

STOW & FOUNTAINHALL

ISSUE 19 ~ COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER ~ AUTUMN 2014

THE HEART OF STOW

The Old Kirk: Work on stabilising the fabric of the Old Kirk is nearing completion. Throughout the building, limestone mortar has been used to ensure that water does not collect within the walls allowing irreparable damage by frost. The louvers in the bell tower have been replaced by the Stow-based company, Miller & Sons. Previously, rooks had built their nests within the tower causing a dangerous build up of debris. The internal space within the church building, currently full of debris, will be tidied with flagstones and grass. All this work had taken place under the eagle eye of Historic Scotland and they have been very supportive.

SBC Parks and Cemeteries section are looking at the safety of the kirkyard as there are several dangerously balanced tombstones. Children have been seen playing in the kirkyard. The community now has a difficult task ahead in finding an acceptable compromise between visitor access, safety, and the preservation of the historic stones.

Stow Station: Network Rail are not going to have maintenance staff based in the Station building in Stow which means that the running costs will not be shared by them. There are discussions between the Community Trust, the Community Council, Stow Parish Archive Group and other interested parties about the possibility of using the building as a museum with a focus on railway history. To find out more contact any of the above groups.

Stow Park: The park still needs more remedial work. The football area has been fenced off to keep the rabbits away and so to allow the grass to recover.

FOUNTAINHALL VILLAGE HALL

Fountainhall village hall is silently moving forward. The building warrant is at the council. The tender document is being drawn together for the building works. By next issue we envisage work to be well under way.

STOW KIDS CLUB

Stow Kids Club offers after school care for children aged between 4 and 15. The club can accommodate up to 30 children per session. We also offer a holiday club, subject to having sufficient numbers of children attending. It offers a wide range of activities and thrives on giving the children a fun time. The manager's name is Zara Brown and she has been at the club since March of this year.

Fees are: £7.00 per session per child and on a Friday afternoon which is now a half day session, the fee is £12.00. Holiday sessions are £11.00 for a half day and £20.50 for a full day.

PART-TIME OPPORTUNITY - Relief Play Workers

Stow Kids Club is looking for relief play workers to work at the club at short notice. Hours: Term Time as and when required

Available times: Monday – Thursday: 3.15 – 6.15 pm / Friday: 12.15 – 6.15pm / School Holidays: 08.30am – 5.30pm (dependant on numbers)

If you are interested, please contact **Zara Brown**, Club Manager, on **07944 617310** or email: **stowkidsclub@hotmail.com**

NOTES ON THE WIND

No grants were awarded at the Windfarm Community Benefit Fund Panel meeting September 2014. The next call dates are as follows:

deadline for submission 13 Oct 2014; announced Dec. 2014

2015 dates t.b.a., check on www.foundationscotland.org.uk

The Windfarm Community Benefit Fund Panel want to start staggered elections on to the panel. They invite anyone interested in taking an active part in the development of our community to get in touch with **Tom Black** from Foundation Scotland **0131 524 0331**

STOW PIPE BAND

This has been a fantastic year for Stow Pipe Band a real 'show case' year, we have managed to get two competing bands out in 2014. As you know we set up a Stow Pipe and Drum School here in Stow some 3 years ago and this year those pupils have competed in their first competitions as Stow Borders Pipe Band in the Novice Juvenile grade. They competed at the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Competition, the British Championship and the World Pipe Band Championships. You probably saw them playing during Stow Week at the Fancy dress and Sports Day and at Lauder. We held a Ceilidh back in May this year which raised approx. £800 and the proceeds of that along with financial help from the Wind farm has helped kit them out with kilts and sporran etc. They have done so well this year and look great in their new uniforms we are all very proud of them. **The Pipe and Drum School practice in the Stow Church every Wed night** so if you are interested in joining please pop along and speak to **Stuart Robinson**.

The adult band compete as the Scottish Borders Pipe Band have won prizes at the Lothian & Borders Mini-Bands, Dunbar, North Berwick, Melrose, Peebles and made it to the finals of the World Championships for the 4 year running. As well as playing at the usual engagements they were invited back to Romania. The adult band practice in the Stow Church on a Thursday evening, so if you are an experienced player and wish to compete at a Grade 3 level again please pop along and speak to Stuart.

The 2014 competition season has now come to an end so now the hard work begins where both bands are now sorting and learning their competition pieces for next year.

Jane Ellis SPB Chairman



Stow Borders Juvenile Pipe Band competing earlier this year.

► SOUND OUT ◀

STOWED OUT FESTIVAL

Stowed out Festival was a tremendous success, there was a massive community turn out of seven hundred people attending over the two days to enjoy an eclectic mix of music. The Festival featured fifty three musicians from our own local villages, the Borders and beyond. Highlights included Shooogenifty with a dance floor filling set of "Acid Croft" and The Merrylees fresh from supporting Paul Weller who charmed the audience with moments of psychedelic pop perfection.

Alongside the two days of music there was an Art Exhibition in the Cloudhouse for a month which featured both local and international artists such as Helen Douglas. Stow Primary School senior pupils visited the exhibition and were treated to a talk by the curator.

The Stowed Out philosophy of "by the community for the community" aims to give the whole community the opportunity to come together but also brings performers to Stow that would never normally be seen out side our larger towns and cities and this year we achieved both these goals with the help of a huge number of local volunteers, organisations and businesses and our thanks goes out to everyone who helped. Sound Out would appreciate hearing your thoughts on the event and how you would like to see it develop. Please help us by filling in the enclosed questionnaire or do it online www.surveymonkey.com/s/XSTDWR7 If you feel you would like to help us shape Stowed Out drop in to see us at our AGM and social evening on 26/11/14 or email us at info@soundout.org.uk.



spotlight on

Vic Crawford



When putting the spotlight on people in our community who put in hours of energy and enthusiasm into working for community groups, there is always the question "why?". With Vic Crawford there is no answer because he doesn't understand the question. He has given no thought to why, for him it is just a question of a natural and obvious thing to do.

Vic came to Stow with his family in 1969. He and his wife Margaret always intended to escape the city and to bring up the children in the country. Vic hadn't been weeks in the village when he was asked to join the Bowling Club - forty-five years later he is still a member playing competitively and has been president a number of times. He soon became a member of the Gala Water Horticultural Society as he is a very keen gardener. He says that he put forward some flowers and vegetables at the Flower Show and won some prizes. He was then asked to come to the next meeting to collect the prize money and of course having attended the meeting ended up on the committee! Vic's green fingers are as talented as ever as demonstrated in the Flower Show this September where he won six firsts, one second and the best entry for fruit with his Black Alhambra grapes - these being descended from the grapes that grew in the famous vineyard at Clovenfords.

With a young family, the Crawfords participated in Stow Sports Week and yes, Vic joined the Stow Sports Committee and was President one year. After a relatively short time, Vic was well known in the village and it was natural for him to be elected onto the Community Council when this started in 1975. Vic served on the Community Council for over twenty years and really enjoyed this activity. In 1996, the financial powers over the community councils went from the District Councils to the Regional Councils. After this date, Vic became more disenchanted with the Regional Council's ability to respond to local community interests and he left the Community Council. However, this disillusionment did not stop Vic from participating in groups where he felt he could contribute effectively. He was invited to join the Scottish Borders Health Council where he represented patients' interests and he served on this for over 7 years.

Vic is now 82 years of age but this doesn't seem to mean slowing down, he continues to be interested in all the things going on around him and is always keen to find out about new things. So unsurprisingly, Vic is now serving on the Windfarm Community Benefit Fund panel as an elected member. He is fascinated by all the excellent projects and schemes that come before the panel and enjoys the challenge of finding the best way to support the best ideas that will bring benefits to the wider community. Vic feels that with his long experience of various community groups in Stow, he can bring useful knowledge and background to the panel.

Vic thrives on being involved in community groups. He is not afraid to speak up, he is well organised, once committed he is dedicated and unlike many people, he doesn't look on these duties as onerous annoyances but more as interesting and challenging adventures. As well as enjoying his Alhambra grapes, we are enjoying the fruits of his labours.

STOW A.F.C. - CLUB UPDATE

Sadly the park surface is in need of further remedial work in order to bring it up to a suitable safe standard. The pitch has been fenced off to stop the ever increasing rabbit population from undoing the repair work. On the plus side it has eliminated the dog fouling problem and allows a bit more time to upgrade the changing rooms!

The football club have reached an agreement with Gala Hotspur and SBC to share the Public Park in Gala for any home games until such time as the pitch is ready. There has been made possible with assistance from the Parish of Stow Community Council for which Stow AFC are very grateful.



Check out the coming fixtures on the website:

<http://www.stowfc.co.uk>

Did you know that players and home games can be sponsored? If interested please contact **Tucker McCall on 07795964513**.

GALAWATER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Galawater Horticulture Society held their 20th Anniversary Flower Show on September 6th. Congratulations to all of the prize winners and thanks to all of those who submitted entries to the show and to those who helped to organise the event.

Main Prizewinners were; Jim Mercer, Victor Crawford, Christine Davidson, Nettie Simm, Carol Kellet, Pat Weir, Margaret Robertson, Leah Rochester, Iain Houston and James Steele.

All exhibitors automatically become a member of the Society and it needs their active support to help organise events throughout the year. The AGM will be held on **Wednesday October 22nd at 7.30pm** at Stow Town Hall. We would very much welcome the attendance of new members. We look forward to seeing you!

Debbie Crawford / Jacki Cooper
(Joint Chair GWHS)



STOW PARISH ARCHIVE

With the good fortune of a grant from the Windfarm Community Benefit Fund, Stow Parish Archive is entering a very exciting phase from which we hope the community at large will benefit and enjoy. Stow Parish has its very own Community Archivist which is probably a unique distinction for a place this size. Lucy Stock was our first incumbent and she has now headed to Glasgow to further her studies. To replace Lucy we have had further great good fortune to find Mary Craig. Mary is a professional and academic historian with extensive experience in running community projects. Expect some interesting and exciting developments for all! Want to join in? contact **Wendy: 01578 730560**



Stow Parish Archive has recently published, "**A Stow Story - the Comings and Goings of an Edinburgh Evacuee, 1939 - 1945 and beyond**". 80 pages of detailed and readable reminiscences of life in Stow during the war years. Illustrated throughout with photographs and maps. This is for sale in Stow Shop for £6.00.

(Members of SPA Group at Lucy's Farewell - photo © Hazell Morrell)

GALAWATER CAMERA CLUB

The Galawater Camera Club is planning an exhibition of photographs to be displayed at the Cloudhouse Café for 2 weeks from 9th November. Come along and see our show. We meet once a month (our next meetings are 22nd October & 26th November) and new members are always welcome. Contact Shona Owens shona@bridgethyme.co.uk or Fraser Simm fraser.simm@btinternet.com

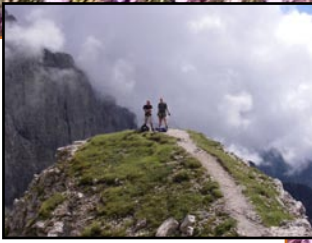
GALAWATER OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES CLUB

Gala Water Outdoor Activities Club (GWOAC) was set up over 30 years ago by a number of keen outdoor enthusiasts from Stow - originally the club competed in orienteering at a national level, ran canoe courses throughout the summer, had a local resource and rock climbing equipment and organised mountaineering trips throughout Scotland.

Sadly only the walking element still thrives, but we're always looking for new members - we organise a number of local walks throughout the winter and the weekend meet schedule for 2015 is:

- **24th to 27th April**, Shore Lodge, Arran
- **22nd to 24th May**, Naesmith Hut, Elphin
- **17th to 19th July**, Muir of Inverey, Braemar
- **14th to 16th August**, Ling Hut, Torridon
- **11th to 13th September**, Mill Cottage,

Contact **Kenny Duncan** on **01578 730244** or **Kenny@LCTS.org.uk**



STOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

We've had a busy start to the new school year. Primary 1 pupils have settled into school life with great enthusiasm. Our JRSO's attended a conference in Galashiels and continue to teach us about road safety. Nursery children have been enjoying the outdoors and joined the boys and girls at Fountainhall for play and learning. Our 'Meet the Teacher' night was well attended and was a great opportunity to share our plans for the year.

We are looking forward to the installation of a yurt in the school grounds. Preparatory work is well underway. Details of an opening ceremony will be available soon. We will also begin planning a whole school topic on the Railway in Stow-Past, Present and Future which will take place from Christmas to Easter. Children will work towards an exhibition which we hope to share with the community. If you think you would be able to help in any way with this project please get in touch with the school.

Stow Primary Parent Council

Volunteers are wanted to help with extracurricular activities and golden time. The school would like to invite members of the community into the school to share particular skills, interests or simply their time with the children either in specific extracurricular activities or at golden time (currently Friday 11.30-12). Examples of suggested activities (not limited to these): gardening, woodwork, chess, craft, games etc. Involvement could be for a one off session, several sessions or on an ongoing basis, as suits. Please speak to Mrs Hutchison in the office or email the school **stowps@scotborders.gov.uk** Please spread the word!

Road safety: The ongoing construction of the railway has made our roads more hazardous for everyone but particularly children. The school has provided all Stow primary children with hi-viz vests and there are construction vehicle embargos in operation at school drop off and pick up times. The school turning circle and car park is now closed to non-staff vehicles. Please be aware that there are more children crossing to cars parked on Station Rd and Mill Road at key times. Children are encouraged to walk to school where possible and Fiona Hodgson is working closely with SBC to improve local road safety for our children.

Fundraising: The Stow duck race was reinstated in August, with kind permission of the Lofthouses, and raised £288. Thanks for your support! A family ceilidh is planned for the 7th February 2015, open to all members of the community. Further details to follow.

Website: The PC would like to help develop a school website. If there is anyone in the community with expertise/interest in website development that they would like to share please could you contact **Leonie Cairns** (**leonieccairns@gmail.com**).

STOW TODDLER & MUSIC GROUP

Our parent run baby and toddler group is held in Stow Town Hall every Thursday morning during term time. The children are enjoying some new equipment and activities we have been able to buy thanks to a very kind donation from Amanda Runciman (Stow Highland Dance School) and a grant from the Toddleburn (Stow) Community Fund. We have also had fun over the summer with our annual sponsored 'Bear Walk' and stall at Stowed Out. A big thank you to all those who contributed to these events. We are now looking forward this term to our fancy dress Halloween party with themed activities and our Christmas party with a visit from Santa! **Thursdays 9.30 – 11.00am** Only £1 per family

Stow Singalong music group for tots is held on a Tuesday morning in the village hall. The children enjoy playing instruments, dancing and learning nursery rhymes. We are currently looking for volunteers to lead our wee group. **Tuesdays 9.30 – 10.30am** £1 per family



Stow Highland Dance School - contact Amanda Runciman 07767616229
Our annual display 2014 is on **Saturday, 29th November**.

STOW YOUTH CLUB

The Youth Club has taken a break to build up some strength in numbers. We are looking for more Committee members to help us run the club. We are also looking for a new Youth worker. We are hoping to continue to run the club for Primary 4s and older. Please contact **Ulrika** on **07714994311** if you feel that you could join us in getting the club back on its feet.



Gala Water Singers' seasonal concert this winter has a strong international flavour with songs and carols

from many different parts of the world, a journey which also brings a range of styles and historical periods of music. With of course, some well-known and welcome favourites amongst the twinkling newcomers. Look out for posters around the village nearer concert time. Meanwhile a date for your diary: **Stow Church, Sunday 7th December, 3pm**, adults £8, children free and not forgetting the usual, exquisite, legendary, festive nibbles included. Our new website will be live by the end of October at **www.galawatersingers.org.uk** where you'll find up-to-date information. Can't wait? Ring **John** on **01578 730289**. Most likely date for restart in January is 13th (tbc.) Fountainhall School, 7-9pm

FOUNTAINHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Fountainhall school children started their busy year by participating in the Stow Flower Show. This tied in nicely with P1-6's current topic of 'My local environment' and their on-going ECO schools work of maintaining our green flag.

Our Junior Road Safety Officers attended a conference in Galashiels to learn about their new role and have started with a 'Be bright, be seen!' campaign. We had a visit from Network Rail and Transport Police to tell us about the rail safety programme and we have chosen our new Rail Reps. We have also had a very musical start to the year with a new music teacher, Mrs Laura Warburton, and opportunities to learn the violin, guitars and ukelele. The children will be showing off their new skills in a number of performances for family and friends of the school. We also had a visit from Zoolab for all the children funded by our Parent Council.

Fountainhall Early Learning and Child Care Centre (ELCC) continues to thrive. The youngest children had a joint outdoor play session with Stow ELCC in the grounds of Fountainhall. They have organised a Mini Macmillan Juice Morning for the rest of the school, providing them with juice from tiny china tea sets and home baking. P1-6 then also supported the community Macmillan Coffee Morning in the Village Hall. The children will continue their charity work by celebrating Jeans for Genes Day on Friday 3rd October.

The older pupils will be participating in the local Hockey and Rugby Festivals in Galashiels just before the October holidays and they are also beginning a series of Chess sessions with Mr Tom Lawson in preparation for the Learning Community Chess Competition.

Our wonderful Parent Council organised a very successful Sausage Sizzle on Friday 12th September. This was a great social evening and was very well supported by both the immediate Fountainhall community and the wider Gala Water valley community. We would like to thank Stow Post Office for their kind donation.

COMMUNITY WHAT'S ON

Venues in Stow Town Hall unless otherwise stated. (Whilst all efforts have been made, this should not be viewed as a comprehensive listing. If you would like your event to be included in the next newsletter, please contact the Editor).

OCTOBER		
M	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Council meeting 7.30pm Stow Parish Archive Group meeting, 7.30pm, member's house
Tu	7	Stow Singalong music group for tots 9.30 – 10.30am
W	8	Stow Highland Dance School, 3.45pm - 5.15pm
Th	9	Stow Baby and Toddler Group, 9.30 – 11.00am
F	10	OCTOBER SCHOOL BREAK
Sa	11	Old Time Dancing - Band "Bon Accord" 7.30pm
Tu	14	Stow Singalong music group for tots 9.30 – 10.30am
W	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stow Highland Dance School, 3.45pm - 5.15pm WRI meeting at Fountainhall Village Hall, 7.30pm. Talk on cupcake decorating.
Th	16	Stow Baby and Toddler Group, 9.30 – 11.00am
F	17	Cllr. John Mitchell: Surgery at Old Gala House, Galashiels, 5.30 - 6.30pm
M	20	SCHOOL STAFF INSERVICE
Tu	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCHOOL RESUMES Stow Singalong music group for tots 9.30 – 10.30am
W	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gala Water Horticultural Society AGM, 7.30pm Galawater Camera Club meeting, member's house
Th	23	Stow Baby and Toddler Group, 9.30 – 11.00am
Su	26	Harvest Thanksgiving Service, 11.15am, Stow Church
T	28	Stow Singalong music group for tots 9.30 – 10.30am
W	29	Stow Highland Dance School, 3.45pm - 5.15pm
T	30	Baby & Toddler Group Halloween Party, 9.30 - 11.00am Fancy Dress (optional)
NOVEMBER		
Sa	1	Sound Out Family Halloween night
M	3	Community Council meeting 7.30pm
Tu	4	Stow Singalong music group for tots 9.30 – 10.30am
W	5	Stow Highland Dance School, 3.45pm - 5.15pm
Th	6	Stow Baby and Toddler Group Thursdays 9.30 – 11.00am
Su	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remembrance Sunday Service - Stow War Memorial 11am Galawater Camera Club exhibition opens at the Cloudhouse
Tu	11	Stow Singalong music group for tots 9.30 – 10.30am
W	12	Stow Highland Dance School, 3.45pm - 5.15pm
Th	13	SCHOOL INSERVICE
F	14	SCHOOL INSERVICE

Sa	15	Old Time Dancing - Band "Dave Sturgeon", 7.30pm
Tu	18	Stow Singalong music group for tots 9.30 – 10.30am
W	19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stow Highland Dance School, 3.45pm - 5.15pm WRI Annual General Meeting at Fountainhall Village Hall, 7.30pm. Talk on the history of the SWRI.
Th	20	Stow Baby and Toddler Group Thursdays 9.30 -11.00am
Tu	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stow Singalong music group for tots 9.30 – 10.30am OAP Society Committee meeting 7.30pm
W	26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stow Highland Dance School, 3.45pm - 5.15pm Sound Out AGM and Social Night. Venue tbc Galawater Camera Club meeting, member's house
Th	27	Stow Baby and Toddler Group, 9.30 – 11.00am
Sa	29	Stow Highland Dance School's Annual Display, 4.00pm.
Su	30	Wooplaw Community Woodland sausage sizzle
DECEMBER		
M	1	ST ANDREWS DAY HOLIDAY - school closed Community Council meeting 7.30pm
Tu	2	Stow Singalong music group for tots 9.30 – 10.30am
W	3	Stow Highland Dance School, 3.45pm - 5.15pm
Th	4	Stow Baby and Toddler Group, 9.30 – 11.00am
Sa	6	Stow and Heriot Church Christmas Fair, 10am - noon. Santa might be visiting!
Su	7	Gala Water Singers' seasonal concert, 3pm - Stow Church
Tu	9	Stow Singalong music group for tots 9.30 – 10.30am
W	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stow Highland Dance School, 3.45pm - 5.15pm Fountainhall WRI 89th Birthday Party at Fountainhall Village Hall 7.30pm
Th	11	Stow Baby and Toddler Group, 9.30 – 11.00am
Sa	13	Stow District OAP Christmas Party
Tu	16	Stow Singalong music group for tots 9.30 – 10.30am
W	17	Stow Highland Dance School, 3.45pm - 5.15pm
Th	18	Stow Baby & Toddler Group Christmas Party, 9.30 -11am
F	19	SCHOOL BREAKS UP
Sa	20	Old Time Dancing - Band "Willie MacFarlane" 7.30pm
Su	28	Wooplaw Community Woodlands walkabout
JANUARY 2015		
Tu	6	BACK TO SCHOOL
Sa	10	Old Time Dancing - Band "Gordon Brown" 7.30pm
Tu	13	Gala Water Singers new session (tbc.) Fountainhall School, 7-9pm

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Current Community Council hot topics: □ the state of our roads, including potholes, drains, street lighting, car parking, speed limits, layby at Old Bridge □ broadband provision □ community resilience □ first aid training □ advance driving skills training for the under 25s funded by SBC □ liaising with BAM □ support of local groups Community Council minutes are posted on the noticeboards and on the community website: www.stow-borders.co.uk . If you want to contact the Community Council, please contact **Jenny Mushlin, CC Secretary on 01578 760297**

Contacts not listed elsewhere in the newsletter:
Stow Baby and Toddler Group: kglofthouse@tiscali.co.uk
Old Time Dancing: **Bill Riddell 01578 730355**
WRI Secretary, **Agnes Mathison 01578722654**
OAP Society **Meg Stewart 01578730378**
Wooplaw Community Woodlands www.wooplaw.org.uk

Next issue of the newsletter: deadline for copy - **Thursday, 3rd January 2015**, for distribution after **Friday 9th January**. Contact the editor on: wendy@wandwball.myzen.co.uk The printing of this newsletter is funded by the Parish of Stow Windfarm Community Benefit Fund.