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Stonehouse Town Council

stonehouse news



ISSUE 42 SPRING 2020

Council Corner

Views, highways, library & more

CIVIC AWARDS

Nominate by
14th May

Community news

Canal updates, Bristol Road
Station, In Bloom...

New Councillors needed

See page 3 for details

Events & what's on

VE Celebration Day,
Big Pot Kitchen, Walk Fest 2020

Welcome

The town celebrated another successful Goodwill Fest in November, the library relocation is moving apace and there has been a wealth of progress with 2020 event planning and new community initiatives. Civic Award nominations are now open until 14th May - details opposite. New for 2020 - The Stonehouse Community Climate Action Forum held a well attended Information Fair (despite the storms) and Bethel Church have started their Big Pot Kitchen. May will see the town celebrate VE Day's 75th Anniversary. If you want to get involved see page 5 for details. 2020 looks set to be another busy year!

The Stonehouse News Team

Another wonderful Goodwill!

Stonehouse was buzzing for the Goodwill in November.

There were stalls and activities along the full length of the High Street with children's activities and a conjurer in the Community Centre. Dancer and Blitzen the two reindeer were a huge attraction for both children and adults. Our schools, local choirs and a ukulele band provided a continuous programme of entertainment from the stage on The Green throughout the afternoon. Father Christmas had a very busy time in the few hours he was able to visit Stonehouse before he had to continue his hectic pre-Christmas schedule.

Many local businesses took part in the shop window competition and produced some wonderful seasonal displays which added to the festive spirit. All those who voted declared Daniel's TV the winner.

The culmination of the event was the spectacle of fifty beautiful lanterns processing along the High Street towards The Green where Father Christmas switched on the town's Christmas tree lights.

The Town Council Events Committee are hugely grateful to all those who contributed to the success of this occasion both before the event and on the day.

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



Stonehouse Civic Awards 2020 - 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
- 14th May in writing or by email to: [customerservices@](mailto:customerservices@stonehousetowncouncil.com)
- [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 21st May. Venue TBC.

Deadline 14th May



Need an outfit made?
or a favourite dress,
skirt or suit altered?

Skilled tailoress/
machinist; no job
too big or too small

BRIDAL & PROMS
WEAR a speciality



Contact Lin on 07 900 410 027

Mayor's Column



I hope that you all had a great Christmas and are looking forward to what 2020 will bring.

The Goodwill Fest in December was a great success, despite the freezing weather. It was good to see so many residents and local businesses getting into the Christmas spirit and the town lights looked the best they've ever been.

After several years of hard work and negotiation your Council has entered into partnership with our County Council to re-purpose the old Town Hall building into a new state of the art combined Library and Town Council office complex. The old Library building in Elm Road is end of life and this partnership is a remarkable achievement because across the country Libraries are being closed or reduced. Here in Stonehouse we are investing in our community for the future and will be providing a fantastic new community hub in the heart of our High Street. Conversion work is currently well under way and we are on schedule to be back in the new complex at the end of April. In the meantime, we are temporarily based at 14 High Street (in between Dream Doors and IT Tax & Consultancy).

We are in the midst of a climate emergency and Town Council hosted a Community Climate Change Action Information Fair at the Community Centre on 9th February. Local residents and businesses were able to discover how to reduce our carbon emissions and our impact on the environment.

As I write, the Stonehouse in Bloom committee is making plans for this year's entry into the national competition, which is very exciting. There will be a lot more work to do this year so if you have any spare time, more volunteers would be extremely welcome. Please contact the Council office for more details.

Your Town Council is working hard to pursue the re-opening of the old Bristol Road railway station to provide a vital north/south rail link. This is key not only to the future economic wellbeing of our town and surrounding district but vital to reducing car journeys and encouraging sustainable transport. We are actively pursuing this aim with major stakeholders, including the County and District Council and Network Rail. We are also seeking public consultation on possible future uses of the disused Stagholt playing field. This site is under a covenant and can only be used for recreational purposes. One idea includes re-wilding the site with tree planting and a community orchard which will contribute towards reducing climate change.

Nominations for the election of new town councillors will open on 24th March and election packs will be available from the Town Council offices. So, if you want to represent your community and influence local decision making, get your application forms in by 4pm on 8th April. There will be two drop-in information sessions being held at the Town Council office in 14 High Street at 10am - 2pm and 6 - 8pm on Wednesday 18th March. Call in to chat to staff and councillors about what the role involves and ask any questions you might have.

Kind regards,

Cllr Neil Gibbs
Mayor of Stonehouse

Community news

The Longest Table

The Long Table is a social enterprise based in Brimscombe in the warehouse that also houses the Foodbank, Furniture bank as well as Kidstuff. The basic idea, in a bid to help reduce social isolation, is to get people around a table sharing food and conversation using surplus food which would otherwise go to waste. In the autumn of 2019 everyone in the Stroud district were invited to share in this by hosting a 'Longest Table Harvest Event'.

With Fr Bill's kind permission for the use of St Joseph's Church hall, several like minded Stonehouse people decided to give it a go and fixed a date. The surplus food we gathered with the help of APT was much and varied. Also, many generous donations - a sack of potatoes, large quantity of cream, gardener's bounty of fruit and veg and offers of baking them into tasty treats. The huge bag of liver from Broomhall's was a challenge but went down well with the connoisseurs of the stuff called offal!

Our Longest Table was laid and decorated and when more people than expected arrived, had to be extended at both ends. We asked people to simply pay what they felt, and with so many kind donations we were able to give £300 to the Foodbank/Long Table to help the continuing fight against food poverty. It was a great day we hope to do it again in 2020 so please do join us, and spread the word.

Big Pot Kitchen



Something new we are trying at Bethel Church for 2020 is the Big Pot Kitchen. A simple and free lunch cooked by our trained volunteers. We are aiming this at people in need, but it is open to anyone in the Stonehouse community. Full details are on the poster. We feel very passionate about serving the community and we really want to help keep people warm and fed. We are trialling it on these three dates, Saturday 1st February, Saturday 7th March and Saturday 4th April (12 - 2pm) to see how much interest we get. We then hope to branch out and expand from there! Please spread the word and pass onto anyone who you feel might benefit. We look forward to welcoming you!

For more information, please call James on 07494 472983.



Stonehouse WalkFest 2020

11th - 20th September

Following the success of the first Stonehouse Walking Festival last year. This year's WalkFest will take place from 11th to 20th September. There will be a variety of walks over the ten day period ranging from gentle strolls to full day walks of ten miles or more.

Details will be released nearer the time but if you enjoy walking, make a note of the dates and look out for the brochure.

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If you would like to help with organising the Festival, contact Carol Kambites at councillorkambites@stonehousetowncouncil.com or phone 01453 827929.
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Tree Walk Doverow Hill - Walking Festival 2019

May Day & VE 75th Celebration

Sunday 10th May 2020



Please come along and support this event. There are different ways you can participate:

- Join the parade as part of a Stonehouse group or club as we walk from Stonehouse Community Centre to the Memorial and back starting at 12 noon.
- Line the High Street waving flags.
- Set up a display/table in the Community Centre to show Stonehouse community what you do.
- Put up a display in your shop window if you are a business along the High Street.
- Learn a May Day dance and share it with us.
- Take part in the family picnic at Laburnum Park from 1- 5pm.

Also, I'm looking for anyone who is happy to share their memories of VE celebrations, so we can capture them before they are lost to us. I also require people who are happy to help the event go well by being event staff on the day setting up, ensuring the park is left litter free, help out with children's games of the time during the picnic etc.

It's a family event for us to come together and share what's good about our town and community. If you want to get into the spirit of the event, then come dressed in outfits of the time and maybe make your picnic up to include some food of the time! Prizes and awards for most effort made in dressing up.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

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For more info contact Wendy on 01453 791083 or email her at maydayve75stonehouse@hotmail.com.
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Can we have our station back please?

How often have you wanted to get a train to Bristol only to find you have to go via Gloucester, Cheltenham or Swindon, taking three times longer at twice the price compared with from Cam & Dursley? Stonehouse first tried to put this right 25 years ago, leading to the positive Halcrow Study. Four years ago the Carmichael Working Group tried to revive the project, but the County Council has since 'put it in a siding'. This is despite the County generating only half the national average of journeys per head, with Stroud District doing even worse.

Why is this? Well, Stonehouse and the Five Valleys make up the Stroudwater Urban Corridor, running from Whitminster to beyond Stroud. A new station at Stonehouse would serve over 60,000 people + the 4000 jobs alongside it. This makes it the Country's biggest urban area near its Regional Capital without...

Without what? ...a direct mainline rail service - in our case to Bristol, with half a million people and hugely important work, education and social opportunities, not forgetting its green credentials. By the same token, Bristol and beyond has no sustainable access to Stroudwater.

What effect would a direct link achieve? Updating the Halcrow Study with later growth and rail demand shows around 500,000 journeys p.a. This is nearly as many as Stroud station and more than Kemble, and puts the station in the top 35% rank of all stations. Surely this is enough for the County Council and the Rail Providers to give their support? It is why Railfuture - the national rail lobby group - began a supportive campaign in Stonehouse last November.

How can Stroudwater benefit? Firstly, our biggest business parks can benefit from rail for both commuting and business trips, and reduce road congestion. Our students and apprentices can go by train to/from Bristol with all its further education opportunities. The station is yards away from the restored canal, thus opening up a big tourist market from the south. The new eco-stadium and eco-park will not be 'access by road only'. Overall it's a brilliant opportunity for the district to champion an integrated sustainable transport policy.

Finally, don't forget - the re-opened station is not just for Stonehouse. It's for the whole of Stroud - even putting it at the top of the 're-cycling league'!

Robert Crockford - Railfuture

Railfuture is a pressure group campaigning for the Bristol Road Station to be reopened railfuture.org.uk/our+cause



Bristol Road Station 1844 (Stonehouse History Group website)

Climate Action Information Fair

The Stonehouse Community Climate Action Forum organised its first Information Fair, which took place on Sunday 9th February at the Community Centre. Storm Ciara did not put off over 100 local residents from coming to find out how they can reduce their carbon footprint.

There were 12 exhibitors giving out information about renewable energy, sustainable transport, household eco-products and samples of reusable nappies and even recycled toilet paper!



This lovely lady is Betty Haywood who has knitted 101 hats for the Seafarer's Mission. We have lots of lovely knitters in Stonehouse who bring in hats that Cllr Lesley Williams sends off.



GET INTO GOLF

with Minchinhampton Golf Club

Minchinhampton Golf Club is once again offering **FREE** Golf Taster Lessons and informal introductions to golf, for budding players both male and female.

Starting in April, lessons will take place in groups of 6, led by our PGA Professionals, who are excellent at encouraging players to achieve their full potential.

We look forward to welcoming you.

**FREE
TASTER
SESSIONS**



Minchinhampton Golf Club

Contact Tom Sheffield for more details and to book your place.
☎ 01453 833 866 ✉ t.sheffield@mgcnew.co.uk

THE NELSON TRUST

Run for Recovery

Saturday 9th May – 9am

:: Stonehouse Parkrun Takeover ::
Oldends Lane Playing Fields, Oldends Lane, Stonehouse, GL10 2DG

There is no entry fee because the event is being run as a Parkrun Takeover. All we ask is that you wear something **purple** and make a small contribution to The Nelson Trust on the morning.

Please contact our events team
on 01453 732077 or events@nelsontrust.com
if you are interested in running or volunteering.

image: freepik.com @alexmangotat

Yoga for all abilities



Regular morning and evening classes in Leonard Stanley and Eastington.
For more information visit carolmaguire.co.uk or contact Carol Maguire
on 01453 791484 07814 341092 caroline.maguire2@btinternet.com

Deliverers needed

This newsletter is delivered to every household in Stonehouse by a fantastic group of volunteers but their numbers are decreasing for various reasons. In order for us to continue to produce a printed magazine, we need at least one volunteer for the following streets in the town - Perth, Sydney, Osprey Drive, Partridge Close, Sherborne Close, Sherborne House, Green Court, Elgin Court, Bath Road (not incl. Springfield Court & 2 detached houses before Horsethrough), The Grove, Laburnum Mews, Ebley Road, Reynards Rise, Pearcroft Road, Orchard Court, Regent Street, Browns Lane and Park Road & Parade. Please contact the Town Council with your street(s) preference your name, and your telephone number and/or email address and we will coordinate the deliveries for the next newsletter. If not enough volunteers come forward, the Town Council will have to reconsider how it distributes the newsletter in future. To help deliver please contact Customer Services T: 01453 822070 E: customerservices@stonehousetowncouncil.com



COMMUNITY Groups

LITTER PICKS
Sunday 15th March,
17th May, 19th July,
20th September &
15th November
2 - 4pm The Pod,
Oldends Lane

Royal British Legion Please join us

As is said at every Remembrance Service:
"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old"

It is exactly because of that fact, that the Royal British Legion looks to the people, to become members, (for a small, annual fee, in comparison) to continue the great work it has done for those that have served this country so well. Each year, after each Remembrance day parade, the people comment and say how well it went, good turn-out, and sometimes..a 'Thankyou'.

The Stonehouse branch is a small branch, but can only do as much as the membership (and with it, the Officer posts) allows. We want to do more, for the community, the town and the district, taking care of the veterans and families that proudly served.

We need you, as Legion members, so that our branch can grow and prosper (socially). It is a common misbelief that it is only for ex-servicemen and women but that is not the case. The other misconception is that it would take up precious time but that shouldn't be the case... if only we had a thriving membership.

The Stonehouse Branch meets once every two months, for 1 hour, but we could be doing so much more. Branch Details: Meeting every 2nd Month (even number), starting at 1900hrs (7pm), in The Globe Inn, Stonehouse.



Recently, we presented Certificates of Thanks to our previous Branch Secretary, Ron Oswell, and previous Treasurer, Stuart Grainger. The Stonehouse branch, and the Royal British Legion thank them for their tireless efforts and sterling work. Ron Oswell has remained in the post of Poppy Appeal Organiser for the area.

For further information, contact: David Thorpe MCPara
Branch Secretary on 07411268017
Email: stonehouse.secretary@rbl.community

Guideposts

Guideposts offer opportunities for you and the people you care for.

CONNECT

Would you like to make new local friendships? Are you or someone you care for living with a long term health condition? Come along with the person you care for, or it might be just the tonic for you while the person you care for is safe at home. Open to all - if you like conversation, laughs, art, crafts, music or other hobbies, and need a break from the norm then CONNECT is for you. Whitminster Village Hall, Whitminster every other Thursday 10:30am - 1.30pm and St Peter's Social Club, Gloucester every other Thursday 11am - 2pm.

Dementia Wellbeing Hub

The Hub offers carers of people living with dementia or a related condition a respite break while the person they care for enjoys the Hub's engaging and supportive social environment, dementia friendly activities and lunch. St Catherine's Court, Gloucester every Wednesday 10:30am - 3:30pm, or half day with lunch either 10:30am - 1:30pm or 12:30 - 3:30pm. For more information about CONNECT or the Dementia Wellbeing Hub please call Liz on 01452 529697, or email epollock@guideposts.org.uk

Stroud Community Hub

The Community Hub brings adults with learning disabilities together to make friends, have fun, learn new skills, gain confidence and get involved in their local community. Hub members can choose from out and about activity days or creative art and music sessions at the Hub. Carers can enjoy a respite break knowing that the person they care for is well supported. "Without the Hub I would be lonely. I meet friends here and I know that I can ask staff for support if I need it. I like the trips and shopping and meeting people" Susan, Hub member 6 London Road, Stroud Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. For more information please call the Hub on 01453 767888 or 07894 256222 or email info@guideposts.org.uk

HERE for You

HERE for You offers information, advice and guidance for you or someone you support who is living with a long term condition. For more in depth support, our Emotional Wellbeing Pathway can help you to evaluate your emotional wellbeing and make positive life changes that will enhance your wellbeing. For more information please call 01452 529697 or 0300 2225709 or email: hereinfo@guideposts.org.uk

Go to guideposts.org.uk for further information on all activities.



All Pulling Together (CIC)

Supporting our Community

What's on offer in Stonehouse

For those of us who use social media it may be easy to find out what is happening in our community, but if you don't then we are aware that some people don't get to hear about all the amazing things going on in our town. APT have just produced the first A4 double sided sheet to help people find what activities are available in Stonehouse. The sheets are available to collect from: the Town Council Office; the Library; the APT and various shops & cafés in the High Street. The sheet will be updated quarterly.

Easter Town Trail

For the last two years the team of volunteers at APT has organised a town trail during the Easter Holidays. Everyone said how much fun they had trying to find all the pictures in the local shops, so we are going to do it again. This time the Easter pictures will be in different shops around the town and we will ask the Park Schools to put the entry sheets in the book bags again, with spare sheets available from APT. You will be given ten days to complete your entries and then return the picture sheets to APT for the judging. Prizes will then be awarded to the winners. The Trail will start on Saturday 4th April with the sheets needing to be handed back into APT on Tuesday 14th April and the presentations taking place on Thursday 16th April. Good Luck.



The APT Christmas Fair



Was held on Saturday 7th December. The raffle seems to get bigger and better every year. This year with prizes donated by Gloucester Services (a Christmas hamper) and Carol Novorth (decorated Christmas cake) we had an amazing collection of prizes. The team of volunteers also run a raffle for residents who live on the Park Estate. Each house is allocated a

ticket and then the draw takes place at the Christmas fair. The three winners receive a hamper which is delivered to their home. This year one winner was from Festival Road, one in Park Road and the third in Willow Road. The fair was very busy with a wide variety of presents and stocking fillers available. There was also a children's lucky dip, books, knitted items, home made cakes & biscuits, sweet cones and much more. Thank you to everyone who came and supported the event.



Stonehouse WI

Did you know that Stonehouse WI have been around for 51 years (and counting) and that we probably have the youngest President in the county, who dyes her hair a different colour every so often just to keep us guessing! Contrary to popular belief, we don't find either jam or Jerusalem particularly interesting but we do very much like getting together once a month to hear an interesting talk from a speaker who has a passion for their own specialist subject, or share social time together to deepen and develop our friendships.



We've had some really good, fun evenings as well as a summer outing in 2019, and we want to spread the news and extend a welcome to anyone in the town or surrounding areas who is looking to make friends and expand their horizons in 2020 – come and join us and find out for yourself how the WI movement has moved on.

We meet every third Wednesday at 7:30pm in the Community Centre at Laburnum Walk, Stonehouse, GL10 2NS and the first visit is free.

Our programme for the coming year has been posted on our website. It's easy to find, just ask your search engine to find Stonehouse WI. You could also like our Facebook page to get alerts of forthcoming meetings and other news.

Shorts Boxing Academy



Monday
6:00pm - 7:30pm
11+ and Adult Coaching
Both Male and Females Welcome

Thursday
7pm - 8pm
11+ and Adult Coaching
Both Male and Females Welcome

Fully Qualified Mens, Ladies England ABA Coaches

£5 Pay as you go

Morley Hall, Stonehouse, GL10 2NP

shortsboxingacademy@gmail.com

our facebook group: Shorts Boxing Academy

07786 450 423

Stonehouse in Bloom

This year is a big year for Stonehouse in Bloom. Our town has been selected to represent the Heart of England in Bloom region in this year's RHS Britain in Bloom competition.



Judging will take place on a day yet to be decided at some point in the first two weeks of August, when the RHS judges for the national final will visit Stonehouse. We will also be judged in July as usual by the Heart of England in Bloom judges. This year, however, they will be mentoring us to make sure that we are ready for the final judging.

The competition is judged on three elements: horticulture, environment/sustainability and community participation. We have lots of exciting projects on the go for this year and we are sure Stonehouse will look amazing as it has for the last five years when we have worked with a large number of local organizations, community groups and local businesses to win



three successive Gold medals (2017, 2018 & 2019) to build on the Silver medal we won (in 2015) and our Silver Gilt (2016).

This success wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Stonehouse in Bloom volunteers and the local groups, organisations and businesses who have helped us. It is the strength of our community, which has made us stand out in the competition and has impressed the judges year after year.

This year, we need more volunteers to help us. If you love Stonehouse and are proud to call the town home, please get in contact to help us prepare for Britain in Bloom 2020. We need gardeners but we also need people who are good at painting, carpentry, litter picking, weeding - and who would love to be part of putting together the best entry possible for this year's competition.

We hope to hear from you soon.

Please contact: Debbie Curtis on 01453 825965 or deborah@keynotecomms.co.uk

Gardening Club's Winter Wildlife Garden



The Winter Wildlife Garden



Members preparing the garden

Just on the road, by the London bound platform of the Stonehouse railway station, there is a winter wildlife garden designed by Austen Perkins, horticulturist. (He was once the man in charge of Bristol University's gardens!). The incentive for the Stonehouse Gardening Club (SGC) was to contribute to the success of Stonehouse in Bloom. In October 2017, SGC members planted mahonia, viburnum, winter honeysuckle, and other winter flowering shrubs that provide berries, winter nectar and shelter for birds, insects and other small wildlife right through the year. In addition, stalks which are cut down in autumn, such as the michaelmas daisies, are left in clumps by the wall to provide winter habitat.

The plants are hip high now, and full of colour and scent in their seasons. Whenever there is sunshine, the flowers are covered in bees and other insects. We like to think the garden also brings some pleasure to people passing by, or just waiting for trains. If they find an SGC member working on the plot, they often ask what the plants are. The spectacular winter blooms of the mahonia draw extra comments. And of course, there is the old chestnut, "And you can come and do my garden!"

SGC members come together to work on the plot about eight times a year, on a purely voluntary basis (check the website, stonehousegardeningclub.com for more details about the club's activities and events). We sow wildflower seeds and have planted herbaceous plants for a summer show as well, but our focus is on providing food and shelter for birds, insects and small mammals in winter, when there is so little available.

Battery & strap service

Take your watch into the Sue Ryder shop in the High Street - we collect daily, return next day giving a donation to Sue Ryder for every watch.

Most single battery watches £6.
Most leather straps £7



Cotswold Canal Trust

The ADVENTURE begins!



The Cotswold Canals Trust, with thanks to the efforts of hundreds of volunteers, grant giving trusts, parish, town and district councils and individual donors has been able to commission a new £140,000 made to measure fully accessible trip boat.

Since the original designs were drawn and funding secured, we have consulted members of the Stroud Community who are registered disabled and other canal societies that have previously commissioned accessible trip boats. Some key features were improved following this learning, which have influenced the decision to commission a longer and wider beam craft.

The vessel named Adventure, has features such as an outdoor seating area on deck, a high spec passenger hoist and fully wheelchair accessible toilet facilities. She is the first boat in the Cotswold Canals Trust fleet that has fully green credentials with electric propulsion instead of diesel, and solar panels enabling her to be completely self-charging during trips of up to 8 hours.

Adventure is bigger and more accessible than originally planned, at 54ft x 10ft. The increase in size allows better access and manoeuvrability for wheelchair users. She will carry 12 passengers with a crew of three or four.

Launched into the Gloucester Sharpness Canal on 19th December 2019, crew training will take place over the winter months meaning she will be ready for passengers by Easter. Once the Stroudwater Navigation restoration project is complete she will be free to sail anywhere from Stroud to Saul Junction along 14km of canal.

Private charters aboard Adventure along with the boats at Ebley and Lechlade can be booked through the office, please give them a call to make a booking.

Cotswold Canals Trust is always looking for new volunteers to join the restoration teams. Contact them on 01453 752568 or visit www.cotswoldcanals.org.uk for further information.

Cotswold Boatmobility

We have been going for five years now and will be looking for ways to celebrate this in 2020. We are hoping to get a new bigger boat that will take more wheelchairs at once, which makes it even more fun. For fun and getting out in the fresh air are what we are all about. You do not have to have a disability to come out on our boats and we are there to support everyone, whatever it takes to get more of you enjoying the canal on our doorstep. The boats are very stable, the water is not very deep and our experienced teams take every care for your safety. In fact, we have a new video, of our activities, on our website which gives an idea about what to expect.

The thrill of seeing a kingfisher never goes away... but we see them all the time. Once you get your eye on them, you can follow their flight down the canal. They are not frightened of the boats, because we are very quiet and we often watch them catch fish. We see them when towpath walkers miss them, partly because we are so close on the water. What is more frustrating is trying to get a decent photo when you are wearing gloves and using a paddle! We have followed the progress of our Stonehouse swans and their eight cygnets and generally keep in touch with the wildlife, along with some litter picking.



Our main expenses this year have been in training our volunteer skippers. We have been able to purchase a Portaloo. We need to keep raising money for running costs and we would like the bigger boat, but we hope that the community will continue to support us, as they have so well, as we do not charge you for coming out on the boats.

We are always looking for more volunteers. Our trusty secretary has left the area and we really do need someone who can offer this support. Boating experience is not required, just enjoying being with people!

Our greatest pleasure comes from seeing new people, as individuals or as groups, finding out about us and coming down to this not so secret part of Stonehouse and enjoying a trip on the water.

cotswoldboatmobility.org.uk • info@cotswoldboatmobility.org.uk
fb [cotswoldboatmobility](https://www.facebook.com/cotswoldboatmobility) • 07562 173659



Ship Inn Project Stonehouse (ShIPS)

Help us to harness people power!

It has now been 14 months since ShIPS was set up to save the former Ship Inn site for community use. Our hope is that it can be enjoyed by local residents and visitors to Stonehouse and the wider Five Valleys for years to come.

In the time since Stroud District Council withdrew its planning application for 9 affordable homes on the site in November 2018, we have been very busy and have made progress in many areas. However, there is still a long way to go and we still value your much-needed support. We warmly welcome new members and if you feel you would like to be involved, please do contact us at info@shipsgroup.co.uk

Over the past year, we have forged strong links with Stonehouse Town Council and organisations in the town such as All Pulling Together, Boatmobility, Gloucestershire Gateway Trust, Wiggly Worm just to name a few, who all fully support our aim to create a community space for all.

Activities and progress since ShIPs formed (Nov 2018) include:

Jan/Feb 2019 - Community consultation for the site completed.
March 2019 - Held our first AGM, where committee and constitutions agreed and 40+ members joined the group. We also had a meeting with planning and conservation officers.
April/May 2019 - ShIPS provided a full feasibility study for the Housing Committee incorporating what the community told us they wanted and demonstrating the positive impact a community space would have on the area.
June/July 2019 - Continued to meet with various stakeholders/investors and took part in "Nicer on the Water" event where support for our project was resounding. Stonehouse Town Council created a 'Regeneration Working Group' for Stonehouse that ShIPs help contribute to.
July/Aug 2019 - Investigated funding options. Creative Sustainability created a report outlining the importance of the Ship Inn Site to the community. SDC, who fund Creative Sustainability, told CS that they should no longer engage with the Ship Inn Site!
Sept/Oct 2019 - Banner printed/petition signing/further meetings with interested stakeholders to ensure we are listening to what the community wants.
Nov/Dec 2019 - Paid for our own RICS Red book valuation (thanks to those who responded to our fundraiser) and started

writing our Business Plan. STC offered a possible land swap however SDC declined.

Jan/Feb 2020 - Positive feedback from our MP (Siobhan Baillie) and councillors from other parts of the district, awaiting meeting with Kathy O'Leary (Chief Executive of SDC).

March 2020 - AGM planned, where we hope to involve more people to help our cause!

We aren't stopping the momentum and work almost every day to keep this space for our community!

AGM - 9th March at Park Infants School 7pm

Help us to harness 'people power' so we can all benefit from the positive social, economic, health and wellbeing benefits of a canal-side community space for Stonehouse and the district. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for latest updates.

CHARITY

FUN DOG SHOW

& CRAFT FAIR WITH OVER 20 STALLS!

- Homemade cakes
- Bouncy Castle
- Hot Food
- Fun activities
- BIG book sale
- Doggy Games
- Raffle

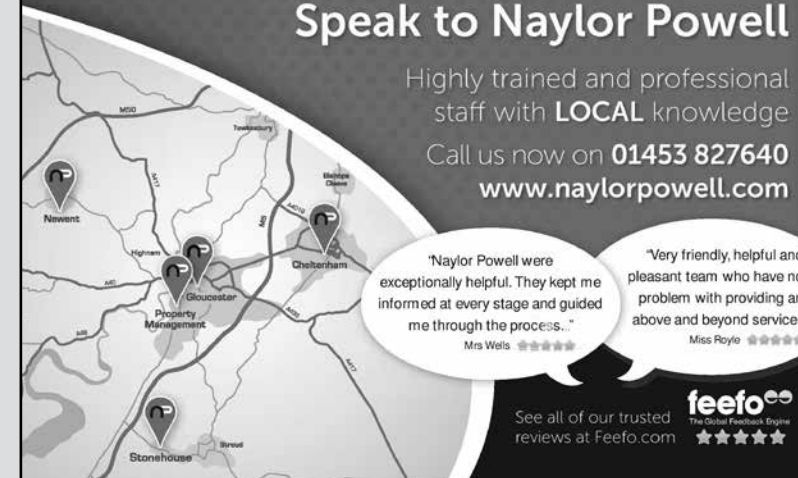
Sunday 31st May 11:00-3:00

At Stonehouse Community Centre & Laburnam Park GL10 2NS

In aid of **teckels**
Because every animal is special

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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

Youth news FUN

PSALMS in Stonehouse



PSALMS has had a really good term in Stonehouse with our Sports Holiday Club in October half-term, Leadership Academy running activities at the Stonehouse Goodwill Fest and 'Experience Christmas' lessons at Maidenhill being

particular highlights. We have engaged with hundreds of children and young people in various ways; from assemblies to weekly after-school clubs, mostly using sports and games and have also supported the churches in the town.

We're also running an 'Experience Easter' event at Maidenhill in March, where PSALMS and the churches will be leading creative and interactive RE lessons themed on the meaning of Easter.

WEEKLY GROUPS

Of course our weekly groups continue:

- Monday Youth Club: Year 7-11
7:30-9pm Stonehouse Methodist Church
- Wednesday Multi-Sports: Year 7s
Lunchtime at Maidenhill
- Wednesday After-School Club: Year 4-6
After-school at Park Junior
- Wednesday PSALMSY Football: Year 7-11
4:30 - 5:45pm Stonehouse Sports Centre
- Friday Junior Youth Club: Year 3-6
6 - 7:30pm Stonehouse Methodist Church

Do come and join us! Although we're a Christian charity, everything we do is open to all and you will be very welcome. A big thank you should go to the churches and those who volunteer, as without them none of the above would be possible.

If you would like additional information about the work of PSALMS, our groups in Stonehouse (or wider areas), or would like to help us in some way, then please contact Emily on 07414018508 or at emily.twigg@psalms.uk.net or visit the PSALMS website psalms.uk.net

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

www.kingsstanleyvillagehall.org.uk

School news



Shrubberies School Dog



After being involved in a University research project, which suggested that interaction with a dog resulted in improved cognitive skills in a range of areas for pupils with special needs, we decided to trial having a School Dog.

Margo belongs to Rachel in the office and comes in with her each day. Margo is a Shorkie (Shih Tzu cross Yorkie) and has a very calm and friendly nature. She is a firm

favourite with the children, who love spending time with her and taking her for walks. She has passed the trial with flying colours and is now a firm fixture in the school. Margo has a kennel in the office, so that if the busy environment and all the attention gets too much, she can retreat to her own space.

We are also pleased to be involved with Pets As Therapy and are visited once a fortnight by Monty, a West Highland Terrier. Monty responds really well to the children and they love his visits.

Make life more rewarding; become a Support Worker

Join learning disability and autism charity Brandon Trust, and discover an inspiring role as a Support Worker.

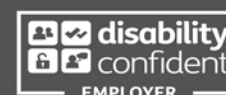
You would support individuals with learning disabilities and autism both at home and in the community to live life more freely. Experience isn't essential as we provide full training and ongoing support.

We have a range of Full-time, Part-time and casual positions that provide you with flexibility and access to a range of 24/7 shifts to suit you and your needs.

We currently have vacancies in a wide variety of locations, including Stonehouse and Stroud.

Do something amazing today and come join Brandon Trust to help people with learning disabilities and autism

www.brandontrust.org/jobs



Brandon
Live free
the learning disability charity

De-Stress with Yoga and Mindfulness

- Yoga classes
- Mindfulness courses
- Workshops & retreats
- King's Stanley, Cam & Stroud

Contact Amy
www.birdwings.co.uk



Park Junior pupils and Air Ambulance team

Park Junior students started the New Year with exciting visits from both the Life Bus and members of the Air Ambulance Team. Students moved out of their classrooms to spend time in the Life Bus where Year 4 discussed the five components absolutely essential if we are going to survive: oxygen, water, food, shelter and sleep.

Lessons were enhanced by the presence of Healthy Harold (!) the puppet but focused on very important issues in a lively and interactive way. For instance, the children took part in a simple experiment to show the effect smoking has on the heart. They squeezed their hands together repeatedly to mimic the action of the heart and as they squeezed faster and faster their hands began to ache. The heart of a regular smoker will start to ache much more quickly than a non-smoker.

The Air Ambulance Team visit was connected, of course, because they are concerned with those life or death moments which someone may not survive. We all hope we are never going to be involved in such a moment but, equally well, there have been amazing stories just this year when very young children have been able to contact the emergency services for help when a parent has collapsed. If you have thought what you would do at such a moment there is more chance that you will cope. The Air Ambulance visit provided just that opportunity when the children could ask themselves what would be the sensible thing to do in an emergency.

The children had the chance to practise CPR on a "little Annie", the child sized version of the well-known mannequin. They obviously enjoyed the activity, finding out what CPR is and how to do it, and every pupil I spoke to explained how he or she had gained confidence. Karl told me, "I was scared at first but glad I learnt" and both Ava and Tomi said they had to press down harder than they expected. Edward also said, "I was nervous at the beginning because I did not know where to start but I feel more confident now."

However, the children learnt that some of the most important things to do in an emergency are also the most simple. They learnt to shout loudly and clearly the magic word: "Help!" and to know the magic number: 999, points all parents can repeat with their children. Hilary Heggie - School Governor

Council corner



Goodwill Fest 2020 road closure views



Despite the continuing success of Goodwill, the Town Council is considering closing parts of the High Street for the whole event, making the event much more pedestrian-friendly and to provide a greater number and range of stalls and entertainment.

Currently, we have a temporary road closure of approximately 45 minutes in force from Regent Street to the Elm Road junction for the lantern procession and turning on of the Christmas tree lights.

We propose to extend the road closure time from 2 to 6pm but we would like your views on the different options:

- A) Close the road between the Regent Street and Elm Road Junctions
- B) Close the road from the Queens Road junction up to the entrance to the town car park
- C) Close the road from the entrance to the town car park up to the Elm Road junction
- D) Leave the temporary road closure as it is

Please email your preference to: comms@stonehousetowncouncil.com, phone 822070 or call in to the office at 14 High Street. If there is a positive response from residents and local businesses, the Town Council will formally consider the options.

There would, of course, need to be a formal consultation with the district council, local businesses, bus company, taxi services, and the police.

'Happy to Chat' benches



Looking after your own and other people's mental health has never been more important and, quite often, some people go a whole day without talking to anyone. The Town Council has decided to designate 5 benches around the town as 'happy to chat' areas which encourages people to sit down and have a conversation.

'Happy to chat' benches are springing up all over the country and are proving very popular in tackling social isolation and loneliness. It may just be a 5-minute conversation about the weather, football scores or what was on the TV last night.

The 'happy to chat' benches will be outside of the Town Hall, in front of the Town Green and one each in the three play areas. So, if you see the sign and someone is sitting on their own, be brave and start up a conversation. It will make you and them feel great for the rest of the day!

Stonehouse Library opening soon!



The refurbishment of the Town Hall is progressing well and is on track to be completed on time. Gloucestershire Libraries has confirmed that brand new stock for the new Library is starting to arrive and be processed and that the new Library's furniture design has been agreed and ordered. A volunteer introduction day was held in Stonehouse Library on 31st October 2019 and some training is planned over the next month or so.

If anyone is interested in volunteering at the Library please email libraryhelpline@gloucestershire.gov.uk or contact Stonehouse Library.

We will shortly be announcing when the new Town Council and Library building will be opening.

Watch this space!

Highways update

A419 HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2020



PROGRESS PICTURES

HORSETROUGH EASTBOUND APPROACH



Excavation works have been completed



Western Power Distribution diverting electric



Western Power Distribution cables for diversion

HORSETROUGH EASTBOUND EXIT



Excavation Works have been completed at exit



Installation of new drainage gullies



New stone to form road base layer

HORSETROUGH WESTBOUND EXIT



Clearing trees and vegetation



Excavation works have started at the approach to Horsetrough roundabout



Preparation works for new street lighting



<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/major-projects-list/a419-highway-improvements/>

For updates and full details go to [gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/major-projects-list/a419-highway-improvements](https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/major-projects-list/a419-highway-improvements/)

'Keep Safe' Scheme

The Town Council has signed up to become a member of the Keep Safe Scheme. The office will display a sticker in the window that will help vulnerable people to identify us as a safe place, should they need our help or somewhere to come in, while waiting for a friend or family member to collect them.

Keep Safe is a scheme that can help you feel safer when you go out. If you have learning difficulties, physical disabilities, autism or dementia, it can help you feel more confident about being out on your own.

Sometimes when you are out, something might go wrong. You might get lost, feel worried or lose your bus pass or money. You may be experiencing a hate crime. If this happens, all you need to do is to look for this sign in the window of a shop, business or café. The sign means that it is a safe place and the staff will be able to help you.

If you join the Keep Safe scheme you will get a card that has your name and emergency contact details on it. If you need help, show the staff your card and they will use it to find out who to ring. They will make sure you are safe while you wait for help.

If you would like to join the scheme, please call Teresa Hemingway on 07825 484003 or email her at info@keepsafeglos.org.uk.

You can find out more about Keep Safe and all the safe places in Gloucestershire at keepsafeglos.org



Stagholt Pavilion redevelopment



Town Mayor, Neil Gibbs, visited the site of the former Stagholt Pavilion to look at the progress of new houses being built by Harpers Construction on behalf of Two Rivers Housing Association. There will be seven 2-bedroom houses (4 rented and 3 shared ownership) and details of how local people can

apply for them will be released 2/3 months before the time of completion, which is expected to be July.



Watch this space!

Your new Stonehouse Neighbourhood Warden



I have been covering Stonehouse for a couple a months and have thoroughly enjoyed my time looking after the area and working closely with various organisations. A lot of my time has been reporting and removing fly tips, working with vulnerable, elderly Residents and looking at new ways to help the community. Katie is now taking over Stonehouse and has been shadowing me whilst we complete the handover. I will be helping Katie over the next couple of weeks and if you have any queries or questions please feel free to get in

contact with us and we'll be more than happy to help. I would like to thank the Stonehouse community for making me feel very welcome whilst I have been working within the area - Matt Jones

Hello my name is Katie Markwick, I am the new Neighbourhood Warden for Stonehouse. I will also be covering Arlingham, Elmore, Hardwicke, Longney, Moreton Valance, Standish, Whitminster, Fretherne-with-Saul, Frampton on Severn and Eastington. I am fairly new to the area but I am very keen to learn all about it, explore it and meet some of you. I started on the 2nd of January and I am looking forward to being your warden once my training is complete. If you have any questions or would just like to know a little bit more about me and what I will be doing please don't hesitate to contact me Tel: 07753725185 Email: katie.markwick@stroud.gov.uk



stonehouse town council information

Contact us

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



Town Clerk: Carlos Novoth
E: townclerk@stonehousetowncouncil.com
Deputy Clerk: Rachel Russell
E: deputyclerk@stonehousetowncouncil.com
Customer Services:
E: customerservices@stonehousetowncouncil.com
Communications Officer: Jayne Bailey
E: comms@stonehousetowncouncil.com

Visit stonehousetowncouncil.com
Facebook - Stonehouse Town Council
Twitter @StonehouseTC

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

Forthcoming meetings

Town Council meetings are held on Mondays as listed below in the Community Centre until the end of April (Town Hall from May) and start at 7pm. They are open to members of the public.

FULL TOWN COUNCIL

16th March
20th April
11th May

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

2nd March
30th March
4th May

TOWN ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

24th February
23rd March
27th April
18th May

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

21st May

For all meeting Agendas and Minutes please go to our website stonehousetowncouncil.com

Your Councillors

Town Councillors - stonehousetowncouncil.com

Stonehouse Ward	
Gwen Atkinson	01453 827083
Leigh Binns	07794 205085
Deborah Curtis	01453 825965
Michael Davis	01453 350689
Neil Gibbs (Chair)	01453 828430
Tim Jackson	01453 827058
Carol Kambites (Vice Chair)	01453 827929
John Parker	07971 797782
Kevin Parsons	07723 307165
Sally Pickering	01453 824654
Jennie Smith	07557 963491
Pam Swain	01453 822998
David Thorpe	01453 821387
Theresa Watt	01453 821428

Town Councillors can be contacted via email using Councillor then their surname eg. councillorwatt@stonehousetowncouncil.com

District Councillors - stroud.gov.uk

Chris Brine	01453 825917
cllr.chris.brine@stroud.gov.uk	
Gary Powell	01453 826527
cllr.gary.powell@stroud.gov.uk	
Mrs. Mattie Ross	01453 826587
cllr.mattie.ross@stroud.gov.uk	

County Councillor - gloucestershire.gov.uk

Lesley Williams	01453 791277
lesley.williams@gloucestershire.gov.uk	

Member of Parliament - parliament.uk

Siobhan Baillie	020 7219 3000
siobhan.baillie.mp@parliament.uk	

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