

STOW & FOUNTAINHALL

ISSUE 33 ~ COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER ~ AUTUMN 2018

Stowed Out Festival returned this August with one of the most impressive music and poetry line ups of any small festival.

Friday's three band line up was headlined by *The Spook School* who have just been nominated for Scottish Album of the year. Saturday saw good weather bringing the crowds out to enjoy a nine band line with Stow's *Xander Lyons'* new outfit *The Vanderblues* getting the crowd in festival mood. Trad music sensations *Eryn Rae* and *Scott Turnbull* emphasised the eclectic mix on show at every Stowed Out Festival. *Zoe Graham* who has been Championed by Radio Scotland's Roddy Hart and has multiple Celtic Connections appearances to her name brought the sound bang up to date with her beats, looper and acoustic guitar.

Stowed Out regular *Spinning Jenny* kept young and old busy with her circus skills classes and fire breather, Fountainhall's very own *Flaming Rose*, wowed the audience during band changeovers.

Early evening saw a yet another change of feel with *Bossy Love* who came to the festival's attention through the BBC's Quay sessions. They delivered Infectious pop-funk making them the highlight of the festival for many people.

PAWS received fantastic reviews at SXSW festival in Texas and had their second album nominated for Scottish Album of the year. Headliners, *Tide Lines*, who had sold out every venue on their last tour brought the spirit of Runrig to a hugely appreciative audience. Closing the show electronic producer *Wuh Oh* took the crowd on a magically twisted journey mixing jazz, classical and dance music.

STOWED OUT FESTIVAL 2018



It is a testament to the huge amount of work put in by the volunteers that this year's Stowed Out Festival matched anything that any established small festivals have to offer.

Off-site the Saturday night had an unwanted element to it when 100 youngsters arrived in Stow Park. 90% had no intention of coming on site but were hanging about with their friends and consuming alcohol. Unfortunately this is mirrored at Common Ridings, Melrose 7's and other high profile events across the Borders. The police had been contacted in the run up to the festival to ensure that they had a presence off site but this was slow to materialise. The police spent the evening removing alcohol from underage youngsters which in turn resulted in groups breaking away trying to avoid the police. There had been some suggestion that there had been damage at the School, Health Centre and the new playpark. Thankfully on checking this was not the case and only a small number of youngsters were involved in antisocial behaviour and the couple of bottles that were broken were cleared up on the night by festival stewards. The official police line is that the festival was well marshalled but for future events the Police would task two officers to cover the area outwith the festival site.

The Stowed Out Festival Committee are hugely disappointed by the actions of these youngsters and will be working with the authorities and the community to reduce this unwanted element that has appeared alongside a highly successful community event. A Public Meeting will be held in the next couple of months to give the community the opportunity to put forward suggestions or air concerns. In the interim if people would like to get in touch,

the committee can be emailed on stowedoutfestival@gmail.com or contacted on 07818 284922.



Loud Poets in the ROAR Tent

THE GALAWATER CAMERA CLUB
ANNUAL EXHIBITION

CLOUDHOUSE CAFE & GALLERY
THROUGHOUT
SEPTEMBER

PHOTOS OF LOCAL SCENES,
WILDLIFE AND FROM FAR AFIELD
ALL ON DISPLAY



Fountainhall Village Hall



Live Theatre
Thursday 25 October 7.30 pm
see page 3



And a blackbird sang

a short play to commemorate
the end of the First World War

Sunday 11 November
Stow Town Hall
7.30 pm



STOW STATION HOUSE - PROGRESS UPDATE

Following the Annual General Meeting Helen Corcoran was elected as Chair of the Stow Community Trust Board. Helen is a member of the committee that led the work to create the new Community Play Park. Her ambition as Chair is to have the doors of the Station House open to the Stow community by April 2020.

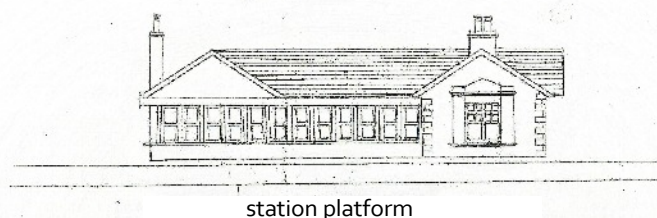
The main focus of the Stow Community Trust Board is securing the funding required to renovate and fit out the building for its new uses. The Board are confident that they will achieve the funding target. Stow Station House Project is an attractive proposition for prospective funders and the benefits that it will bring to the local community and the wider area are well recognised by funding partners. It is well aligned with wider strategic development plans for both the Borders Railway and the Scottish Borders and enjoys the support of Scottish Borders Council who are providing advice and support to the Board.

The business plan for the project has been endorsed by Scotrail, Scottish Borders Council, Borders Blueprint, Railway Heritage Trust and other potential funders. Funding has already been secured for phase 1 of the development. The Board is now working with partners and funders to put a funding package together for phase 2 which will enable the work to get underway to renovate, extend and fit out the building. A number of bids have already been submitted and we are awaiting the final outcome of their decisions.

The project aims to provide a much needed bar bistro facility for the local community; a cycle business to hire and service bikes; attract more visitors to Stow to support local businesses; provide a focal point to support the further development of activities such as cycling and walking and celebrate Stow's rich heritage as well as contribute to a better connected Stow community. To achieve these benefits the Board recognises the need to work more closely with the whole community.

Meanwhile an exercise to test out interest amongst local catering providers in the Borders to run the bar bistro has found considerable interest in the proposals and planning will begin in the next few months to progress a procurement exercise to identify a suitable provider. Suitable plans for the new building are also progressing well.

If you want to find out more, become involved and add your contribution to this exciting project contact Helen on hcorcoran@hotmail.com or Eibhlin on eibhlinmchugh@msn.com



CHANGES TO HEARTFULNESS MEDITATION CLASSES



Heartfulness
Through meditation, joy

Heartfulness Meditation continues to thrive in Stow. However there have been some changes to the location and times of the groups. Heartfulness Meditation groups meet now on Tuesdays at 9.30am and Wednesdays at 8pm. Both of the groups meet at 25 Townfoot, Stow (next door to the Cloudhouse Cafe).

Please ring Sarah on 07784740179 if you'd like to come along, or see www.heartfulness.uk for more details about Heartfulness.

STOW BOWLING CLUB

What fantastic weather we have had for bowling this season. The green has been busy all summer what with in-house competitions, league matches and our open pairs competition, not to forget the floodlit competitions recently.

Stow Bowling Club take part in a Borders Men's league tournament consisting of 12 teams locally. Each club plays a mixture of 22 games home and away with 16 men in each match. This year Stow did not do too well and came 9th in the league, but encouragingly we played some new players who will have gained experience ready for next year. Unfortunately, one of our matches we were short a player and so lost a quarter of our points in that rink, but on another night Scot Hunter, Craig Stewart, Vic Crawford and Will Finlayson scored 8 points in one game the highest score you can achieve in a single game - very rare indeed.

Our lady bowlers are coming along nicely, although still looking for a few more to make up a league team though. It was good news earlier in the year when it was agreed that for the very prestigious friendly match against Coltbridge, Edinburgh, which has been played for over 120 years, that ladies can now play.

The closing of the green in September is always a sad day, as we have to wait 7 months till we can start playing again. We have our prize-giving night in November so next newsletter you can find out who won the Ladies and Men's competitions and see if Vic can hold onto the Ex-Presidents trophy?



STOW PIPE BAND

This year the Band have put out two competing pipe bands, one band competing in Grade 4 and one in Grade 3.

News on the Grade 4 Band

This band consists of our new and youngest pipers who took to the competing arena with a little hesitation at the beginning of the season as 90% of the pipers had never competed and some had never even marched before! There is a lot to take on board when standing at the line about to go on for the first time: will I get my drones in on time; will I get my first note out at the same time as everyone else; will I be on the right foot; when do I move into a circle; when do I stop counter marching and lastly will I remember all the tunes in the right order...

Needless to say they all did extremely well and we were all really proud of them especially when they performed at the 'Worlds' on 18 August. This was a big day for the band and many parents came on the bus to support us. The grade 4 band competed at 11.08 in Arena 7 behind the People's Palace on Glasgow Green – a proud moment for many; they didn't qualify but this was such an achievement in itself.

News on the Grade 3 Band

Serious amount of practising has taken place to get this band out and competing at this level, you will have heard them practising over the summer months throughout Stow. **On 28 July 2018 they brought home the title of Scottish Champions for Grade 3B** - what a day this was - all that hard work, late nights practising - paid off to win this title. There were definitely serious celebrations that night!

Expectations were then high as they looked forward to the 'World's' three weeks later, however their hopes were dashed as they didn't even qualify, a real surprise but a result we just had to take on board. Spirits soon bounced back on a packed bus on the journey home, with singing all the way back!

The band then journeyed to Cowal a week later where they got a 4th and 5th in Grade 3 and then because this was a minor and not a major competition they had the opportunity to play in the next grade up. They were more than surprised to find themselves taking home some huge silver ware as they came 2nd and 4th in Grade 2.

The piping season can be so unpredictable and this season more than most but the 2018 season has come to an end. Now the practising starts for next season, bringing new hopes and more achievements.

A VISITOR FROM MALAWI

Stow & Heriot church was pleased to welcome Ernest Kadzuwa to their church one weekend in August. Ernest comes from Stow & Heriot's partner church in Luwatala, Malawi and was visiting the Borders as part of a trip organised by Melrose & Peebles Presbytery. One of the purposes of the visit is to strengthen the links between our local presbytery and that of Zomba, Malawi. After staying a few days at Stow, Ernest joined the other members of the visiting party to enjoy two days at

Lindisfarne and to attend the Church of Scotland's National Youth Assembly, visit St Giles church in Edinburgh and attend events in the western (Peebles) end of the presbytery.

Ernest was hosted by Minister Victoria Linford and her family for several days and on his return to Malawi will be continuing his BSc course - following which he hopes to take up a theology course. While here, Ernest addressed the congregations at Heriot & Stow and spoke enthusiastically about the contribution made to the church in Malawi by young people.

All of the eight visitors from Malawi - and one from Lebanon - made a good impression on their hosts; Stow & Heriot church has been linked with Luwatala for 15 years and the visit will help this link, and those involving other churches within the presbytery, grow.



**Fountainhall
Village Hall**

"everything we have had from Borders Live Touring has been fantastic and this promises to be yet another brilliant performance"

Live Theatre

Thursday 25 October 7.30 pm



OWDYADO THEATRE PRESENTS

A hilariously dark triple bill of riotous comedies that reveal the darkness under the domestic, the lengths people will go to for love and how to wash blood stains out of a carpet.

WHY HAVE three strangers; a brash Bristolian, a Cockney wide-boy and an introverted blogger been summoned to play a deadly locked room mystery?

WHO IS the bandaged man obsessively in love and held captive inside an upmarket flat, counting down the seconds until it's time for HER to return and the 'thing I can't say' to begin.

HOW WILL two children's TV presenters dispose of a corpse before time runs out? All they have is their wits, their arts & crafts skills & a foul-mouthed criminal genius glove puppet.

Not one, not two, but three plays in one evening!

Adult £8 Child 14-16 yrs £5
suitable for children over 14 yrs

LICENSED BAR

Bookings ➤ jjmushlin@gmail.com or
01578 760297

Tickets ➤ Stow Post Office or
at the door



COMMUNITY GARDEN IN MILL ROAD



The garden is taking shape thanks to a core group of volunteers working really hard for the benefit of everyone in the village. After intensive weeding and clearing, finally on Sunday 26 August many plants were put in the ground and hopefully next spring and summer they will attract bees and butterflies to add beauty to our village. A wild seeds mix will be sown soon.

If you would like to help then please contact Andrea at andrea.carlino@yahoo.co.uk.

Davy of R.G.C. contracts has very generously offered to lay down



the path in September; after that the next phase of the project will be anchoring four benches in place and more planting and weeding next spring and summer.

Donations of plants, seeds and trees (M26/half dwarf only please) are gratefully received.

Thanks again to all the people who have donated plants, work, time, top soil, seeds and everything else. As you can see, the dogs may not always be cheerful about creating the garden but the people are and it makes it the work very enjoyable.



PUBLICIST WANTED

Gala Water Singers is seeking someone, or more than one person as the post could be shared, to publicise the activities of the community choir.

This involves

- placing information in listings media (print and online) in a suitable timeframe
 - writing press releases/ articles
 - designing posters/ tickets/ programmes
- arranging for printing and distribution of printed material
- keeping the choir's website up-to-date (which is *almost* ready to go live... it will be, before being handed over)
- liaise with choir member who updates choir Facebook page
 - liaise with the Choir Committee

This post, or part of it, may suit a young person considering a career in graphic design, journalism or Public Relations. There will be a supportive handover of existing worksheets. Payment in appreciation and free entry to choir events.

For more information or to express interest contact:
publicity@galawatersingers.org.uk or
 John 01578 730289

BEES FOR STOW?

At the Duns Agricultural Show I met some people from the Border Beekeepers Association and it looks like there are no beekeepers in Stow. So if anyone is interested in keeping bees please visit borderbeekeepers.com or phone David Lochhead on 01361890644 or 07789400502 for a chat about beekeeping.



There is a taster session titled "An introduction to beekeeping" on Sunday the 30th of September in Melrose.

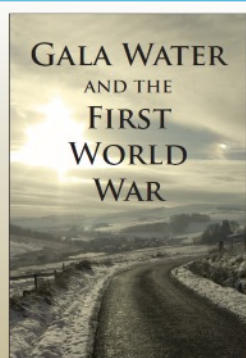
I plan to do the beekeeping course in January 2019 and, probably, keep a hive. If anyone else is interested in doing a beekeeping course it would be good to connect with a view to supporting each other as new beekeepers. Give me a call on 01578 730763 or email andrea.carlino@yahoo.co.uk. It would be lovely to establish a group of beekeepers in Stow.

Stow Highland Dance School a date for your diary

**Annual Dancing Display
Saturday 24 November 2018
Stow Town Hall**

see posters nearer the time for details

THE GALA WATER VALLEY COMMEMORATES ITS BRAVE MEN OF WORLD WAR ONE



Gala Water History and Heritage Association is marking the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War with a series of unique events. These are:

- **A book about the Gala Water valley during the First World War**, including stories of the men who went away to serve and their families who waited at home for news from the fronts. The book has been four years in the making, including detailed research through local newspapers, use of material from the local archive and information from descendants or relatives of the men who joined up. Most of the contents are stories being told for the first time, which makes it appropriate to issue the book as part of the 100th anniversary of the Armistice.

- **A play, titled "And a blackbird sang"**, which will tell, in words and music, some of the stories connected to Stow, Fountainhall and Heriot during the war. The play will involve local actors and singers, as well local input on the technical and support side. At the end of the play, the audience will join in some well-known community singing to capture the spirit of the times. The play, which has been written locally, will be a one-off.



Ewan Nelson, Cameron, Jack and Ruiri Harker in rehearsal (l-r)

- **An exhibition of local items and those of a more general relevance pertaining to the war.** It is hoped to have some landmark exhibits as well as more mundane items to demonstrate the realities of war.

GWHHA has put a tremendous amount of time into preparing for these events and feels sure that the community will want to support them. **The book launch, performance of the play and community singing will take place on Sunday 11 November in Stow Town Hall, starting at 7.30pm.** The exhibition is in partnership with the Imperial War Museum and will open on the following weekend. Please mark your diary and watch out for the posters which will advertise everything and following which, tickets for the evening of 11 November will be available.



STOW HEALTH CENTRE NEWS

A big thanks to **Joyce Hall** who retired at the beginning of June – she gave many years of service to the community and will be missed!

Our new practice nurse is **Nicola Lawson**. She has settled in well and is our newest team member. Welcome Nicola!!

A reminder that used inhalers can be returned to the Health Centre for recycling.

BABY & TODDLERS GROUP

Thursdays
9:30 - 11am in
Stow Town Hall



MUSIC GROUP

Mondays
9:30 - 10.30am
in Stow Town Hall

NEWS

We had a fantastic end of term summer party with Poove Pitman along with some great fundraising efforts at both Stow Sports Week and Stowed Out.

Many thanks to all who helped out and for all the donations. It is very much appreciated and every little helps.

We are all excited now that the new school term has started and our groups are back in full swing again.

WIND FARM FUNDS

LAST APPLICATION DATE 2018

EDF LONGPARK
(Foundation Scotland)
8 October

SSE TODDLBURN
24 October

AWARD DECISION
4 December

APPLICATIONS 2019

EDF LONGPARK (Foundation Scotland) & **SSE TODDLBURN**
(combined deadlines & panels)

DEADLINE

18 January
12 April
19 July
18 October

PANEL MEETING

5 March
28 May
3 September
3 December

The outcome of an application is usually conveyed about two weeks after the decision.

RECENT AWARDS

EDF LONGPARK

29 May 2018 Awards

Stow Pipe Band

£8,542.50

To contribute to the cost of the pipes and drums tuition programme and to replace bag covers and pipe cords.

4 September 2018 Awards

Borders Youth Theatre

£3,250.00

To support an inter-generational project linking senior pupils at Stow Primary School with older residents in

the Stow area, leading to a community performance

Gala Water History & Heritage Association

£25,794.00

To employ a part-time Community Archivist over 2 years

Parish of Stow Community Council

£4,490.00

To purchase and install two public access defibrillators

SSE TODDLBURN

No applications

Notes
on
the
Wind

REPORTS - both funds have issued their annual reports which can be found at:

www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/edf-longpark/

www.sse.com/communities/communityinvestmentannualreview/

REMINDER - a small amount of Windfarm Funding from EDF and SSE is administered by the Parish of Stow Community Council at their monthly meetings, as microgrants of £250 . These can be applied for by un-constituted groups or individuals for activities which benefit the community. Awards to individuals can be for cultural, educational, heritage or sporting activity that clearly benefits the community as well as the individual. Application is by a simple letter. Apply to Jenny Mushlin, Secretary to the Council.

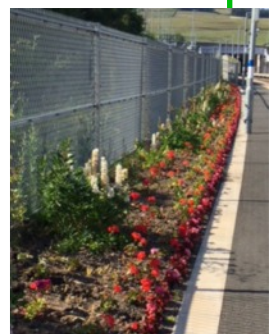


STOW VILLAGE PLANTING

This season the village has been a blaze of colour. The new planters are well-established already and the three old wooden planters we were able to salvage have been planted largely with small shrubs, perennial plants and climbers. We are very grateful to our team of volunteers who have faced the challenges of a hot dry summer to keep the plants in tip-top condition. Again we thank those of you who allow us access to water at your homes. We are now beginning to plan towards the winter planting.

Work continues at the station to add to the planting areas. The addition of two new planters on Platform 2 has added more colour there and the planters have been particularly spectacular this season. The main flower bed on Platform 1 has been further augmented by the addition of a selection of herbaceous plants. Colour has been provided by geraniums and lupins. The hot weather again has meant that some plants have suffered.

Our thanks go to those members of the community who have donated plants and cash to help us in our ventures and we especially wish to acknowledge the advice, support and generosity of Bob at Philiphaugh Gardens, without whom our displays would be much less impressive. Finally we are grateful to the Community Council for their continued support.





SKC is back, after an amazing summer club, for a new academic year with more resources and more fun for your children to wind down after a hard day at the office.



Summer club was a massive success engineered by the SKC committee with numbers maxing out at 16 for many of the days. Highlights were a hot summer's day's at Portobello beach, a fantastic trip to the butterfly farm and a very successful local treasure hunt, not to mention the art project and pirates' day. The kids all had a wonderful time.

- we are open Mondays to Thursdays 3.15 to 6.15
- one afternoon of fun for your child is only £8.50 which includes two healthy snacks
- our new resources include table tennis, snooker and a portable tennis net to use in our outdoor space
- please contact Andrea at stowkidsclub@hotmail.com for more information



INVITATION
to Stow Primary School
DISRUPTERS Event
on Thursday 13th 6.00-7.30pm & Friday 14th September 10-12pm
in Stow Town Hall

AN EVENT TO DISRUPT STOW'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS SINGLE USE PLASTIC

THE HUNTER FOUNDATION 100_DISRUPTERS

If you missed this important event from Stow Primary School don't despair!

We hope to carry a summary of the information and learning from the event in the next newsletter



Make a note (la-a-a)

Christmas Concert
Sunday 16 December 3pm
Stow Church

more details will be in the next newsletter and in posters around the Parish



The Gala Water Horticultural Society Annual Show was held on Saturday 1 September. It was well attended with lots of lovely exhibits, especially in the new Grown to be Eaten category. A sense of the event can be seen in the photos here, courtesy of Raymond Chaplin.

It's been a number of years since Nettie Simm had any formal role in a Gala Water community organisation but contributing to our community isn't only to be measured by formal positions fulfilled or professional roles undertaken. There are many folk who engage wholeheartedly in making things happen for the benefit of parish life outwith formal roles in the organisations and structures that often provide the scaffolding to much that shapes our life here. Their enthusiasm, engagement and ideas are equally at the service of the life of our parish and while their profile may be lower, we all benefit from their commitment to making a contribution. One such is Nettie Simm

A lifelong Borderer from Innerleithen, Nettie has been a Stow resident since 1984, arriving with husband Fraser and giving birth to their son Ian just six months later. The couple came to Stow to be nearer work for Fraser and while this went according to plan initially, 1989-93 saw Fraser embarking on an extensive commute to a new workplace on St Helena. Nettie and Ian spent large chunks of those years living in St Helena too - scarcely 200 yards from the house where Napoleon died in 1821. Nettie reflects that living in Stow turned out to be good preparation for living on a small, volcanic, tropical island in the Southern Atlantic Ocean 1,800 miles east of South America's Brazil coastline and 1,200 miles west of the border between Namibia and Angola in Africa. Really? As Nettie puts it "We lived over the road from the school just as we did here before the new school was built; there were only a couple of shops a few steps down the road, just the same as Stow and a couple of times a week a trip to the main town, Jamestown, about seven miles away, was a similar distance to Galashiels from here. Some people who came to work on the island couldn't cope with it and had to leave as soon as they could, but for us it was a life we were used to and we really enjoyed our time there. Mind you, the roads were a bit different! And of course the all year summer..." This kind of 'get on with it' positivity is typical of Nettie, as we'll see.

Prior to moving to Stow Nettie worked at Ballantynes textiles in Innerleithen, then the pre-eminent luxury cashmere business, where she was Secretary to the Managing Director and where she met Fraser. Moving to Stow and full-time motherhood dominated for a number of years until her son was well settled in school. After a computer course and job in the NHS, then followed a few years as a Learning Support Worker at Stow Primary until she was asked to continue her role at Galashiels Academy. A thwarted teacher (exams being such a fear that Nettie left school before sitting her Highers, which she gained later at evening classes) she delighted in working

spotlight on NETTIE SIMM

for over a decade to enable children with learning difficulties thrive educationally. During this time and since, Nettie's been involved in Stow and parish life as: Sunday School Teacher; Kirk Board Member; active parent in her son's school years; Gala Water Horticultural Society; sung in the church choir and Gala Water Singers; been a 'Stitcher o' Stow' for the Great Tapestry of Scotland; and was part of the group which created the Margaret and David Gurney Memorial Tapestries now in Stow Church - and is a member of Galawater Camera Club. Whew! There are a few more things here and in Innerleithen, often informal, but you

get the gist... and not many people locally will know that during the first few months of settling in Stow, it was Nettie's suggestion that the National Trust for Scotland should take over Robert Smal's Printing Works in Innerleithen as a working museum, which they did in 1987. What the above leaves out though, is the passion Nettie has, and shares generously, for music and theatre.

A Life Member of Innerleithen Opera Nettie was recently awarded the National Operatic & Drama Association's 50 year medal in recognition of her outstanding contribution over more than half a century - and for more than two-thirds of her lifetime - to musical theatre in Innerleithen and the Borders, both in front of and behind the backdrop. As her adopted community we also benefit from that apprenticeship and mastery of her craft. Some will remember the mini-play Nettie wrote to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of StowTown Hall in 2007 and once again Nettie's skill in playwrighting, directing, enthusing, imagining and engaging an ensemble is being given to the service of the Gala Water community.

2018 marks 100 years since the end of WWI which GWHHA is commemorating with a series of events (see p 5). As a member of GWHHA Nettie has written the play *And a blackbird sang* which she is also directing and co-producing. Having brought together actors, singers, musicians, historians, technicians, stagehands etc. (experienced and novice) from the Gala Water valley, she is knitting us all (full disclosure; I'm one of the novices, Ed.) into a premium cashmere production.

I managed to persuade Nettie that this was an ideal time for her to be in the 'Spotlight' to highlight the play and bring it to the attention of as many folk as possible. It worked! (Otherwise she would have demurred and we'd all have missed out on her story). From decades immersed in theatre and music, and with great respect for local history, she brings us a drama which is very much both of and for our valley. To experience another of Nettie Simm's contributions to the enrichment of Stow Parish life don't miss the unique *And a blackbird sang* on 11 November.



NEXT NEWSLETTER WINTER 2018-19 : No. 34

COPY DATE 19 NOV 18
DELIVERED FROM 7 DEC 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



PUBLICIST WANTED

- Post could be shared
- May suit young person seeking work experience
- See page 4 for more details

And a blackbird sang

a short play to commemorate
the end of the First World War

Sunday 11 November
Stow Town Hall
7.30 pm