighted dredging the pond and removal of trees threatening neighbouring properties.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT.** No progress to report on devolution. The local government re-organisation will result in Devon being split into one or two unitary authorities. Future funding will be a major issue. County Elections will take place in May. County budget will be increased by 5%.

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT.** Proposed increase in Council tax will not cover the expected increase in National Insurance costs. Parking charges will be increased. Following an incident at Little Cotton leading to a suspect being arrested, the District Councillor and MP attended to reassure residents. The Police will lead a multi-agency response to ensure the matter is resolved. Applications have been made to the District Locality fund by the Village Hall Trustees and the revamped village magazine. The need for dog waste bins on Little Cotton will be further raised with SHDC but funding is an issue.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

a) Proposed new car park - dialogue with the landowner continues.

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

- a) Toilets – School Road. Purchase is in progress; meters have been read.
- b) Pavilion – change of use.
- c) Football club use of playing field update. No further update received from club.

## **COMMUNITY**

- a) Slapton Line Partnership update - no progress to report.
- b) Metal Detectorist policy for Recreation Field. A need for a policy was agreed. Action: Cllr Floyd to investigate a suitable policy.

**ROADS & TRANSPORT** Problems of obstruction have been reported in School Road along the new houses. Residents are to be reminded to park considerately. Hazard to road users reported on Church Road opposite the Post Office due to vehicles being parked for extended periods causing difficulty for service vehicles. Reminder to be put on social media. Action: Cllr Floyd.

## **MAINTENANCE**

- a) Ravensbourne Lane insurance claim: decision deferred until March.
- b) To approve renewal of cleaning contract of pavilion toilets. Approved.
- c) Query on drain clearing (TM). Action: Cllr Harris to arrange with Exjet.
- d) Gate to Recreation Field replacement. Work in hand.
- e) Cotton Estate request for bin, costs received from SHDC: full floor mounted multipurpose bin c.£500 depending on the fixtures and fittings required. Weekly empty per bin c.£365 a year. Council strongly believes initial outfit and emptying costs are for SHDC especially in light of possible re-organisation.
- f) Birdwalk Lighting now repaired.

## **COUNCIL AND ACTIONS REGISTER**

- a) Councillor vacancy – one remaining. Minimum one year Parish residency for potential candidates is not a statutory requirement.

## **PLANNING:**

### **APPLICATIONS**

- a) Application Number 4076/24/ARC.  
Location Address Land at Sx 855 508, Violet Drive, Dartmouth.  
Proposal: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 2 (Materials / Finishes) of planning consent 0278/24/ARM. Application Type: Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions.

b) Reference: 3493/24/TPO.

Proposal: Please see accompanying Woodland Management Plan and specific proposal DRG 1, 2 & 3 for details of proposed works. Site Address: Stoke Lodge Cinders Lane Stoke Fleming TQ6 0RA.

c) Reference: 0183/25/TCA .

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

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

## **DECISIONS**

a) Application Number: 1343/24/ADV.

Location Address: Blackpool Sands Cafe, Blackpool, TQ6 0RG.

Proposal: Three illuminated free-standing advertisements. Status: Approved.

Application Type: Advertisement Consent.

b) Application Number: 3374/24/ARC.

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

Proposal: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 15 (Boundary Treatments) to planning consent 0647/22/FUL. Status: Approved.

Application Type: Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions.

c) 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: Approved. Application Type: Non Material Minor Amendment.

d) Application Number: 0872/24/FUL.

Location Address: Cornish Post Farm Blackawton TQ9 7AW.

Proposal: Retention of implemented engineering works and erection of proposed hay, straw and fertilizer storage building.

Status: Approved. Application Type: Full Planning Application.

e) Application Number: 0871/24/FUL

Location Address: Cornish Post Farm Blackawton TQ9 7AW

Proposal: Retention of implemented engineering works and erection of proposed machinery storage and farm workshop building.

Status: Approved. Application Type: Full Planning Application.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 5 March 2025 at 19.00.**

# Friends Of Stoke Fleming Primary School

## ***Set sail in the world...***

With the first half term of 2025 completed we can safely say that it has been a positive and productive time for the PTA at Stoke Fleming School. The Clubbercise event was enjoyed by many and was a good antidote to all that Christmas indulgence. However, to counter this there has also been a bake sale at the school. These always result in a sellout so be sure to get there quickly to avoid disappointment at the next one!



## **Events**

On Friday 14 March 2025 there will be dinner and bingo at Blackpool Sands! This is a new event and so if bingo is your “thingo” put the date in your diary and watch out for more information to follow.

On Thursday 27 March there is a pre-loved uniform sale in the school playground from 15.00.

The readathon has now been launched challenging the children to find individual ways to increase and improve their reading. All funds go towards the school library raised through sponsorship of this event.

## **Thank you!**

We want to say a huge thank you to Fresh Dental for funds totalling over £1,000 towards our new library shelving making it easier for children to access books.

Also, a big thank you to Ribeye for the donation of a picnic bench and to all those who have donated anonymously. All donations have been gratefully received.

This year we have been able to use the money raised by events to fund the purchase of 15 iPads for the school, new sports equipment and 16 ukuleles amongst other things. Thanks to everyone who has contributed time, money and creativity to making this possible.

## **How you can help...**

**Reading** – Volunteers are needed to come to school and listen to children read. Reading is key for children to access learning across all subject areas. Any time that you can offer would be of value to our children in developing this skill. If you or someone you know would like to know more, please contact the school for more information.

**Equipment** – If anyone has an office grade shredder or A3 size laminator or would like to donate one to the school this would help to support our work.

## Nature Notes

A dipper flew out of the bushes onto the Combe Pond water near the island but did not go under at 17.00 on 5 February. It was on the water surface for several minutes but flew away to the trees alongside the stream nearby. At 17.30 I saw a little grebe again and two couples of mallards. An hour before I saw a little egret in one pool at Riversbridge, and four “bachelor” drakes in another pool.

I saw another egret in the horses’ field next to the A379 near the new houses on 30 January. They could also be in cows’ field as well, like the one in the outskirts of Townstal near the River Dart. The coal tit was seen until 25 January when I completed the RSPB Big Bird Watch, but the male blackcap is still there in my garden. Also the grey squirrel came to my garden on 28 January and 9 February diving into the ivy.

Also in my garden I saw a female great spotted woodpecker and six long-tailed tits on 12 January at about lunchtime. I saw five long-tailed tits at the entrance of Rock Vale, Redlap Lane, and three more from Redlap on 24 January. I saw a fieldfare on the branches near the horses’ field as well.



On 20 January I saw a peregrine falcon hunting over the sea at Warren Cove, Little Dartmouth and on 3 February two buzzards over the same sea-coast. The male kestrel was there each time hovering but inland. The jackdaws mobbed the kestrels a lot but there are no jackdaws at Little Dartmouth and Cotton.

DW

## 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 only. 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.

## Road Closure – Cinders Lane

South West Water has applied for a road closure to complete utility works from near Summer House to near the Old House Shelter. These works (subject to approval from Devon Highways) will take place between 24 March and 28 March 2025. All efforts will be made to maintain access to properties within the area of the closure and to minimise disruption. If you require further information please contact the Helpline on 0344 346 2020.

## Sign up now for the garden waste service

You can now sign up or renew your annual subscription for the South Hams garden waste collection service. If you do this before 31 Mar, you'll pay a lower "early bird" fee of £65, for a year-long subscription running from 1 Apr 25 that covers collections for one brown wheelie bin.

Visit: [www.southhams.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/gardenwaste).

## U3A Dart Valley

Come along to our meeting on Thursday 13 March at The Flavel. Jo Richardson will be giving a talk entitled, "**Our Place in Space**". The cost: £2.

In this talk we check out our local neighbourhood by taking a look at the solar system. From the hellish world of Venus to the stormy conditions of Neptune we discover how the system operates, the size and distances involved, plus how it was formed some 4.6 billion years ago.

We have a new website which is updated regularly with information on interest groups and the latest news: <https://dartvalley.u3asite.uk>.

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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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Walk Level</b>	<b>Location of walk</b>	<b>Meeting Point</b>
6 March	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.
13 March	09.22 or 10.05	3	Totnes to Harbertonford via Ashprington.	09.22 no. 92 bus from Dartmouth Pontoon, or 10.05 at Totnes 7-Stars bus stop.
22 March	10.00	3	Cockington Country Park.	10.00 no. 120 bus from the Banjo, Kingswear to Paignton Bus Station, then no 12 bus to Livermead.
27 March	09.22 or 10.05	3	Dart riverside walk and the Dartington Estate.	09.22 no. 92 bus from Dartmouth Pontoon, or 10.05 at Totnes Railway Station bus stop.

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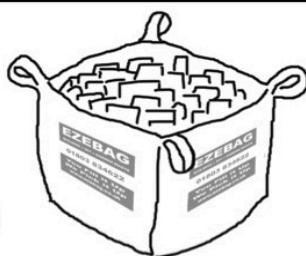
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# **Sport and Exercise at the Village Hall and Recreation Ground**

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

10.45 – 11.45 Stretch & Stay Mobile, a gentle, chair-based class designed for people with injuries or limited mobility. Most of the exercises are seated, with some optional standing ones using the chair to improve balance. Book [www.zest-yoga.co.uk](http://www.zest-yoga.co.uk) / Kirsty: 07534 441715.

14.00 – 16.30 Short Mat Bowls. Contact Adrian: 01803 712159.

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

## **Wednesdays**

09.15 – 10.15 Yoga with Ellie, no experience required. Contact Kirsty, Ellie or Lara: 07778 208080 / 07534 441715\*.

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

## **Thursdays**

13.00 – 14.00 Tiny Feet Yoga, a friendly, relaxed, weekly class to enjoy with your baby, helping your body heal and recover after birth and pregnancy. Contact: [hello@tinyfeetyoga.co.uk](mailto:hello@tinyfeetyoga.co.uk) / 07429 525292.

## **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).

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

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

## **Sundays**

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

*\*Please check for any last minute changes.*

## Prickles in a Pickle

I thought last year flew by quickly, but I think this one is going by even faster! January and February are always our quieter months but even so we are up on numbers from last year. Do not be fooled, this is not a good thing at all. It is just a reflection of how bad we have made things for our wildlife. Even earlier than last year, we have already had prickly patients with severe strimmer injuries, including one that had both her back legs strimmed off. She was only a juvenile, probably born in November and had not even reached breeding age.



Hedgehogs have now been added to the red list of endangered and “threatened with extinction” animals, we have lost 98% of them leaving us with a small gene pool and even more difficulties for them to overcome. Urban hedgehogs have slowed their decline and research shows this is due to traffic calming schemes, linked gardens and people learning to live with and encourage and nurture the nature around them.

We are booking talks and events for the coming year; we have had more volunteers join us and we are still looking for weekend help, a Friday evening feeder and a washer-up most mornings except Mondays and Thursdays. Come along and meet us and the prickly patients. Training is given and you will meet a lovely bunch of people.

Lots of hedgehogs have been released over the past two weeks and there are reports of them being seen regularly on camera. Wildlife cameras are now very cheap and cheerful and can give you some interesting feedback of what is going on in your gardens, people soon become quite hooked and end up buying more!

Thank-you to all of you bringing donations but please, check with us first that it is something we actually need or use. We have had some odd and unusable items left in the garage which we then have to take to the recycling centre or put in our bin. For the hedgehogs we welcome newspapers, (no magazines or junk mail), washing up liquid, floor cleaner, kitten biscuits, Sainsburys tinned puppy food, puppy pads, kitchen roll; and for our volunteers: tea, coffee and biscuits.

Alan and I were invited to “The Newt” in Somerset, all expenses paid, to look at their red squirrel enclosure. They want to use it for some of our unreleasable hedgehogs. The red squirrels will be there as well, as part of the re-introduction programme going on around the country. We had a guided tour, it is too big to see in one visit or even two or three! The enclosure is managed on an organic and no dig practice based on Charles Dowding's studies and ethos. “The Newt” is a huge rewilding programme with 450 staff, 200 acres and a plant based restaurant. We were “wined and dined” by the head gardener, Harry, and the

entomologist, Tom, who invited us. They have a national collection of apple trees there and a cider orchard that supplies their microbrewery for making dessert wine, cider and apple champagne. We had the latter with our dinner, and suffice to say, although I have two knee replacements, it made them wobble after half a glass! The menu is plant-based but you can have a side order of home-produced lamb, beef, venison or buffalo halloumi. Look it all up on the internet and book a visit; absolutely amazing!

We have now taken more than 60 Duke of Edinburgh students here for their bronze, silver and gold awards. We also have several work placements booked throughout the year. This is always good fun and helps to spread awareness of how our British wildlife needs our help.

Nice to see the countryside waking up for spring, always an uplift for the soul.

Best wishes, **Judy and Alan PIAP**



*The Stoke Fleming Voice team practise for Pancake Day (see page 4)  
(L to R: Sandra, Anne, Pam, Jenny, Anna, Jon)*

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## EDO's COLUMN – Our Monthly Muse

This month's topic focuses on the importance of maintaining awareness while using mobile phones. While mobile phones are undeniably convenient and beneficial, it is important to acknowledge the potential risk of becoming less aware of our immediate surroundings and situation. Just a small realisation can make a real difference.



From our children waiting at bus stops or drivers in their cars at lunch time, mobile phones are a real attention grabber, so please gently remind yourselves and our children to stay safe and give ourselves the time to take appropriate action in any potential stressful situation.

**Senseis John and Graham (07783 334746)**

## New Martial Arts Class

### Martial arts gentle exercises and movement



I am starting a new Stoke Fleming Martial Arts Gentle Exercise and Movement Class on Mondays.

### All ages welcome – first lesson free

- Improves agility, balance & co-ordination.
- Exercises to strengthen your back.
- Improves general health & fitness.
- Self defence classes.
- Promotes weight loss.

If interested please contact:

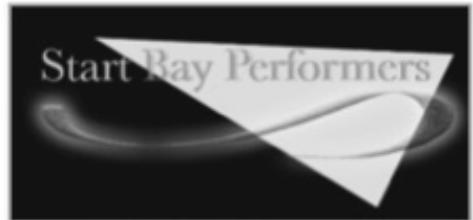
**Caroline Hart (07492 681677 or [carocariad@icloud.com](mailto:carocariad@icloud.com))**

## Short Mat Bowling

We meet in the Village Hall every Tuesday afternoon from 14.00 and play until somewhere between 16.30 and 17.00 with a mid-session break for chat, tea and biscuits or sometimes cake. We welcome new players with or without experience and provide almost all you need to join in, all you need to bring is a pair of flat soled shoes or slippers. This month we're meeting on 4, 11, 18 and 25 March, and we hope to see you there. It's not essential but it would help if you could let us know that you intend to come (07890 392444, [adrian.kyte@btinternet.com](mailto:adrian.kyte@btinternet.com)).

## Start Bay Performers

Firstly, all the members of Start Bay Performers would like to extend a warm welcome to the new magazine production team. We would like to formally thank Joan Mason and her team for all the assistance they have given us in the past. Best wishes to both teams.



Having had a break over the Christmas season after our production of "Acting Peculiar" in November we are back reading up plays on Monday evenings for future productions. We are planning to put on a production in the Spring and then will be rehearsing a pre-Christmas presentation for late November.

Whatever we choose (allowing for casting availability), we are planning to put on a production on 28 and 29 November. All our plays are performed at Stoke Fleming Village Hall. Tickets always include a hot supper and there is an open Bar.

We would like to formally welcome our latest members: Rosie Cooke (who has already performed admirably in our November production) and David Bone. Both have shown great promise and have given us the opportunity to extend the range of plays that we can cast.

We would still like to increase our cast list so if anyone is interested in joining up, to act or to help backstage (set design, props, stage manager), they are very welcome to attend at Stoke Fleming Village Hall, Mondays at 19.00.

If you need any encouragement please do call me on 07538 156864.

**John Belli**

## Friends of St Peter's

### **New servery and disabled toilet gets the go-ahead**

Additions to church buildings must quite rightly go through a rigorous planning and approval system, and we are all delighted to have heard recently that all permissions have now been granted.



The new facilities are urgently needed, especially the disabled toilet and baby changing area. To create the serving area some pews will be removed from the back of the church and a main serving part of the kitchen will be installed there. Meanwhile in the existing kitchen area a larger toilet will be created with a wide doorway and changing facilities for babies and toddlers. In the newly refurbished "washing up area" a professional dishwasher, new sink and water heater plus new window will be installed. The door from the washing up area to the new servery will be removed and a wider entrance created. The work will all be in keeping with our beautiful, Grade 2 listed church.



Three of FoSP's committee members, Jenny Farmer, Annie Worsfold and David Holmes, will be working with the Rev Matt Gorton and PCC members to apply for grants with the aim of raising the remaining money needed to complete the work.

There will be more details next month.

*FoSP is a non-sectarian group that values the church and churchyard as a valuable asset to the Stoke Fleming community and appreciates their history and beauty. It is separate to and independent from St Peter's Parochial Church Council (PCC). Its purpose is to raise money for the repair, maintenance and improvement of the fabric and community value of St Peter's Church and churchyard in Stoke Fleming.*

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



**The Flavel Arts Centre**  
**Dartmouth**  
01803 839530  
[www.theflavel.org.uk](http://www.theflavel.org.uk)

The Flavel celebrates our 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday in 2025 and like many other art centres up and down the country we do face some challenges. Ticket sales for films have roughly halved between 2020 and 2024. So **please keep coming to support us at The Flavel and please keep buying tickets.** Here's a few of our exciting upcoming events.....

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Jesus Christ Superstar (12A)</b> Event Cinema (filmed during Live Arena Tour)	Thur 6 Mar
<b>Friday @ The Flavel: Jonathan Walker Gilland</b> LIVE! An Evening of Musical Theatre	Fri 7 Mar
<b>The Brutalist (18) (Film)</b>	8 to 13 Mar
<b>Dartmouth Rock Choir LIVE</b>	Mon 10 Mar
<b>Martin Turner</b> Ex Wishbone Ash. LIVE	Fri 14 Mar
<b>The New Jersey Boys</b> LIVE	Sat 15 Mar
<b>Bridget Jones:</b> Mad About The Boy (15)	Tue 18 Mar Wed 19 Mar Thur 20 Mar
<b>RBO: Romeo and Juliet</b>	20 & 25 Mar
<b>International Classical Series 2025: Mark Bebbington</b> (piano) LIVE	Fri 21 Mar
<b>Folk at The Flavel: Gigspanner.</b> LIVE	Sat 22 Mar
<b>NT Live: Dr Strangelove (15)</b> Event Cinema	Thur 27 Mar
<b>Exhibition on Screen: Dawn of Impressionism: Paris, 1874</b>	Fri 28 Mar
<b>Dartmouth Comedy Club</b> LIVE Headliner: Angelos Epithemiou	Sat 29 Mar
<b>The Royal Opera : Puccini's TURANDOT</b> (Event Cinema)	Tue 1 Apr

# ALADDIN'S CAVE



## ***Lost***

## ***Found***

## ***Wanted***

## ***Good Home Needed***

---

<b>FOR SALE</b>	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
<b>WANTED</b>	Prickles in a Pickle needs lots of steriliser, newspapers and other items. See page 34.  20 Well Park Place.	Judy: 07891 657104 Alan: 07970 983608 01803 771086
<b>HOME NEEDED</b>	Heavy duty pillar drill, Professional quality. Free to collector.	Chris: 01803 770723
<b>FOR SALE</b>	FLYMO EASIMO Lawn Mower, corded. Good working order. Suitable for small lawns. No longer needed. £30. Near Dartmouth.	Tel: 07971 529305
<b>GARDEN HELP</b>	Brayden has been gardening locally in the area since October. I have some extra time available if you need regular work, clearing or landscaping. References available.	Tel: 07902 645728
<b>DONATIONS</b>	For Ukraine: Judy and Alan are requesting medicines for humans and animals, food for animals, female hygiene products, first aid items, clean duvets and blankets. Nothing else at the moment.	Judy: 07891 657104 Alan: 07970 983608 01803 771086

## Where are we now?

This feature was originally called “Nothing Ever Changes” when first started more than 20 years ago. People had said that nothing ever changed in Stoke Fleming, so we printed a series of Stoke Fleming postcards from my collection and proved them wrong! It seemed to be popular, so we continued to show old postcards for people to guess the location, which is always within the South Hams area.

Five people on the ball last month, knowing we were in Churchstow: Josie Hainsworth, Emily Handley, Clever Clogs, Emily Bridge and Alex Knight.



So, let's see how you get on with this month's picture going back to 1907.

Now the only question is where are we now?



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

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

*(to paraphrase JFK)*

***There's no excuse to be bored in Stoke Fleming.***

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

Volunteers are needed to listen to children reading at our Primary School. If you think you can help in this or any other way then please get in touch with the school on 01803 770244.

There are lots of ways everyone can help out with the Hort & Sport Show, so please get in touch if you have an hour or two to spare on the day. More details on page 13.

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

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.

The Community Kitchen is often looking for good confident home cooks to join their team. Training given. Contact [houseonthehill661@gmail.com](mailto:houseonthehill661@gmail.com).

Stoke Fleming Living Churchyard will need helpers during the summer, to look after the wildflower meadow. Please contact [jennyhaley029@gmail.com](mailto:jennyhaley029@gmail.com).

Join Stoke Fleming Voice and help us produce our magazine, for the benefit of the village. Our contact details are on the inside back cover.

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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
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)	<a href="https://www.southhams.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling">https://www.southhams.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling</a>	861234

### Stoke Fleming Voice Editorial Team

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

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

*Our editors work hard to ensure factual accuracy; however, readers may want to check provided information for themselves. Please notify us of any changes to contact details.*

*Donations towards the production of this magazine are always welcome.*

*Our Bank details are: Stoke Fleming Voice, A/c: 19250960. Sort code: 30-54-66.*

# Stoke Fleming Village Directory 2025

(Area Code: 01803)

Bellringing	John Dietz	770515
Bowling Club	Liz Mallyon	712799
Church – Rector	Rev Matt Gorton, <a href="mailto:revgorton@hotmail.com">revgorton@hotmail.com</a>	906861
Church Visiting Group	Rosemary Minshall	770300
Churchwarden	John Dietz	770515
Cricket Club	Stacey Gilbert	07931 384017
Dart Valley U3A	Suzie Dodsworth	770134
Friends of St Peter's	Annie Worsfold	07969 990443
Hort & Sport Show	Shirley Ruddlesden	770468
Little Lanterns	Lisa Callard	770244
Loam Rangers	Steve Shakespeare	07979 137311
Parish Council	Sharon Whelon, <a href="mailto:clerk@stokefleming.org">clerk@stokefleming.org</a>	
Pétanque	John Sparks	07811 102460
Primary School	Christopher Harrison, Head Teacher	770244
Primary School (Friends)	Annabel Harris	770244
Probus Club	Peter Hales	770739
Short Mat Bowls	Adrian Kyte	712159
Start Bay Performers	Mary Rimell	07909 970510
Table Tennis	Kim Fricker	07594 223673
Village Hall Bookings	Emily Handley, <a href="mailto:enquiries@stokeflemingvillagehall.org.uk">enquiries@stokeflemingvillagehall.org.uk</a>	07450 075734
Village Hall Management Committee	Debbie Morris, Secretary to Trustees	770305
Wednesday Ladies	Jill Fell	771137
Youth Club	Rev Matt Gorton, <a href="mailto:stokeflemingyouthclub@gmail.com">stokeflemingyouthclub@gmail.com</a>	906861