

Stoke Fleming Voice

May 2026



25th Anniversary Commemorations

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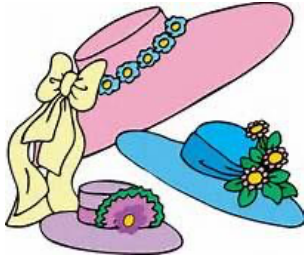
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15 Deer Park Road, Stoke Fleming, Dartmouth, TQ6 0QW

Editorial

Hoping that I am not speaking too soon (but I will write it anyway), it looks as if the rain has stopped, and the British summer has come to us early this year (according to the BBC anyway). Let us hope that the day you read this the sun will be shining, and blue skies are in evidence as on the day I sat and wrote this editorial.

As *Stoke Fleming Voice* sees its second summer, I would like to thank those who have given their feedback, and remind you that you can also read this month's and previous editions online at www.stokeflemingvoice.com.



I love Easter, not just from its biblical meaning, but for the way it brings people together. It was good to see so many children with their families attending the Easter craft workshop and Easter Bonnet Competition at the Green Dragon on Good Friday, and we thank Laura and Jason from the Village Shop for arranging the Easter Egg Hunt.

It was lovely to see so many visitors in the way of holiday makers, second homeowners, and walkers passing through on the coastal path. We are a hospitable community who are warm and welcoming. This was reflected on Easter Sunday when 50 homes were without power for the whole day and evening. Power was eventually reinstated just before midnight, but neighbours and kind-hearted residents were offering food, hot drinks and in some cases a bed to sleep for the night.

Following on from the Stoke Fleming Voices Live event I found myself drawn to the Wednesday Ladies Group and am so pleased I did. I went along to their April meeting to listen to guest speaker author Rosemary Griggs re-enact, in authentic clothing, the life of a serving maid in Devon in the 15th century. The room was full of welcoming, like-minded women who enjoyed each other's company. We are so pleased the *Voice* could bring so many charities and organisations together in the same place, where they could share time talking to each other and finding out more about the work they do, as well as attracting new members. Read on in this month's magazine to find out more.

I am now going to soak up this sunshine while it's here, and look forward to a long hot summer to come. (Fingers crossed.)

Pam

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

(Cover photograph provided by the Village Hall Committee.)

SFV Noticeboard

The *Voice's* policy on inserts

You may have noticed that we've been including leaflets in the last few editions of *Stoke Fleming Voice*.



We charge groups, non-profit organisations (including charities) and local businesses £30 to include their flyers, so this provides a small, but significant addition to our finances. We only distribute leaflets we believe will be useful for residents and limit the number we include in each edition. The quality of these inserts is the responsibility of the organisations providing them, and we strongly encourage all groups to proof-read thoroughly!

We hope we have the community's support to include inserts in the magazine, but if you have any concerns about us doing this, please let us know: stokeflemingvoice@gmail.com.

Support for B&B Owners

Do you have a B&B in Stoke Fleming, and do your guests like finding out about what's going on within the parish?

Stoke Fleming Voice has recently produced A6 postcards outlining how pdf copies of the magazine can be obtained from our website. If you'd like some cards to use for your guests, we're happy to provide these at no charge – contact us at stokeflemingvoice@gmail.com.

Devon Community Foundation



Stoke Fleming Voice is grateful to Devon Community Foundation (<https://devoncf.com/>) for a £1,000 grant towards printing of this and our June & July magazines. The Foundation distributes grants to tackle inequalities and strengthen communities (you may have read their article on volunteering in March's magazine). Their grant helps us feel confident we can continue publication through 2026 and beyond, supporting the strong community we are lucky to have here in Stoke Fleming.

Dogs on Blackpool Sands

As a reminder, dogs are **not permitted** on the beach, in the café, or in the car parks from **1st May to 30th September** to comply with Blue Flag regulations.

Parking in Dartmouth

Between 1st May and 30th September on-street parking in Dartmouth (where indicated) will be restricted to one or two hours between 09.00 and 18.00 daily.

Next Month's Magazine

Our next magazine, due out at the end of May, will cover news and events in both June and July. After that the next edition will hit the streets at the end of July, covering August.

Personal Announcements

Welcome to Stoke Fleming...

Cate Calder and Adam Bennett, and Adam's daughter Kaelin.

Chris Dolan and Jane Hyde-Walsh.

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



Dartmouth Club de Pétanque

We meet every Wednesday and Sunday at 10.30 am in the playing field behind the Village Hall. No experience is necessary, and all equipment is supplied. Why not come along and try out this fun game? If you require further information, please contact me on 07368 402112.

Valerie Ward



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Reader's Corner

Give thanks for every day – cup your hands and imagine that you are holding a small seed in them. When you look at the seed you have no idea what will come from it, whether it will be a beautiful blossom, a small insignificant weed or a giant tree. This seed symbolises the possibilities that lie in this day.



Here is today, O God. I don't know what this day will bring, although I like to think that I do. I have my schedule, my to-do list filled in, my agenda duly noted. I like to think that I have this day under control, but I know that's not how most days go.

I know that today I will be surprised by sorrows, joys and challenges. I know that today I will face both problems and adventures. I know that today may just be an ordinary day or it may be the most extraordinary day of my life. And I know that you are the only one who knows what lies ahead. So, I offer you this day. Raise your cupped hands and imagine giving the small seed to God.

Here is today O God. I give it to you, trusting you will take whatever happens in this day and use it for your glory. I trust that whatever happens today, you will be with me. Thank you for this day and for its endless possibilities. Thank you that I can face this day with you.

Here is today, O God: a part of all the days we have spent together, a part of all the days to come, a part of who I am and where I am on my journey, a part of the plan you have for me. Take this day. Use it to your glory. Thank you, God.

Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches – Matthew, 13:32.

Peace and joy will be with you all.

Jenny Harris

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

From the Registers

16th April: Funeral followed by cremation: Enid Patricia Longrigg.

Little Stars

Our Little Stars on a Monday morning are a friendly, happy group and we welcome new mums, grandmas and children.

We are in St Peter's church, term-time Monday mornings from 9.00am to 10.30am.

Heather, Sue and Peter

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my friends for the good wishes sent to me after my hip operation. I will never forget the support and kindness; my Little Stars sent me a garden of my own with butterflies and flowers they made themselves. Thank you. Sue. x"

St Peter's Church Services in May

- Sun 3rd 10.15am Prayer Time.
11.00am Holy Communion.
12.00 noon Annual Parochial Church Meeting.
6.30pm Choral Evensong – with the Dartmouth Phoenix Choir.
- Sun 10th 11.00am Rogation Service.
Start of Christian Aid Week.
- Sun 17th 11.00am Communion by extension.
- Sun 24th 11.00am Pentecost Morning Worship.
- Sun 31st United Benefice Holy Communion with band at Strete.

Wednesday Ladies

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 13th May, 2.30pm in the Village Hall Ron Harris room. The speaker this month is **Andy Gilbrook** who will be talking about his life in the British Intelligence Service.

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

Barbara Goddard

News from the Hort and Sport

Here we are in May and the main news from Hort & Sport is the Annual Plant Sale on Saturday 9th May. On offer will be locally grown plants for your beds, borders and home, as well as garden bric-a-brac. Plant and cake donations accepted from 9am and doors open at 10am. We look forward to seeing you all there for plants, tea, coffee, biscuits and a chance to sit and chat.

The theme for the 2026 show, taking place on 31st August, is “Anniversaries”: 25 years of our wonderful Village Hall, and Sir David Attenborough's and Winnie the Pooh's 100th birthdays. More to be revealed in the next edition and in the schedule available late June.

Paula Johnston

Stoke Lodge Hotel

With summer just around the corner, we're delighted to announce that from Wednesday 16th May, Stoke Lodge Hotel will be launching a new weekly **Happy Hour** every Wednesday from 5pm–6pm.

Join us for 2-for-1 on house drinks and 20% off our lounge and terrace menu, whether you choose to relax in the bar and lounge, or soak up the last of the afternoon sunshine on the terrace.

Make your midweek evenings that little bit sweeter at Stoke Lodge.



HORTICULTURAL & SPORTS SOCIETY



Stoke Fleming
Founded 1875

PLANT SALE

and **COFFEE MORNING**

Stoke Fleming Village Hall

Saturday 9th May

10.00 to 11.30



Village Life: John Belli, Vice-Chair of the Parish Council, Chairman of the Village Hall Trustees , and Director of Start Bay Performers.



Born and raised in Central London of Italian parents, there are many sides to John Belli.

He was brought up in Islington, where the Italian church and club were the centre of the community. He developed a love of the theatre, and his enthusiasm led him to a successful audition to join the Tower Theatre, Islington on leaving school. He did not commit professionally, though in later life he won a county award for playing Prince Richard in *The Lion in Winter*. One memory of the stage that has stuck with him was playing the lead with The Arlecchino Players production of Verdi – a 3-hour production where Verdi never left the stage!

Playing football during his younger years and then rugby were also great interests. On retiring from playing John took FA Levels badges up to UEFA B Licence, qualifying him to coach players across all age groups. He managed the adult team of AC Finchley and proud moments were winning back-to-back promotion in his first two seasons to the North London League and eventually managing them, in the West Herts Premier Division.

Other passions developed over the years are National Hunt horse racing, playing chess and cooking, one particular favourite being spaghetti carbonara.

To work! John in his twenties started in retail fashion in various management roles up to store manager, then to Retail Project Management, Strategic Planning, and Marketing and Market Research Controller for the property division of the Burton/Debenham Group. One responsibility was helping to source potential sites to buy across this country and Europe during the High Street Boom in the 80s. He also commenced an MBA degree via Sheffield University. Later he joined Jacques Vert where, on a site visit, John met a lovely lady called Carol, and to coin a phrase, the rest is history.

After 30 years in retail, John decided he wanted to have a role where he could give back to society and joined the West London Mental Health Trust. He was the Business Manager at Work Rehab and together with a partner from LB Ealing formed a Social Enterprise as Joint Managing Director. The Social Enterprise employed Service Users to participate in real work and achieve self-

empowerment and independence. The businesses within it stood alone. It received professional expertise via the EU.

John and Carol moved to Stoke Fleming 11 years ago after falling for the Dartmouth Area in earlier years when visiting Carol's brother. Not surprisingly John joined Start Bay Performers.

After a year, he became their representative on the Village Hall committee and has remained as a Trustee ever since, the last two years as Chair, taking over from Barry Morris. John is immensely proud of the work the team of Trustees and helpers carried out over the past few years, maintaining and developing the Village Hall, to maintain its place as an essential asset for the community.

During this time, he took up director roles in Start Bay Performer productions, whose short plays we enjoy twice a year. Six years ago, John joined the Parish Council and has been in the position of Vice Chair for the past year.

When asked to name another enjoyable past-time the answer was: socialising in the Green Dragon with the ever-wonderful friendly villagers of Stoke Fleming!

25 years of the “new” Stoke Fleming Village Hall (2001-2026)

Stoke Fleming has had the benefit of a village hall since the 1920s; this is largely thanks to Miss Bidder who kindly donated land for its original construction, along Rectory Lane, to the Parish. For over seventy years the building served a growing village community, but by the 1990s it was deemed no longer fit for purpose and plans were made to replace it with a bigger, more modern facility.

After widespread consultation a new site, at the end of the playing fields along Dartmouth Road, was chosen and a list of objectives drawn up for the next building to fulfill. Discussion also took place about what was to become of the previous site, once it was cleared, and it was agreed to make this into Old Hall Gardens, which can still be enjoyed today.

Demolishing the old Hall



Construction of a new hall needed considerable investment, and local parishioners rallied to the cause raising over £30K themselves, undertaking a successful lottery bid for £175K and encouraging other regional and national partners to make up the balance. This included a generous grant from the Parish Council which was recouped by a local rate increase.

With funding in place and approved designs drawn up by village local Bob Benns of BBH Architects, work began on site led by another Stoke Fleming resident, Phil Elliott, of Elliott Construction.

The main driver for the whole project was, however, John Goddard and it was therefore fitting that he and his wife Barbara laid the foundation stone in July 2000 with the doors opening in March of the following year.



The Hall's official opening was performed by Ron Bendall, a Westcountry TV presenter, on the 28th of April followed by a barn dance and cabaret evening to mark the occasion.

Twenty-five years later we are back to celebrate this success again as we reach another important milestone in the tremendous role the Hall has played in our community.

Now home to yoga classes, drama productions, table tennis, mahjong, flower arranging, short mat bowls, coffee mornings, dance lessons, Pilates, children's parties, Parish Council meetings, corporate presentations, weddings, community lunches, Hort and Sports judging, table-top sales and more, the list just keeps on growing.

The building itself also continues to evolve with improved Wi-Fi, sound and audio upgrades, better marketing, updated safety policies and, later this year, the introduction of energy efficient solar panels on the roof.

These enhancements, like the building of the Hall in 2000, still cost money, hence our fundraising casino night last month, which I hope many of you enjoyed. Our next Silver Anniversary celebration is a wonderful, relaxed Sunday afternoon cream tea event on the 17th May (see poster for details) accompanied by the fabulous Brass Monkeys ensemble playing a host of popular tunes. This will be followed on 20th June by an amazing cabaret evening, with a host of great performers, including a Rod Stewart tribute act, so keep your eyes out for local posters and social media mentions.

The one consistent factor at the Hall, from Miss Bidder's original generosity and John Goddard's drive, through to the supporters of today, is the role that local people play in making it the success that it is.

Without their dedication and commitment this vital village asset would easily be lost so whatever you have done for the Hall in the past from cleaning the floors, changing the lightbulbs, redecorating the rooms, watering the plants, making fundraising cakes, donating to our raffles, taking bookings, paying the bills, serving drinks over the bar or simply attending our classes and events. Thank you all so, so much and here's to the next 25 years.

John Belli

Building the new Hall



With special thanks to Barry Morris (photographs) and Nick Teage (Hall history)

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In celebration of 25 wonderful years of
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Sunday 17th May, 2pm - 5pm

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or from Jill on 01803 770045

Nature Notes

There were at least 25 shelducks in a field bordering Stoke Fleming and Blackawton, near Greenswood Farm, on 10th April. The population quadruples in winter, and possibly they were migrants on their way to Scandinavia and NW Germany.



On 7th April I saw the first swallow over Venn Lane near Cotton, and I heard a chiffchaff in a woody hedgerow nearby. On 9th April there were more than 30 swallows over Venn Stream field on Riversbridge Lane.



At 5.20pm, during daylight, I saw a natterer's bat near Hawthorn Gardens on Venn Lane outside Cotton Development on 7th April. Sunbathing on the hedgerow, it saw me and fluttered away, but then came back. It was of medium size, triangular ears, light brown dorsal and white underside. It prefers woods and ponds which were nearby but also likes buildings to nest. The last time I saw them was near Bowden House on 7th October 2020.



A Venn cottager saw a barn owl near Venn Cross. I found a blackbird eggshell near Little Cotton on 17th March. The egg was probably laid on 3rd March which is very early. The jays have a territory near Venn Cottages and I saw four long-tailed tits near Venn Cross. Skylarks are about, but the field where they used to feed on the wildflower seeds, near Pine Wood off Ash Lane, had been covered with moderate weed killer and they did not want to go there. No sign of the cirl buntings which feed there either.

DW

Stoke Fleming Voices Live

We would like to thank everyone who helped to make “Voices Live” in the Village Hall a worthwhile and memorable event.



More than 100 people attended and we celebrate the small wins of the thirty organisations who had a presence at the event. These include Wednesday Ladies, who reported two new members, and Children’s Hospice South West (CHSW) recruiting two new volunteers. Linda and Barry Morris found two volunteers to take on the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and someone to take on the defibrillators in the

village.

Dartmouth Caring was delighted that an elderly resident walked to the event to volunteer her help, the Table Tennis club reported six potential new members while the Community Kitchen collected new expressions of interest; this is just a small snapshot of the accumulation of small successes. However, some groups still need more members to continue, and you'll find a few calls for support in this magazine (including from ourselves on the opposite page).



The event also provided the opportunity for our *Voice* team to meet more of the people we liaise with every month. Thanks also to Devon County Council's Growing Communities Fund for funding the event.

The *Voice* Team



Please support *Stoke Fleming Voice*

It's 15 months since we took over the production of the village magazine and we really appreciate all the positive feedback on how we are developing the magazine. This is our 14th edition and we have come to realise that to continue to produce and improve the magazine further alongside all our other involvements in life, we need to expand the team. Please can you help?

It needn't be a major commitment. We would like another one or two people to join our team, to share ideas, and be involved with content gathering and production of the magazine. This will share the work and give cover for times when some of us need or want to be elsewhere. Without your input SFV would be in a poorer place.

There are also tasks which only take a few hours a month; jobs such as preparing the magazines for distribution and proof reading or holiday cover for a distribution round. We also have "stand-alone" projects such as applying for grants for funding. Have you any interest in websites?

It's a great way to get to know more people in the community and find out more about the area. We've all found that, irrespective of the number of years we have lived here. And we are a happy team who work well together and have fun. Please get in touch to find out more. We do need you! Email stokeflemingvoice@gmail.com or email or phone any of the team for a chat. Our contact details are in the Village Directory on the back cover.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Jenny, Jon, Sandra, Pam and Anne

Stoke Fleming Library – Tel: 770076

At the Village Hall: Monday 3.00pm to 5.00pm, Tuesday 10.30am to 12.30pm, Thursday 3:00pm to 5.00pm. The Library will be closed for the two Bank Holidays in May - the 4th and 25th.

The Summer Book Quest's theme this summer is transport. Our main SBQ characters Libro, Pip and Zena, plus a new character Pixie the Pigeon, go on a mission to help a famous explorer fix her plane. We will have the usual booklet and stickers for children to collect over the Summer holidays.

We're very happy to accept donated books – as long as they are in good condition. Ample free parking when you visit in person which is a bonus.

Thank you for continuing to support the Library and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sue Taylor



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End of our Financial Year

- Demand up from last fin.yr up 13% (better than previous yr 23%)
- Overheads 13%, that means **87% of your money went on goods to help those in need**
- We do not get ANY CENTRAL/LOCAL GOVERNMENT financial support
- Spent **£17.000** on food, household & toiletries
- Handed out **1638** food parcels & £7.2k of freezer, dairy, fresh foods & household goods for clients (April 2025 to March 2026)
- No trustees or volunteers are paid

We are always there for our clients

**30-98-69 A/C no: 70651563
Dartmouth & District Food Bank**

The Big Fix

Running throughout the whole of May, **The BIG FIX** has one aim – to repair as many broken things as possible.

The event, coordinated by **Devon County Council**, sees volunteer menders breathe new life into broken items such as electronics, garden equipment, clothing, jewellery, clocks and much more.

Visit Dartington Repair Café, which operates at Dartington Village Hall on the first Saturday of the month. 1pm-4pm. To find out more about The BIG FIX and locations of other Repair Cafes visit www.recycledevon.org.

In Dartington you will also find the **ShareShed**. It's a mobile shed that has a library of items that are available to borrow for a small fee, from garden and power tools to kitchen items, suitcases, BBQs and camping gear. You'll find it in The Cider Press Centre Car Park on Wednesdays from 2.30pm to 4pm. It visits Totnes Market Square on Thursdays between 1.30pm to 4pm. To find out more about ShareShed email info@shareshed.org.uk, phone 07516 908237 or visit www.shareshed.org.uk.

Breast Cancer Support Group

Our April meet up was as helpful as ever, with our own lovely Laura giving us a presentation on “Menopause and Cancer” and the support provided by this amazing non-profit organisation. Many women go through treatment-induced menopause after their cancer journey and this can be difficult to navigate through and find support for. For anyone who would like more information, log onto www.menopauseandcancer.org for lots of



great tips, podcasts, events and loads of other helpful resources.

A huge thank you to Jill Wallis for keeping the refreshments going for our groups! Rachel Evans for our gorgeous cakes and Lucy Watkins for making our heart and seatbelt cushions.

Our next few dates to meet up are:

Wednesday 6th May; 3rd June; 1st July; 5th August 2026 - All held from

5.30pm to 7pm at Dartmouth Caring, Health and Wellbeing Centre.

We are a lovely, friendly group, who have lots of laughs and give each other bags of support! If you have been affected by breast cancer and would like to come along, you would be made very welcome.

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

News from the Community Kitchen

Where does the time go? We are approaching our eighth year of lunches. From humble beginnings and encouragement to get you all through the door, to picnics when we had lock-down and sell out lunches with everything in between!



We had an “Italian” feel last month and are now onward planning for the summer months of June and July. We take a break in August for family holidays, returning in September when we will be delighted to see you all again! More details in the summer magazine.

Next tickets will go on sale on Tuesday 5th May at 8.30am for lunch on **Thursday 21st May** at 12.30pm. **Please make a note of the date as it is not a Friday this month.** Tickets will remain at £10 with £2 to pay on the day. It is open to all in the Parish but although we try hard, we do need dietary requirements and our chefs did very well becoming magicians this month to cater for you all. Either call 07855 483865 or email houseonthehill661@gmail.com with your requirements.

Summer fruits arriving in the shops now. The farmers in Mediterranean countries say “Don’t buy the first soft fruits. They are the early varieties that haven’t had time to ripen and are lacking flavour” – so there you are. Wait on until it gets warmer and they taste much better.

Buy a ticket and come and have lunch with us. “When you eat together, you stick together”.

Mary Newman



Short Mat Bowls

We continue to meet once a week at Stoke Fleming Hall on Tuesday afternoons; our numbers remain fairly constant, but we need new members to stay viable.

On Tuesday 2nd April we welcomed the Finals night for South Hams Short Mat Bowls Association Triples. This was a fierce competition and Slapton beat Diptford on both mats. Refreshments were provided by us and there was a raffle. It was a very good, friendly evening and showcased the excellent facilities provided by our Hall.

Please come and join us; the first 2 sessions are free to see if you like the game.



Debbie Morris

Citizens Advice South Hams

Free, confidential and impartial advice

We give **up-to-date** advice on: benefits, work, domestic energy use, debt and money, immigration, consumer rights, housing, family issues, law and courts, problems with healthcare, and more.

Every Tuesday, 1pm to 4pm

Health and Wellbeing Centre, Wessex Way, Dartmouth, TQ6 0JL



0808 278 7948
southhamscab.org.uk

Citizens Advice Bureau

Changes to Universal Credit

The government has announced changes to Universal Credit that affect all claimants from April 2026. These changes are the result of the Universal Credit Act 2025 and the November 2025 Budget.

The amount of Universal Credit you get has changed. This is because the Universal Credit “standard allowance” has increased. A monthly Universal Credit payment is made up of a standard allowance plus any additional amounts you might get based on your circumstances.

The government has also removed the two-child limit for Universal Credit from April 2026. This means you might get more Universal Credit if you’re responsible for three or more children.

You might also be affected by the April 2026 changes if you get an additional amount because you have a long-term health condition or a disability. This payment is called the “limited capability for work-related activity” (LCWRA) element. The amount has decreased for most people who apply for the LCWRA element on or after 6 April 2026.

If you get any other benefits, they will not be affected – the changes only apply to Universal Credit. For example, if you get Personal Independence Payment (PIP), it will not be affected by these changes.

If you are concerned about any changes to your payments, please contact us on 0808 278 7948, or come and see us – more information available on our website southhamscab.org.uk.



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Caroline Voaden

MP for South Devon



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

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

✉ caroline.voaden.mp@parliament.uk ☎ 01803658461

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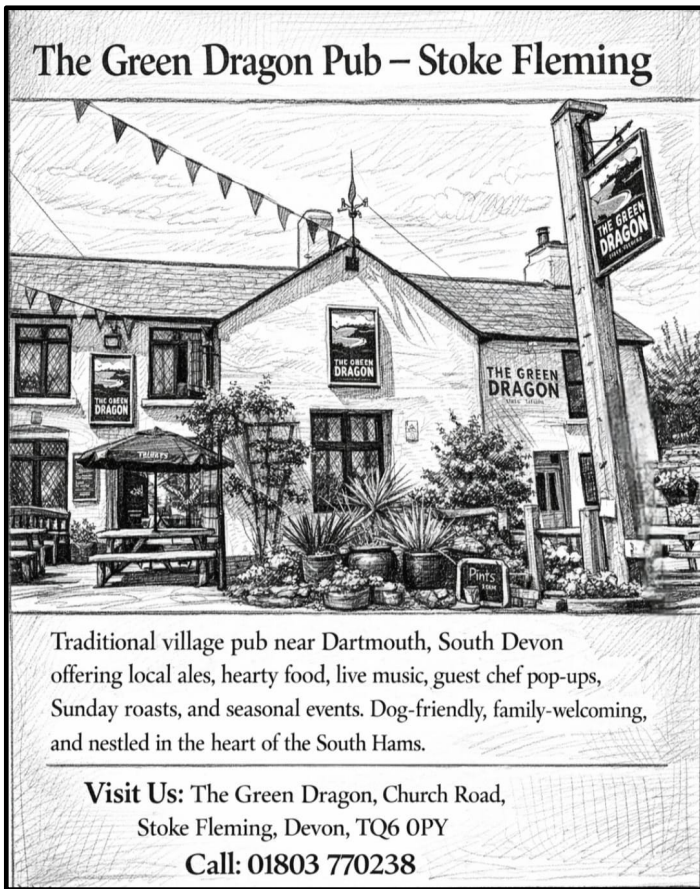
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The Green Dragon



Hello May!

It's wonderful to welcome the warmer days of spring with open arms and a bright outlook. With drier skies ahead, there's no better time to enjoy the sunshine and indulge in the seasonal change.

Our Brew and Bake Café is bustling with energy, and we're excited to be serving up hot pastries, rich coffees, hearty cooked breakfasts and homemade sweet treats every Thursday to Saturday from 9am.

Whether you're popping by for a morning pick-me-up or enjoying a cozy afternoon, we've got something for everyone!

This Month's Events

We've got some fantastic culinary events from guest chef The Greedy Table lined up that you won't want to miss!

10th May: Sunday Roast with all the trimmings – the perfect way to gather with friends and family.

11th & 12th May: Global Street Food – a delicious tour of flavours from around the world.

24th & 25th May: The Greedy Table will be taking over our kitchen with another special treat – don't miss out!

And if that's not enough, join us on **Saturday 23rd May** for Live Music with the incredibly talented Terence Waldstadt, playing from 9pm.

It's shaping up to be a great start to spring! We can't wait to see you all.

Georgie, Alan and the Dragon team

CRAB SHELL



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

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

1 Raleigh Street, Dartmouth Tel: 01803 839036



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www.dartmouthicecream.com

Dartmouth Caring

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



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

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



Dartmouth Caring
Supporting Our Community

Charity Reg No. 1187326



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What to do in the Garden in May

- Plant out tender crops like tomatoes and peppers (after hardening off for 10–14 days).
- Harden off dahlias and cannas; keep aubergines protected until late May.
- Earth up potatoes as they grow to boost your harvest.
- Add instant colour with summer bedding like petunias, geraniums, begonias and fuchsias.
- Water regularly, especially in dry spells – use rainwater where possible.
- Feed lawns and repair bare patches with grass seed.
- Support plants early – climbing beans, peonies and other tall perennials.
- Divide herbaceous perennials and overcrowded daffodils.
- Deadhead tulips, but leave foliage to die back naturally.
- Keep pests under control:
 - Net carrots to prevent carrot fly.
 - Use wool pellets or eggshells for slug protection.
 - Pinch out broad bean tips to deter blackfly.
 - Remove aphids early or treat if needed.
 - Watch for black spot on roses and treat promptly.
 - Net strawberries to protect from birds.



At **Gardentime**: A lot of fresh stock has arrived recently, including veg plants, summer bedding, geraniums, herbaceous perennials, specimen plants and much more – perfect for getting your garden ready for the season ahead. Pop in and take a look!

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

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

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

Monday	HSBC
Tuesday	NatWest
Wednesday	Lloyds
Thursday	Barclays
Friday	Santander

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

LEONARDS COVE HOLIDAY VILLAGE


Laundry Service


Fed Up with Endless Sheets & Duvets?

We provide professional washing, drying & ironing services, plus linen hire. We handle bed linen, towels & bedding essentials- from pillowcases to super king duvets!

Perfect for guest houses, Airbnb hosts, & busy households! Drop off your laundry & schedule a pick-up, or enjoy our collection & delivery service (small fee applies).

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

 01803 770206

 info@leonardscove.co.uk

New Road, Stoke Fleming, TQ6 0NR



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9am-5.30pm Mon to Sat,
10am-4pm Sun.

**Gardentime, Hemborough Post,
Blackawton, Totnes, Near Dartmouth,
TQ9 7DE.**

01803 712345 www.gardentime.biz

Stoke Fleming Information

Stoke Fleming Village Shop and Post Office

	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

Bus – Service 93 (at Shady Lane)

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

Note on 93 bus times

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

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

May 2026

Fri	1	
Sat	2	
Sun	3	
Mon	4	EARLY SPRING BANK HOLIDAY
Tue	5	08.30 – Community Lunch tickets on sale – Village Shop
Wed	6	17.30-19.00 – Breast Cancer Support Group – Health Centre 18.00 – Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall 19.00 – Annual Parish Meeting – Village Hall
Thur	7	14.15 – Flower Club – Village Hall
Fri	8	
Sat	9	10.00-11.30 – Hort & Sport Plant Sale – Village Hall
Sun	10	
Mon	11	14.30 – TASDAK – Flavel
Tue	12	
Wed	13	10.30 – Probus – Stoke Lodge Hotel 14.30 – Wednesday Ladies – Village Hall
Thur	14	10.00 – u3a – Flavel
Fri	15	Dartmouth Music Festival
Sat	16	Dartmouth Music Festival COPY DATE FOR JUNE AND JULY MAGAZINE
Sun	17	Dartmouth Music Festival 14.00-17.00 – Village Hall Cream Tea – Village Hall
Mon	18	
Tue	19	10.00-13.00 – CHSW Coffee Morning – Royal Castle Hotel
Wed	20	
Thur	21	17.30 – FoSP AGM – St Peter’s Church 12.30 – Community Kitchen Lunch – Village Hall
Fri	22	
Sat	23	
Sun	24	
Mon	25	LATE SPRING BANK HOLIDAY – Half Term starts
Tue	26	
Wed	27	10.30 – Probus – Stoke Lodge Hotel
Thur	28	
Fri	29	End of Half Term
Sat	30	
Sun	31	

Parish Council Minutes Summary – April 2026

A monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday 1st April 2026 in the Ron Harris Room, Stoke Fleming Village Hall at 7.00 pm. Please note: a full version of these minutes is at the library and on the website.

The following Parish Councillors were present at the meeting:

Cllr David Harris (Chair), Cllr John Belli (Vice-Chair), Cllr Tim Moseley, Cllr Phil Elliott, Cllr Jay Floyd, Cllr Belinda Duffy. Also invited: County Cllr Julian Brazil, District Cllr Simon Rake, Clerk S A Whelon. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Bella Johnston, Cllr Tilly Crowther, Cllr Jack Handley.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON 4th March 2026, AND PLANNING SITE MEETING NOTES were agreed, and signed by the Chairman of the meeting as true and correct records.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- Torcross – Environment Agency have funding for road repair. Rock armour will give the surface area protection. Erosion of the area underneath may be a problem, the aim being to “hold the line”. £18m to replace the road has been requested to Highways dept. Advice to motorists is not to use back lanes as diversions, particularly at busy times. North to south roads will be highlighted as alternatives with passing places planned. Prof Gerd Masselink, Plymouth University, spoke very informatively at Stokenham.
- Kingsbridge – three-way traffic lights are in place, delays are reported.
- Investing in road structure is a priority. “Hit squad” repairs and parish council requirements prioritised.
- A3122 – collapsed drain repaired, but reported a hazard to vehicles during repair – Cllr Brazil will report this issue.
- Government reorganisation – rural and coastal Devon may be less of a priority.
- Hopperbus reported as very efficient. A relay of the journey requested to meet with local networks.
- Blackpool Valley road is scheduled for repair.
- Lengthsman possibility of sharing with neighbouring parish councils discussed.
- Slapton Line meeting – concern that some working groups have been disbanded. Cllr Brazil to investigate.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- Government support scheme for low-income households who have oil heating – people in the system will be contacted and there is a link on SHDC website.
- Fusion is now in administration. Centres will be run by administrators during transition period, when Parkwood will take over on a year's contract. SHDC will need to write off debts.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Report from sub-committee. Format of plans adjusted to landowners' requirements. Plan A is the right location, with groundwork done. Another email will be sent to landowner.

COMMUNITY

Phone box Dartmouth Rd – Sub-committee update – cleaning has taken place. Painting is planned, spray paint was suggested.

ROADS & TRANSPORT

- a) Slapton Line – meeting report – Parishes not happy with lack of progress from partnership.
- b) A new footbridge on the South West Coastal Path has been installed
- c) Wall on Ravensbourne finished. Future insurance of wall to be investigated.
- d) Traffic wardens – persistent nuisance parking on pavements can be reported on Devon website. But a particular vehicle is obstructing pathways, forcing pedestrians to walk in the road. This will be reported to Cllr Brazil and the police.
- e) Speed camera – to be moved to a location in the village.

MAINTENANCE

- a) Toilets – School Road are now fully open
- b) Fence down School Road near Legion tree –will be repaired.
- c) Venn Lane wall leaning – to be reported to owner. Additionally, bench arms missing – to be repaired.
- d) Three-seater Bench in memoriam for past Chair Joan Mason to be purchased.
- e) Potential grass cutting contractors discussed.
- f) Proposal for planting at playpark discussed.

COUNCIL AND ACTIONS REGISTER

- b) IT update, 41 URLs under review, recommendation from host to re-launch website due to being over 10 years old with numerous admins. Proposal to streamline and remove outdated pages. Alternative quotes to be researched.

PLANNING: All noted.

APPLICATIONS

- a) Application Number:0343/26/HHO. Location Address: Ash House Ash TQ6 0LR
Proposal: Householder application for proposed rear single storey extension and veranda to the south elevation. Application Type: Householder Application.
- b) Application Number: 0609/26/NMM. Location Address: Land At Sx 855 508 Violet Drive Dartmouth. Proposal: Non-material minor amendment to planning consent 0278/24/ARM for changes to the location of the EV charging points & updates to the

proposed materials. Status: Under Consideration. Application Type: Non Material Minor Amendment.

DECISIONS

a) Application: 0233/26/TCA. Proposal: T1 & T2: Norway Spruce - poor form, recent branch loss, risk to property, reduce to ground level. Location: Shute Cottage, Church Road, Stoke Fleming, TQ6 0NS. No objection.

b) Application: 0550/26/TEX. Location: Aldar, Norton, TQ6 0NH. Proposed Works: T1: Ash - remove, heavy lean to SE, large split at weak union, large tear, 2m scar on heavy leaning limb, dieback. Reason: Dead or Dangerous. Tree Preservation Order: GRANT of EXEMPTION.

c) Application Number: 0204/26/ARC. Location Address: Development Site At Sx 862 483, New Road, Stoke Fleming. Proposal: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 16 (WSI) of planning consent 1910/22/FUL. Status: Approved. Application Type: Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions.

d) Application Number: 0259/26/CTN. Location Address: Quarry Lakes Farm Ash TQ6 0LS. Proposal: Temporary Campsite Notification for a temporary pop-up campsite to operate from 15/07/2026 – 01/09/2026. Status: Decision Made – Approval not required. Application Type: Temporary Campsite Notification.

e) Application Number: 3358/23/FUL. Location Address: Ash Tree Farm, Ash, TQ6 0LR. Proposal: READVERTISEMENT (additional information (statutory declaration) and amended plans). Construction of buildings comprising staff welfare building, workshop, classroom/office, stables/tractor store, building to enclose existing sand school, polytunnel, covered compost store, main animal rehabilitation building including shop/reception and 14no. animal rehabilitation buildings & enclosures, together with construction of new access onto highway, 24no. car parking spaces, internal roads & paths, foul & surface water drainage including attenuation pond, landscaping & associated development to serve use of site as animal rescue centre together with ancillary use of site for the purposes of providing education & therapy activities. Demolition of polytunnel & stables. Status: Approved. Application Type: Full Planning Application

Date of next meeting: 6th May 2026, 6pm

Annual Parish Council followed by shortened Parish Council Meeting

Annual Parish Meeting: 7pm, 6th May 2026

Stoke Fleming Parish Council

Annual Meetings

6th May 2026

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
(council elections and co-options)

will be held at 6pm

followed by a short parish council meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm

In the Ron Harris Room, Stoke Fleming Village Hall

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

Stoke Fleming Primary School

Dartmouth Academy

Friends of St Peters

Plus special guest to be announced

100 Club April Winners!

April's draw took place at Stoke Fleming Bowling Club on Saturday 18th April and the winner of the £27 cash prize was:



Mr Peter Belcher, membership number 191

If you'd still like to take advantage of the ongoing opportunity to join the 100 Club, the cost is now £11.25 but you'll need to join by 4th May to participate in May's draw, as well as all subsequent monthly, quarterly and the jackpot shortlist draws taking place during 2026.

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

Stoke Fleming Voice account #: **19250960**

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

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

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

Sandra Ingham

Stoke Fleming Cricket Club

Our May fixtures are as follows:

10th May	Home vs Madri Boys	1pm Start
24th May	Home vs Red Dogs	1.30pm Start
31st May	Away vs East Prawle	1.30pm Start

Stacey Gilbert





Dart Music Festival 15th-17th May 2026

We are so lucky to live in an area where so much goes on. The Dartmouth Calendar is full of events throughout the year, including the Dart Music Festival which has been running since 1997,

Three days of fabulous live music are spread across our 9 official venues in the town, and this year more restaurants and pubs than ever have stepped up to provide more music for our fabulous audiences to enjoy.

DMF is a free-to-attend event, brought to you by a small team of volunteers, but it certainly isn't free to put on.

Every year we commit to spend around £100,000 and then we try to raise that money. Nearly half of that comes from our wonderful business sponsors and Festival Friends, but the rest is funded by programme sales and donations to our bucket-rattlers over the weekend. If you'd like to show your support and become a Festival Friend, all the details are on our website. www.dartmusicfestival.co.uk.

We are always looking for volunteers who can spare an hour or two to help sell programmes at a table or as a roving collector at venues. If you think you could help, contact dmf.volunteers@outlook.com.

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

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Tel: 07720 764037

Dartmouth Caring Welcomes a New CEO

The trustees of Dartmouth Caring are delighted to announce that, following the retirement of Nick Hindmarsh this summer, Evie Rogers will be joining Dartmouth Caring as the Chief Executive from the 1st July. Evie is excited to be taking on this role within a community she has proudly called home for the past 15 years.



Evie has worked in healthcare for many years, spending 12 years at Torbay Hospital before moving into primary care, where she has worked for the past eight years as a Practice Manager at a large GP practice. Through this experience she has developed a strong understanding of the importance of accessible, compassionate support services and the vital role community organisations play in helping people stay connected and well.

Living locally has given Evie a deep appreciation of Dartmouth's strong community spirit and she is passionate about supporting local people and strengthening the services that make such a difference to everyday lives. She is looking forward to working alongside the dedicated staff and volunteers at Dartmouth Caring to continue developing support for people across the community.

Outside of work, Evie enjoys being outdoors, travelling, walking her dogs, practising yoga, reading a good book and spending time with her family.

Trustees and staff are looking forward to working closely with Evie as she steers the Charity into the 2030s.

April Faulkner

An advertisement graphic with a blue border. The background is a blurred image of a tax form (Form 990). Overlaid on this are several white text boxes with blue text. The main text reads: "Struggling to apply for benefits? We can help." Below this, it says: "Call Dartmouth Caring on 01803 835384 or email enquiries@dartmouthcaring.co.uk".

Struggling to apply for benefits?

We can help.

Call Dartmouth Caring on 01803 835384 or email enquiries@dartmouthcaring.co.uk

Dart Valley u3a

At 10.00 on Thursday 14th May we will meet at the Flavel Arts Centre to hear a talk entitled “**Superspy Science**” presented by **Dr Kathryn Harkup**, a British chemist and science communicator.

Science and technology have always been central to the plots that make up the world of James Bond. Kathryn explores 007’s exploits from the practicalities of building a volcano-based lair, to whether being covered with gold paint really will kill you. And if your plan is to take over the world whether it is better to use bacteria, bombs or poisons.

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

Tim Freeman

Stoke Fleming Bowling Club

The greenkeeping team have worked hard over the winter months to ensure that the green is looking fabulous and ready for the spring/summer action. During this coming season we’ll be welcoming clubs from across the south Devon area to play us at home in not only “friendly” matches but also the Mid Devon Premier League (MDL) matches. There will be internal competitions and social events coming up too.

A full list of fixtures is available on our website at stokeflemingbowlingclub.co.uk. So, if you fancy popping along to support your local team at one of the home games, you will be most welcome – it will be lovely to see you.

Liz Mallyon

Dartmouth and District Flower Club

Thursday 7th May at the Village Hall. The demonstration starts at 2.15pm. This month we welcome Sue John with “**Little Boxes**”.

We welcome guests to any meeting. We charge guests £8 to include tea /coffee and cake. (This charge will be deducted from the annual membership fee should a guest wish to join the club that afternoon.)

There is a raffle with lucky prize winners taking home one of the arrangements.

Gail Wilks

gail.w.flowers123@gmail.com

ALADDIN'S CAVE



<i>Lost</i>	<i>Found</i>	<i>Wanted</i>	<i>Good Home Needed</i>
FOR SALE	Kindling and logs, all recycled from builders' waste and in large feed bags. Kindling £15, Logs £10. All proceeds to Prickles in a Pickle.		Alan: 07970 983608
WANTED	Prickles in a Pickle needs lots of steriliser, newspapers and other items. See page 4949. 20 Well Park Place.		Judy: 07891 657104 Alan: 07970 983608 01803 771086
FOR SALE	A powerful desktop PC bundle that includes all you need to get yourself started. It's in excellent condition, fully tested/installed with Windows 11 Pro. Details on request, open to any reasonable offer.		Ian: 07809 656904 ian.crawford@celtic.co.uk

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

Children's Hospice South West (CHSW)

Many thanks to everyone who helped our small group of Friends to raise a total of £1,628 for Children's Hospice South West at our Easter Fair in Dartmouth Market. We had another splendid raffle thanks to Stephen Levy and all our prize donors and ticket buyers, which raised an impressive £1,000 of the total for our amazing charity. We very much appreciate all the support we get from Stoke Fleming residents, thank you.

Our next event is a coffee morning at 10.00-13.00 on Tuesday 19th May in the Royal Castle Hotel. The hotel is supporting this event as part of St Austell Brewery, which signed a partnership with CHSW this year and includes donating 25p from every fish and chips sold at any of their outlets to our charity!

Sue Tweed
tweed833@btinternet.com or 07955 197721

Start Bay Performers

The last weekend of March saw the performances of “When the Cat’s Away” and “Anticlockwise” at the Village Hall.



Over sixty loyal audience members enjoyed the productions and the tasty lasagne, salads and focaccia followed by options of carrot cake and chocolate brownies. Once again I would like to thank our wonderfully supportive audience, my patient cast; both front and backstage, all our helpers on the nights, superchef Dan Putt and special thanks to John Darby, who not only oversaw the lighting and audio but made the wonderful centrepiece grandfather clock (with moving times) for “Anticlockwise”, and engineered a skirting board complete with mousehole for the “mouse” that ran across the stage in the “When The Cat’s Away”.

We will be having a few weeks respite before planning hopefully a Christmas pantomime if we can cast it. So, if there is anyone who is interested in being involved in any capacity for this future project, please get in touch with me.

We continue to plan a Film Night in collaboration with the Trustees of the Village Hall and are aiming to put on “The Graduate” in July. We should be able to confirm the date in the next edition of the *Voice*, as well as via social media and posters in the Village Shop and around the village. We already have suggestions for a follow up film involving filming in Dartmouth and if you would like to request a specific film or a specific genre for future events, again please contact me.

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

John Belli 07538 156864

Dartmouth and Kingswear Society

You will find in this edition of *Stoke Fleming Voice* a newly designed leaflet introducing the Dartmouth and Kingswear Society which will, it is hoped, resonate with those who care for Dartmouth, Kingswear and the surrounding villages in these particularly challenging times. There will be an impact to our area as a result of the global uncertainties, and the steep rises in costs to the public and to commerce. It is the Dartmouth and Kingswear Society that can stand up against unwelcome changes that will affect us locally and we hope that you will feel that you would like to join us to help with our efforts.

John Mitchell

Stoke Fleming Primary School

The Voice team is so pleased to learn, from the Primary School Facebook page, how local artist Els has added fun and colour to the inside walls of Stoke Fleming Primary School.....



“We are absolutely delighted to share the next stage of the incredible transformations happening around our school!

Following her fantastic initial work transforming our entrance area, local artist Els has been back in school, working her magic once again—this time in our library, toilets and corridor spaces.

The feedback from children, staff and visitors has been overwhelmingly positive – the spaces feel exciting, inspiring and full of character. It’s already making a real difference to how our children experience their school environment each day.

A huge thank you to Els for her fantastic work, and to our wonderful Friends of the School and wider community for helping to make this possible.

We are so proud of what we are creating together as we continue our journey to make Stoke Fleming Primary the very best it can be.”



The Arts Society Dartmouth and Kingswear (TASDAK)

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

The next TASDAK meeting will take place at 2.30pm on Monday 11th May when **Pepe Martinez** will present a talk entitled, “**Banksy - Fraud or Genius?**”. Pepe is a London blue badge tourist guide who specialises in the graffiti and street art of East London. His lecture will trace the story of Banksy’s humble beginnings as a tagger on the streets of Bristol in the 1980s to one of the most recognisable names in the art world. We will examine the reasons behind his incredible rise, looking at some of his famous stunts and discuss what his influence has been on the art market today and look at what his legacy, if any, might be.

Juliet Lambert

Loam Rangers



WE NEED YOUR HELP...

DO YOU HAVE A HEAD FOR FIGURES AND SOME SPARE TIME?

Our amazing Treasurer and “Compost Queen” Marie would really like to share the role of Treasurer for a while and then handover to someone else so that she can retire. An ability to use Excel spreadsheets and some book-keeping skills are needed to keep our records in order and make sure things like our insurance are up to date. It’s less than a couple of hours a week, a bit more when receiving annual fees, preparing for account audit and AGM.

Ideally, we would like to move our accounts from a traditional paper-based system to electronic records. Some accounting experience would therefore be an advantage, however a positive and enthusiastic nature is the best attribute.

You would be joining a wonderful team delivering a great community service that is so well supported by the village. If you think this voluntary role would be something you would enjoy, then please contact Steve Shakespeare on the details below.

Thanks to a couple of fantastic efforts by our riddling team, we now have a healthy supply of both compost and mulch. We also have all the bays full and going through our composting cycle, turning and aerating until it’s finally ready for riddling and bagging. It takes about one year to complete the cycle.

Membership renewals are progressing well, but we still have 20 or so who have not renewed yet. If you intend to please do so as soon as possible – if you need help just pop up to site any Sunday morning.

A reminder we are open every Sunday 10am – 11.30am through to the end of November and subject to enough volunteers, Wednesday evening 5.30pm – 6pm June, July and August. The Sunday volunteer rota is filling up but we still need to fill quite a few places from May onwards – please contact Paul via the details below to get your slot booked. Remember, we can only safely open with two volunteers on site – and it’s only 1.5 hours on one or two Sundays a year.

Steve Shakespeare – sgshakespeare@btinternet.com 07970 137311
Paul Noonan – pnoonan14@gmail.com (Volunteer enquiries)



Date	Time	Walk Level	Location of walk (£=bring money for ferry)	Meeting point
7th May	09.57	2	Blackpool Sands via Bugford.	09.57 #7 bus from Dartmouth Pontoon to Sportsmans Arms bus stop.
14th May	10.30	3	Dittisham and the Dart Valley Trail.	Sandquay Wood car park, Old Mill Lane, Townstal.
21st May	10.30	3+	Froward Point (£) Kingswear, bring snack.	Kingswear train station.
28th May	10.30	2	Hoodown Woods via Higher and Lower ferries.	At Higher Ferry (Kingswear side).

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 (£).

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



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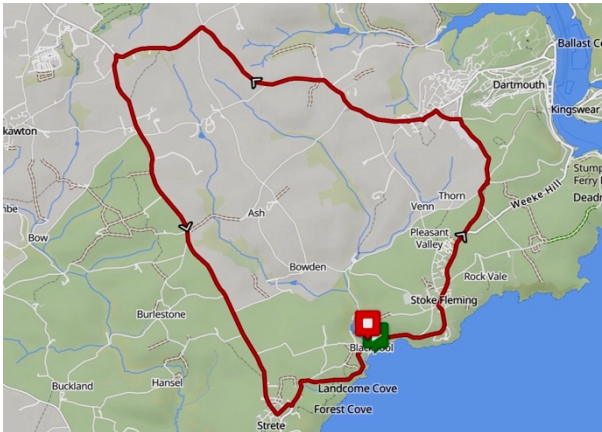
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Live Life in Balance

Dartmouth Triathlon, Sunday morning 7th June

Think Bike!



Given the state of the Slapton Line, the cycling leg of this year's Dartmouth Triathlon, starting at Blackpool Sands, will proceed through the village and continue on towards Dartmouth before joining the A3122 and then following Three Mile Lane back down to Strete (there will be multiple laps for multiple races).

This is the first time since 2018 (the last time the Line was washed away) that the triathlon route will head towards Dartmouth and, as the month progresses, we're likely to see an increase in cyclists practising the route. As one of this group, and whilst recognising that most road problems are caused by visitors driving through the parish rather than by locals, I hope sharing the following reflections may help everyone keep cyclists safe.

Most people will know that since 2022, the Highway Code has recommended drivers provide a 1.5-metre passing distance around bikes. That's not always possible on our roads and lanes, but, in general, it's helpful to wait for cyclists in the same places we pause for other cars. (I've had several drivers try to squeeze past me on my bike on the narrow stretch of the A379 up to Swannaton Road!).

The same applies to Three Mile Lane too – cyclists will generally be going faster here so if coming up behind them, you may have to wait a while longer to get past, but there are several junctions and hills where they'll slow down, and you should be able to easily get past.

The other area to note, which applies more to race day rather than the practice time before this, is the A379 going down from Strete into Blackpool. Cyclists will be going very quickly here, often a bit faster than most cars, especially at the bends. If possible, please hang back and don't overtake riders shooting down the hill as this may force them to slow down behind you, which they will obviously find quite frustrating when they're trying to race.

I'm sure all race participants will appreciate you supporting them in this way during the race and in the period beforehand.



Sponsorship for Ukraine Action Team Devon



This is the third year I'll be competing in the triathlon, and I am seeking sponsorship for the great work of Ukrainian Action Team Devon, based locally in Stoke Gabriel, who are currently raising funds and procuring vehicles and aid for their 16th mission to the Polish border, where the vans and trucks will be picked up and delivered to support evacuations at the front-line. This mission, taking place at the end of May, will include the 100th vehicle the team has delivered. It has been partly funded by a major event held at the Flavel towards the end of last year, but more support is always needed (including for the following convoy in July). See: <https://uateamdevon.org/>. You can sponsor me, and support Ukraine Action, at <https://www.justgiving.com/page/jon-ingham>.

If any other parishioners are participating in the triathlon, let us know by 16th May if you'd like to be included in our June and July magazine.

Jon Ingham (Treasurer at the *Voice*)

BeWild at Gallants Bower

At Gallants Bower, the bluebells are beginning to spill across the hillside, but if you slow down, you will see so much more. Hidden among them are cuckoo flowers, delicate and pale, alongside primroses, violets, stitchwort and flashes of red campion. The first early purple orchids are emerging, while dog's mercury and hemp agrimony quietly fill the spaces between.



The walk up through the woods is just as rich. Look closely and you will find herb robert, wild strawberry, wood avens and lesser celandine, with the unmistakable scent of wild garlic drifting through the air.

It is not only the flowers. This is the time to notice movement too, the curious oil beetles crossing paths and the remarkable bloody-nosed beetles, small but full of character. Above it all, the woods are alive with birdsong, a layered, ever-changing chorus that rewards anyone who pauses long enough to listen.

It is easy to pass through places like this without really seeing them. If you take your time, soften your pace and look a little closer, a whole world reveals itself, fleeting, intricate and quietly extraordinary.

Victoria Benns
victoria@bewild.uk



Dartmouth 01803 839530
www.theflavel.org.uk

Scan to see What's On



The Invisible Man – LIVE on stage – theatre show	Fri 1 May
One Battle After Another (15) (cinema) *recently won 6 Oscars including Best Picture	Sat 2 May
RBO: Eugene Onegin (Metropolitan Opera) Event Cinema	Tue 5 May
Galore Theatre Company – Adult Acting Workshops	From Tue 5 May
Life and Death under Vesuvius (U3A Talk)	Thu 7 May
Richard Durrant (guitar) - LIVE	Thu 7 May
Naval & Secret Forces in Dartmouth 1939-1945 (talk)	Fri 8 May
From The Dart to D-Day (a day of talks)	Sat 9 May
Rocket Max – LIVE - Elton John Concert Experience	Sat 9 May
Dart Music Fest – LIVE MUSIC	15/16/17 May
Exhibition on Screen: Frida Kahlo (event cinema)	Wed 20 May
Rose of Nevada (15) (cinema)	From 22 May
Djembe Drumming Workshop	Sat 23 May
Over 50's Disco - LIVE	Sat 23 May
Hoppers (PG) (cinema)	From 25 May
NT LIVE: The Playboy of the Western World (12)	Thu 28 May
FOLK @ THE FLAVEL: The Alex Hart Trio - LIVE	Fri 29 May
The Devil Wears Prada 2 (TBC) Gala Fundraiser (cinema)	Sat 30 May
TOP SECRET: The Magic Of Science (LIVE children's show)	Sun 31 May



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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.

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

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

Wednesdays

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

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

Fridays

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

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. Contact John: 07811 102460.

*Please check for any last-minute changes.

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

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Friends of St Peter's

At the time of writing, we are much looking forward to the Sea Shanty Concert by *Dancing Beggars* and *Mizzen Link*. As well as giving us a pleasurable and social evening, this event will also help our fundraising. The Church's Servery/Toilet project is still some 30% short of target and members of the committee are actively encouraging further grant applications.



Looking ahead, we have just secured Dr Helen Wilson, the top expert on the famous Pinwill woodcarvings, to talk about the family woodcarving business and, in particular, the beautiful pulpit and altar carvings in St Peter's. The date for your diaries is the evening of Friday, 11th September.

The FoSP AGM will be held at 5.30pm on **Thursday, 21st May** in St Peter's Church, and we do hope that all members and prospective members will make a point of being there to hear and to share how we may best achieve our goal of helping to preserve and to further enhance the usefulness of this very special building which means so much to Stoke Fleming.

The other day I visited the NE area of the churchyard and was delighted to see the lovely clumps of primroses which the Living Churchyard Group has successfully encouraged to flourish there. My thanks go to Jenny and the team, and indeed to all who have supported and worked so hard for FoSP in whatever way over the last year.

Peter Barker (FoSP Chair)

The Probus Club of Stoke Fleming and District

Our programme of meetings for 2026, despite the annoying road closures, has now been finalised up to early December and the month of May meetings are as follows:

Wednesday 13th May is a meeting with lunch and includes a talk entitled "**The Funk Hole Myth**" which will be given by **David Scott** with an explanation of this military slang for a hiding place during a war with particular reference to Torquay – but not what we thought it was?

Our second meeting is on 27th May and is coffee only and a talk will be given by **Andrew Hollis**, who is one of our members, on his experience of the oil industry and which he calls "**First Find Your Oil Well**" – it should be interesting.

Non-members and those interested in joining Probus will be welcome to attend the talks, we meet at Stoke Lodge Hotel and talks start at around 10.30am, just give me a call or turn up on the day.

Probus Clubs are local autonomous associations for retired and semi-retired business or professional gentlemen focusing on friendship rather than service and exist worldwide to maintain social networks and enjoy guest speaker meetings.

Come and join us and make new friends.

John Hosea – 07598 560896

Prickles in a Pickle

I hope everyone has had a lovely Easter. Stunning weather. It is my favourite time of year, rebirth, new life, new beginnings and renewal. Spring has most definitely sprung in the hedgehog community; I am sure I do not have to elaborate why we know this! But lots of noisy, nightly, naughty things going on in the garden! Thank goodness no hoglets yet but we are braced for impact, they are rewarding but hard work and we are grateful to have four experienced foster carers on hand to help.



As most of you will know, hedgehogs are lactose intolerant, something we didn't know when I was growing up! The hoglets have to be fed a milk replacer which we have to source from America and is very expensive. We have stocked up on this in preparation. Just like human babies, hand fed hoglets have to have everything scrupulously clean and sterilised. We also make up their milk formulae with fennel tea, this helps prevent bloat, which is fatal and very painful. Just like winding a baby, half way through a feed we have to stop and "toilet" the hoglet, stimulating it to wee and poo. We use a moisturiser and cotton bud so we don't make them sore. The hoglets present themselves for this procedure just like a baby bird in a nest does.

Weaning is a mucky process, they like to wear their food, slap it all over each other and generally cause mayhem; it is very entertaining to watch! We start the hoglets off in incubators so that the temperature is constant; they need to be quite warm.

We often get asked whether or not they are born with prickles. The mothers amongst us will be relieved to hear that they are not! They are born with the first little white prickles just under the epidermis in a layer of fluid. Once born, the fluid is absorbed and the little prickles stand proud. They are born blind and deaf, just like puppies and kittens, their eyes and ears open at around ten days.

Even when just born, they will huff and jump if you touch them, Alan calls them jumping beans!



Mums, or sows can have between one and 10 hoglets but the average is 4-6. They start wobbling out around the nest at about four weeks old; just like human toddlers they are unsteady, plump and explore things with their mouths, licking and tasting things they haven't met before. They gradually strengthen and get brave enough to foray further with mum until about 6-8 weeks in age. We are most fortunate

to be able to observe this in the barn.

Hedgehogs can have two litters a year, and research shows that only one hoglet will make it to adulthood, out of any number in the nest. Really bad odds. Water is a life saver and food too if you can. We recommend using a feed station to put off other critters like cats and rats. The further away mum has to go from the nursery to find sustenance, the more at risk she is of not getting back to her hoglets.

If you disturb a nest, please secure mum first, then put the babies in the box with her to reduce stress. If you are clearing an area that hasn't been disturbed for a while, replacing a shed or decking, prepare a high sided box with a towel, in readiness. We can then ensure they all have the best chance of survival.

Judy, Alan and the Team @Prickles in a Pickle
www.pricklesinapickle.co.uk



Where are we now?

Last month we were in Ivybridge - Jean Saunders, Clever Clogs and Simon Knight were on the ball with the correct answer.



Let's see how you get on with this month's picture going back to 1916 – a lot easier – or is it?

Now the only question is where are we now?



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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

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Bellringing	John Dietz	770515
Bowling Club	Liz Mallyon	712799
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Church Visiting Group	Rosemary Minshall	770300
Churchwarden	John Dietz	770515
Craft Club	Lorraine Forman, Lorraineforman@gmail.com	
Cricket Club	Stacey Gilbert	07931 384017
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Hort & Sport Show	enquiries.hortandsport@gmail.com	
Little Lanterns	Lisa Callard	770244
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Primary School (Friends)	Lisa Callard	770244
Probus	John Hosea	07598 560896
Short Mat Bowls	Debbie Morris	770305
Start Bay Performers	Mary Rimell	07909 970510
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Wednesday Ladies	Jill Fell	771137
Youth Club	Rev Matt Gorton, stokeflemingyouthclub@gmail.com	906861