

STOW & FOUNTAINHALL

ISSUE 32 - COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2018

GALA WATER SINGERS RAISES £1226 FOR DODDIE WEIR'S TRUST

The summer concert of the community choir saw all our tries converted as a fabulous £1226 was raised for the charity *My Name's Doddie Foundation*.

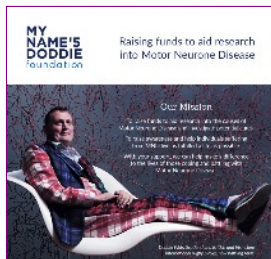
Doddie Weir, a giant of rugby for Scotland, the British and Irish Lions and, of course, Melrose, Newcastle and the short-lived Borders rugby, grew up near Fountainhall and was the inspiration for the theme of the concert - *Six Nations of Song*. Each item in the programme was connected somehow to one of the six nations of the Six Nations and was all about beautiful sounds and the inspiration, joy and warmth of making something great, together.

Sunday 20 May's concert was all of that with all proceeds going to the Foundation, an amount that was increased by the generosity of Stow Shop who donated the wine, and choir member Dianne Wilson who made 'Tartan Giraffes' for sale - a great memento.

In addition to the adult choir, three dozen children from the three valley primary schools, led by our Music Director, formed a children's choir and gave us both a fun and a fine performance plus the inclusion of a piano soloist to enhance our experience. With the usual scrumptious buffet to finish, on a wonderful summer's day we had a great community

event which the support of parents, school staff and audience, combined to make happen. Our thanks to everyone.

This was the first concert for Gala Water Singers under the direction of Music Director Julia Campbell (ably supported by erstwhile choir member Helen Taylor as accompanist) a newish resident of the Gala Water valley and now permanent leader of the choir. Chair John Wilkinson said "We



couldn't be more pleased that Julia has agreed to continue in the role of Music Director. She took us on from January to our concert in May for the choir and herself to see if we suited each other - and for Julia to see if she was ready to give up singing in the alto section! The choir was very clear that we thought we had a match and we're all delighted that Julia feels that way too."

Join the choir at a 'Come and Sing' open, free event on Tuesday 21 August, Fountainhall School, 7pm.

Specifically aimed at everyone who'd love to sing with a group - as a one-off for fun or to see if being part of the choir brings you as much good feeling as it does us. If you'd like more information ring John on 01578 730289 or email secretary@galawatersingers.org.uk. If you can't make the 21st the weekly sessions restart on Tuesday 28 August 7-9pm,

same place, with new singers offered a two-week free trial. Thereafter it's £50 p.a. spread over three payments; reduced if that's a problem. And remember - there are no auditions; you don't have to be able to read music and we're here for the joy of singing together. Once you get the bug - or the bug gets you - it'll be one of your best nights out in the week.

There are also plans being explored for a Gala Water Children's Choir meeting weekly from September. To be kept in touch and to find out more email secretary@galawatersingers.org.uk.



GREAT NEWS FOR STOW PARK

It was great to have the new park equipment installed in time for the summer May long weekend and fantastic to see so many people enjoying the new facilities. With comments like 'Wonderful job all. Well done and thank you from three very happy boys xx'. 'Looks amazing. Huge thank you to all those involved in making this happen.' and 'Absolutely fantastic job and thank you very much to everyone who has been involved over the years to get this in place. It looks great. Thanks.' The effort to make this a reality had been worthwhile.



The job is not yet finished, in May the council is laying the path from the wooden bridge to the A7 south gate along with a ramp. Then as a community we need to look after this facility for the next ten years. It has been a very small team of people who have brought the new park to fruition and we are now looking for

more people to help (basic checks that nothing is broken on any of the equipment; guidance will be given) the more people willing to help then the fewer times your name will appear on the rota. Please email us on stowcommunitypark@gmail.com or message us on Facebook if you feel able to help.

There is still the opportunity to purchase a bench or contribute to a bench so if you would like a memorial bench for a loved one please contact us.

We are going to have a Grand Opening and will announce the date once this is organised meantime - let's go play in the park!



ESTABLISHED 1885 - STOW SPORTS WEEK 2018 : SUNDAY 17 - SATURDAY 23 JUNE

SUNDAY 17

12 noon FAMILY FOOTBALL DAY in Stow Park
~ with BBQ, Ice-cream and Refreshments
~ featuring a BOYS' 5 A-SIDE FOOTBALL tournament

MONDAY 18

6 pm BASKETBALL (P5 - P7) (S1 - S6) (at the Multi Court)
7.30 pm MEN'S FOOTBALL Stow v Killochryett
(turn up and take part!!)

TUESDAY 19

6.15 pm SUPERSTARS
Followed by TREASURE HUNT (bring your own pencil)

WEDNESDAY 20

7 pm HILLHEID RACE P4 to Adult
Adult Sheaf Tossing / Children's Tug-o-War
~ with BBQ and Refreshments

FRIDAY 22

FANCY DRESS PARADE in Stow Park
6.30 for 7 pm Judging
FAMILY FANCY DRESS DISCO Upper Hall Town Hall
8-11 pm
CHEESE & WINE EVENING Lower Rooms Town Hall
8-11 pm

SATURDAY 23

SPORTS in the park
12.30 pm Meet at the Town Hall to follow the Pipe Band to the park
~ Races start at 1.00 pm prompt
Full programme of events including refreshments and attractions

CEILIDH DANCE in the Town Hall

8.30 pm till late ~ with licensed bar

Pre Dance Cocktails 7:30 - 8:30

Tickets £7 available from Stow Shop

Sports Week Raffle Tickets are on sale ~ with £150 FIRST PRIZE
Tickets available from Stow Shop or the committee

STOW WAR MEMORIAL AWARD

Stow war memorial has won a Commendation Certificate as a 'Best Kept War Memorial 2017' from the Royal British Legion (Scotland). The prize covers the original memorial and our site-specific ceramic poppy art installations, the latter being the results of the (then Stow Parish Archives) Poppy Project which were installed in November 2015 (see Stow & Fountainhall Community Newsletters 22 and 23). The memorial was judged last year with awards determined this February and the Gala Water History and Heritage Association, who submitted the memorial for judging, heard in May that Stow had won the award in the category of Satellite Memorials without Gardens.



GWHHA have already entered the 2018 competition and with help from the community are doing our best to help the memorial achieve an award this year. We understand that judging will take place within the next two months.



MUSIC GROUP

Mondays
9:30am in Stow
Town Hall



BABY AND TODDLERS GROUP

Thursdays
9:30am in Stow
Town Hall

END OF TERM SUMMER PARTY

Come and join us on Thursday 21st June
for a fantastic end of term party.
Complete with special guest Poovee Pitman.
There will be plenty of drinks, snacks and fun to be had.
Cost is £2 per family.

WALKS AROUND STOW

Unfortunately our grant application to the Localities Bid Fund at Scottish Borders Council for £5000 to kick-start the "Walks around Stow" project was unsuccessful. However I have been in touch with other bodies to see if we can apply for funding. This is possible, but detailed costs have to be acquired before any applications can be made.

For this reason I am attempting to gather together costs for mapping, printing etc. and am approaching local landowners to discuss the feasibility of walking routes through their land. We envisage that we may print individual walks on single sheets to start with, and then, as we gather more walks, publish them in book form. This seems the best way to go ahead, otherwise it could be several years before we make any headway. If you have any queries please email stuartjeffrey321@btinternet.com

THANKS FROM STOW HEALTH CENTRE

The Beast from the East seems but a distant memory now that spring has arrived and melted all the snow.

The doctors and staff at Stow Health Centre would like to thank members of the community who pulled together to help in often very challenging weather conditions.

Special thanks go to Wilma Lofthouse who did a sterling job and cleared the health centre car park with her tractor. Thanks too go to members of the community who helped deliver medicines to patients and finally to folk who kept the car park clear to allow patients, staff and emergency vehicles to park.

Let's hope we don't get a visit from the beast for another 10 years!!



remember this..?



... and this?



Reduced rate entry for local residents will be available for advance tickets sales through the post office in about a month's time. The local rate will remain the same as 2017.



THE STATION HOUSE DEVELOPMENT

These are exciting times; we are on the cusp of fulfilling the dream to have a community space which will provide our long called for pub and eatery in the form of a Bar/ Bistro. We will also have a cycle repair and hire shop for which we already have an operator. Currently we are interviewing potential catering companies and have had very encouraging feedback.

We want to encourage the operator of the Bar/ Bistro to be part of the community being involved in local events, promoting the history, heritage and countryside around Stow. We want an operator who will give quality food at an affordable price with good service and an excellent atmosphere and are very hopeful that we will deliver a really great asset for Stow.

With the development of the Bar/Bistro we will create a hub for many events be they with family, friends or the wider community. The space will be flexible in that there will be a designated space for meetings, private gatherings, musical events, exhibitions, demonstrations or film shows.

Cycling and walking are two pursuits we would like to promote and together with other interested parties in Stow we hope that Stow will become known for its outdoor pursuits. We want to ensure people get off the train in Stow and use all the facilities including the Cloud House and the Shop.

In the long term Stow Community Trust will continue after the completion of the Station House, marketing and developing other opportunities in the village. We want to build on the already strong sense of local identity, with a vibrant, thriving community and sense of belonging. As a Trust we want to promote Stow as a great place to live as well as visit and give it a flourishing future.

Helen Corcoran

GALA WATER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY 2018 ANNUAL SHOW - SATURDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2 - 4PM : PRIZEGIVING 3PM



You may have some of these lovely things already made, or are planning to get busy over the summer, so here is advance notice of the young adult, craft and children's categories for this year's Horticultural Show.

Remember one entry per class and items entered must have been made in the calendar year leading up to the Show. See the full schedule for all categories.

YOUNG ADULTS' CLASSES

Secondary School Age

86 Artwork (Painting, Sculpture, Collage etc.)

OPEN SECTION

Handicrafts

99 Recycled Item (described)

100 Painting/ drawing any medium

101 Any Knitted Article

102 Any Handmade Jewellery

103 Any other craft item

Photographs. Max 6" x 4" unmounted

104 Garden Scene

105 Comedy wildlife photo with a caption

106 A weather scene

CHILDREN'S SECTION

Primary & Nursery School Age

(Parental assistance must be minimal)

1 A Decorative Mask(mask to be provided)

2 Decorated fairy cakes (3)

3 A Bug House

4 A Lantern for a tealight

5 A Photo of your favourite Hobby / Sport

6" x 4" unframed

6 Artwork (Painting ,Sculpture , Collage etc.)

7 Wildflower Arrangement (Small Vase)



As mentioned in the last newsletter, we had problems with rabbits at Stow Station eating all the plants that they apparently don't eat (thank you Google!). This has meant a very busy winter putting in netting to try to keep the rabbits out of the planting beds. We also had an attack of vine weevils which have decimated the Heucheras. Thanks to a microgrant from the Community Council, we have been able to replant that bed with a variety of hebes.

The spring planting this year has been very successful with magnificent pansies, daffodils, irises and hyacinths. The daffodils at the station have been particularly floriferous this spring and should improve every year.

Thanks to a wind farm grant, we have purchased five new planters for the village and have managed to recycle three of the old wooden planters to use at the crossroads. Again, with the aid of a



microgrant from the Community Council, we have managed to plant these with permanent planting. We have also reseeded the area around the wooden planters with new grass, and

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th...
th...
willing volunte...
the summer, we a...
welcome anyone...
willing to do join u...
the people in the...
allow us to use the...
to fill the bowser e...
If you would like to...
the watering crew...
touch with Fiona...
fionajeffrey321@gmail.com
or Jack Mackenzi...
mackenziejwf@gmail.com
It only takes a cou...
once a week, and...
more people, we n...
to do it once each...
summer.

AN END WORTH WINNING - STOW BOWLING CLUB GETS A JANE INS

The Stow Bowling Club held its AGM on 29 March 2018 where it nominated its first ever lady President for 127 years! Jane Ellis took on the role and the responsibility of the club along with some new elected committee members. A special thank you was given to John McLachlan who retired as Treasurer a position he held for four years. John gave a lot of support and dedication to the club and continues to give his time to assist the new Treasurer Arran Gillis.

A 'clean up day' took place on Saturday 7 April where more than 20 members turned up and helped get the green and surrounding area ready for the start of the bowling season. There was hedge trimming, paths getting swept, seats and tables painted and plants getting potted. It was a great day and was rounded off with a bacon roll! The club house has had a fresh coat of paint and the toilet facilities updated too.

The opening of the green took place on Saturday 14 April where the President's sister Angela Ellis threw the first jack of the season. This was followed by the first competition, luckily the weather was on our side and it proved to be a great afternoon. The green was in great condition for this time in the season despite the 'Beast from the East'. Our Green Convenor



'Opening of the Green' for 2018

enough ladies to enter into a ladies...
So if you fancy having a go please

rescued the little planting
eds in readiness for a
ew bench. We will have
collected the summer
bedding plants from
Philiphaugh
Gardens by the end
of May and the
planters should all
be planted with
summer colour by
the beginning of June.

gh we have a list of
eers for watering over
re more than happy to
else who would be
s. Thank you again to all
village who willingly
eir outside taps
en route.

o be added to
y, please get in
Jeffrey at
btinternet.com
e on
mail.com .

ple of hours,
if we get a few
may only have
ch over the



STEAD OF A JACK !



Craig Stewart attends to the green and ensures it is the correct condition for bowling; this takes a lot of time and dedication and you will see Craig cutting the grass every day. Hamish McGregor looks after and cares for all the beautiful flowers and pots around the bowling club; the colours from the lupins were amazing last year so the standards are high for this year!

The following week Stow Bowling Club held an Open Day and welcomed the residents of Stow to pop along and have a go at bowling. The bowling club have invested in fun obstacles that can be placed on the green to make learning how to bowl a bit of fun and encourage youngsters and beginners to give it a go. It was very well attended and even recruited a few more members; the BBQ went down very well.

The in-house competitions are now underway and you will see the members on the green most Sundays and evenings throughout the summer. The men in their league matches find themselves sometimes playing twice a week so it is a busy time for bowling. Unfortunately we do not have

s league but we are hoping we may be able to give it a go next year in 2019.
ase pop along on a Monday evening about 6.45pm. All welcome.



We've been away for a while but we've not been idle. Lots has been happening in the Association with more items donated to our archive, lots more discussions at the cafe sessions, some work with the school and finding some new friends.

Stow primary invited us to be part of one of their pupil leadership groups and several of us went along to talk to the children about schooldays in Stow in previous years. The children kept us all on our toes with lots of questions and comments about what school was like in the past.

The cafe sessions, with Jessica Troughton at the helm go from strength to strength with some new members, new stories and new adventures planned. If anyone would like to come along, the cafe sessions meet on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 10.30am in the Cloudhouse cafe. All are welcome.



a typical café session

For all you musical types, Ruth Flavin is continuing to work collecting songs along the Gala Water. Lots of memories have been shared and lots of photos collected. Don't worry if Ruth hasn't got to you yet, she's still collecting! Who knows, we might have a sing-song when she's finished.

We have been also been 'doing our bit' around the village and **helping to restore the gravestones in the old graveyard**. After several weeks of discussion and lots of form filling we now have permission from the council and Historic Environment Scotland to proceed and have applied for wind farm funds to pay for the work. So fingers crossed on that.

A big thank you to all of you who buy lottery tickets. The GWHHA received a lottery grant of £875.00 to help us with the work we do at the school. It might not be millions but it's still gratefully received.

11th November - save the date- 11th November.

The 11th November this year marks the centennial of the end of the Great War. The GWHHA are planning a large event to commemorate this date. We hope this will be a good community event and also a fitting tribute to all those who fought and suffered during the war. We will release more details nearer the time



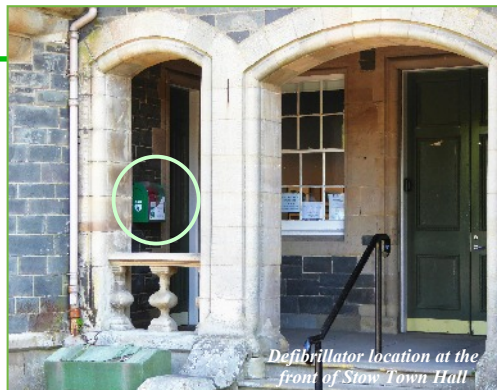
And to finish with another mention of the story on page 2 which is great news for the village and for those who helped make poppies and forget-me-nots back in 2015 - **Stow War Memorial won an award. The award for a satellite memorial without garden included our own contribution of the Poppy and Forget-me-Not Planters and we were 'commended'.**

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

Gillian Donaldson, the Lead Cardiac Specialist Nurse at the Borders General Hospital, and her daughter Jenna carried out an excellent, informative, practical training session in Stow in the use of a Defibrillator in emergency situations. Everyone who attended would, I am sure, agree that they would now be more confident to use a Defibrillator if required.

Statistics showed that if a cardiac arrest occurred out-with a hospital, the chances of survival were only 4 percent. Since defibrillators have been introduced, the survival rate has increased to 29 percent and the Borders Region is the "safest" place to be in Scotland as we have a high number of units. Every minute that elapses after a sudden Cardiac arrest decreases the chances of survival.

For this reason we have decided to try to acquire funding for another defibrillator to be sited in Killochryett. This will cost in the region of £2500. **I would encourage anyone to take part in a training session as this could save a life. If you would like to take part in one of these practical sessions (yet to be scheduled) please email stuartjeffrey321@btinternet.com**



Defibrillator location at the front of Stow Town Hall

Stowed Out Festival returns for its 7th year on 10 and 11 August (two weeks earlier than previous years).

The Headliners have been announced as Tide Lines on the Saturday who have had two million streams on Spotify and have been likened to a 70's Springsteen and the E street band with electronics and traditional instruments. The Friday Headliners are The Spook School "A theatrical indie pop band that embrace's life's misinterpretations and messiness...their noise-pop jams remain as joyful as ever".

There will be a number of changes and improvements this year to make it a more enjoyable event for everyone.

Reduced rate entry for local residents will be available for advance tickets sales through the post office in about a month's time. The local rate will remain the same as 2017. The higher rate for attendees from outwith the area and on the gate will increase slightly to help subsidise the reduced rate tickets.



Please share Stowed Out Festival on social media :

Website www.stowedoutfestival.org.uk
Facebook facebook.com/stowedoutfestival/
Twitter [@stowedoutfest](https://twitter.com/stowedoutfest)
Instagram [stowedout](https://www.instagram.com/stowedout)

and if you want more information or have any questions email us at stowedoutfestival@gmail.com

WHO'S BEEN IN THE SPOTLIGHT?

30 people have been in the 'spotlight' since the column began eight years ago. They are all folk who give generously of their time and skills to help their - our - community. If you know of someone you think should be 'spotlighted' in a future edition, please contact the editor (see back page) to pass on their name and information about what they do, or have done, to benefit our community. You never know - you could be the one to direct the where the 'spotlight' shines next!

NAME	ISSUE	SEASON
1. Jack MacKenzie	4	Winter 2010-11
2. Hamish Hunter	5	Spring 2011
3. Jenny Mushlin	6	Summer 2011
4. Ian Anderson	7	Autumn 2011
5. Gordon Anderson	8	Winter 2011-12
6. P.C. John Lennon	9	Spring 2012
7. Nan Muncaster (Obituary)	10	Summer 2012
8. Chris Wemyss	11	Autumn 2012
9. Alistair Riddell	12	Winter 2012-13
10. Alan McNeilly	13	Spring 2013
11. Diana Muir	14	Summer 2013
12. Gordon Saunders	15	Autumn 2013
13. Charlotte Hendry	16	Winter 2013-14
14. Jessica Troughton	17	Spring 2014
15. Alison Runciman	18	Summer 2014
16. Vic Crawford	19	Autumn 2014
17. Bob Fleet	20	Winter 2014-15
18. Simon Walton	21	Spring 2015
19. Bill Jamieson	22	Summer 2015
20. Wendy Ball	23	Autumn 2015
21. Fraser Simm	24	Winter 2015-16
22. Wilma Lofthouse	25	Spring 2016
23. P.C. Anne McNair	26	Summer & Autumn 2016
24. Dianne Wilson	27	Winter 2016-17
25. Stuart Anderson	28	Spring 2017
26. Gemma Blacker &	29	Summer & Autumn 2017
27. Caroline Krause	29	Summer & Autumn 2017
28. Meg Stewart	30	Winter 2017-18
29. Stuart Jeffrey	31	Spring 2018
30. Jacki Cooper	32	Summer 2018

Old Kirk - Thank You



I would really like to thank everyone in the community who donated so generously to the restoration of the iconic monument, pictured above.

The sum total of £712 pounds was collected.

ALISTAIR A. RIDDELL

on behalf of
Stow and Fountainhall Community Council

'WHAT POTENT BLOOD HATH MODEST MAY'

And so it was we found ourselves on a Saturday in May feeling Ray Chaplin's compost and admiring his young cucumbers under a beautiful blue sky in the walled garden of Burnhouse.

Fourteen dwellers of the Gala Water valley, eight year old Imogen Whitson a budding Gertrude Jekyll if ever there was one, two spaniels and two Norfolk terriers made up the happy horticultural gathering in the wonderful walled demesne of Jill and Ray Chaplin.

Ray began with a most interesting talk on the history of the pear shaped enclosure, the logic behind its design and position. We then enjoyed a demonstration on composting and a tour around the beautiful place which Ray and Jill have been cultivating for more than twenty years.

Tea was taken outside with a delicious and vast array of cakes provided by Gala Water Horticultural Society committee members. New acquaintances were forged and fascinating stories exchanged. All in all a magnificent afternoon. Ray is a natural performer, incredibly knowledgeable with an enormous sense of fun. Gardeners' Question Time panel watch out! We all loved it. Thank you to the Chaplins for being such gracious hosts; a wonderful day and a real reminder of to us all of the sense of life affirming energy and wellbeing a community can bring.



Fiona Nisbet



STOW KIDS CLUB - SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB & BOOKING ALREADY FOR SCHOOL TERM BEGINNING AUGUST 2018

We are delighted that over the last year the club has continued to go from strength to strength. The first ever SKC Easter club was a great success.

At the moment we are having great fun spending as much time as possible outdoors and soon we will have some fantastic outdoor resources including giant games like jenga and connect4, a snooker table, a ping pong table, themed trays and much more.

Summer Holiday Club - 2018

We are looking to run the summer holiday club from Monday 16 July to Thursday 16 Aug, (Mon – Thurs only). A full programme of the activities will be shared in advance, and costs are likely to be around £25.00 for a full day and £14.00 for half a day. If you are interested in

booking your child into the summer holiday club, please contact Andrea at stowkidsclub@hotmail.com.

Stow Kids Club Bookings for August 2018

If you would like to book your child(ren) into Stow Kids Club for the coming school year, starting in August, please contact Andrea at stowkidsclub@hotmail.com. We will try to accommodate you as much as possible.

Bank Staff Vacancies

We are also recruiting for bank staff and potentially for the summer club so if you would like to offer SKC your skills and expertise please contact Andrea at stowkidsclub@hotmail.com. Volunteers are very welcome.

I don't think I'll ever again be able to look at the person in the spotlight in this edition without seeing a leaf in the spot where her heart is. In fact, it's probably a lime leaf as it not only has the required heart shape but the young leaves are edible. A good part of our talk was about her passion for gardening with a great love of growing things to eat, so it's hard to think of a more appropriate image to capture the core of Jacki Cooper.

spotlight on JACKI COOPER

For her first few years in Scotland Jacki worked in secretarial roles in firms around Galashiels and once the fish farm ceased to be a going concern she and Paul spent six months in New Zealand before returning to the Borders. After a spell working around Bonchester Bridge and Jedburgh Jacki applied for a job in Stow, got it and with a great sense of coming home, work and home combined to make Stow the base from where the couple have sent down their family roots.

Hailing from England's 'black country', the West Midlands, and reaching the Scottish Borders via heavily industrialised South Wales - Swansea to be precise - and love, Jacki has been part of Stow's community since the mid 1990s, bar a year or so in New Zealand and Bonchester Bridge in the early 2000s. In that time she has taken roles in the development of Stow Kids Club, Stow Ladies Walking Group (now hung up its boots) Stow Archive Group (now the Gala Water History and Heritage Association) and since 2011 the Gala Water Horticultural Society of which she is currently Secretary, having been a past co-chair and of which she is a very, very enthusiastic advocate.



Jacki still has new ideas germinating about how to benefit Stow. On a recent walk to St. Mary's Well she was dismayed to find a lot of rubbish round the area which had blown in from the A7 above and she has plans in mind for a litter-picking group. A bit of an activist over rubbish, Jacki's filled a bin bag or two on Lauder Common when she saw it needed doing and will soon be applying to the Community Council for a micro-grant to buy gloves and other pick-up equipment to set up an informal 'Rubbish Friends' group. The idea is that a group of like-minded folk take a walk and pick up rubbish as they go. Hey presto: clean environment, pleasant company, trip out in the countryside and job done with minimal fuss. As she says 'If something needs doing

But let's explore a bit more about that Swansea/Stow connection. He's called Paul and was running a fish farm in the Lugate Valley when he went to Swansea for a friend's party where he met Jacki who'd also been invited - the friends having an idea they might get on. Two decades and two children later, the friends were more right than perhaps they could have imagined.

just get on and do it; don't always look for someone else'. Is that her reason for getting involved in the community? Yes, often; and also if she's asked to take a role - that's how she ended up being chair of Stow Kids Club at the beginning and co-Chair of the Horticultural Society, but her real love and skill is in administration. The secretary's post is where Jacki finds herself most at home and an enthusiastic secretary is usually wisely snapped up by any group.

From working in one of the largest major steel plants in Europe at Port Talbot where her desk was one mile distant from the security gate entrance to the complex, Jacki's world of hot molten metal in swimming pool sized vats and giant dumper trucks the size of a house (with occasional, unofficial chances to drive them) transformed, to include concerns over no power to the fish farm, erratic Lugate Water volumes threatening the survival of the fish but also exquisite views, uncluttered landscape, tranquility and a rural, friendly community.

And if you drop into Stow Health Centre, don't be puzzled by a sense of something familiar about the Dispensary Manager that you might not be able to put a finger on. Pruned of the hens and greenery, it will be Jacki on duty, three days a week. Still giving her best to our community and still thinking what a great place she's been lucky enough to come to and to make her home. In truth, it's not just Jacki who's got reason to think that's a good thing...

NEXT NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2018 : No. 33

COPY DATE DELIVERED FROM
27 AUG 18 14 SEPT 18

to: Heather Johnston, Editor
heather@southcottage.co.uk
01578 730507

If you are a new business in Stow Parish CC area and would like a mention in the newsletter, please contact the editor

For an email reminder of the copy date nearer the time email the editor and ask to be put on the list

MILL COURT GARDEN

Fantastic news: on Friday 25 May the land adjacent to Mill Road and Mill Court should have been cleared and levelled in preparation for the planting of at least six semi-dwarf trees. This will be possible because the community council has awarded two micro grants of £250 each, although we don't think this will cover the expenses of all the trees. The next phase will see the ground planted with a mix of wildflower seeds and four benches will be installed linked by a path. Eildon Housing Association have put aside £1000 for this work, which we hope will cover the path and benches.

We are very grateful for the grants allowing this project to happen, so a big thank you to the community council and to Eildon Housing! However, we could do with some help to make the area as appealing as possible. If you are able to volunteer, especially with the laying of the path and making sure the benches are secured to the ground safely, then please contact Andrea at andrea.carlino@yahoo.co.uk 01578 730763 or Alistair McLaren on 01578 730750. Also, donations of semi-dwarf trees, stakes, compost, wildflower seeds mix and money or vouchers for garden centres will be gratefully received. Every pound will be spent on this project and will be accounted for.