

Brought to you by  
Stonehouse Town Council

# stonehouse news



ISSUE 40 SPRING 2019

## CIVIC AWARDS

Nominate by  
27th May

## Community news

New Walking Festival,  
Paint the Town Pink & more

**End of an era**  
as former Town Clerk retires

## Consultation & awards

Library relocation, Civic Awards,  
Farmers Market & Green Tourism



# Welcome

We've new play equipment, library consultations, Horticultural Show & Jolly, a new Walking Festival, community group news, our Civic Awards (hurry deadline is 27th May) and so much more! We've crammed another issue with all the great news and events happening in our town. If you want to get involved read on...

Would you prefer to receive Stonehouse News via email? We are gauging interest in sending out future issues of the newsletter via email. This would not only cut down on production costs but would be kinder to the environment. So, if you are interested in receiving future editions of the newsletter electronically – please email your name and full address to [comms@stonehousetowncouncil.com](mailto:comms@stonehousetowncouncil.com)

**The Stonehouse News Team**

## Official opening of new play equipment

Lots of happy children, goodie bags and a sunny morning was the perfect recipe for the official opening of new play facilities at one of Stonehouse's play parks.

The amenities at the Oldends Lane Recreation Ground have been completely overhauled with new and refurbished equipment and improvements being made for families using the park. Following widespread consultation with local residents - including children and young people - a zip wire, pod swing, overhead carousel and 'clamberstack' have been provided for older children. The play equipment for younger children has been refurbished and a new roundabout, spinner and bouncers installed. Additional picnic benches and seating have also been fitted and trees planted to improve the landscaping and provide shade for families in the summer.

It was lovely to see so many children, many of whom had just completed the junior Parkrun, help us unveil the new play equipment on Sunday 7th April. We have already had lots of positive feedback and reports that it is being well used and enjoyed by local children and young people. We hope that the new area will be an exciting space for healthy, challenging outdoor exercise while also providing a pleasant place for families to meet, relax and socialise.

The project was funded by Stonehouse Town Council, housing developers' contributions, The National Lottery Big Lottery Fund, Gloucestershire County Council Growing our Communities Fund (supported by Stonehouse county councillor Lesley Williams), Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association and Gloucestershire Community Foundation.



Local children, Mayor of Stonehouse Theresa Watt and Gloucestershire County Councillor for Stonehouse Lesley Williams at the opening ceremony



## Just the ticket

Two lucky Stonehouse residents were thrilled to receive their free train tickets from Councillor Debbie Curtis courtesy of GWR, in the Stonehouse In Bloom competition.

Mrs Thompson and Mrs Dawe (pictured below) correctly answered the question posed in the last edition of Stonehouse News and were drawn out of nearly 70 entries!

They have both said that they will use their tickets to travel to the seaside in the summer. We look forward to seeing their holiday snaps!



## Stonehouse Civic Awards 2019 - call for entries

Every year, the Town Council asks for nominations for individuals, groups, young people and businesses that have made positive contributions to the local community.

Do you know someone who has gone above and beyond to improve the lives of residents or the local area? If so, we want to hear from you.

### THE CATEGORIES ARE:

- 1) Person Making an Outstanding Contribution to Stonehouse Over a Number of Years
- 2) Stonehouse Business of the Year
- 3) Stonehouse Community Group of the Year
- 4) Vicky Wakefield-Heath Young Person of the Year (up to the age of 25)

### SEND US YOUR NOMINATIONS

Please send your nominations to the Town Council by 27th May in writing or by email to: [customerservices@stonehousetowncouncil.com](mailto:customerservices@stonehousetowncouncil.com) with the following information;

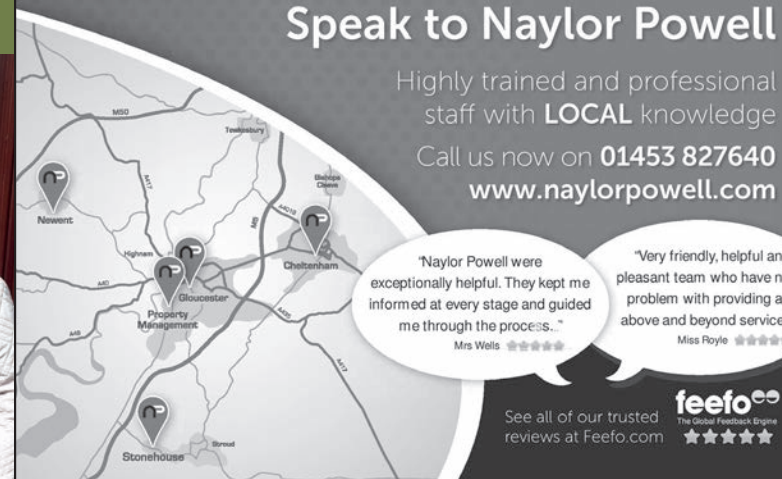
- Category of award:
- Reason for nomination:
- Name of person(s) or organisation nominated:
- Nominated by:
- Email Address:
- Telephone number:

The Civic Awards ceremony will be taking place at the Annual Town Meeting at 7pm on 3rd June in the Town Hall.

**Deadline 27th May**

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## Mayor's Column



As you will see in this newsletter, it's been a very busy few months in the town and we have lots of news to share with you. I would like to start by welcoming our newest councillors, John Parker and Jennie Smith, onto the Town Council and we very much look forward to working with them on council business.

The Town Council precept has been set and the average Band D payer will see an increase of just 21p per week which equates to the price of a banana. We take great care to ensure that any decisions we make represent good value for local tax payers money.

A reminder that the county council is interested in your views on the proposed relocation of the Library to the Town Hall. You can either do it online [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/stonehouselibrary](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/stonehouselibrary) or complete a paper copy, available from the Library or Town Council office. The closing date for responses is 25th May.

We are planning a Farmers Market in Stonehouse for later in the year but we need the support of local residents and traders. Please look out for more information about how you can get involved.

It's truly the end of an era, with Liz Lawrence retiring from the Town Council after 32 years of loyal service. I am sure you will join me in thanking her for all she has done and wish her a very happy retirement.

You cannot have missed the wonderful new play equipment at Oldends Lane field. We have had lots of positive reports of children, young people and their families enjoying the new facilities, especially over the Easter holidays. The parks are provided by the Town Council for all residents to enjoy and we would ask that everyone takes an interest in looking after them. This includes picking up and disposing of litter and ensuring that dog poo is bagged and binned.

We are looking forward to this year's In Bloom competition and hope that we equal last year's success in gaining a Gold medal. The Flower Sculpture Trail, which proved so popular last year, is back and will run for a week from 6th July. Entry forms will be available from the Town Hall nearer the time. A band of volunteers make this all possible and ensure that the town looks its best for residents, businesses and visitors.

Talking of volunteers, we are hoping for lots of Civic Award nominations. We know that there are lots of residents who give up their free time or go above and beyond their jobs to ensure that the local community is well served.

I hope that you will enjoy reading this issue and, as always, we welcome constructive feedback about articles and suggestions for features in future editions.

Regards,

**Cllr Theresa Watt**  
(Mayor of Stonehouse)



# Community news

## Your boots were made for walking! - Stonehouse Walking Festival

Stonehouse is launching its first ever Walking Festival this September. A range of walks to suit all abilities will take place from Friday 13th to Sunday 22nd September.

As well as our wonderful and varied local countryside, walks will take in a vineyard, views from the top of St.Cyr's church tower and Selsley Common, a weir and ancient woods, a thatched cottage and a paper bag factory.... there is so much to explore. Stonehouse Walking Festival aims to put Stonehouse on the scenic map and to highlight its rich historic heritage.

Experienced local walk leaders have put together a series of walks for fun, health benefits and a chance to share with others what Stonehouse and its surrounding countryside has to offer. Walks are mostly graded easy or moderate but also include more challenging walks such as Stonehouse to Selsley and Standish Woods. There are picnics and coffee stops, history walks, tree walks and those which take in far reaching views from hill tops near and further afield. All walks are free and start from central Stonehouse. APT (All Pulling Together), Fair Shares, Walking for Health and Stonehouse Fitness are all supporting the Festival and the spread of this community initiative is still growing. If successful, the Festival could become an annual event.



From August, a detailed programme will be available in local shops, the library, town council, surgeries etc. The website is live now - [www.stonehousewalks.co.uk](http://www.stonehousewalks.co.uk) and you can contact the organisers on [stonehousewalkfest@gmail.com](mailto:stonehousewalkfest@gmail.com) or 01453 802343.

## Stonehouse Community Partnership

Stonehouse Community Partnership members are busy planning and organising a number of upcoming events this includes the ever popular Summer Jolly which will take place on Sunday 11th August in the Laburnum Recreation Ground and this year includes a Dog Show with a wide variety of classes to include all our special friends.

We are delighted to announce this year a week long Stonehouse Walking Festival in September, to include the historic ritual of "Walking the Boundaries." This is kindly supported through funding from Gloucestershire County Council's "Growing Our Communities Fund."

Our working group Memory Link continues to help people and their families live with dementia. Funding from the Police and Crime Commissioners fund kindly supports this group.

The Stonehouse Opportunities working group continues to meet regularly at the All Pulling Together premises on the Park Estate where over 35 representatives from local voluntary, charities and public sector bodies come together to share what they offer

and are planning to do in Stonehouse. This is a very successful networking group developing new ideas, opportunities and facilitating collaborative partnerships on projects.

Stonehouse Community Partnership is an umbrella group offering local people the opportunity to develop new ideas with access to an experienced Steering Group for financial oversight, banking and a respected history of successfully delivering a wide range of projects supported by both local and national grants. Members currently range from local residents; community groups; CIC's; charities and statutory bodies.

SCP's Annual General Meeting takes place at Stonehouse Town Hall at 6pm on Tuesday 9th July. This meeting is open to the public and on behalf of SCP I extend a warm invitation to you all. We are keen to attract new members to help us achieve our core aim of, "Making Stonehouse a desired place of choice to live, work, shop and play."

John Jaynes, Chair SCP.



If you wish to know more about SCP then please contact the Chair, John Jaynes on 01453 828669 or at [john.jaynes@btinternet.com](mailto:john.jaynes@btinternet.com)

## Horticultural Show & Summer Jolly

Sun 11th August 12-5pm



### SHOW CLASSES

Children's Classes, Baking & Preserves, Handicrafts, Floral Art, Fruit and Vegetables, Roses, Sweet Peas & Flowers & Photography

### SHOW ENTRY

You can find entry forms within the Horticultural Show Programme online via the Stonehouse Horticultural Show & Summer Jolly Facebook Event page.

### SUMMER JOLLY

If anyone would like to book a pitch, car boot space or stall, please email [stonehousejolly2019@yahoo.com](mailto:stonehousejolly2019@yahoo.com) for more information.

### WHERE?

Stonehouse Community Centre & Playing Field, Laburnum Walk, off Regent Street, Stonehouse, GL10 2AA. Horticultural Show opens to the public at 1pm (or after judges have finished). The Community Centre and playing field are fully accessible. This is a Stonehouse Community Partnership Event supporting Stonehouse in Bloom.

**The Fruit Exchange**  
Making use of all your fresh, local, home-grown fruit and veg.

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STROUD

**COULD YOU HELP US SAVE SURPLUS FRUIT & VEG?**

So much fresh produce goes to waste every year because people don't know what to do with it or can't harvest it themselves. The Fruit Exchange connects people who have surplus produce with a local food outlet who can use it and who will provide a voucher in exchange.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

JOIN AS A BUSINESS: Could you use free locally grown fresh produce?

BE A FRUIT WARDEN: Could you help us spread the word in your local area?

SAVE AND EXCHANGE: Surplus fruit and veg from gardens, allotments, schools, fields... anywhere!

VOLUNTEER: Could you help us harvest or deliver when the owner can't?

For more information and to see a list of participating businesses and places to take your fruit go to our website: [www.downtoearthstroud.co.uk](http://www.downtoearthstroud.co.uk)  
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## Home-Start new groups start Apr-Jul

**Home Start**  
Support and friendship for families

### Best-Start Postnatal

Free, friendly and welcoming 6 week programme for parents with babies under the age of 6 months. The group is a great opportunity to meet other parents, get up to date advice and reassurance on baby's development, parenting information and support. Groups starting in Quedgeley, Stonehouse, Randwick and Forest Green

### Bump-Start Antenatal

Free, friendly and informative 6 week programme. Join our group and let us provide extra support and reassurance on your pregnancy journey. Groups starting in Kingsway and Randwick.

### Mothers in Mind

A free and welcoming support group. This group offers mums a place to find comfort, advice and support while experiencing anxiety, depression, low-mood, traumatic birth experiences and loneliness. The group is for mums with children under preschool age. Groups starting in Kingsway and Stroud.

For further information on any of our groups, please contact us on 01453 821085.



# End of an era

Most Stonehouse residents, community groups and businesses will have come across Liz Lawrence at some point over the last 32 years.

The font of all knowledge regarding the town, Liz has been a constant presence as Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk and latterly, as Customer Services Officer for the Town Council.

She has served under 7 Chairmen and 4 Clerks to the Council (not including herself!). When Liz started, the council offices were based in Queens Road (where Foster Plus is now), moving into the current premises in 2003.



There's not much that she doesn't know about the comings and goings in Stonehouse and has dealt with people coming into the Town Hall, over the phone and by email with confidence, clarity and, most importantly, with grace and good humour.

A cream tea was held, in her honour, on her last day where friends and present and former colleagues and councillors came to wish her well.

A 'Memories Book' has been started and will be situated in the Town Hall for local residents and business owners to write in, if they wish.

We will all miss her terribly but she assures us that she will still be popping into the town now and again so we will still see her cheerful face.

## Stonehouse Court secures Green Tourism Award



Stroud's Stonehouse Court is delighted to announce it has been awarded a Bronze Award by Green Tourism, following a rigorous assessment of activities being undertaken on site.

Inspectors acting on behalf of Green Tourism praised the "number of excellent green initiatives in place" at Stonehouse Court.

As the hotel looks ahead to securing a Silver Award in the coming months, the newly-formed Stonehouse Court Green Team will hold regular meetings with staff to ensure this momentum is maintained.

To date, the hotel has committed to installing new energy efficient boilers, using 95% LED lighting throughout the building, implementing efficient recycling and waste minimization schemes, as well as a flagship on-site bottling system for their water needs.



"We are fully committed to developing our Green Team and introducing further eco-friendly initiatives as we work towards our Silver Award", commented Sarah Brewster, Stonehouse Court's owner. "The team have worked extremely hard and demonstrated their passion for creating a cleaner, more sustainable future for both the local community and wider world. We at Stonehouse Court will continue improving on this front, as we aim to make a difference, both individually and as a business, in the fight against climate change."

## Ship Inn Project Stonehouse (ShIPS)

It has been a busy time for ShIPS, as we continue to move positively forward in consulting and campaigning to keep the Ship Inn site for community use.

### Community Consultation Questionnaire results:

ShIPS would like to thank the Stonehouse Community for its mass participation in the Community Consultation Questionnaire sent out, in the last Issue 39 of the Stonehouse News (and available online), regarding what you the community would like to see on the Ship Inn site. We would also like to thank the participants of our lively and packed AGM held in the Woolpack on 4th March and those that subsequently took out a ShIPS membership.

Our questionnaire identified the following desires that the community would like to see for this space:

- Eatery/Drinkery 75% • Small Craft use 49% • Launching Mooring Facilities 42% • Visitor Center/Tourist Information 36% • Wildlife Haven 36%

Overall, the feedback has highlighted that with the planned canal regeneration, the Ship Inn site could become a major focal point for both locals and visitors, which will benefit the whole of Stonehouse and work as a catalyst for the town centre regeneration. 'Along the whole of the waterway corridor. These regenerative impacts include benefits to health and well-being, the built and natural environment, flood alleviation, traffic, heritage, community cohesion and civic pride.' (Canal & River Trust, 2014).

### Further support, consultation & involvement

We have confirmed the backing of Stonehouse Town Council, who agree with the many advantages of having a community site along the canal and our current lack thereof. They also note the advantages this could have for the greater five valleys, once the canal regeneration is complete. There will be an apparent 'Halo Effect' of positive impacts to tourism and spending overall, with referrals to and from other local attractions. Representatives

from ShIPS also met with Stonehouse Ward District Councillors in April. The councillors seemed receptive to our plans and were happy with our proposals. The main sticking point we have is getting the ownership of the land (either in a Community Group or the Town Council) as it is currently owned by Stroud District Council (Housing). Councillors have committed to providing a fair market value to ShIPS so that we can consider this avenue. We have also consulted with the Canal Trust, Wycliffe College, Stonehouse History Group, Boatmobility, SUP Paddleboarding, All Pulling Together, Stonehouse Community Partnership, Gloucester Gateway Trust, Slimbridge Wetlands Trust, SARA (Severn Area Rescue Association) and local retail/enterprise and industry. With further consultation with schools, disability groups, tourism councils and other interested parties to come.

### Our goals and ways to achieve them:

ShIPS want to retain this land for all the community to use and benefit from. We hope to make Stonehouse a place that people want to visit and choose to come to. Our aspirations for the future of this site are in keeping with those of SDC as we aim to promote growth, sustainability, and regeneration to help strengthen our community. We have been invited by Stroud District Council's Head of Property Services to shortlist the proposals coming forward, evidence of support for these from the Town Council and a realistic programme for a business case. These proposals need to be with the District Council by the 17th May, for submission to the Housing Committee in June, so we are busy formulating our Feasibility Report and will keep you posted on our progress.

### Get involved

We still very much welcome your views on the site, professional expertise (legal, planning, architecture, commercial, financial), membership and support so get in touch via [contactships@gmail.com](mailto:contactships@gmail.com) or via our Facebook page @ [ShiplnnProjectStonehouse](https://www.facebook.com/ShiplnnProjectStonehouse). Help us put Stonehouse on the map!



## Volunteer with Citizens Advice



We are recruiting volunteer advisers to join our dynamic team. We couldn't function without the time and dedication of our volunteers who are our most valuable asset.

We are looking for people who can spare 8-10 hours a week for a minimum of two years to join our adviser training programme which starts on 6th September 2019. Full training and support will be given and expenses paid.

One of our volunteers shares what she gets from volunteering "I applied for the adviser programme at Citizens Advice as I was looking for a challenging, interesting way to become more aware

of, and get more involved in, local community issues. You are gradually introduced to client work alongside training which helps to fill out subject knowledge and an understanding of how best to help clients. Training is also provided in soft skills such as interview and research capabilities so there really are personal development opportunities. I trained with a really interesting, fun group of people. Having worked in a range of public and private sector organisations during my career, the CA adviser programme is one of the best training programmes I have come across".

For more information about volunteering and to apply please look on our website [www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk). If you would like to discuss this volunteering opportunity further, please contact Susie McCormick, Training Officer on 01453-758252 ext. 214.



# Children's & youth news

FUN

Wow

## Stonehouse Action 4 Youth

**Stonehouse Action 4 Youth**  
For young people from ages 12-18 who would like to do something to help improve their community.

If you join then you could be part of something big, something to help your Community.

We meet weekly on a Thursday at 17:30 to discuss matters that affect young people.

We design projects and take part in events to improve Stonehouse.

If you are interested in joining or want more info contact the youth worker Gemma Grieve on 07795840730 or [jemma.grieve@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:jemma.grieve@stroud.gov.uk)



## PSALMS - Putting Sport Alongside Local Ministries



PSALMS is excited to announce two new activities starting after Easter in partnership with the churches in Stonehouse;

### Club Pulse

is a new youth group open to young people in school years 7-11 and will be held every Monday during school term time from 7:30-9pm at the Douglas Morley Hall. There will

be games, sports, crafts, free-time to play table tennis, table football, pool and on the X-box, as well as activity nights and trips. There will also be weekly thought where the Christian faith will be shared in an interesting and relevant way. Subwill be £1 per week.

### Youth Club

On Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th May, children in school years 4-6 are invited to come along to our sports camp held at Stonehouse Sports Centre, 10am-3pm. We'll be playing lots of different sports and activities as well as looking at the Bible character Moses and the themes of trust and perseverance. The cost is £5pp per day which includes lunch.

For more information contact Emily Twigg (pictured above): 07414018508 / [Emily.twigg@psalms.uk.net](mailto:Emily.twigg@psalms.uk.net) or visit the PSALMS website [psalms.uk.net](http://psalms.uk.net)

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## School news



### Music and dance at Park Junior School

Park Junior's Dance and Music week came to a grand finale with the spring concert for parents in the last week of term. The ukulele group had the nerve-racking task of opening the concert with "Let's twist again" and from that moment on there was a feast of well-known songs. All children in the school sang their hearts out in a range of songs, many from film classics like "The Jungle Book", "Matilda" and "Lion King" and parents obviously enjoyed the enthusiastic, expressive performances.

The week was led by Miss Lokier and Miss Sinton and the theme was: The Movies but it was noticeable that many of the songs reinforced the values of resilience and self-belief that the school is trying to instil in its pupils.

The concert was a great treat but students were involved all week in various musical activities. For instance, the African drumming workshops were enormously popular sessions with all children having the chance to immerse themselves in the rhythm and energy of the music. There was also an enthusiastic display of the dances they had prepared and practised in PE lessons all term. Students thoroughly enjoyed showing off their skills and their costumes.

Miss Lokier and Miss Sinton explained how much the pupils enjoy the chance to sing and to perform and this was certainly illustrated by the fifty students who took part in the Young Voices performance earlier in the term in Birmingham. The event demands real commitment from students who spend time after school every week from September onwards learning the words and practising the music but the rewards are immense. Singing in a choir of three and a half thousand voices was a truly uplifting and inspiring experience for all the children who came home buzzing with the excitement of the evening. It is no surprise that the school has already applied to take part next year!



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# COMMUNITY Groups

## All Pulling Together (CIC)

### Did you know?



APT has access to so many services in our Community. We can get you advice on debt; housing; applying for Universal Credit; help you to write your CV; support you into employment and provide you with links to so many groups and activities in our community. Did you know we provide a meal for a donation on a Monday or you can just come and

have a hot drink and a bacon roll? We run children's activities, a guitar group, a Crafty Stitchers group, a book club and so much more. We have amazing links through our partner organisations based around Gloucestershire. Two of these are Play Gloucestershire; currently running play sessions in Stonehouse and lunchtime sessions at Park Junior school during term time. The Play Rangers are soon to move their Tuesday afternoon sessions to the Three Greens in Park Estate. Fair Shares hold their monthly meetings at APT and as partner organisations we are soon to link up and provide walks as part of the Stonehouse Walking Festival and hopefully continue with the walks throughout the year.

So you can see that the volunteer team at APT is always busy, providing our community with projects and activities to enhance life in the town of Stonehouse and the surrounding community. Come and see what we do in the hub on Park Parade at the junction with Elm Road. The kettle is always on.

### Paint the Town Pink

A group of volunteers have been painting Stonehouse pink for breast cancer awareness for the last five years. This year it is hoped to continue the yarn bombing and decorating. The decorating will take place on Sunday 23rd of June and be taken down on Sunday 7th of July. But the original team is stepping down this year and inviting local groups to take over.



The Knit & Natter group that meet in Wynn's café on a Monday morning and the Crafty Stitchers group at APT will be continuing their work and adding to the decorations along with the Stonehouse Scout Group and the Brownies and Guides. It

is hoped to hold a meeting during May to see who else would like to continue the work for Breast Cancer Awareness. If you are interested in helping on the decorating day or taking down decorations, or giving out awareness cards on Saturday 29th June please contact All Pulling Together CIC at Park Parade or leave a message on 01453 822705.

## Cotswold Boatmobility



We've had some really beautiful weather for boating – warm spring sunshine brings out the best in nature. We are set up to enable anyone who would like to come along the canal at a calm and relaxing pace. There's no need to get wet and no need to be afraid of the water. The boats are very stable and it is fun!

As part of the Fair Shares group, Hazel Fairall came on a trip at the age of 98, not long before she died. It brought back memories for her, of building a yacht and sailing with her boyfriend around the Isle of Wight. A short video of her trip is our most shared posting on Facebook. We were fortunate to receive a lovely donation given by Hazel's friends in her memory. On June 1st we will be part of the 'It's Nicer on the Water' event taking place between Ryeford and Stonehouse Court.

We will be offering short trips for people to try out boating in our special craft. All are welcome as usual but people who use wheelchairs will get priority in Zephyrus, our Wheelyboat. No charge, just donations. Hopefully, it will be fantastic weather and there will be lots of music and activity down by the canal. Whether you live by yourself or if you have a houseful, we hope that Stonehouse will turn out to join in and celebrate the new life being brought to the canal.

If your group is based in Stonehouse, why don't you consider a group booking or if you are working with someone who would like a break or to do something different, come along and see what we do.

Our volunteers have all sorts of backgrounds and experiences of working with people and or with boats. We need more volunteers, of course, and this may be a flexible opportunity on your doorstep. Looking forward to meeting you soon.

## Gardening Club

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Stonehouse Community Centre in Laburnum Walk, when we usually have a speaker, sometimes augmenting the talk with a slide show and/or a sale of plants afterwards. In January we have a Christmas meal out, and in December a social evening. We have an annual coach trip and a couple of evenings out on a car-share basis. Our two annual 'extras' are the 'Stall on the Green' and Stonehouse Jolly.



### Rotary Club Grant

The Committee felt that the club would benefit greatly from owning a new digital projector and applied last November to the local Rotary Club for a grant towards the cost of this. We

were very pleasantly surprised a few weeks later to learn that this application had been successful and in January, at a ceremony in the Imperial Hotel in Stroud, we were presented with a cheque for £300 towards the cost of this much-needed item.

### Garden Plot near Stonehouse Railway Station

For the last two years the club has been tending a plot next to the railway station in Stonehouse in connection with 'Stonehouse in Bloom' and has planted a complete bed of flowers, shrubs, etc., which is now maturing and should bloom fully during the spring and summer months. Members work on the plot voluntarily for a couple of hours on the morning of the second Thursday of the month.

### Upcoming diary dates

June 5th	The ABC of Pests and Diseases Talk
June 8th	Stall on the Green (Saturday)
July 3rd	Evening Out to the Lavender Farm at Tetbury
August 7th	Wild Orchids of the UK
August 11th	Stonehouse Jolly (Sunday)

For full list of dates and event information go to [stonehousegardeningclub.com/2019-program/](http://stonehousegardeningclub.com/2019-program/)

## Stonehouse History Group

### Heritage Information Boards

In 2012 Stonehouse History Group began a project to create a series of information boards around the town to tell people about its history. Our first board, sponsored by Valerie Blick, can be seen on the wall inside the Town Hall. It celebrates the opening of the building as a Post Office in 1933.

In 2015 we created our first outdoor boards, sponsored by the Midcounties Co-op and the Town Council. Three are situated in High Street: by the Globe Inn, The Millennium Stone and the Woolpack Inn. There is also a board, sponsored by the Doverow Hill Trust, sited at the entrance to Doverow Wood.

These were followed in 2017 by a board on the fence by the car park at Stonehouse Park Infant School and another behind the low wall at Wycliffe College Chapel. Thanks to the Town Council and Wycliffe College for sponsorship.

In March a new board was unveiled at Burdett Road Railway Station. This one is special as it was sponsored by the Webb family in memory of History Group committee member, Darrell Webb, who died in November 2017. Darrell was a local history enthusiast who created and managed the SHG website for seven years. Darrell also created the SHG Facebook page, which is now followed by 2776 people. The board includes information about the Brick and Tile Company, which was sited next to the railway line, plus details about the history of the railway and roads nearby. Illustrations include a sketch by Darrell of the Victorian railway buildings which, sadly, were demolished in the 1970s.

Another board has been erected in Laburnum Recreation Field, which was originally donated to the parish by J.C.C. Kimmins as a First World War Peace Memorial. This board covers the history of the Field and the nearby Community Centre. Thanks to the Town Council, The Midcounties Co-operative and Stonehouse History Group who funded this board. We are grateful to the Town Council groundsmen who have made an excellent job of erecting all the boards.

We now have a total of 9 boards around the town and Doverow Hill Wood. We intend to create a history trail based on these boards, with an accompanying leaflet to guide people around the trail.

We hope to get sponsorship for future boards so, if your organisation would like to contribute, please contact us via [info@stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk](mailto:info@stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk)



Pictured members of Stonehouse History Group Committee gathered with Lin Webb to celebrate the creation of the new boards and to remember Darrell's contribution to the Town.



# Stonehouse Football Club needs you!



The u10 team in the main dugouts that have had signage donated by David Wilson homes

Stonehouse Town Football Club is looking for players, coaches and helpers of all ages to come along and enjoy football with the enthusiastic friendly teams. There are positions for coaching/ assisting all age ranges from under 7 to adult teams.

The club has good links between the youth section and adults with a joint committee ensuring the key areas are focused on to achieve the best for the club.

There is the annual summer 6-a-side football tournament held over the weekend of the 13th and 14th July which raises funds for the next season. Please come along to support teams from all over the area and have a great day.

There is a charity match being held at Oldends Lane ground on Saturday 18th May playing for the inaugural match of the Michael Carmen Memorial Cup, KO 2pm.



Youth team mascots, which has been done several times through the season, is a great inspiration for the young players to be involved with the adult teams.

## R&B ODJOBS

### Indoor/outdoor handyman

Painting, decorating, tiling, kitchen fitting, patios, fencing gardening, grass cutting, hedge cutting

### Ring Richard Twinning on

(01453) 822 503 or 07 968 400 310

email: [Rnb93@btinternet.com](mailto:Rnb93@btinternet.com)

# Share & Repair' new activities & premises

Share and Repair is very happy to announce that we have moved to new premises at 24 High Street. Watch the press for our Grand Opening date! We will now have more room to allow us to make custom made garden furniture at reasonable prices as well as continuing to repair any item in need. Anything from a broken cup, cleaner, handle or chair leg to sewing on buttons and zips and shortening hems. We are venturing into arts and crafts and have beautiful hand-made cards on sale.

With all this new activity we need more volunteers. Any skill any time you may have, we need you. We especially need admin and receptionists.

## New courses

We will also be able to announce a wide range of courses for residents to take part in once our new premises is up and running.

Sarah will be joining us and will be happy to introduce Computer Skills on a one-to-one basis for anyone wishing to learn how to use a laptop or tablet. In this day and age with so much being done online this is a skill we all need.

John, our resident cabinet maker, will be running two workshop courses. Both will be 1.5 hours once a week for 6 weeks. One course will be for those who wish to learn basic woodwork and drill skills. The other will be for those who would like to work on a woodwork project under expert supervision. This can include working on a furniture repair.

If you are interested in any of our courses please contact us to book a place on 07720 630517.

## Knitted hats needed

Cheltenham Hospital Premature Baby Unit is in need of hats for little ones. We would like to get a group of knitters together to help knit tiny hats for those in need. Even if you can't knit please come along and we can show you.

We are currently open at 24 High Street Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri 9:30am - 3:30pm and Wed/Sat 9:30am - 12:30pm. You can also find out more about us on our Facebook page 'Share and Repair Stonehouse'.

## King's Stanley Village Hall

Large, modern village hall with a capacity of 200 people. Excellent, up-to-date facilities, stage and bar. The perfect setting for your wedding, birthday or celebration.

Call Pam Culver on 01453 821 153

Email: [pamandbrianculver@btinternet.com](mailto:pamandbrianculver@btinternet.com)

[www.kingsstanleyvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.kingsstanleyvillagehall.org.uk)

# Stonehouse Rotary Club

## Community Awards Scheme

Last year we teamed up with Stroud Rotary Club to form the Stroud & Stonehouse Community Awards Scheme. This is a programme designed to support organisations within the Stroud and Stonehouse area with small grants - up to a maximum of £500 - which can make a real difference to a small club or group, especially during a start up period. Think of it as seed funding.

Now is a good time to think about applying for the 2019 awards. Full information can be found on the Stroud and Stonehouse Community Awards web site.

Of the awards made last year, beneficiaries from Stonehouse included; Stonehouse Gardening Club represented by Cherry Foster and Clive and Georgina Boardman and Stonehouse Community Association represented by Mary Coates & Sarah Townsend.

Stonehouse Rotary continues to enjoy a regular program of activities and entertaining speakers. Details of our activities can be found on our website [stonehouserotary.org.uk](http://stonehouserotary.org.uk) as well as our Facebook page.

If you are new to the area and want to get involved in local activities, come along and talk to us to see what we can offer in terms of friendship, fun and the ability to contribute to your local community.

# Royal British Legion needs new members

The Stonehouse Branch of The Royal British Legion is looking for new members to join the branch. Whether you are ex Navy, Army, Royal Air Force or Royal Marines... we want you to join us.



We would also like to see new members with no military background, who have an interest in supporting the Royal British Legion, to get involved with the military community.

Finally, we would welcome the opportunity to have youth affiliation from outside organisations.

Our meetings are the on the first Tuesday of every 'even' month. The next meeting is on 4th June 2019 at 7pm in The Globe pub in Stonehouse.

If you'd like further details please contact David Thorpe (Branch Secretary) Email [stonehouse.secretary@rbl.community](mailto:stonehouse.secretary@rbl.community) or call 07411268017

## Armed Forces Veteran's Breakfast Club (AFVBC)

The AFVBC meet at 10am, every second Friday in the month at The Woolpack Inn in Stonehouse. All veterans welcome. Your hosts Ken & Jess, look forward to seeing you there.

# Age UK needs volunteers



Could you visit an older person who has just come out of hospital? If you have some time to spare and fancy trying something new that really makes a difference to older people in your area. Age UK Gloucestershire's Out of Hospital Service supports older people in their own homes to regain confidence and get back on their feet following a spell in hospital.

We know that people can feel anxious and sometimes vulnerable and isolated whilst they are on the road to recovery, just knowing that someone is going to "pop-in" each week can be a real lifeline. Your visit could be as simple as enjoying a cup of tea and a chat together, picking up a little bit of shopping, posting a letter or helping your client to access wider services in their area by providing information and sign posting. This role does NOT involve providing personal care.

Our volunteers are a highly valued and essential part of the Out of Hospital Service. As a volunteer for Age UK Gloucestershire, you will quickly become part of a friendly, welcoming and professional team. You'll receive full training and ongoing support from us. All we ask if that you are aged 18 or over and are happy to be DBS checked.

For details on this and all our other volunteering opportunities, please contact Angela Jellyman at Age UK Gloucestershire on 01452 422660 or [volunteering@ageukgloucestershire.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@ageukgloucestershire.org.uk)



# Standish Hospital Story Catching event

We are looking to capture as many memories and stories as possible!

Please come along, everyone is welcome.

Meeting to be held on 5th June 2019 at 2pm at Moreton Hill Care Centre

Please contact Louisa on 07551 276827 or [louisa.cairns@barchester.com](mailto:louisa.cairns@barchester.com) to register your interest.





# Council corner



## Farmers Market coming to a town near you!

Exciting plans are afoot to hold a monthly Farmers Market in Stonehouse. The Town Council, together with Glen Gogerly and Karden Gerbrands, are inviting stallholders selling fruit, vegetables, artisan cheeses, bread and wine and many other locally produced food and drink.

We are hoping to have stalls running from the Town Hall up to the Town Green on both sides of the road. It will be held from 2-6pm, so that everyone has an opportunity to buy their fresh produce for the weekend and visit the regular shops in Stonehouse too.

But for this to be a success, we need the support of local residents and traders. Please look out for more details nearer the time and spread the news.

## A419 update

### KNIGHTS BROWN

**A419 STONEHOUSE JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS**  
UPDATE 2: 29/03/2019—12/05/2019

**PROJECT UPDATE**

Works are progressing well on phase one of the A419 Highway Improvement Scheme at Chipmans Platt. We have been busy working at night to try and ensure we cause minimal disruption to the road network. If it looks quiet during the day, please be assured it is not because we're not working hard, it is because we're getting our beauty sleep ready for the following evening!

All works to date have been delivered in line with our programme of works.

Within the past fortnight we have completed the following works:

- Drainage works in the westbound exit verge
- Installed BT Ducts in the westbound exit verge
- Installed new BT cables on Spring Hill Road
- Footpath widening works on Spring Hill Rd
- Footpath and carriageway widening works on the eastbound exit verge
- A Street lighting crossing and chamber has been installed on Grove Lane
- New road drainage and street lighting ducts installed on Grove Lane

DRAINAGE WORKS IN WESTBOUND EXIT VERGE

BT DUCTS IN WESTBOUND VERGE

BT INSTALLING NEW CABLES ON SPRING HILL ROAD

Gloucestershire COUNTY COUNCIL **gfirst LEP** **ATKINS**  
Member of the SNC-Lavalin Group

First Floor, Unit 5,  
Stonehouse Commercial centre  
Stonehouse, GL10 3RD

**Just opened!**  
01453 377034  
Book a tour now

## Spot Desk

**SHARED OFFICE / COWORKING**  
Professional space for work.

Get away from distractions at home.  
Be more productive.  
Meet new people.

Bright. Modern. Solid wood desks.  
High-speed Wifi.  
Clean, tidy office. Espresso coffee, tea.  
Indoor bike storage.

**SPOTDESK.CO.UK**

## SYSUM'S BARBERS

### No.1 Barber Shop

**Great haircuts at a great price**  
**A true blokes' place where you can have a coffee, watch TV or play on the Xbox if you have to wait.**  
**We cater for men and boys of all ages, and offer a dad and lad(s) special rate along with a discounted rate for seniors.**

**Monday 8:30am - 7pm**  
**Tuesday 8:30am - 5:30pm**  
**Wednesday 8:30am - 8pm**  
**Thursday 8:30am - 5:30pm**  
**Friday 8:30am - 5:30pm**  
**Saturday 7:00am - 3pm**

**NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED**  
**You will find us on Bath Road opposite the China City and Frying Machine takeaways.**  
**Tel 01453 821212**

## Goodwill Fest 2019

Saturday 30th November 2 - 6:30pm. Covered stalls (£30 +vat) and open pitches (£20 +vat). To book a stall or pitch please contact customerservices@stonehousetowncouncil.com or call 01453 822070 for further information. Event info on Facebook @stonehousegoodwillfest

## Small grants

Stonehouse Town Council has a small pot of money to award grants to local groups and organisations.

In the last 12 months, we have given grants to Stonehouse Football Club towards their new stand, Share & Repair to secure temporary premises, Citizens Advice Bureau to help with their outreach services and Bandit Music Project to assist with workshop costs.

So, if you have a project that we can help with, please go to our website to download the Grant Application Advice [stonehousetowncouncil.com/docs/Grant\\_Application\\_Advice\\_1.pdf](http://stonehousetowncouncil.com/docs/Grant_Application_Advice_1.pdf) and complete the application form [stonehousetowncouncil.com/docs/Grant\\_Application\\_Form\\_3.pdf](http://stonehousetowncouncil.com/docs/Grant_Application_Form_3.pdf) or come in to the Town Hall and ask for a form.

## Red Box Project



With the recent announcement that free sanitary products will be provided to primary school pupils in England, we would like to remind you that we are collecting donations.

We have received some toiletries for our own Red Box Project in Stonehouse but we would love to be able to distribute more sanitary products and personal hygiene items at discreet locations around the town. Please call into the Town Hall with any donations. Thank you.

## Anti-Social Behaviour

As with any town our size, we do suffer from incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), but there is something that we can all about it. Stroud District Council's Neighbourhood Wardens work closely with the police to help tackle ASB through various means such as: mediation, creating deterrents and even CCTV. They also work closely with Stroud District Council's Tenant Services, to provide support to council tenants, who are victim to incidents of ASB.

Examples of Anti-Social Behaviour include: nuisance neighbours; excessive noise; vandalism; graffiti and intimidating gatherings of people. Other forms of ASB include: littering; fly-tipping; dog fouling and abandoned vehicles.

You can report an instance of Anti-Social Behaviour by calling 01453 766321 during office hours or 0800 075 6699 – in the evenings and at weekends. Details will be recorded and passed on to the relevant team on the next working day and necessary action taken. Or online [stroud.gov.uk/report/report-antisocial-behaviour-asb](http://stroud.gov.uk/report/report-antisocial-behaviour-asb)

## Looking to move... Stonehouse Library



Current Library site on Elm Road

Both councils are asking members of the public to have their say on the impact this proposal may have as well as how they use the current library facilities at Stonehouse. The building has become outdated and increasingly difficult to maintain. An investment of around £238k would be needed to ensure the current building is kept up to date and fit for purpose.

By relocating the library from Elm Road into the Town Hall, the library would benefit from a presence on the High Street, making it easier for local residents to access library and Town Council services from one building. The Elm Road site would be sold to contribute to the costs of refurbishing part of the Town Council building.

Stonehouse Library is currently only open for 12 hours per week, the lowest opening hours of any county library in Gloucestershire. Both councils are keen to extend the library's opening hours by encouraging more local residents to volunteer at future community engagement events.

The consultation began on 1st April and will end on 25th May. An online version is available on the county council website at [gloucestershire.gov.uk/stonehouselibrary](http://gloucestershire.gov.uk/stonehouselibrary). Hard copies can be collected from Stonehouse Library and Stonehouse Town Hall. A display showing the suggested layout of the new Library is in the Town Hall for local residents to view.

## Photo competition REMINDER

Telling the story of Stonehouse throughout the year



We have already received some stunning shots of Stonehouse for the competition launched in the last edition of the newsletter but we would love to see some more! The best 12 photographs will be used to create a town calendar for 2020.

So, if you have taken a particularly lovely shot of the town, please email it, together with your name and contact telephone number, to [comms@stonehousetowncouncil.com](mailto:comms@stonehousetowncouncil.com)



# stonehouse town council information



## Contact us

Stonehouse Town Council  
Town Hall  
High Street  
Stonehouse  
GL10 2NG  
T: 01453 822070



Town Clerk: Gill Jennings  
E: [customerservices@stonehousetowncouncil.com](mailto:customerservices@stonehousetowncouncil.com)  
Customer Services  
E: [customerservices@stonehousetowncouncil.com](mailto:customerservices@stonehousetowncouncil.com)  
Committee Clerk: Rachel Russell  
E: [committeeclerk@stonehousetowncouncil.com](mailto:committeeclerk@stonehousetowncouncil.com)  
Communications Officer: Jayne Bailey  
E: [comms@stonehousetowncouncil.com](mailto:comms@stonehousetowncouncil.com)

Visit [www.stonehousetowncouncil.com](http://www.stonehousetowncouncil.com)  
Facebook - Stonehouse Town Council  
Twitter @StonehouseTC

**Opening hours**  
9am - 12:30pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday  
Closed Wednesday

## Forthcoming meetings

Town Council meetings are held on Mondays as listed below in the Town Hall and start at 7pm. They are open to members of the public.

### MAY

20th Annual General Meeting

### JUNE

3rd Annual Town Meeting  
17th Council Business Committee  
24th Town Environment Committee

### JULY

15th Full Town Council  
22nd Council Business Committee  
29th Town Environment Committee

For all meeting Agendas and Minutes please go to our website [stonehousetowncouncil.com](http://stonehousetowncouncil.com)

## Your Councillors

### Town Councillors - [stonehousetowncouncil.com](http://stonehousetowncouncil.com)

#### Stonehouse Ward

Gwen Atkinson	01453 827083
Leigh Binns	07794 205085
Deborah Curtis	01453 825965
Michael Davis	01453 822070
Neil Gibbs (Vice Chair)	01453 828430
Tim Jackson	01453 827058
Carol Kambite	01453 827929
John Parker	01453 822070
Sally Pickering	01453 824654
Jennie Smith	01453 822070
Pam Swain	01453 822998
David Thorpe	01453 821387
Theresa Watt (Chair)	01453 821428

Town councillors can be contacted via email using councillor then their surname eg. [councillorwatt@stonehousetowncouncil.com](mailto:councillorwatt@stonehousetowncouncil.com)

### District Councillors - [stroud.gov.uk](http://stroud.gov.uk)

Chris Brine	01453 825917
Gary Powell	01453 826527
Mrs. Mattie Ross	01453 826587

### County Councillor

Lesley Williams	01453 791277
<a href="mailto:lesley.williams@gloucestershire.gov.uk">lesley.williams@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a>	

### Member of Parliament

David Drew	01453 755234
<a href="mailto:david.drew.mp@parliament.uk">david.drew.mp@parliament.uk</a>	

### Euro MPs - [europarl.org.uk](http://europarl.org.uk)

Molly Scott Cato	01179 166598
William (The Earl of) Dartmouth	01722 744814
	mobile 07720 028753
Ashley Fox	01179 737050
Julie Girling	01763 289654
Claire Moody	01305 858285
Julia Reid	01249 445653

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