

# STOW & FOUNTAINHALL

ISSUE 26 ~ COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER ~ SUMMER & AUTUMN 2016

## COMMUNITY CINEMA IN FOUNTAINHALL

An exciting new venture is taking shape along the back road. With help from Cinema for All, a national support and development agency for community-led cinema, Fountainhall Village Hall want to set up a community cinema for the Gala Water Valley.



We are planning regular film screenings (up to six per year) of different genres and for different ages. We also want to make it a bit of a social with drinks and nibbles for sale (and popcorn, of course).

The first screening will be Friday 25 Nov at 8pm, in time for St Andrew's Night, with the classic Hitchcock film *The 39 Steps*. Join us for a wee dram and some oatcakes and cheese after.

### The 39 Steps

A man in London tries to help a counterespionage agent. But when the agent is killed and the man stands accused, he must go on the run to both save himself and also stop a spy ring which is trying to steal top secret information. (1935) Alfred Hitchcock 86 mins A



This will be followed by a family Christmas screening of *Elf* on Sunday 11 Dec at 3pm with mulled wine, mince pies and, yes, popcorn. Bring your own beanbag. All ages welcome.

### Elf

After inadvertently wreaking havoc on the elf community due to his ungainly size, a man raised as an elf at the North Pole is sent to the USA in search of his true identity. (2003) Jon Favereau 97mins PG



Tickets are £3 for adults (£2 for under 16s and under 5's free) and are available at Stow Post Office or on the door.

If you want to join the organising committee (so far only me!), or offer any thoughts and film suggestions, please contact Claudia on [plenploth.00@btinternet.com](mailto:plenploth.00@btinternet.com)



## STOW HERITAGE THANKS

A couple of years ago, following concerns in Stow about the state of the stonework of the Auld Kirk and its graveyard, the Community Council, via Windfarm Funds, supported the carrying out of essential repair work by local resident and lime builder, Robin McMillan. Other heritage areas were also causing concern and it was decided to spread word of this and gauge the level of support in the village for maintaining our built heritage, through asking for donations.



Robin McMillan restoring our heritage

Community Councillor Alistair (Danny) Riddell found a generous response and wants to publicly thank all who donated. £185 came from individuals too numerous to mention (but you know who you are...) 21 businesses (see below) between them contributed £270 and additionally one memorable day, two tourists from Australia, after a spontaneous chat with Danny in the graveyard about the history of the Auld Kirk and its surrounds, donated £110 in appreciation of this area's history and "the good work" being carried out to ensure it's still here for generations to come.

In addition to Robin's work on the Auld Kirk, the donations allowed a temporary fence to be created around the Old Pack Bridge to protect the bridge from stock (the bullocks were coming!). When funds allow, the intention is to replace the current fence with metal railings.

A fuller report of the work being done and the overall plan will be in a future newsletter. Meanwhile, there is still a lot to do and anyone interested in volunteering to help with the maintenance work (skilled and unskilled) or in donating towards funds, are invited to contact Danny Riddell on 01578 730347.

Stow Post Office [Alison Runciman], Gilbert Millar (Joiner); Bright Heat Stoves; Hunter Architecture [Hamish Hunter]; Millburn Garage [John Gorman]; Furrynuff Grooming by Trudy [Trudy Anderson]; Mhor Sweets Ltd [Michael Thomas]; Exp-E-Data (UK) Ltd [Sheelagh Aird]; Proprint; Little Tracks ELC; Nigel Millar & Sons; Thomas Miller & Son; Andrew Riddell; W A Williamson Grocer; Chris Wymss; Andrew Miller Joiner; Billy Hunter; Muirhouse Farm Partnership; Oakbank Joinery; Alan Bryce; Thomas Sherriff [Stow]

## STOW HIGHLAND DANCE SCHOOL

Annual Dancing Display  
Saturday 26 November 2016  
3.00pm  
Stow Town Hall

Donation / Raffle at the Door towards  
Stow Parish Church  
Tea / Coffee available afterwards

Tickets available at Stow Post Office  
From 14 November onwards  
or call Amanda on 01578 730268

Stow Highland Dance School is on holiday after the Display. We return in the New Year on Wednesday 11 January 2017 at 3.45pm in Stow Town Hall.

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SEASONAL SONGS  
CAROLS OLD AND NEW  
SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER 7PM

STOW CHURCH  
BUFFET INCLUDED

£8 ADULTS : CHILDREN FREE

TICKETS FROM STOW SHOP  
JOHN 01578 730289  
ON THE DOOR



## CHERNOBYL CHILDREN LIFELINE



*enjoying a picnic in Stow park*

The tenth visit arranged by Scottish Borders link of Chernobyl Children Lifeline took place this July and two children from Belarus were hosted in Stow by Belinda and Ben Glennon and Heather Kiernan and Shoji Mazasawa. The group leader was also hosted by Fraser and Nettie Simm.

The visit included trips to the seaside, Vindolanda roman fort, Bowhill, Eyemouth Rib Boats, a farm and Galashiels fire station as well as compulsory dental and optician check-ups. Each year's visit has been centred on Stow from where the Link has spread to include Border towns and villages from Peebles in the west to Eyemouth and St Abbs on the coast and Seahouses and Jedburgh to the south. All of the children



*learning about dental hygiene*

hosted are deemed to be "in need" both on economic and on health grounds and their time with the families in our communities serves to build up their immune systems to cope with the nuclear pollution in their own homeland.

In a visit to Belarus in 2015, Chairman Fraser Simm was humbled at the gratitude expressed by local officials, schools and above all from the families of the children which led him to commit himself to this year's visit.

## STOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

The school has been a hive of activity since returning from summer break! It's with great pleasure that we have welcomed our new p1 pupils, and with mixed emotions said fond farewells to our confident and well respected p7 class. I think we would all like to take this opportunity to wish them every success on their new journeys.



Improvement Award in the category of 'Outstanding Contribution to Improving Outcomes for Young People and their families'. The award ceremony is in November. Watch this space for how we get on!

With the first term of our academic year under our belts, it's encouraging to see all new and returning pupils settling in well and adjusting to their routines with such enthusiasm. The pupils are engaging with new topics and activities, stretching their imaginations and abilities. In particular, we have seen all school involvement in celebration of Roald Dahl and the many explorations this presents. Through this topic a wide spectrum of activities have been initiated, with children utilising the Yurt in the school grounds to bring the Roald Dahl experience to life, coupled with dress up days and themed lunches. The children have also been working on their reading and literacy skills through his work.

I am sure you will be delighted to share in our mission and achievements for Raising Attainment within Stow Primary. This is a Government Programme which we have been involved with for nearly two years and it's with much pride that we share with you our success in improving numeracy and our excitement at being shortlisted for a Quality

We have also been enthused to offer the children in p1-p2 the opportunity to take part in the Road Safety Magic Show held at St Margaret's School, Galashiels. This was an event that compounds the fundamental importance of road safety, in a fun and engaging manner. An enjoyable learning experience was had by all!

Furthermore, all our Primary 4-7s have now received their reading passports. These have been issued under the First Minister's Reading Challenge to collectively encourage active, regular reading. We are looking for the boy or girl who reads the most books and the class that read the most books.

On a community level, Stow Primary recently opened its doors again to Macmillan's Big Coffee Morning. As in previous years this has been kindly and enthusiastically hosted by our P3-4 pupils under the supervision and guidance of their teacher Mrs Leckie. It was a wonderful, empowering event raising a total of £577.27 for a truly worthy cause, thank you to all who contributed, supported, attended, and helped with the day.

## SANCTUARY IN STOW ? - HAVE YOUR SAY

A proposal has come forward to create a place of sanctuary in the village for the use of everyone and to celebrate our village's past. In medieval times, Stow was a place of sanctuary based around the church of St Mary of Wedale. This meant that anyone in fear of their life or persecution could seek refuge: it seems a fitting thought in these uncertain times to reclaim it for the 21st century.

Such a place of sanctuary in Stow might contain a public sculpture inspired by the idea of sanctuary, a sensory garden full of herbs, a covered area for rest and contemplation, and most importantly, it would be accessible to all.

A preliminary discussion, led by Andrea Carlino and supported by Wendy Ball and Andy Anderson, was held with representatives of different interest groups in the village and it was agreed that such a project could be financed through grants specifically designed for public art projects. The project is envisaged as being complementary and supportive of other community endeavours in the village, for example, Stow Park project; Heart of Stow development and horticultural projects.

To take this proposal to the next stage, we would like to gather public opinion through a questionnaire with a view to discussing the results at a public meeting at the end of November. If you have not completed a questionnaire as yet, you can pick up a copy at the Shop, Café or from the Community Archivist in the Town Hall.

## JESSICA TROUGHTON BEM

Back in spring of 2014, we shone the spotlight on someone who has worked tirelessly for the community for many years, Jessica Troughton.

Now all of Jessica's community commitment has been recognised by her being awarded the British Empire Medal in the 2016 Queen's Birthday Honours 'For services to the community in Stow, Galashiels'.

The award ceremony took place on October 3 in the council chambers at Scottish Borders Council and Jessica was awarded the medal by Captain Gerald Maitland-Carew, Lord Lieutenant of Roxburgh, Ettrick and Lauderdale.

As a reminder, these are just some of the community groups on which Jessica has had an impact:

Playgroup	Stow Youth Club
Children's cycle training	Red Cross
Lunch Club	Stow Patient Transport
Stow Parish Archive	Windfarm Community Benefit Fund Panel

As the Lord Lieutenant said, this award is "... richly deserved!" Well done, Jessica!

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*From the Cabinet Office 'Nomination for a UK National Honour' Paper*

*[Nominees must have made] a significant contribution in their area of activity. We are looking for people with exemplary service, who:*

- *have changed things, with an emphasis on practical achievement;*
- *have demonstrated innovation and entrepreneurship;*
- *are examples of the best sustained and selfless voluntary service;*
- *have delivered in a way that has brought distinction to UK life.*



## FOUNTAINHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Outdoor Learning Environment:** As part of our School Improvement this session, we have been reviewing and adapting our learning environments, both outdoor and indoor, to provide rich and meaningful resources from which the children can develop essential skills for life, learning and work. Lots of things have been kindly given to us by our families and the children are loving the new experiences they are providing.

**JRSO activities:** Our JRSOs (Junior Road Safety Officers) have been very busy this session in promoting road safety messages through leading activities and competitions.

The next event planned is a 'Be Bright' day where the children will come into school wearing the brightest outfits they can! Winners will be chosen from our ELCC and Primary classes.

**Special Afternoon out for P1 and P2:** All of our Primary 1 and 2 pupils enjoyed a trip into Galashiels and went to Langlee Primary School to see a Magic Road Safety show. They all enjoyed the show and also came away with a clear message about road safety which our JRSOs will be reinforcing over the coming months.

**Hockey Festival:** Primary 7 went to the Hockey Festival at the astro pitch at Tweedbank and enjoyed playing with and against the other schools. Everyone had the chance to show off the skills they have been working on in PE and hopefully picked up a few new skills too.

**Macmillan coffee morning:** In September all the children from ELCC and Primary were invited to the Village Hall to join in with the community Macmillan Coffee Morning. Everyone had a fantastic time and thoroughly enjoyed a few sweet treats, a drink and a play whilst raising vital funds for such a great cause.

**Trip to the National Museum of Scotland:** The Primary 1-7 class have been learning about the past through 'The Vikings' and were treated to a day out to the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. They watched a Viking dramatisation, explored the galleries and interactive displays and also had the opportunity to handle replicas of many artefacts from the Viking era. A great day had by all!



**Crucial Crew:** Our P7 children went to Tweedbank to the ever popular Crucial Crew to explore many different hazards, risks and potential dangers that they may encounter in life. They were taught skills and information which will help them to stay safe and make informed choices in these situations.

**SSPCA visit:** An SSPCA officer will be visiting our school to inform children of the job they do in helping animals around us and how we can also help.

**Transition days:** Our P7 pupils will be visiting Galashiels Academy frequently over the year as part of their P7-S1 transition. The first of the curricular visits is on Literacy, followed by a day of Health and Wellbeing, then Numeracy.

**Visit to an author:** On Thursday 3 November, the Main Street Trading Company held an author visit at Lauder Primary, and the P1-7 children went along to meet some authors. Danny Scott was speaking to P1-4 about his book 'Scotland's Stars F.C.' and Lari Don spoke to P5-7 about her 'Spell Chaser' series.

**Remembrance service at Galashiels Academy:** Our P7 pupils attended Galashiels Academy's Remembrance Day assembly on Wednesday 9 November.

**Kilts for Kids:** Our annual Kilts for Kids day, in aid of Children 1<sup>st</sup>, is taking place on Thursday 24 November. P1-7 will be spending the day at Heriot to explore Scotland in many ways including its arts, culture, music and language. An assembly in the afternoon for all our families and friends will showcase the children's learning.

**Christmas:** December is approaching fast and with this is the inevitable 'C' word! The children have decided that this year they would like a change from our traditional Nativity based Christmas Show. They will therefore be performing 'Pirates vs Mermaids' on Wednesday 21 December. Please come along!



**MAKE STOW BEAUTIFUL**

Over the Spring and Summer a lot of people in the Community have worked really hard to work on two projects to enhance the village. We have adopted Stow station and a team of 12

volunteers have contributed in a variety of ways by: preparing the beds for planting; applying a top dressing of leaf mould for soil improvement; planting hundreds of daffodils and planting 1200 begonias.

We would like to acknowledge the contribution made by Philiphaugh Gardens through their generous donations and invaluable advice. The second focus of our activities was the installation of three tier planters. A second team of nine volunteers have been busy watering over the summer months. In addition a team of four volunteers have aided these projects by giving us access to water for the planters at their homes.

We would like to thank all our volunteers for giving up their time so freely.

If anyone in the community would like to join us next year, please get in touch with Jack Mackenzie on 07711 021219 mackenziejwf@gmail.com or Fiona Jeffrey on 01578 730336 fionajeffrey321@btinternet.com



The group's efforts, along with other groups which have adopted stations on the route, were appreciated and rewarded with a lunch meeting at the Scottish Parliament hosted by our MSP Christine Grahame and attended for 'Make Stow Beautiful' by Jack Mackenzie.

with thanks to the website of Christine Grahame for this photo

*Beautiful Stow and some of the volunteers at work*

**A7 - YOUR THOUGHTS PLEASE**

Regular users of the A7 will be all too aware of the number of accidents on our local stretch – especially on the Crookston corner; the wall of Mrs Cowe's cottage has been crashed through so many times that the owners cannot get it mended in time before the next accident..... Three more crashes there in this last month alone.

A fantastic group of Stow residents are really pushing for safer slower driving through the village and making great headway; in addition to this, a group further north along the A7 are planning to erect signs along the Heriot-to-Fountainhall stretch of road asking drivers to slow down.

Any comments or suggestions as to what slogan/wording these signs should have on them, gratefully received!

**MAP GUIDE ONLINE NOW**



Locus Focus was commissioned by the Community Council to create an Online Interactive Map Guide to Stow and the surrounding area.

This is now complete and is online here:  
[www.locus-focus.co.uk/FocusOn/Stow](http://www.locus-focus.co.uk/FocusOn/Stow)  
 (Please send any feedback and suggestions to:  
[info@locus-focus.co.uk](mailto:info@locus-focus.co.uk))

## GALA WATER HISTORY & HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

### News from the archive

Well Stow Parish Archive has now settled into its new guise as the Gala Water History and Heritage Association (GWHHA). We've had a busy summer becoming the new GWHHA; hosting an evening event that recruited 48 'Friends' for the GWHHA; holding a 'Friends' evening which included a tour of Secret Stow; drafting an action plan to preserve the built heritage of Stow (the Auld Kirk, the subscription bridge and the Bishop's Palace) and starting work on the Anderson Collection of model cars and trains. And as if that wasn't enough our catalogue is now online! So for all those who want to see images of the people and places of the Gala Water from the comfort of your own homes just go to <http://stowparisharchive.org.uk/> and you'll find us there.

The GWHHA committee met on Nov 14th at 7.30 pm in the Reading Room of Stow Town Hall to discuss how we safeguard the future of the GWHHA.

### Halloween

So we've just past Halloween and in this age of 'Trick or Treat' I thought it might be nice to remind ourselves about the origins of Halloween.

Halloween is a very old festival that predates Christianity and involves the spirits from the world of the dead. Its origins start in the Celtic festival of Samhain, which comes from the Old Irish for 'summer's end'. In the Autumn in rural communities it was traditional to slaughter excess livestock and salt the meat for the winter. This also reduced the need to provide fodder for the livestock over the winter. A great pile of bones from the slaughter would be collected and set alight - hence bonfire which became bonfire. A great feast would be held and sacrifices made to the gods to ensure that villagers survived the coming winter. Once the sacrifice was made the bonfire became sacred. All the fires in a village would be doused and then relit from the

sacred bonfire to bring luck to every hearth. Skulls from the killing would be used as lanterns and this developed into carving a turnip into a face to use as a lantern.



Halloween was the time when the division between the world of the living and the dead was at its thinnest and the dead could come back into the world of the living. The ghosts that came back could be bad spirits, lonely spirits or wise spirits. The bad spirits might wish to do the living harm and so the living would dress in costumes to 'hide' from the bad spirits. The lonely spirits might want to kidnap the living and take them back to the other world. To stop that people would sit round the bonfire and tell stories of their dead relatives to ease their loneliness. This developed from telling stories of departed relatives into telling ghost stories. The wise spirits had special powers and knowledge and could be asked questions about one's future. For example, if an apple was peeled in one continuous piece and the peel thrown over the left shoulder, the wise spirits would make the peel fall into the shape of the letter of the first name of the person you would marry.

Households would leave out special treats for the spirits. Departed spirits might come and tell a tale of who they had been and would be given a treat, wise spirits might visit and offer advice in the form of a rhyme. Bad spirits would be those who would come and steal the treats but without any songs or poems. Children then started going round households dressed as spirits and singing a song or telling a rhyme to receive a treat.

Over the years many traditions have come and gone at Halloween but the core of a bonfire, story telling and dressing up have lasted the test of time.

## STOW COMMUNITY PARK - HELP BUILD OUR PARK APPEAL

After a lot of hard work, the group is delighted to announce that we now have planning permission for children's and adult equipment within Stow Park. We would like to offer a huge thanks to Hamish Hunter for his help and experience in guiding us through this process, with Hunter Architecture sponsoring our plans and being our agents. We are also very happy to welcome some new team members into the group.

The next stage is to gather the remainder of the funds we require to allow the park upgrade to begin. All grant givers look at how committed the community are to the project; and the amount of money raised by the community is one of the benchmarks. With this in mind, we are now launching our 'Help Build Our Park' Appeal.



As part of the improvement of the park we feel it is important to have nice benches and a picnic table.

This will enable us to have something to sit on within our newly designed park. We already have a sizable donation from The GalaWater Health and Fitness Club towards a bench, so we still have £1400 to raise.

We have set up a 'Just Giving' page, in order to achieve this goal. You can choose to donate as little or as much as you want. Look out for our tree logo locally, to donate too.

- If you donate £10 or more you will get a certificate, thanking you for your donation... ideal for Christmas presents!
- By donating £50 you can have a shared name plate on a bench.
- Or for £250 you can buy a whole bench with a dedication name plate.

You can donate on this page by typing in Stow Community Park into the search box at [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com) and find us in the 'Crowdfunding Pages'. Each penny and pound can really add up to something great. Please be part of our park and make it a success.

## STOW BABY & TODDLER GROUP

All are welcome to come along and join some of the local mums and children for a hot cuppa and a friendly atmosphere.

We have a large variety of toys for the children (young and old) and plenty of space for the toddlers to run around and burn off some energy.

Children's snacks and drink are provided. Hope to see you all there soon.

- Where: Stow Town Hall (Upstairs in the main hall)
- When: Thursday 9:30am - 11:00am
- Cost: £1 per family

## STOW KIDS CLUB

SKC is open to all school children from 3.15 to 6.15 pm Monday to Thursday and 12.15 to 6.15 on Friday for a monster session.

We have fantastic new resources including play mobile plane and fire station, farm with animals, dinosaurs, marble run, quadro, PS2, Wii and much more.



We have constant access to the outdoors (which is in the process of being developed) so your child is welcome to bring his/her scooter every time s/he uses the club.

We try to bake every week and definitely for your child's birthday.

Feel free to pop in and see us with your child/ren for more details or contact us at [stowkidsclub@hotmail.com](mailto:stowkidsclub@hotmail.com). Looking forward to seeing you soon.  
Andrea and Janice

## NOTES ON THE WIND & MONEY MATTERS

Whatever one's political stance on windfarms, we are fortunate to have a significant income for the community from two windfarms that have a limited visual impact for the majority of residents. Longpark Windfarm brings in approximately £50,000 per year administered by Foundation Scotland, and Toddleburn Windfarm brings in £18,000 each year administered directly by the energy company SSE. The two funds together are used for the same objectives and are given to community projects through grants which are considered and awarded by an elected panel of six local residents.

Foundation Scotland have recently sent us the following useful update about the Windfarm Community Benefit Fund.



*Longpark under construction 2009 : photo courtesy of SPA*

### NEW BEGINNINGS FOR OLD BUILDINGS THANKS TO WINDFARM CASH

In the six years since it was launched, The EDF Longpark Community Fund has made a significant impact on the communities of Stow and Fountainhall, having invested almost £300,000 to community groups and organisations in the area.

From the restoration of Fountainhall village hall and the Old Kirk in Stow to investing in a new play park and the next generation of pipers, the Fund is reaching and supporting all aspects of community life.

Fountainhall Village Hall Committee received £25,000 towards the redevelopment of the hall which has had a positive impact on the community through increased usage and a wide-range of activities is now available.

Meanwhile the Old Kirk will continue to be a monument to the ecclesiastical history of Stow thanks to two awards totalling £18,612 to the Parish of Stow Community Council to help restore the building.

The parish also benefits from SSE's community fund linked to the Toddleburn wind farm, which also made grants towards Fountainhall Village Hall, the play park, Stow Pipe Band and other causes, with grants totalling just under £100,000 in the last two years.

Decisions on awards from both funds are made by Parish of Stow Community Funds Panel, a group of local volunteers. Tommy Miller, chair of the Panel, said: "These projects are a great example of how community benefit funds can make a real and lasting difference to the local community. To ensure this happens we would encourage local groups who are working within the community to apply to the EDF Longpark Community Fund and/or SSE Toddleburn Fund."

Not-for-profit groups whose work benefits the parish of Stow area can now apply for over £250 from either Fund. The next deadline for applications will be in January.

More information on EDF Longpark is available from the Foundation Scotland website, under the 'communities' heading, click on 'funds' ([www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/edf-longpark/](http://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/edf-longpark/))

For more information about the Toddleburn Windfarm fund go to the SSE website, find 'being responsible', then 'responsible society member', click on 'community funds' ([www.sse.com/beingresponsible/responsiblecommunitymember/localcommunityfunds/toddleburn/](http://www.sse.com/beingresponsible/responsiblecommunitymember/localcommunityfunds/toddleburn/)).



### WANTED - WALKS AROUND STOW

In the spring we are going to be collecting "Walks around Stow" with the intention of publishing them in a booklet.

If you have any favourite walks (either short or long) that you feel should be included, could you please contact either: (all code 01578)  
Stuart Jeffrey 730336, Dorothy Small 730550 or Alan McNeilly 730209.



### FOUNTAINHALL RESILIENT COMMUNITY

Fountainhall held a train derailment exercise in conjunction with the Police, Mountain Rescue and Scottish Borders council.

Just under 50 people attended. We all learnt a lot and also had a lot of fun. Everyone commented that they would feel much more confident in the event of a crisis.

We would like to get Stow area Resilient Community up and running and we need someone to co-ordinate this.

If anyone wants further details about the Resilient Community initiative, or the co-ordinator post, please call me, Charlotte Hendry, on 01578 760296.





Scott Hutchison



Ded Rabbit

STOWED OUT FESTIVAL 2016 **SOUND OUT** HOME OF

This year's Stowed Out Festival was, as expected the biggest and best so far. Over the two days there were 1200 visitors basking in the sunshine enjoying a mix of music, spoken word and Stow Brewery products that any festival twice the size would have been proud of. The feedback from visitors from outwith the area was amazement that a village the size of Stow was hosting such a fantastic event.

Frightened Rabbits front man Scott Hutchison played to 20k people in the afternoon in Bellahouston park and hot-footed it to Stow to headline the Friday night. After his set he Tweeted how fantastic the Stow Crowd were compared with the Glasgow crowd. Needless to say, the Festival immediately retweeted that message. It was also nice to hear Scott dedicate a song to Iver Salvesen who was a major supporter of the event over the years.

The Organisers would like to thank the Community Council, The Parish Trust, the Sponsors and the people of Stow who made the event possible especially the 50 volunteers who are the glue that hold the whole Festival together.

Next year's Festival will be on the 25 and 26 August so get the date in your diary now. The organisers want to develop activities more for young people at the event. If anyone would like to help with this aspect of the event give the team a shout on [info@stowedoutfestival.org](mailto:info@stowedoutfestival.org)

A fabulous video by D Bonnar films is available on Youtube; just search for Stowed Out Festival.



the Festival in full flow



Stow's Xander Lyons

**FOUNTAINHALL VILLAGE HALL**

Fountainhall village hall is going from strength to strength since our refurbishment. We have seen a massive increase in bookings. We have had art classes, birthday parties for young and slightly older. We have had many community events such as a fun run, walk, Queen's birthday party, quiz nights, car treasure hunt and pub night to name a few. We have also started a New Age Kurling Club which is proving very popular. It is currently held on a Tuesday Morning but due to demand we are considering starting an evening class.

We are now in a position to do bars for people hiring the hall for events. If having a bar is something you are interested in please get in touch so we can discuss further with you. Hall bookings can be made on 07730 353916.

We got our final bill from the builders and a solicitor's bill which together gave us a £4000 short fall. We have been busy raising funds to pay this as we have till December before it is due. The generosity of everyone has been amazing and we would like to thank everyone for their support. If you would like to help support us we have set up a just giving page [Justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Fountainhall-Village-Hall](http://Justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Fountainhall-Village-Hall) or you can come to one of our events or give any committee member a donation. Any further information can be found on our face book page or by calling 01578 760296.

- DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:
- 22 November Christmas Shopping Night 6pm £3 entry; children free
  - 3 December 70's Night 7.30pm
  - 20 December Christmas Carol Singing Night 7pm
  - Tuesday Mornings 9.30 am New Age Kurling £2 includes Coffee and cake

Toddlers will be starting up soon please keep your eye on our face book page for further information.

**HOGMANAY IN THE TOWN HALL**



As a result of hard work put in by the Bonnar family SBC have allowed us to use the hall at Hogmanay for an open mic get-together before the bonfire.

So watch out for posters.



**LOCAL TALENT AT THE CLOUDHOUSE CAFÉ**



Watch out for the Galawater Camera Club's photographic exhibition at the Cloudhouse café in November.



This will be followed in December by a showing of paintings by a local art group.

## A NEWSLETTER'S STORY

To get the most out of the newsletter here is the timeline to keep in mind. This should help you to decide which issue to aim for and how to word your piece (past, present, future etc.) as there is a minimum of three weeks between sending in material and it being read, and often four:

- 'Copy' date: the date the volunteer editorial team needs to receive the material you want to go in the newsletter.
- 'Published' date: when we can collect the newsletter from the printer.
- 'Delivery': the date by which we hope all the copies which are delivered by our volunteer team through letterboxes, will have reached you.

The ideal timeline is therefore:

- Week 1/ Day 1: Copy Date - copy received by editor
- Week 1: Editor finalises copy; begins setting newsletter
- Week 2: Newsletter created using Desk Top Publishing
- Week 2/ Day 14: Newsletter sent to printer via WeTransfer
- Week 3: Printing of newsletter
- Week 3/ Day 19: Distribution editor collects 520 copies from printer; sorts newsletter into delivery rounds for delivery team; delivers newsletters to distribution team
- Week 4/ Days 20 - 28 : Distribution Team deliver newsletters to most of the Parish; balance go to Shop and Café

Most copy comes by email but if you have a story to tell, information to share or an event to publicise and don't feel able to write it yourself, get in touch before the copy date and we can write it for you.



Supermoon over Stow Parish 12-13 November 2016

"A pleated skirt, a handbag and two pairs of tights a year, that was my uniform issue when I joined the Police 22 years ago. Things have changed a lot since then..."

## spotlight on

ANNE MCNAIR

In the Spotlight can only be Anne McNair, Community Police Officer for the area of the Gala Water valley which runs from the northern edge of Galashiels to where the Borders and Midlothian meet, and therefore she is *our* Community Police Officer.

Anne is well-known around the villages having been in this role for two years, attending most Community Council Meetings to give information, receive queries and concerns, give responses and engage in discussions about how to improve life for folk living on this patch. Of course, covering Stowed Out and Sports Day also falls within her remit - someone has to do it! - but seriously, all this lies at the heart of what brought Anne into police work, though the actual catalyst might surprise - horses! (more of that later).

As an experienced Police Officer Anne has a professionally diverse background in many parts of the police service including Major Incidents; Traumatic Death; Child Protection and Family Liaison. While Community Policing is now her main role, there are times when workload demands require her to be deployed elsewhere for short periods but being 'on the beat' is her first love and embodies much of the rationale for her joining the police.

Growing up in Glasgow Anne always felt that she wanted to help people, to work to make things better and to get involved in improving the shared life of communities. She also had a passionate interest in horse-riding. A job which combined all of that was a Mounted Police Officer but at 17 Anne was too young to join the force and was persuaded to follow another interest until she was old enough to join up. This brought her to the Scottish College of Textiles (now part of Heriot Watt University) where she achieved a degree in Clothing Technology. Her interest in a police career had not been extinguished by her time at SCoT, nor her love of horse-riding, but a



love of the Borders had been built and she has never left. There being a limited need for Mounted Police in the Borders Anne confines riding her horse to off duty times and fitting around family life with her husband and children not far from Stow.

When asked whether there was any message Anne particularly wanted to give there was an emphatic yes. "Road safety. I hate going to car accidents; I'd love to never have to go to another one. I'd like to remind people to *drive to the road conditions*, not the road speed limit. If it's e.g. raining; foggy; frosty; or the sun's low in the sky - to drive safely you need to drive more slowly, to take more time, to be aware of the road conditions and adapt."

One of the things Anne appreciates about rural life and her place in it as a resident and as a Community Police Officer, is the willingness of people to get involved in their local community and the expectation of villagers that they will combine to look out for each other and work together to make things better. Recently she engaged in a Resilient Community training exercise for Fountainhall (see p6) at the community's request and is very happy to respond similarly to any requests for information, to discuss an issue or advise who to approach to take something forward if it turns out not to be a police matter.

Anne's appreciation of the synergy of rural life and rural community policing brings to our area an experienced Police Officer who is wholly committed to her role in building security and support within our community. That she sees herself being in this role for many years to come is an extra and welcome bonus, with the pleated skirt and the handbag, thankfully, a distant memory.

To contact Anne directly at Galashiels Police Station ring 01896 664542 or email: [anne.mcnair@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:anne.mcnair@scotland.pnn.police.uk). As Anne works part-time, variable hours, a reply may take a few days. Police standard contact numbers are 101 for non-urgent matters and emergencies should of course be reported via 999.