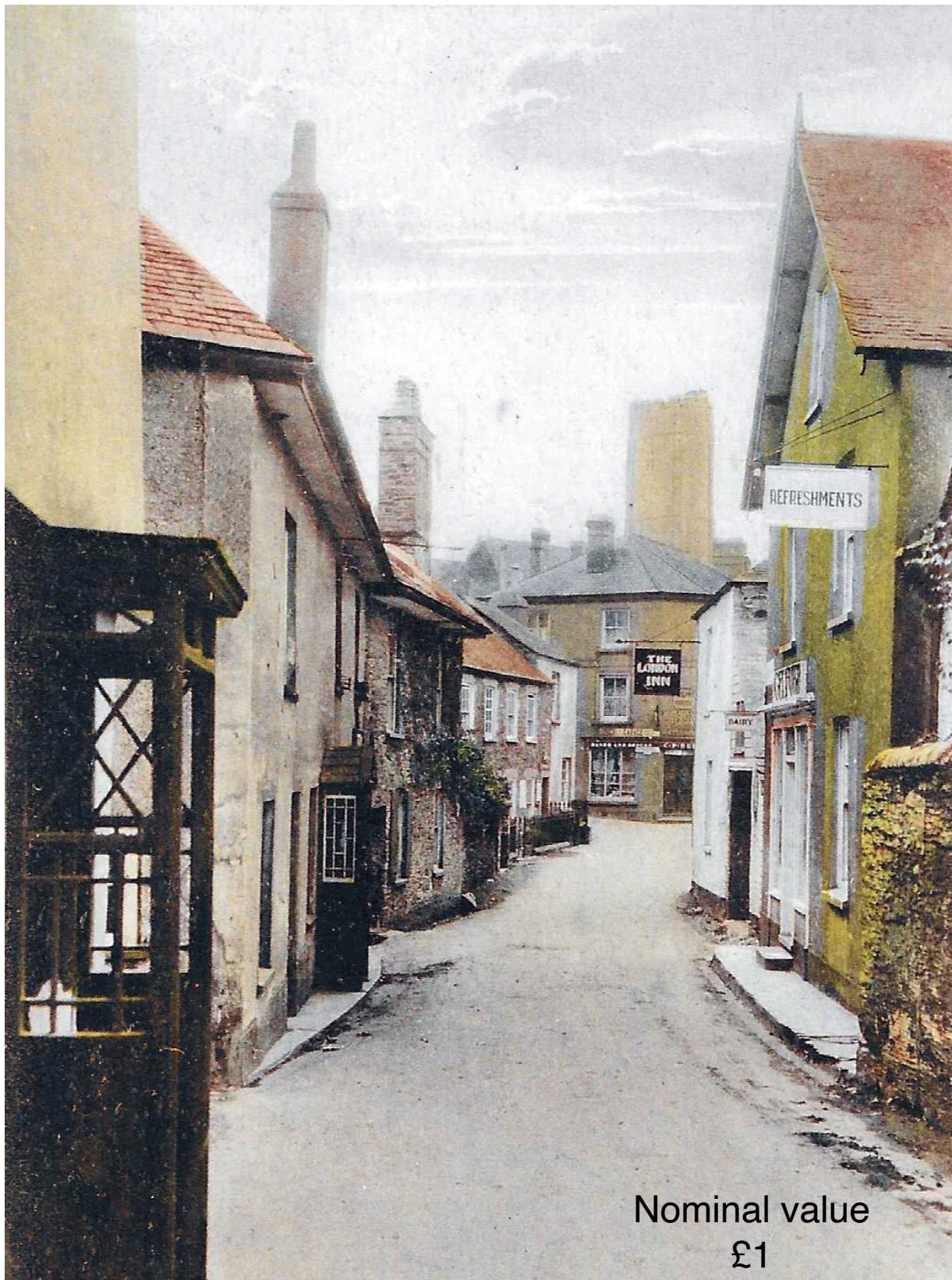


Stoke Fleming Voice

October 2026



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Editorial

Another new academic year has started and in this October issue our Village Life feature profiles Chris Harrison, headteacher of Stoke Fleming Primary School. There is also an interesting article about the school on page 44. You will find coverage of another successful and hugely enjoyable Hort and Sport Show. I am so proud that Jon was included in the Devon Team taking humanitarian aid to Ukraine; you can read about his trip on page 32. We cover the interesting presentation by Dr Helen Wilson about the Pinwill carvings in St Peter's Church and thank volunteers for their help in raking the strimming in our Living Churchyard. The grounds looked especially smart for the wedding of Heather and David Harris's daughter on the weekend of 5th September (see next page).

In last month's magazine we linked to a petition on local government reorganisation in Devon which would have split the South Hams leaving much of it in a rural rump. Personally, I'm pleased that the government has now paused this process.

Importantly for me, having formed an attachment to the area's hedgerows, green lanes, rolling hills, farms and people, was the potential loss of the idea of the South Hams as a discreet geographic area. Of course, geography doesn't change just because political boundaries are redrawn, but if the district council is abolished and some parishes move elsewhere, I hope we won't forget that we're part of the wonderful South Hams, not just a pleasant area in southern Devon. Having organisations working effectively across the South Hams does help, and I'm really pleased that one of these, Sustainable South Hams, will be supporting our special edition on sustainable energy in November.

Right, I'm off now on another walk down Mill Lane!

Sandra Ingham

If you would like to contribute an article, Reader's View or Letter to the Editor, please email stokeflemingvoice@gmail.com, or see our website www.stokeflemingvoice.com. Your contribution can be published anonymously, but our team will need to know who you are. Publication is at our editorial discretion.

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

Personal Announcements

A Country Wedding for William and Charlotte



On 5th September, St Peter's Church was the setting for the wedding of William Thomas Bryant and Charlotte Mary Harris, who are now happily the Bryants! Charlotte, daughter of David and Heather Harris, was born and raised in the village. Charlotte and Will now live in Bristol, but are back on the farm whenever they can.

It was a wonderfully traditional, country-style wedding. Heather grew all the flowers herself, despite a particularly challenging year, with plenty of help from friends and villagers along the way. The Green Dragon kept everyone refreshed behind the bar, while local caterers Cellar Door provided the food. There was even a rather unconventional ring bearer – a sheep! Although, perhaps unsurprisingly, the sheep didn't quite play its part as planned!

After plenty of rain in the lead-up, the weather finally relented, bringing two beautiful days of sunshine and making the perfect backdrop to a very special couple of days.

Congratulations to William and Charlotte – the new Mr and Mrs Bryant.

Big Birthday Congratulations



David and Heather Harris both turned 70 this year, and had a party at the Green Dragon on Sunday 13th September to celebrate with friends and family.

Gary and Helena Rapps had their 60th birthdays this year and celebrated with a western themed party at the Village Hall last month.



If you would like a Personal Announcement (moving into the Village, a birth, a wedding, graduation, etc) to feature in this section, please send details to stokeflemingvoice@gmail.com.

Reader's Corner

Autumn ushers in a season of change. Just as the trees shed their leaves preparing for the onset of winter, we too can use this time to truly appreciate the transformation that autumn brings. The gentle rustle of leaves beneath our feet and the aroma of the damp earth serve as a reminder of God's ever-changing creation. Each leaf, in its transformation from verdant green to fiery red or golden yellow, showcases the beauty of transition. Likewise in our lives, seasons of change, whilst sometimes challenging, have the potential to bring beauty and growth.



Autumn provides the perfect backdrop for reflection and prayer. As the days grow shorter and nights grow colder, we're naturally drawn to the warmth of our homes, log fires and evenings spent with family and friends. In the quiet moments this season offers we can seek a closer encounter with God, just as Jesus often retreated to solitary places to pray to his Father. Autumn presents us with an opportunity to slow down, to find our solitary place, whether it is a quiet room or a gentle walk in the woods.

In this season of transition let us embrace the stillness and beauty that autumn brings. In its silent wisdom, it reminds us of the importance of pausing, reflecting and hearing that still, small voice of God. In scripture the Apostle Paul reminded the Ephesian Church to pray at all times and on all occasions. Following this command, we can use the changing seasons reminding us to thank God for His gifts in our lives.

An Autumn Prayer for Joy

God of autumn, we ask you to fill our hearts with you. Help us to navigate this transition into shorter, cooler days with joyful and thankful hearts. May joy radiate from us in the same way that the brilliant colour of the leaves radiates from the trees. Amen.

Peace, love and joy be with you all

Jenny Harris

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



St Peter's Church Services

October

Sun 4th	10.15am Prayer Time. 11.00am Harvest Festival Service. 6.30pm Choral Evensong.
Sun 11th	11.00am Morning Worship. 4.00 THE 4.
Sun 18th	11.00am Communion by extension.
Sun 25th	11.00am Morning Worship.

All welcome.

Little Stars

Our Little Stars have bloomed over summer, and we are so pleased to see them all. We have been blessed with some new toys suitable for older boys; thank you to the grandma who gave them to us. Everyone is welcome to join our happy band and enjoy the space in our beautiful church during the school term time, Monday mornings 9.00 – 10.30am.

Heather, Sue and Peter

From the Registers

5th September: Charlotte Mary Harris married to William Thomas Bryant.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2026



The RBL Poppy Appeal this year is being co-ordinated locally by Karen Noonan and Liane Baldock, both local residents.

The launch date for this year's appeal is 22nd October and from this date you will see poppies available in the usual places locally in Stoke Fleming (such as the Village Shop, Green Dragon and Stoke Lodge Hotel), Strete and Blackawton together with donation boxes. **Remembrance Sunday is 8th November.**

If you have any queries about poppy availability please contact Karen Noonan on karennoonan58@gmail.com.

Village Life: Christopher Harrison

1. When did you start as Headteacher at Stoke Fleming Primary School and where did you work before this and in what capacity?

I became Headteacher of Stoke Fleming Primary School in September 2024, so I am now beginning my third year at the school. It has been an incredibly rewarding couple of years and I feel very fortunate to lead such a special school.

Before coming to Stoke Fleming, I worked at Kingsbridge Primary School. I have worked in education for around 15 years now, although my career actually began outside education. Before becoming a teacher, I worked for Whitbread PLC in management, with responsibility for areas including staffing, budgets, training and the day-to-day running of the business. Although the two careers might appear very different, there are lots of skills from that time which have proved extremely useful in school leadership!



2. What would you like to tell us about yourself, your family, your interests, your home?

I am originally from the North East, although I have now lived in Devon for nearly 20 years, so it very much feels like home. I live in South Devon with my family and have a young daughter, who certainly keeps me busy when I am not at school!

Outside school, I enjoy sport and particularly cricket. I play for Stoke Gabriel Cricket Club and really enjoy the social and community side of being involved with a local club. Much of my spare time, though, is spent with my family and enjoying everything that we are lucky enough to have on our doorstep here in the South Hams.

I absolutely love my job. No two days in a primary school are ever the same and, despite the inevitable challenges, there are not many jobs where you get to spend your working day surrounded by so much enthusiasm, curiosity and laughter.

3. What did you do over the summer holidays?

The summer holidays are always a chance to recharge after what is an incredibly busy school year and, most importantly, to spend some proper time with my family. This summer we made the most of the South West and had lots of day trips to North Devon and down to Cornwall. My daughter absolutely loves the beach and sea, so we often find ourselves there.

There was still plenty happening at school over the summer too. We have made a significant investment in our Early Years provision, including work to develop our Early Years unit. It was exciting to see the plans we had spent so long discussing beginning to become a reality and to prepare the school for another year.

4. What are the highlights in the new Autumn term (specifically October through to Christmas) which you are particularly look forward to?

The autumn term is probably one of my favourite times of the school year. By October, the children have settled into their new classes and there is a real sense of momentum around the school.

One of the things I am most looking forward to is continuing to develop the opportunities that sit beyond the academic curriculum. Our school vision is “Setting sail in the world”, and we want children to leave Stoke Fleming having experienced a really rich and varied primary education. Our 11 by 11 programme, clubs, sporting opportunities, music, Forest School, pupil leadership and visits, all form an important part of that.

There are also some wonderful traditions during the autumn term. Events around Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas give us opportunities to come together as a school and to strengthen our links with St Peter’s Church and the wider village. Christmas in a primary school is always particularly special — although by the time we reach the final week of term, the adults are usually ready for a rest!

More than any individual event, I look forward to seeing the children grow in confidence over the term. We have fantastic children at Stoke Fleming: they are kind, enthusiastic and ambitious, and seeing them succeed is undoubtedly the best part of the job.

5. What are your current challenges (budgets, demographics, buildings etc) and how are you responding to them?

Like most schools, there are challenges. School budgets nationally are under considerable pressure and running a relatively small village primary school means that we have to think very carefully about how we use every pound. Maintaining healthy pupil numbers is therefore extremely important, as funding is so closely linked to the number of children on roll.

At the same time, the needs of children coming into schools are becoming increasingly complex. A particular priority for us this year is an early identification of need to ensure that children receive the right support, as early as possible.

Our buildings and grounds also require continual investment. Over the last couple of years we have worked hard to improve the environment, including our entrance, library and Early Years provision. Schools inevitably have long lists of things they would like to improve, so the challenge is prioritising those projects that will make the greatest difference to children.

The encouraging thing is that we are not tackling these challenges alone. Being part of Education South West gives us additional expertise and support, and we are also extremely fortunate to have supportive parents, governors, Friends of the School and a wider community, who regularly help us provide opportunities that would otherwise be difficult to fund.

6. Do you think anything could be done to improve integration into the village or support from the parish?

I think this is an area where there is always more that we can do. A village school should be at the heart of its community, and I would really like Stoke Fleming Primary to continue strengthening that relationship.

We already value our links with St Peter's Church and the wider village, but I would love even more opportunities for our children to learn from the people around them. There is an enormous amount of knowledge, experience and expertise within Stoke Fleming. That might be residents coming into school to talk about their careers or experiences, helping children with reading, supporting our gardening and environmental work, or local organisations involving our pupils in village projects.

Equally, I would like our children to think about what they can contribute to Stoke Fleming. Through our pupil leadership groups, Eco Council and other activities, we want them to understand that being part of a community involves giving something back.

Sometimes schools can unintentionally become quite enclosed places, particularly because of the necessary safeguarding arrangements we have in place. I would therefore be very happy to hear from the Parish Council, village organisations or individual residents who have ideas about how we could work together.

Stoke Fleming is very fortunate to still have a thriving village primary school. My ambition is for local people to feel proud of their school, regardless of whether they currently have children or grandchildren attending it. The stronger the relationship between the school and the village, the richer the experience we can provide for our children.

Hort and Sport Show 2026

WOW what a show!!

The 148th Hort and Sport Show took place on a sunny August bank holiday. This year we celebrated 100 years of Sir David Attenborough and Winnie the Pooh, and 25 years of our Village Hall. The gates opened at 12.30 and the fun packed day began with a chance to "have a go" with the Stoke Fleming cricket club.

Our resident compare, Strictly's Jenny Thomas, kept us all informed of the proceedings throughout the afternoon as well as teaching an enthusiastic crowd an amazing line dance. The children's games area, created and manned by villager Guy Richardson, was so impressive it was thought he was a professional! The Martin Dale Trio entertained with their laid-back tunes whilst villagers and visitors alike enjoyed the artisan stalls, Torbay Owls, Ash Rescue and BeWild with Victoria Benns. Liquid



**Stoke Fleming Horticultural
& Sports Society**

Founded in 1875

refreshment, provided by Georgie and Alan of the Green Dragon, BBQ by Anita of Trattoria Spaggia, tea, coffee and a marvellous array of home-made sandwiches and cakes made by the talented ladies of the village were enjoyed by all.

At 2.00pm the official opening of the show was kindly performed by Caroline Voaden, MP for South Devon, who took time out from her busy schedule to chat to the judges and members of the public before rushing back to London for the opening of Parliament.

The marquee and Hall opened for viewings at 2.30pm and, despite the challenges of the weather this summer, an astonishing 944 entries were received, testament to the dedication of the growers and makers of the village and beyond. From fruit and veg to jams, cakes and crafting, the standard and quality of entries was extremely high. Congratulations to all who entered, all who were placed and all our Trophy winners (listed on page 11).

At 2.30pm the fun packed sports program sponsored by the Mayer family began; the many races and the ultimate bragging rights tug-o-war, were enjoyed by all ages.

The closing ceremony saw Barbara Goddard, a supporter of the Show for many years, present the trophies; the grand raffle was drawn and the many volunteers without whom the show couldn't happen were thanked. There are far too many to name individually, but you know who you are; thank you one and all. One volunteer deserving of a mention who always goes above and beyond, who organises the put-up, pull-down team and remains on field manager duty all day is Gary Rapps and this year he was awarded the special trophy for a non-committee member for his outstanding contributions.

I think you'll all agree, this year's show was a huge success, with some saying "the best ever". Thank you to all who entered and all who came along. As the saying goes "it takes a village" and what a village we have.

Paula Johnston

Notes from the Judge's Table.

I thought you might enjoy some of the comments the judges made prior to the Show being opened on Bank Holiday Monday.

"The fruit and vegetables were of a good standard despite the very hot summer. There were not so many entered but almost every class was represented. The tomatoes had a good turnout."

"The flower classes were a bit depleted, but again, most classes had some entries. On the flower arranging, you were reminded to fill the space allotted or points are taken off. Also, the container should balance the arrangement and not dominate the space."

“The Handicraft Section was of a very high standard, and the judge was very impressed. There were some lovely pieces on show.”

“The Cookery was impressive in quality and quantity. You had taken a lot of trouble in entering several classes and the prize winners should be proud. The competition was stiff especially for the jams, marmalades and lemon curd. The chutney needs to be at least 3 months old to stand a chance of winning. The men's Cookery did not disappoint with 19 entries and a high standard.”

Overall, they felt it was very well supported and the entries of a high standard. I can only concur and thank everyone for rising to the occasion with their entries.

Mary Newman



Stoke Fleming Voice at the Hort and Sport Show

The *Voice* team enjoyed being back at Hort and Sport with our “SFrabble” board game. We wanted to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Winnie the Pooh, but our learning for next year is that we didn’t give people enough letters to make many Pooh-related words. However, we still had two great prize winners.



Winner of the “highest go” prize was Kitty Dempsey who was visiting Jan and Adrian Lloyds Edwards; she used a very clever strategy of extending existing words on all four of our boards to score 104 for “zog”, “que”, “triked”, “cater” and “oft”. (We were possibly over generous in allowing “que”, but this can be used as an abbreviation – allowed in SFrabble's rules – for both Quebec and barbecue).

Winner of the “highest word score” prize was Verity Carter. She also did an

amazing job using the opposite strategy of using her letters in just one word, “reunited”, which covered two triple word score squares and gave her 90 points.

Both won copies of Gyles Brandreth’s book, “Somewhere, a Boy and a Bear” which Verity donated to Stoke Fleming library so you can read it there. Kitty picked up her prize at the show (as shown in the photograph).

Some Photos from the Hort and Sport Show 2026 (*Credit: Ben Malley*)



There are more of Ben's pictures elsewhere in this Magazine

Hort & Sport Show Prizewinners

RHS MEDAL	Phil Elliott	Most prize money: Divisions A, B & C
Blue Riband	Sid Rowdon	Best exhibit in Divisions A, B or C
Keturah Foster Bowl	Bella Johnston	Best pot plant
Lock Trophy	Adrian Booker	Best dahlias
Morgan Shield	Juliet Lambert	Best rose
Judith Hirst Cup	Adrian Booker	Best bloom in show
Hollenden Cup	Sid Rowdon	Highest points "Open" Fruit & Veg
Harold Pope Trophy	Belinda Duffy	Best plate of fruit
Belvedere Cup	Julie Duthie	Highest points "Open" Flowers
Ingram Silver Trophy	Phil Elliott	Highest points Parishioners Classes
Reg Elliott Salver	Emily Bridge	Best Potatoes
Ernie Elliott Cup	Emily Bridge	Best Onions
Gascoigne Trophy	Jan Lloyd-Edwards	Flower Arranging
Peg Fergusson Trophy	Jonathan Sutton	Judge's Favourite Flower Arrangement
Mike and Gill Jordan Cup	Evie Boettcher	Photography
Ravensbourne Trophy	Alec Charnock	Children's Photography
Stewart Rose Bowl	Debbie Gillard	Highest Points Homecraft
Anne Wells Cup	Debbie Gillard	Best Cookery Exhibit
Bill Fergusson Trophy	Linda Booker	Best pot of Marmalade
Arnold Meire Cup	Debbie Gillard	Handicraft
Daisy Cup	Harley Gillard	Children Under 7yrs
Tigger Trophy	Margo Handley and Imogen Chapman	Children 7-11yrs
Sams Cup	Felicity Kane	Children 12-16yrs
Thomson Cup	Blanche Calligaris	Special Division
Morris Tankard	Rose Osbourne	Chairman's Choice Special Division
Devon Delights Cup	Camilla McGowan-Scanlon	Devon Apple Cake
Special Award Tankard	Gary Rapps	Special award
Leonards Cove Trophy	Jonathan Sutton	Men only Flower Arranging
Ashes Trophy	Dominique Calligaris	Men only Cookery

Nature Notes

Nationally the barbastelle bat is very rare and there is no bat nursery recorded in Britain at all, but in Stoke Fleming it is locally common. The barbastelles are at the old quarry near Rock Valley on the Redlap Road and also at the Bowden Ham where I saw one at Ash Lane on 8pm during early dusk on 13th September. It is a moderate black bat with a wingspan of nearly one foot and tends to breed in bird nestboxes, roof spaces, tree holes and cracks in buildings.



On 6th and 9th September, at around 11pm, I also saw a greater horseshoe bat going from the NT Little Dartmouth track to the sea cliffs where it probably lives. It is a large bat with grey-white underneath and up to one foot and four inches wingspan. I see them every year and their longevity is up to 30 years. I saw a natterer's bat near a cowshed outside the Little Cotton Development at 9pm on 22nd August.



My last sighting of a single swift at Redlap Cross was on 23rd August and the swallows departed a few days later. The house martins disappeared before that, possibly because of the lack of mud to build the nests. Willow warblers came to my back garden on 25th August to 1st September and three chiffchaffs with darker legs and cheeks came on 5th September. Chiffchaffs also drank from my bowls on the terrace in front of the buddleia, where there are a few humming-bird hawk moths drinking nectar. Probably the willow warblers and chiffchaffs migrated after that.

On 23rd August there were about 50 goldfinches, and on 9th September 40 linnets with a few goldfinches roosting beside the NT Little Dartmouth track ready for migration. There was a male blackcap on 12th September in my front garden and I don't know if it will stay or migrate. On the same day I saw a coal tit, which is definitely for winter in my garden even though it is resident around here.

There was single roe deer in a field next to NT Little Dartmouth track at the end of August. I walked back home along Venn Lane at 9.30pm on 25th August when a tawny owl flew over a few times. At 8pm I saw a barn owl flying from a derelict Venn Farm to The Valley Cottage on 8th September and it gave a shriek. The next day I saw a tawny owl perching on a BT cable next to Redlap Road at night to look for rodents.

DW

Rowcroft Hospice

Come and join us for a soup and dessert lunch at the Sportsman's Arms on Thursday, 15th October. Sixty tickets will be available from Laurie Pearson on 01803 832955 or Rosemary Minshall on 01803 770300. They are priced at £13, on a first come first served basis. This is usually a very happy occasion, and we look forward to seeing you – Rowcroft Christmas cards will be available too!

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Our 8th October talk at the Flavel is presented by Astrid Madimba and Chinny Ukata Ogunlusi and is entitled **“Africa’s Overlooked Heroes”**.

Join Astrid and Chinny, authors of *“It’s a Continent”* book and podcast series, as they spotlight overlooked African figures. They will share the stories of remarkable individuals whose vision and achievements shaped the continent, exploring their impact, challenges and the legacies that continue to inspire.

Entrance is only £2 for members and £3 for guests. Tea and coffee will be available from 10.00 to 10.30am, please bring a reusable cup.

Tim Freeman

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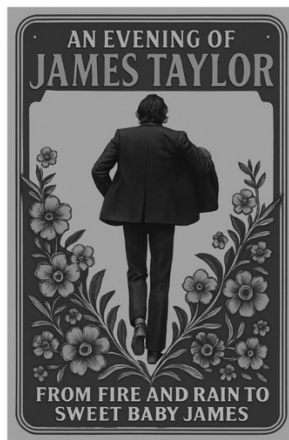
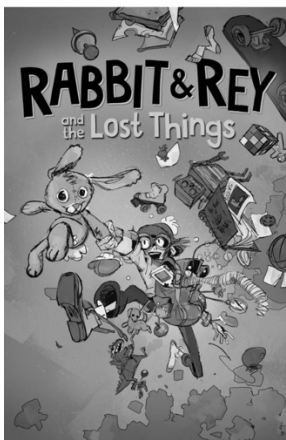


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What's on at The Flavel in October



DARTMOUTH'S THEATRE, CINEMA, CAFE, ARTS CENTRE & LIVE MUSIC VENUE



Fast Rabbit Farm Gardens

Fast Rabbit Farm Gardens are now heading into autumn after this scorching hot summer. We are busy cutting grass which has so suddenly greened, and assessing survivors and losses. Sadly, some camellias and rhododendrons have been lost but magnolias have grown considerably and are well budded for next spring.

Wildlife has been enjoying the heat with a wide range of butterflies, blues, fritillaries, clouded yellow, marbled white and hummingbird hawk moths. Buddleia are still providing a haven for Red Admiral and Small Tortoiseshell butterflies.

The mini mighty munching meadow makers, ponies from Ash Rescue Centre, are performing their annual clearance of the wildflower meadow. When complete and tidied a large number of potted oxeye daisies will be planted out.

Many trees and shrubs have gone into early colour and, in some cases, leaf drop although the colour intensity will increase rapidly with many Acers and Swamp Cypress on the lake island.

Still very much to see and many plants in the plant centre at very modest prices.

Alan Mort

Bowling Club

As we start to wind down and get ready to put the club to bed for the winter, it's a good time to reflect on what has probably been one of the driest, sunniest and hottest bowling seasons on record! The Mid-Devon league matches (*yes, we were in the premier division this year but have been relegated to the first division for 2027*) have proved an interesting experience, playing against some of the top clubs and players in south Devon. Members of the club preferring a less pressured environment have, instead, played in the "friendly" weekday games, both home and away, gaining valuable match and bowling experience along the way.

We've welcomed opposing teams, their supporters and the occasional holidaymaker(s) to the club. Social events have been held and the internal club competitions taken place culminating in the Finals Weekend held over the weekend of 12th and 13th September. The presentation dinner, followed by the AGM in November, will round the bowling season off.

Liz Mallyon

Christmas Tree Festival

It's all go for the 19th Christmas Tree Festival preparations. The festival this year takes place in **St Peter's Church on 11th to 13th December**. I can't wait to see what wonderful plans you all have for your trees once again this year. We hope to have a full contingent of thirty trees. Please get in touch if you are having any problems or need assistance.



This year's festival will be in aid of St. Peter's Church, for the renovations of the kitchen area, and the Stoke Fleming Youth Club.

Don't forget... if you're not part of a tree decorating team, you can always volunteer to help with lifting and shifting, helping with the teas or stewarding at the festival, or you could just come along to the event and support us! Last year the turnout was just so amazing, and we hope that this year will be even better as the festival goes from strength to strength! We will look forward to seeing you there!

Get in touch with me if you need information or want to help.

Caroline Martin
martincm516@gmail.com

Stoke Fleming Library

At the Village Hall: Monday 3:00pm – 5:00pm, Tuesday 10:30am – 12:30pm and Thursday 3:00pm – 5:00pm. Tel: 770076.

We have a good selection of children's books for all ages. You can use the computer for two hours per day for free and we can do A4 photocopying and printing in B&W and colour is available. Use your Library Membership and PIN number to borrow from a huge range of e-and audio books from Devon Libraries via the Borrowbox app. Also, magazines and newspapers – they're all free.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Sue Taylor

News from the Community Kitchen



The October lunch will be late in the month again, on Friday 30th October, with tickets going on sale in the Village Shop at 8.30am on Tuesday 20th October.

Our menu is discussed about 10 days before the lunch so it is essential to have any dietary requirements when you buy your tickets so we can plan the meal. Please bear that in mind. As we have said before – we are not magicians, but we do try to accommodate everyone!

Autumn brings a rich harvest (we hope) of comforting root vegetables and healthy greens. It's a good time to make hearty soups to freeze for the winter. Apples and pears are at their best, there may still be blackberries to be picked, and plums are delicious whether eaten whole or in the many deserts they can be used for.

As previously mentioned, we would love some extra pairs of confident hands to cook or help out in other capacities like laying the tables, clearing and washing up. Not every month – but a rota of people we could approach if our regulars are away. Please email houseonthehill661@gmail.com and we will be in touch.

Mary Newman

Breast Cancer Support Group

Our Breast Cancer Support Group meets on the first Wednesday of every month at Dartmouth Caring, Health & Wellbeing Centre, Dartmouth 5.30-7pm. Anyone who has been affected by breast cancer would be made very welcome.

We are a friendly group who support and listen to each other and share the highs and lows of each other's journey. We also have lots of resources and experience and always bring laughter too.

Dawn Whiteley

GREASE THEMED BINGO NIGHT

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Stoke Fleming Village Hall

As we celebrate our 25th year, the Village Hall is making strong progress on several fronts.

The most visible change is the installation of solar panels, funded by a Lottery grant, a generous donation from the Hort and Sport Committee, and an award from the League of Friends of Dartmouth. We are very grateful for this support. Full project details will appear in a special edition of *Stoke Fleming Voice* next month.



We hosted a free screening of The People's Emergency Briefing Film. This event helped us test our projection equipment ahead of our first film night on 16th October when, with Start Bay Performers, we will be showing "The Graduate."

Our booking system is moving to an automated platform, enabling hirers to view year-round availability. Email and telephone bookings will remain available. A redesigned website will feature the calendar and a guide to the building and facilities. Visit www.stokeflemingvillagehall.org.uk to take a look, and don't forget to sign up to become a Village Hall Hero while there, as we need your support.

Thanks also to everyone who visited our stand at the show, especially Steve and Elaine Roylance for staffing it all day. Congratulations, too, to those who entered their wonderful models of the Hall in the arts and crafts category. Amazing work.

John Belli

Stoke Fleming Village Hall urgently needs a

HALL MANAGER

Are you a practical person looking to give something back to your local community? If so, we currently need you to help the team, across 2 hours a week, manage our wonderful village hall.

Working alongside a host of dedicated volunteers, you'll be part of the opening and closing rota, set the heating schedule remotely, book any repairs, order required supplies and in general, keep an eye on things. No cleaning or gardening is involved, and you'll receive a monthly, tax free, honorarium as a thank you.

To find out more please call Gary on 07885 348435 or email us at enquiries@stokeflemingvillagehall.org.uk

Wednesday Ladies

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 14th October at 2.30pm in the Village Hall Ron Harris room. The speaker this month is Stewart Henchie who will be talking about the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew in Richmond, London.

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

Barbara Goddard



The advertisement banner for Nelly Konrad's Cakes features a circular logo on the left with a stylized 'K' and the text 'Nelly Konrad's Cakes ARTISAN BAKERY CAKE SHED • FRESH BAKES DAILY'. To the right, the text reads 'Beautiful cakes. Made for life's SWEETEST MOMENTS' followed by 'HANDCRAFTED • BESPOKE • MEMORABLE' and 'Specialising in stunning 3D cakes for any occasion, including wedding cakes.' Below this, icons represent 'WEDDINGS • BIRTHDAYS • ANNIVERSARIES • CELEBRATIONS', 'WEDDING CAKES', '3D CAKES A SPECIALITY', 'BESPOKE DESIGNS', and 'MADE WITH LOVE'. The right side of the banner shows a photograph of a wooden 'CAKE SHED' door decorated with flowers and a sign that says 'OPEN'. A vertical sign on the right edge of the photo says 'VISIT OUR CAKE SHED 2 SCHOOL ROAD IN THE VILLAGE OPEN 2-3 TIMES A WEEK ON THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS'. The bottom of the banner contains contact information: 'www.konradcakes.co.uk', '07817 570831', 'KONRADI CAKES', '@konradcakes', and the tagline 'Bespoke cakes. Unforgettable moments.'

The Arts Society Dartmouth and Kingswear (TASDAK)

Our new season kicks off on Monday 12th October with a lecture by Carol Wildhide Justin: “**Japanese Wood Cuts**”. Come and learn about the influence of Japan on western art from the late 18th Century.

Our lectures take place between October and June on the second Monday afternoon, starting at 2.30pm at The Flavel. The lectures are given by highly qualified and experienced Arts Society accredited lecturers who are experts in their chosen field.

New members are welcome. Non-members can attend a lecture as a visitor, up to three times per season, for £14.00.

Juliet Lambert

Dartmouth and Kingswear Society

We meet again on Tuesday 13th October at 5.00 pm in the Flavel for a talk on “**Start Point Lighthouse**” by Lady Mary Newman. Please put this date in your diaries. All welcome, no booking required.

Lindsay Charlesworth
lindsay@jpcharlesworth.plus.com

Friends of St Peter's (FoSP)



On 11th September Dr Helen Wilson gave an interesting presentation in the church to some 60 people, who learnt a lot about the talented Pinwill sisters, Mary, Ethel and Violet, who were expert woodcarvers living in Victorian Devon. It was not unusual for Victorian women to teach woodcarving through workshops, but to become successful businesswomen in their own right was extraordinary. What's more, it was their

mother who was the main driver behind their skill development as she ensured her daughters learnt while still in the schoolroom.

The Pinwill sisters carved our beautiful pulpit, altar and altar rails in St Peter's Church. The benefactor for this project was Matilda Margaret Noble who lived locally and died in 1892. Their design brief was to include as many animals as possible in their carving. After heavy scrutiny, I can confirm these include a spider, snail, a mouse, a kingfisher, pelicans, a cock crowing, ravens, an owl, other birds, cattle, sheep, pigs, a dog and a lion! At the altar there are three carved scenes from the life of the disciple Peter, most appropriate for St Peter's church and at the altar rail you can see the Devon vine and bird motif. Carving from oak, the sisters' work would have been produced in sections, delivered to the church by horse and cart, and then joiners would have got to work to create the pulpit – no glue!



Prolific carvers, the Pinwill sisters received commissions to create carvings in 83 Devon churches and 99 churches in Cornwall, just wow!

Dr Helen Wilson has written a book about it all, "The Remarkable Pinwill Sisters" which is available to purchase from: www.pinwillsisters.org.uk.

Sandra Ingham, FoSP committee member



Stoke Fleming Living Churchyard

Stools made from little tree stumps have been installed around the story telling bench which is lovely to see. We hope the little ones in the village will enjoy their special space.

The long, thick grass was strimmed last month by Pat Tucker and then left just over a week for the seeds to drop to the ground to germinate for next year. Then Gary and Teri Larson, Ken Woodman, Graham Fice



and Pete Sanders appeared and within three hours the whole area was raked and bagged, and David Harris took it to Loam Rangers. They also managed to get the bench into the leg protectors which was not easy. An impressive display! Thank you everyone.



Later in October we will plant red poppy seeds. If anyone has more seeds than they know what to do with from their red poppies this year, we will happily take them off your hands. We'll be planting them in

some of the untended graves and will need to prepare the ground, so they have their best chance of success. Please contact me if you would like to help with this. A couple of hours one morning should be all we need.

Jenny Hailstone

07770 373981 or jennyhaley029@gmail.com

People's Emergency Briefing

September saw a screening of the National Emergency Briefing's film at the Village Hall. This was based on a 2025 presentation about the country's climate and nature crisis, given by ten leading UK experts to more than 1,200 politicians and other leaders. The film aims to raise awareness of the information from the briefing and to facilitate local action (presenter Chris Packham's comment was "facts matter, but what matters more is how people react to the facts"). However, the organisation's leaders, Simon Oldridge, a co-founder of Sustainable South Hams who lives in Staverton, and his brother, Nick, in Totnes, hope community support will encourage government to deliver a primetime televised briefing, led by the prime minister— and that this will help the UK lead the world by example. Therefore, if you missed the screening, you may get another chance to see it then.

Anyone who wants to take action themselves following the screening may find useful information in November's *Voice*, which will be a special edition focused on sustainable energy. If you want to share your own experience of actions you have taken, you can email us at stokeflemingvoice@gmail.com (copy date 14th October – publication at our discretion).

Autumn at the Green Dragon

Autumn at the Dragon is all about cosy evenings, pub food, roaring fires, muddy boots, happy dogs and plenty going on.

Sunday roasts are back

There's something rather lovely about a Sunday in the Dragon when autumn arrives. Our roasts are back! Every Sunday • 12pm–3pm

Tuesday 13th October

DAY OF THE DEAD – MEXICAN NIGHT: Get ready for a colourful Mexican-inspired evening as The Greedy Table brings the flavours of Mexico to the Dragon.

Friday 30th October

Things are getting spooky at the Dragon! Join us for an evening of Halloween fun.

And then... Christmas at the Dragon!

We know it's only autumn, but we couldn't resist mentioning it...

Saturday 12th December:

We're planning a wonderful festive day for Stoke Fleming with our Christmas Market followed by Carols around our Christmas Tree and live music with Rockoholics. And it coincides with the Stoke Fleming Christmas Tree Festival, making it the perfect weekend to get into the Christmas spirit.

Looking a little further ahead...

And if you're already thinking about New Year...

New Year's Eve at the Dragon

We'll be seeing in 2027 with Mafia 4! Tickets will be limited.

Keep an eye on social media and information at the pub for more details about all these events.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL

We're incredibly grateful for everyone who has supported us through another busy summer – and we can't wait to enjoy autumn and winter with you. So, pull on your boots, grab your coat and come and see us. SEE YOU AT THE DRAGON!

Georgie, Alan and the Dragon team



**Visit Us: The Green Dragon, Church Road,
Stoke Fleming, Devon, TQ6 0PY
Call: 01803 770238**

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Memorial Tree for Mike Jordan



I would like to thank the Parish Council for allowing me to plant a tree in memory of Mike on the showground, because he worked at the Hort and Sport Show for about fifty years. He started with directing cars and parking them, then selling tickets to car drivers, and eventually he became the field manager, where he was responsible for placing stalls and gazebos on the field and helping set up the beer tent for Show Day. He was also a member of the committee for around 25 years. He continued doing this until ill-health prevented him from doing so.

I would also like to thank Tim, Karen and Sarah for buying the tree, planting it and looking after it during all this hot weather!

His tree is planted overlooking the field where he worked for so many Show Days. With thanks.



Gill Jordan

Some more Hort and Sport Pictures



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

The banking hub provides basic banking services including counter services run for the major banks by the Post Office. You can pop in on any day to access these services. Address: 5-9 Victoria Road.

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

Monday	HSBC
Tuesday	NatWest
Wednesday	Lloyds
Thursday	Barclays
Friday	Santander

There is a private space where you can talk face-to-face about more complicated banking enquiries like payments and transfers, managing your account, and how to use online banking. Community bankers usually take their lunch breaks between 12.00 and 13.00. **Lloyds Banking Group has agreed to restore cheque deposit services at Post Offices and Banking Hubs**

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Stoke Fleming Information

Stoke Fleming Village Shop and Post Office

	Shop – 771119	Post Office – 770229
Sunday and BH	09.00 – 12.00	Closed all day
Monday	08.00 – 17.00	08.00 – 17.00
Tuesday	08.00 – 17.00	08.00 – 17.00
Wednesday	08.00 – 17.00	08.00 – 13.00
Thursday	08.00 – 17.00	08.00 – 17.00
Friday	08.00 – 17.00	08.00 – 17.00
Saturday	08.30 – 13.00	09.00 – 13.00

Service 3 (at Shady Lane) – Kingsbridge to Dartmouth (Stagecoach)

Stoke Fleming to Dartmouth			Dartmouth to Stoke Fleming	
Mon – Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon – Sat	Sun
08.31	08.29		06.15 (<i>Not Sat</i>)	
09.37	09.36		07.30	
11.07	11.07	11.39	09.30	09.55
12.07	12.07		10.30	
13.07	13.07		11.30	
14.07	14.07		12.30	12.25
15.07	15.07	14.09	13.30	
16.26	16.26	16.44	14.30	14.55
17.26	17.16		15.30	
18.24	18.16		17.15	17.30
19.23	19.15	19.14	18.45	

Service 93T – Slapton to Dartmouth (Country Bus)

Monday to Saturday only. Dartmouth Pontoon and Stoke Fleming (Shady Lane)

Stoke Fleming to Dartmouth	09.47	11.17	13.17	14.17
Dartmouth to Stoke Fleming	10.00	12.00	14.00	16.30

Note on Bus Times

Route 93 between Dartmouth and Kingsbridge has now been absorbed into route 3 between Kingsbridge and Plymouth. It will still divert from Strete to the A379 but will be a continuous route between Dartmouth and Plymouth.

October 2026

Thur	1	14.00 – Flower Club – Village Hall
Fri	2	14.00 – Craft Club – Village Hall
Sat	3	
Sun	4	11.00 – Harvest Festival Service – St Peter’s Church
Mon	5	
Tue	6	
Wed	7	19.00 – Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall
Thur	8	10.00 – u3a – Flavel
Fri	9	
Sat	10	
Sun	11	
Mon	12	14.30 – TASDAK – Flavel
Tue	13	10.00-13.00 – CHSW Coffee Morning – Royal Castle Hotel 17.00 – Dartmouth & Kingswear Society – Flavel
Wed	14	COPY DATE FOR NOVEMBER MAGAZINE (Note: early this month) 11.00 – PROBUS – Stoke Lodge Hotel 14.30 – Wednesday Ladies – Village Hall
Thur	15	Friends of Rowcroft Lunch – Sportsman’s Arms
Fri	16	18.00 – Ukrainian Action talk – St Peter’s Church 19.00 – Film Night “The Graduate” – Village Hall
Sat	17	
Sun	18	
Mon	19	
Tue	20	08.30 – Community Kitchen Lunch tickets on sale – Village Shop
Wed	21	
Thur	22	Launch of RBL Poppy Appeal
Fri	23	DARTMOUTH FOOD FESTIVAL 19.00 – Fundraising Bingo Night – Village Hall
Sat	24	DARTMOUTH FOOD FESTIVAL
Sun	25	DARTMOUTH FOOD FESTIVAL
Mon	26	Half Term starts
Tue	27	
Wed	28	11.00 – PROBUS – Stoke Lodge Hotel 11.00-14.00 – Open Day at Bayards Court Care Home
Thur	29	10.30-12.00 – Dartmouth Caring Coffee Morning – Village Hall
Fri	30	Half Term ends 12.30 – Community Kitchen Lunch – Village Hall
Sat	31	Halloween

Parish Council Minutes Summary – September 2026

A monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on 2nd September 2026 in the Ron Harris Room, Stoke Fleming Village Hall at 7pm. Please note: a full version of these minutes is at the library and on the website. The following Parish Councillors attended the meeting of the Parish Council: Cllr John Belli (Chair), Cllr Tim Moseley, Cllr Jay Floyd, Cllr Bella Johnston, Cllr Belinda Duffy, Cllr Keith Duberley, Cllr John Potter.

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Cllr Tilly Crowther, Cllr David Harris.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 5th August 2026, AND PLANNING SITE MEETING NOTES were signed by the Chairman of the meeting as true and correct records.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Slapton Line is still a big issue, work on back roads is progressing. Land purchases: ecology reports awaited.

Slapton village should be access only.

Extra funds invested in roads. Pothole hit team available, contact is via County website portal to repair, including potholes in the vicinity.

Four unitary councils planned for LGR, but proposed mapped not practical, solutions are currently being lobbied.

Maternity services in N. Devon. Secretary of State has been asked for help.

Children's services are now adequate. SEND – still some improvements needed. Inclusion hubs in local schools are planned.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Hort and Sport was a delight to attend.

LGR warding interim arrangements have been made; current discrepancies in the number of electors will be reviewed. Dartmouth will be a single ward, with one representative. This parish will be included with surrounding villages, should be ready for election in 2027. Transformation boards will be available to make this as smooth as possible. Judicial review at County is planned, alterations to wards expected.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Proposed new car park.

i. Report from sub-committee. BT to be chased.

COMMUNITY

a) Donation request – 5-year lease for Devon Libraries at the Village Hall. Currently on hold.

b) BT callbox update. Now complete. Future purchase of bench discussed.

See below for message from Cllr Duffy.

ROADS & TRANSPORT

a) Slapton Line. 2028 expected start date for works to repair A379. Works on back lanes to take eight years in total. Partnership meetings have been cancelled for the time being. First rock drop 17th October. Local businesses are being affected due to road closure.

MAINTENANCE

- a) Late item – SHDC play area agreement £250+vat. **Approved.**
- b) Late item – request to delay cut and maintenance greenkeeping. **Approved.**
- c) Play equipment damaged at recent event reported to Cllr Harris.

COUNCIL AND ACTIONS REGISTER

- a) New councillors have registered their interests with SHDC.

PLANNING: All noted.

APPLICATIONS

- a) Reference: 2048/26/HHO. Proposal: Demolition of conservatory, erection of single storey side extension & front porch. Site Address: 1 West Park, Stoke Fleming, TQ6 0RZ.
- b) Reference: 2285/26/TCA. Proposal: T1: Cherry Blossom Tree Prunus Serrulata – completely remove tree; it is dead and shedding limbs. Site Address: Stoke House Gardens Stoke Fleming.
- c) Application Number: 2190/26/CLP. Location Address: Development Site At Sx 862 483 New Road Stoke Fleming. Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness to determine if proposed works approved under application 1910/22/FUL can be carried out beyond the application expiration date. Status: Under Consideration. Application Type: Certificate of Lawfulness for Proposed Use.
- d) Reference: 2275/26/HHO. Proposal: Demolition of existing rear extensions and replacement with full width single storey rear extension. Site Address: Honeysuckle Cottage, Church Road, Stoke Fleming, TQ6 0PZ.
- e) Home Bargains. Council to invite Home Bargains (Baker Estates) to PC meeting when planning project underway.
- f) Trees on land (wildlife refuge) encroaching on neighbouring property discussed.

DECISIONS

- a) Application Number: 1543/26/HHO. Location Address: 29 Deer Park Road Stoke Fleming TQ6 0QW. Proposal: Single-storey rear extension and replacement of existing porch. Status: Approved.
- b) Application Number: 1409/26/HHO. Location Address: 7 Bidders Close Stoke Fleming TQ6 0NZ. Proposal: Replace conservatory with 2 storey rear extension and new entrance porch. Status: Approved.

c) Application: 2014/26/TCA. Proposal: T1: Holm Oak – reduce to 5-6m monolith, Ganoderma fungus present, significant bark loss. T2: Holly – fell, limited canopy, extensive deadwood. Location: Stoke House Gardens, Stoke Fleming, TQ6 0PE. Decision: No Objection.

Date of next meeting 7th October 7.00pm

Message from Cllr Belinda Duffy:

It with great pleasure I can inform you that the old phone box on Dartmouth Road has been transformed into a book/puzzle exchange for you all to enjoy.

I would like to thank Martin Keen for the decoration, and Sean Peart for making and donating the wonderful shelves.

Before:



And After:



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Please text/call before coming so we can make sure we are here to give you a warm welcome

Riversbridge, Blackpool Valley, Stoke Fleming, TQ6 0LG

Stoke Fleming Voice 100 Club!

The 100 Club quarterly draw took place at the meeting of the *Voice* Trustees on 8th September. The winners are as follows:

1st Prize goes to John Minshall with number 31, he wins £73.

2nd Prize goes to Dawn Drake with number 85, she wins £45.

3rd Prize goes to Diana Knight with number 91, she wins £27.

We also had draws for the final two places in the shortlist for the Christmas jackpot draw. The winners of these two draws are Tim Hailstone (number 18) and Barbara Goddard (number 1). Tim and Barbara go through to the jackpot draw together with the shortlist winners selected in March and June (Adrian Lloyd-Edwards and Peter Sanders). The overall winner of the Christmas jackpot draw will be selected from these four 100 Club members, and this special draw will take place at the Community Kitchen Christmas Lunch in December along with the next quarterly draw. In the meantime, monthly prize winners will be drawn in October and November, as usual.

We would like to thank all those taking part in the 100 Club.

Sandra Ingham

Craft Club

The Craft Club is a monthly social club, open to anyone who has an interest in crafts such as, to name a few, embroidery, cross stitch, knitting, crocheting, quilting. We warmly welcome anyone who likes making things.



We meet at 2.00pm on the first Friday of each month, for tea, cake, chat and time to work on our projects. Our next meeting is on Friday 2nd October at 2.00pm in the Village Hall.

Lorraine Forman

lorraineforman@gmail.com

Dartmouth and District Flower Club

Our next meeting will be at the Village Hall on Thursday 1st October at 2.00pm for a prompt 2.15pm start. Our demonstration will be on the topic “**Autumn Begins**”.

We welcome guests at the meeting at a fee of £8 to include tea/coffee and cake. There will be a raffle with lucky prize winners taking home one of the lovely arrangements.

Rosie Cooke

rose@akcooke.co.uk

Driving with Ukrainian Action

Stoke Fleming Voice generally limits coverage to our parish, Dartmouth and occasionally other places and topical issues within the South Hams. Ukraine falls well out of this remit, but our area does have a particularly important role in supporting that country through the actions of both “Cornwall and Devon Sending Love to Ukraine” which is running their 45th convoy this month, and “Ukrainian Action Team Devon”.

Ukrainian Action in London has led 104 missions, delivering aid and vehicles to Ukraine, but a disproportionate 18 of these have been run, largely independently, by Team Devon based in our toponymic sibling of Stoke Gabriel.

Last month, I had the honour of being a volunteer on their most recent mission, driving a Volvo XC90 in a convoy with another car, a couple of trucks, an ambulance from Derriford and a “Bob the Bus” from Totnes. These were packed with power generators, mobility aids, medical supplies and other items for use on the frontline of the war. We started from Stoke Gabriel where we were given a good send off from village residents and others lining the streets.



The rest of the trip was largely unremarkable although we had a couple of breakdowns to keep us awake but we always felt safe and well led. Bob the Bus could only go at just over 50 miles per hour, but we were protected from Mercedes tearing past at much faster speeds by the ambulance at the back of the convoy. We also saw some interesting startling murmurations and a large number of wind turbines (I'll return to this in next month's special edition on sustainable energy).

The mission ended in Poland where we met some of the local Ukrainian team who talked to us about the war, which was really interesting and quite emotional but definitely not suitable to describe here. However, if you'd like to know more, Friends of St Peter's are arranging a presentation in the church at 6.00pm on Friday 16th October – introduced by me but delivered by one of Ukrainian Action's leaders who has visited the country many times. See the next page for more on this event.

The vehicles and aid were then picked up for use on the frontline by a group of women who had driven over from Ukraine (men there not being allowed to cross the border) and we flew home.

Driving isn't my favourite activity so I wouldn't say the trip was enjoyable, but it definitely reinforced for me how important both aid and the feeling of being supported are to the Ukrainian population, and I'm very grateful to have had a small opportunity to do something for them.

If you'd like to help too, you can donate to Ukrainian Action using my fundraising link: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/jon-ingham>.

Slava Ukraini! – Jon Ingham



Friends of St Peter's Stoke Fleming

FOSP invites you to

"Human Stories from Ukraine"

Presented by Adam Steward,
Ukrainian Action in Stoke Gabriel

Introduced by Jon Ingham,
volunteer driver from Stoke Fleming

6pm for 6.30pm on Friday 16 October 2026
St Peter's Church, Stoke Fleming

45 minute presentation plus Q&A and
informal discussion over drinks

Free entry (donations welcome)

Drop off any aid for next mission?
(only items at <https://uateamdevon.org/aid>)

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Your Future, Your Way Event in Dartmouth

Have you started thinking about the future for yourself or a loved one?

Join us for a relaxed and informative event exploring later life planning, wellbeing support and the services available in your community.

Meet local experts, enjoy complimentary refreshments and discover how to plan ahead with confidence. What to expect:

Expert later-life planning talk: Ben Darby from Darby & Darby Solicitors will provide practical guidance on wills, powers of attorney and other important later-life planning considerations.

Support and wellbeing information: Meet local organisations, including Age UK and Dartmouth Caring, and learn about services available to support you and your family.

Seated Pilates taster session: Specialist physiotherapist, Sarah Brierley, will lead a gentle seated Pilates session to support strength, balance, flexibility and overall wellbeing.

Discover local community clubs: Representatives from Dartmouth Club De Pétanque and The Probus Club of Dartmouth will share information about opportunities to stay active, social and connected.

Coffees, pastries and a light lunch provided.

When? Wednesday 28th October, 11am to 2pm, **Where?** Bayards Court Care Home, Cotton Road, Dartmouth, TQ6 0FF.

Book your place: Call 01803 360261 or email bayardscourt@vivant-care.co.uk.



Dartmouth Food Festival Friday 23 – Sunday 25 October

Dartmouth will soon be buzzing again as the Food Festival bursts into its 22nd year. Come and join us for a weekend packed with a fantastic mix of tastings, talks and irresistible products from over 100 stallholders. Across the town, there's an abundance of things to see and experience, all coming together to make your visit truly tasty!



We are super excited as this year brings a fiery new highlight, our Food & Fire Quarter on the South Embankment. Throughout the weekend, you'll be treated to lively cooking demonstrations on various types of barbecues and plenty of banter with well-known chefs.

There will be lots of Children's Activities too, test your detective skills on the Food Trail, listen to a story at the Flavel Church followed by a free high tea on Saturday. Learn about food and the role of insects at the BeWild Tent on Sunday, plus much more!

Check out our website for all the details and tickets: dartmouthfoodfestival.com.

Suzie Sutton (Co-chair) – 07768 813855

Table Tennis Club

This is a story about fortitude and resilience. One which perhaps you will identify with. Because maybe, you too, are just that little bit more demanding of life? Possibly you have a youthful rebelliousness within you that pushes things that little bit further than the norm? That won't go quietly into the night, but stands up to be counted...

And so it was for the Treasurer of Stoke Fleming's Table Tennis Club, who – together with more than a few of our valiant players – refused to be beaten into a quiet submission of August slumber. Instead, ensuring the Hall was opened right through this summer month.

Yes, I know, and without a licence! Just the agreement from the lovely Hall owners that games could continue; that fun would endure.

Of course, we have now officially renewed our Tuesday night commitment to offer the opportunity for anyone so inclined, simply to turn up at 7:00pm and play for as long as they like until the doors close around 9:00pm. (Tables, bats and balls provided.) So, it is incredibly easy to join us, no matter how loud, or indeed how quiet, your rebel cry. We don't demand anything more than that you play to your best ability, whatever that may be, and enjoy it whilst doing so.

We hope to see you soon.

Sarah Cooper – Club Secretary

Get Growing This October with Gardentime

October is a great time to enjoy the last of the harvest, prepare your garden for winter and start planning ahead for spring.



Harvesting

- Let pumpkins ripen until deep orange and protect them from early frosts.
- Pick remaining green tomatoes and ripen them indoors in a paper bag with a banana or apple.

Planting

- Plant trees and shrubs while the soil is still warm, giving roots time to establish before spring.
- Lift and divide overcrowded perennials such as geraniums, agapanthus and salvias.
- Plant spring bulbs including daffodils, tulips, crocuses and alliums.
- Add winter colour to pots with violas, pansies and cyclamen.

Autumn Jobs

- Scarify, aerate and feed your lawn before winter.
- Prune summer-fruiting raspberries and cut back spent bean plants.
- Lift and store dahlias and gladioli, or protect them with a thick mulch.
- Collect seeds for next year.
- Move half-hardy plants into a greenhouse or sheltered spot.
- Clear fallen leaves, cut back perennials and clean your greenhouse.
- Raise pots onto pot feet to improve drainage.

Pop into Gardentime for spring bulbs, trees, shrubs, winter bedding and everything you need to get your garden ready for the months ahead.

Stoke Lodge Hotel

Sunday Lunch Returns

Sunday Lunch is back at Stoke Lodge from 27th September, this season served in our new restaurant, Wildflower.



Join us every Sunday from 12.30 – 3.00pm for seasonal dishes and traditional Sunday favourites. **1 course £19.50 | 2 courses £27 | 3 courses £32.**

Bookings are available by phone, email or via our website. We look forward to welcoming you!

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Stoke Fleming Voice does not make a charge for advertising in "Aladdin's Cave" but if your advert is successful, we would very much appreciate a donation. See inside back cover for our bank details.

Children's Hospice South West (CHSW) and St Austell Brewery

You are very cordially invited to join us at our 2nd Coffee Morning fundraising event for Children's Hospice South West on Tuesday 13th October between 10am and 1pm in the Royal Castle, Dartmouth.

The Royal Castle is part of St Austell Brewery who have taken on a two-year partnership with Children's Hospice South West (CHSW) with the aim of raising funds for the charity. In addition to their own events to raise funds for us while celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the Brewery, they're giving excellent support again to our small fundraising group for this event. Our first coffee morning with the Royal Castle in May this year raised the fantastic total of £768 in just three hours!

Just a reminder that St Austell Brewery also donates 25p to CHSW for every portion of fish 'n chips they sell in the South West! So please, eat more fish 'n chips at The Castle!

Please join us on 13th October for yummy cakes, lovely crafts and great tombola prizes!

Sue Tweed, tweed833@btinternet.com, 07955 197721



Coffee Morning



Tuesday 13th October
10am-1pm



The Royal Castle, 11 The Quay,
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Delicious
cakes
available



Great
tombola
prizes
to be won!

Children's Hospice South West Friends Group

All proceeds to Children's Hospice South West
supported by The Royal Castle



Prickles in a Pickle

Every year I ask “where has the time gone?” and I am now doing it again, “where has the time gone?”. This year has flashed by; I am not a conspiracy theorist, but is time a conspiracy?



Once the Hort and Sport is here, it seems that mince pies are in the shops. Whilst it has been the most wonderful weather for the school holidays, our wildlife has taken a real bashing. We have seen this only too well in the amount of orphaned hoglets coming in. Although we will show a drop in admissions, the percentage of hoglets will be high. It takes a longer journey to get a hoglet back into the wild than an adult, for many reasons, and therefore we have a bit of “bed blocking” going on. This means we cannot take more in. Hence the drop in numbers.

One of our current residents, Ollie, has now got his own following of over 5 million, world-wide. Not sure how this happened but apparently the footage of him being bathed and anointed with moisturiser provoked a lot of interest! Some of the more risqué sort, and many just fascinated by a bald hedgehog. To date he has raised over £2,500 towards his care.

At the last count and before treatment or veterinary intervention, it costs about £40/week to maintain these little wombles; multiply that by between 150-200 and you can see why running costs are at about £70,000 per annum.

We are just starting to see the arrival of the autumn hoglets. Hedgehogs can have two litters of hoglets a year. Gestation period is about 33-35 days, and they can have up to 10, although the most common number is 4-6. Hoglets are born blind and deaf like kittens and puppies. Eyes and ears open around 10-14 days. The mothers amongst us will be relieved to know that the hoglets are born visibly naked of prickles. The first little white prickles lie under the skin surface in a layer of fluid. Once born, this fluid is absorbed into the body, and the prickles can be seen.

Autumn hoglets do not always fare as well as the spring and summer ones, although this year rescuers are reporting that the earlier hoglets have not been robust either. Some have been born with poorly developed and malformed internal organs, which is being researched at the moment.

The New Hospital

Our architect is working through the building regs, and we are hoping to get started on ground works before Christmas.

Volunteers

We always need volunteers as we grow ever busier. Washing up in the mornings, evening feeds, afternoon tidy up or looking after the animals. We are all enhanced DBS checked as we have young students here.

Come along and meet us.

Judy, Alan and the Team www.pricklesinapickle.co.uk

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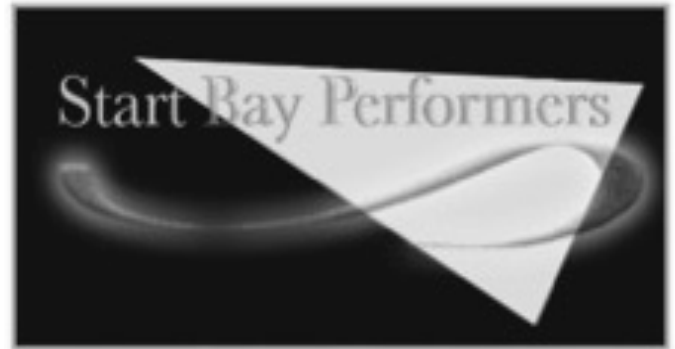
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Start Bay Performers

After a short break we are back to rehearsing our next production **“The Farndale Avenue Housing Estates Townswomen’s Guild Society’s A Christmas Carol”** by David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin Junior.



Dates are confirmed as Friday 27th and Saturday 28th November. The format of the evening will be – doors and bar open at 6.30pm; hot supper served at 7.15pm followed by the performance.

Tickets will be on sale from 1st November at the Stoke Fleming Village Shop or via Mary Rimell on 07909 970510.

We are still looking for help backstage on the nights in question, though we now have a volunteer to help with costume changes. Thanks Jocelyn. If you think you may be able to help just for those two evenings, please give me a call.

The Film Night, in collaboration with the Trustees of the Village Hall showing “The Graduate” starring Anne Bancroft and Dustin Hoffman is now scheduled for 16th October at 7.00pm. Bar and snacks will be available. Entry £5.

Start Bay Performers are continuing to meet every Monday evening at 7.00pm at Stoke Fleming Village Hall. We welcome anyone who would like to see what we do, think they might like to be involved in future productions, or who just enjoy play readings.

John Belli 07538 156864

Dartmouth Club De Pétanque

Have you ever fancied trying something a little different? Why not come along and have a go at Pétanque – the friendly French game that’s easy to learn, great fun to play, and suitable for all ages and abilities.

You don’t need any previous experience or special equipment – just wear comfortable shoes and bring a smile. We’ll provide the boules, explain the rules and give you a warm welcome.

We meet every Wednesday and Sunday at 10.30am in the rear left hand corner of the playing field in Stoke Fleming. There is free parking courtesy of the Village Hall.

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Stoke Fleming Primary School

Welcome Back! What a fantastic first week back it has been!

It has been lovely to welcome all our children and families back to Stoke Fleming Primary School, as well as saying a very special welcome to those children and families who are joining our school community for the first time.



There is always something exciting about the start of a new school year. New classrooms, new teachers, new routines and lots to look forward to. We have been incredibly impressed with how quickly the children have settled back into school life. Walking around the school this week, there has been such a calm and purposeful atmosphere, with children already working hard and showing fantastic attitudes towards their learning.

Our youngest children have made a brilliant start too. Starting nursery or school is such a big milestone and it has been lovely to see how quickly they are beginning to build relationships, explore their new surroundings and grow in confidence.

Although the children have been away over the summer, it has certainly not been quiet at school! Our premises team have been incredibly busy, and a huge amount of work has taken place across the site.

We have had new gates and doors installed, new flooring laid in a number of areas and the school hall has been completely redecorated. The biggest project, however, has been the building work to create our new Early Years Unit for all our children aged 2–5. This has involved significant changes to the existing space, including new doors, gates and redesigned areas to create a much more joined-up environment for our youngest children.

The school is looking fantastic, and we are really excited to see how the new spaces develop over the coming weeks and months.

There is so much to look forward to this year. As always, we want our children to receive a fantastic education but also to have as many opportunities and experiences as possible during their time with us. Trips, visitors, performances, sport, leadership opportunities and our wider personal development offer will continue to be a really important part of school life and of our vision of “Setting sail in the world.”

Christopher Harrison (Headteacher)

The Probus Club of Stoke Fleming and District

The August Public Holiday ended with our club being represented at this year's Stoke Fleming Hort and Sport Show with a colourful table illustrating the type of subjects offered by guest speakers at our members monthly meetings. We are pleased to report that several gentlemen visiting the event took the opportunity to be recruited into our friendly membership.



Unfortunately, our meeting scheduled for 9th September had to be postponed due to the unavoidable incapacity of the speaker – it will be reinstated later in the year with the subject “**Cyber Crime Awareness**”.

On 14th October Jackie Taylor who, with family connections, will present the subject of “**Shackleton's Endurance**” – a talk not to be missed.

We round off October on the 28th with Bob Mark and “**The First English Civil War**”.

As always our meetings take place at Stoke Lodge Hotel, talks start at 11.00 for about an hour; non-members area welcome but give our Speaker Secretary a ring on 07598 560896.

John Hosea Speaker Secretary
07598 560896

Cricket Club

This season has seen a seismic inter-generational change at the Home of Cricket. Ed Church, after decades of being the finest English captain since Mike Brearley (youngsters – google him) decided to pass the cap on to the next generation. Wisdom, experience and calmness was replaced with gut feeling, youthful exuberance and video shorts. Frederick Weir, a mere 21 years old, born when most of us were thinking about a shorter run up, has led us into the future and it's bright! Any concerns about Gen Z's lack of attention span, communication skills and knowledge of short fine leg were quickly dispelled.

Once we all got used to bowling changes being made via Snapchat and batting orders sent via WhatsApp, we started to thrive. Well done Ed, your service to the club cannot be underestimated – Long Live the Church! Well done Freddie, you make us smile – Long Live the Weir!

As ever, thank you to all those who do those things that need doing – you know what you do! But thanks in particular to Darren, John and Perky. Without you three not a ball is bowled! Winter well Stoke Fleming and I'll see you out the other side.

Stacey Gilbert

Gallopingshef@icloud.com, 07931 384017

Date	Time	Walk Level	Location (F = Bring money for ferry)	Meeting Point
1st Oct	10.30	3	Gallants Bower.	The Bandstand, Royal Avenue Gardens.
8th Oct	10.00	2	Clennon Lakes. (F)	#120 bus from Kingswear Banjo or Goodrington YMCA bus stop at 10.20.
15th Oct	10.30	3	Kingswear circular with estuary and river views. (F)	Kingswear railway station.
22nd Oct	09.57	3	Dart riverside walk and the Dartington Estate.	#7 bus from Dartmouth or Totnes railway station at 10.37.
29th Oct	10.00	2	Berry Head, Brixham Circular. (F)	#18 bus from Kingswear Banjo or Brixham bus terminus at 10.25.

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

There is no charge for attending these walks, all we ask is that you bring enough money to join us for refreshments at the end if you would like to; and for the ferry where indicated in the "Location" column with (F).

Please wear suitable clothing and comfortable supportive footwear. Dogs are welcome, please clear up after them and ensure they are on a lead at all times. Bring a bottle of water on warm days and medication if required. For more information on the walks please call **David** on 07309 090958. All walks are subject to change or cancellation.

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Mondays

19.00-21.00 Start Bay Performers. Contact John Belli: 07538 156864.

Tuesdays

09.30-10.30 Zest Stretch and Reset Yoga. All levels welcome. Book www.zest-yoga.co.uk / Kirsty: 07534 441715.

10.45-11.45 Stretch & Stay Mobile. Most of the exercises are seated, with some optional standing ones using the chair to improve balance. Book www.zest-yoga.co.uk / Kirsty: 07534 441715.

12.00-13.00 Beginners Yoga run by Kirsty Bradley for u3a members. Contact Julia Churchley: 07900 321681 / julia.churchley@hotmail.co.uk for more details.

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

19.00-21.00 Table Tennis, new players (over 18) are always welcome. Contact Sarah Cooper: sarahcooperreiki@yahoo.co.uk / 07799 311797.

Wednesdays

09.15-10.15 Yoga with Ellie, no experience required. Contact Ellie on 07778 208080.

10.30 Club de Pétanque, Village Hall recreation ground, for all skill levels. New members are welcome. Contact John: 07811 102460 or Valerie: 07368 402112.

19.00-20.00 Line dance class (from 9th September). Contact Su Gorrie on Facebook.

Fridays

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

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

Sundays

10.30 Club de Pétanque, Village Hall recreation ground, for all skill levels. New members are welcome. Contact John: 07811 102460 or Valerie: 07368 402112.

Please check with instructors for any last-minute changes.

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

Loam Rangers



Well, the heatwave eventually gave way to some “normal weather” and some much-needed rain. The gardeners of Stoke Fleming kept up a steady stream of visits to site, both depositing garden waste and collecting our wonderful compost.



We have quite a pile ready for the next cycle as witnessed by our now retired treasurer – so here we have a final thank you to Marie for her years of dedication.

We have been notified by Sustainable South Hams of several “courses” regarding different aspects of composting – these are listed below; please contact Steve Shakespeare for further information.

Saturday 3rd October – The Ecology of the Compost Heap.

Friday 9th October – Composting and Biochar workshop.

Saturday 17th October – Home & allotment composting workshop.

Friday 6th November – DIY wormery and vermicomposting.

Friday 20th November – Discover Bokashi composting.

A couple of reminders:

The Wednesday evening opening has now finished – but watch this space for news on winter opening December to February.

As we approach autumn, we turn our attention to the maintenance and upkeep of the site. Much has been achieved throughout the year, including the new story boards at the entrance and a new fence behind the bays to secure the access from the Forest School.

However, our annual tidy up will be fast approaching and hopefully we will have the usual terrific response from members armed with an assortment of power tools to bring the site into shape for the winter.

Steve Shakespeare – sgshakespeare@btinternet.com 07970137311

Paul Noonan – pnoonan14@gmail.com (Volunteer enquiries)

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Where are we Now?

Last month we were at the original BRNC Gates, Dartmouth – Ian Wadeson, Clever Clogs and Debbie Morris were on the ball with the correct answer, and I was really surprised that more people didn't get it right.



Let's see how you get on with this month's picture going back to 1930 – a lot easier – or is it?

Now the only question is where are we now?



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



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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
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	Micky's Taxis	07812 088935
	Prestige Taxis	714336

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Stoke Fleming Voice is run entirely by parish volunteers, for the benefit of parish residents. Our editors work hard to ensure factual accuracy; however, readers may want to check provided information for themselves. Please notify us of any changes to contact details.

*Donations towards the production of this magazine are always welcome. Our Bank details are: Stoke Fleming Voice, **A/c: 19250960. Sort code: 30-54-66.***

Stoke Fleming Village Directory 2026

(Area Code: 01803)

100 Club	Sandra Ingham, sfvh100club@gmail.com	07889 573087
Bellringing	John Dietz	770515
Bowling Club	Liz Mallyon	712799
Church – Rector	Rev Matt Gorton, revgorton@hotmail.com	906861
Church Visiting Group	Rosemary Minshall	770300
Churchwarden	John Dietz	770515
Craft Club	Lorraine Forman, Lorraineforman@gmail.com	
Cricket Club	Stacey Gilbert. Gallopingschef@icloud.com	07931 384017
Dart Valley u3a	Tim Freeman	832663
Friends of St Peter's	Peter Barker	770556
Hort & Sport Show	enquiries.hortandsport@gmail.com	
Little Lanterns	Lisa Callard	770244
Loam Rangers	Steve Shakespeare	07970 137311
Parish Council	Sharon Whelon, clerk@stokefleming.org or see https://www.stokefleming.org/councillors	
Pétanque	John Sparks 07811 102460 or Valerie Ward	07368 402112
Primary School	Christopher Harrison, Head Teacher	770244
Primary School (Friends)	Lisa Callard	770244
Probus	John Hosea	07598 560896
Short Mat Bowls	Debbie Morris	770305
Start Bay Performers	Mary Rimell	07909 970510
Table Tennis	Sarah Cooper, sarahcooperreiki@yahoo.co.uk	07799 311797
Village Hall Bookings	Emily Handley, enquiries@stokeflemingvillagehall.org.uk	07450 075734
Village Hall Management Committee	John Belli, Chairman of Trustees	07538 156864
Walk and Talk	David Myall	07309 090958
Wednesday Ladies	Jill Fell	771137
Youth Club	Rev Matt Gorton, stokeflemingyouthclub@gmail.com	906861