

STOW & FOUNTAINHALL

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER~

ISSUE 17 ~ SPRING 2014

STOW

FOUNTAINHALL

UPDATE ON THE HEART OF STOW

Stow Community Trust (Chair, Alan McNeilly).

Stow Old School. Some years ago the Trust put together plans for converting the Old School into business units. Full details at www.stowhub.co.uk. This initiative is on semi-permanent hold due to a dispute over ownership between Scottish Borders Council and the Laird of Stow.

Old Station: Plans have been approved in principal with Network Rail for the Trust to take over part of the station as a hub for the village. Display areas for local crafts, local history and information are under discussion, but we are awaiting confirmed agreements before we proceed with consulting the community and applications for funding.

Stow Community Council (Chair, Diana Muir)

Old Kirk. The repair work on the Old Kirk has re-started with the advent of the (slightly) warmer weather. The work has mainly involved repair of the pointing with traditional lime mortar. Past repair work in cement has exacerbated rain and frost damage to the stonework, rendering some parts of the building susceptible to collapse. With the quick response of the Community Council, under the eagle eye of Historic Scotland, major collapse has been averted. It is hoped that in the not too distant future, it will be possible for visitors to enjoy looking all round this scheduled monument in safety. Last year alone there were over 100 visitors to the Old Kirk.

Old Bridge. The lay-by next to the Old Bridge is becoming unstable and discussions are proceeding with Scottish Borders Council to replace the fencing etc.

Scottish Borders Council

Stow Park Drainage Project. The next stage of the works to improve the drainage at Stow Park will commence shortly. Obviously this work is very weather dependent. The tender contracts have gone out to enable the work to start as soon as possible. This will involve a substantial upheaval of the park as the new drains are put in to try to alleviate the "ponding" which has been a feature of recent years. Inevitably, depending on how the contractor does the job, there will be considerable inconvenience to any users of the park. Given decent weather we hope to complete the work in good time to enable the grass to grow back before Stow Sports Week. This is a major financial investment by the Council in Stow Park and is part of a three pronged schedule to improve the facility. The Mill Lade has been drained and we await works on the Gala Water to try to prevent the river flooding the haugh and park area. Whilst there will be short term inconvenience, this will be of long term benefit to the heart of Stow and the community at large.

COMMUNITY BEAT OFFICER

PC Anne McNair is our new Community Beat Officer. She is the person to get in touch if you have any concerns about keeping safe in our community. PC Anne McNair reports regularly to the Community Council about any local incidents as well as working with other organisations on road safety and home security. There are several ways to contact the police:

Email: Anne.McNair@scotland.pnn.police.uk

For non-emergencies: telephone 101. To report a crime anonymously, telephone Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Galashiels Police Station on Bridge Street is open 7 days a week 0800-1800



Repair of the East Wall of the Old Kirk underway. The work is progressing from left to right and the improvements can clearly be seen.

FOUNTAINHALL PRIMARY

After a block on 'Scottish Inventors', the children are now learning about Rainforests. They are planning a trip to the Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh to explore rainforest conditions. We have also had an Africa Week in school this term when we had a talk from Mary's Meals. The children are collecting items to fill rucksacks which will be sent to help children in Liberia or Malawi. We have also participated in the National Science and Engineering Week where we managed to obtain funding for science workshops called 'Make a move' and 'Marvellous Magnets'. We were lucky to have a number of parents coming into school to talk to us about their areas of expertise within science and engineering which really helped the children to see how they will use their learning in 'real life'! The Pupil Council have been working on fundraising ideas and have organised an Easter Fiesta on 23rd March. The Parent Council are also organising our annual **Fountainhall Fayre on Saturday 10th May from 11am to 2pm**. Please come along and support us!

JUNIOR ROAD SAFETY OFFICERS

Report from Rachael and Innes (Stow Primary School JRSOs).

We have been working on whole school activities like dress up bright in a Christmas theme, Paws at the Kerb colouring in sheet for nursery to P3 and 'Justin Case' for P4 to P7, making an instruction for the safest way to cross the road. We have also been in touch with the school travel coordinator, Karen McGrath. We had been given a 'Walk to School Week' competition that schools all over the Borders were taking part in. The competition was to design a new sticker for Walk to School Week and a new slogan for J.R.S.O. For a couple of weeks we stood outside next to the car park taking the number plates of Bam lorries going along Station Road at the wrong time so we could stop this happening. Rachael has also been outside counting the cars parking in the school car park in the wrong place and causing a safety hazard. So far there has only been one person parked in the wrong place. We also got Mrs McGrath to paint the TAXI sign and Mrs. Leckie put out cones in the places people shouldn't park.



Rachael and Innes

STOW KIDS CLUB

Introducing our new manager

My Name is Zara Brown and I am 28 years old. I have working in many different childcare settings since leaving college in 2001. I began my childcare career at Kidzcare Ltd, based at Lilliesleaf Primary School. I managed the After School Club for children aged 4-12 years. I was there for 4 years where I gained an SVQ Level 3 in Childcare Learning & Development. Based on my merits throughout the qualification, I was selected to attend 'The Leonardo Da Vinci Project' in Sweden for one month. This involved staying with a Swedish family, visiting schools and colleges and gaining work experience in a kindergarten. Back home a year later, once qualified, I gained experience with working with children ages 0-5 years by taking up a job at Old Station Nursery in Melrose. I began as a nursery nurse and worked my way up to Nursery Manager. I gained SVQ Level 4 in Childcare, Learning & Education last October. I will be undertaking the online degree, BA in Childhood Practice in September. I look forward to managing Stow Kids Club!



GALAWATER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Committee are busy arranging various activities for the summer months to inspire us in our gardens. **The Plant Sale and Coffee Morning will be held on May 31st** in the Town Hall. For those who bring on seeds and have too many this is a chance to share them with others rather than chuck them out. Likewise with any cuttings, extra plants, which are taking up space and never to be used. Please bring them along to the Town Hall or contact Debbie Crawford, Jackie Cooper or any committee member for uplift. It is also planned to 'sell' table space at £10 per table to anyone who wishes to sell craftwork, preserves like jam etc. If you are interested please contact the above people.

Car trips are being planned to gardens near at hand – the proposed dates are: **April 27th to Humble Dean; May 11th to Shepherd's House, Eskbank; June 15th to Newhall, nr. Carlops; August 3rd to The Glen, Traquair.** Confirmation of dates and arrangements will be posted up at the post office and on the local Website. The trips in May and August can be confirmed now as these are Garden Open Days and arrangements with their owners are not required.

Finally a reminder that this year's show will take place on **Saturday, 6th September** in the Town Hall. The schedules will be completed and available on the local Website or in the Post Office shortly.

STOW AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB

On the field: So far the 2013/14 season has proved reasonably successful for the club. We are into the Semi Final of the South Cup (47 clubs compete). At the time of printing, this will be played at Innerleithen on Sunday 30th March with a 2 pm kick off against Carlisle Baptists - find the result on www.stowfc.co.uk. We are also still involved in the Beveridge Cup and are heading for a top 3 finish in the league (although to date it is not mathematically impossible to still win it!).

Off the field: Internal refurbishment of the changing facilities is due to begin in May funded by Foundation Scotland from the EDF Longpark Community Fund. The drainage work will also start on the pitch and surrounding area. The club are also investigating storage solutions in the park for our goal nets, training equipment, etc. Tickets for our weekly fund raising draw are available from players and officials. Details can be found at www.stowfc.co.uk.



Gala Water Singers

Zimbe! to Simba

The heart of Gala Water Singers' summer concert this year 'Songs of Africa' is the magnificent suite of music Zimbe!. It's performed by Gala Water Singers; guest choral singers; the Gala Water Singers Children's Choir formed from our three valley primary schools; plus a jazz quintet and it's hard to convey the truly captivating experience of this music. We are taken through a dawn to dusk day in Africa and whilst mainly joyous and uplifting, there are moments of poignancy and reverence with the whole set engaging all our senses. This concert really isn't one to be missed.

The theme continues with African Jigsaw, Africa by Toto and a medley from The Lion King. Come and have a great time on **Sunday 1 June at 3pm in Stow Church** including the usual exquisite nibbles. Tickets £8 from Stow Shop; on the door or phone **01578 730289**; school age children free.

Gala Water Singers meet on Tuesdays in Fountainhall Primary School 7-9pm. Contact **John on 01578 730289** or email secretary@galawatersingers.org.uk.



STOW TODDLER & MUSIC GROUP

Stow Toddler and Music Group is run by parents / carers for babies / toddlers from Stow and the surrounding area. The **Music Group** is on **Tuesday 10 -11am** downstairs in Stow Village Hall. It is a lovely time to watch the children play instruments and sing together. The **Toddler Group** is on **Thursday 9.30 - 11am** in the main hall in Stow Village Hall. It is a place for the babies to play, toddlers to run about and parents / carers to relax and chat. The toddler group has snack and juice for kids and coffee / tea for adults. We have also just been awarded Windfarm money to update our toys which is very exciting. In May we have a bear walk in Woolplaw Community Forest and in August have a stall at Sound Out. Get in touch with Sam at smahood@hotmail.com. Everyone is very welcome to come along and we look forward to meeting you.

FOUNTAINHALL W.R.I.

Fountainhall WRI meets on the **3rd Wednesday of the month** excluding July and August. We have a varied syllabus of talks, demonstrations and hands-on crafts. We are a member of the Selkirkshire Federation and the Scottish Women's Rural Institutes (SWRI), and this gives us a chance to go to classes and events further afield. Find out all about us by coming along to the relevant Wednesday evening at 7.30pm or contact the President, **Margaret Robertson 01578730567**, or the Secretary, **Agnes Mathison 01578722654**.

STOW & DISTRICT O.A.P. SOCIETY

Stow OAP Society is a lively group of over 105 members. It provides wonderful chances for people to socialise and to provide support for each other, especially for those who have little or no family in the area or who are having difficulties because of ill health. Stow OAP Society are particularly grateful to those people who support the Society by buying tickets for the events, or by attending the coffee mornings even if they are "under age!"

Our next event is the Summer outing to Hexham. **Saturday 7th June** leaving Stow at 9.45am

Date for your diary: The Christmas Party! **Sat 13th December at 3pm**

STOW PARISH ARCHIVE

We are pleased to report that 12 individuals attended the public meeting in February and are enthusiastically supporting efforts to maintain Stow Parish Archive in Stow. Previously, the future of the Archive was under question because the commitment to maintain the collection and to make it publicly accessible could not be supplied by the existing members. So the public meeting was held to find out if it was feasible to maintain Stow Parish Archive in Stow or whether steps should be taken to transfer the collection to the SBC Archives and Local History Centre in Hawick. As a result of this meeting, three actions are proposed: (1) to apply to the windfarm community benefit fund for a grant to pay a para-professional to maintain the archive in Stow, to promote the collection, and to support community activities based on aspects of local heritage. (2) to put the Stow Parish Archive online (3) to hold a social event at the third AGM and make all efforts to publicise this to the wider community.

So please join us on **Wednesday, 30th April at 7.30pm** at the Stow Town Hall to find out all kinds of Quite Interesting stuff at our session of **Animal, Vegetable or Mineral!**



Who is Jessica Troughton? Teenagers and twenty somethings will know her as the person who kept them occupied and entertained at Playgroup throughout their childhood in the village. They, and their grateful parents, will

also remember Jessica overseeing the mix of tuck shop, games, crafts, and freedom to play all shaken up in the Town Hall, that characterised the excitement of Stow Youth Club. People interested in First Aid will have come across Jessica in her role as a trainer for the Red Cross. Older people will know Jessica as the person who runs the Lunch Club through the Health Centre where people can come once a week to enjoy a meal together. She is also the driving force behind the Stow Patient Transport service being the co-ordinator of ten generous volunteers who take people to and from the Health Centre. You can find Jessica in the Cloudhouse Café once a month recording the wonderful reminiscences of the older people in the village on behalf of Stow Parish Archive. Probably everyone will know Jessica's name - she was a Community Councillor for a while and is now an elected member on the Windfarm Community Benefit Fund Panel. And in 2005, she was given the accolade of "Best Borderer" by VisitScotland through public votes in recognition of all her work in the community.

What is this compulsion that makes Jessica want to be involved in community life? She explains it as being a parson's child and being brought up in a household where it was expected that you would be involved in the community around you. Having said that, Jessica particularly enjoys the company of children. She trained in social work and worked for several years as house mother in a children's home. She says that children can tell if people are not being honest with them and so if you are true to yourself and treat them naturally, you can build up very rewarding relationships. Jessica believes that the most important support an adult can give a child is to help develop self-confidence and the ability to relate to other people. And this she has strived to do through her work in the Playgroup and the Youth Club.

Being involved with other groups has just happened along the way as Jessica loves people and is very interested in them. She feels that Stow has a lot to offer its residents in terms of community life and she is anxious that people appreciate this and don't let it disappear just through lack of interest. Jessica feels that it is not a question of talents on offer, or even a question of the amount of time to be given that makes a community work. She believes that just showing an interest and being aware of what is going on helps to make a good sense of community.

Who is Jessica Troughton? She is the person who will always stop and say hello if you meet her on the street, however busy she is.

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

Galawater Camera Club: next meetings: 16th April at 11am in Stow and 21st May at 11am in Heriot. Email: galawatercameraclub@live.co.uk Telephone **Paul Baxter on: 07925 536878** for further details

Galawater Health & Fitness Club, Stow Town Hall, Wednesdays 1pm-2pm anyone "over 50" is very welcome! Contact **Marion Johnston 01578730294**

Fountainhall Toddlers: 9.30 till 11.30 in Fountainhall Village Hall. For more information call **Tracey on 01578760200.**

Zumba! Stow Town Hall Wednesdays 6:45 - 7:45 pm. £4.00 a session contact Lynne lynne@fitborders.co.uk **07775 028 861**

NOTES ON THE WIND

The six elected members of the Windfarm Community Benefit Fund Panel continue their hard work on our behalf to distribute the funds from the Longpark and Toddleburn Windfarms for the benefit of the community. The emphasis is on supporting projects that have a genuine community benefit and especially those projects that will have a lasting legacy for the community at large.

The Benefit Fund Panel invites all local groups in need of funds for initiatives of community benefit to apply for grants. There are plenty of applications forthcoming but there continues to be funds available.

There have been two award rounds since the last newsletter and the projects who are in receipt of larger grants from the fund are as follows:

- Fountainhall Village Hall Committee: £25,000. To help pay for extensive refurbishments to Fountainhall Village Hall to bring this well-used community centre up to standard and fit for purpose.
- Stow Amateur Football Club: £10,000. To refurbish the club's changing facilities
- Sound Out: £2000. To contribute towards the cost of running a musical event as part of the Stowed Out Festival 2014.
- Stow Sports Committee: £3510. To purchase a mobile platform to put up and take down Christmas lights and bunting, and for New Year's fireworks
- Stow Primary School: £4000. To put up a yurt for outdoor education sessions

The next call dates are as follows:
deadline for submission 14 April 2014; announced June 2014
deadline for submission 14 July 2014; announced Sept. 2014

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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**

Next issue of the newsletter:

deadline for copy - **Sunday, 22nd June**, for distribution after **Friday 4th July**. Newsletter editor can be contacted on:

wendy@wandwball.myzen.co.uk

The printing of this newsletter is funded by the Parish of Stow Windfarm Community Benefit Fund.



STOWED OUT FESTIVAL

Planning for Stowed Out Festival 2014 is in full swing and the committee are working hard to bring you another exciting line up. Big changes are afoot as we have received a far smaller grant award from the EDF Longpark Community Benefit Fund than we did in 2013 so we are looking at other ways to fund the event including introducing a small entry charge for adults, applying to other organisations for grants, looking for sponsorship, running our own fundraising events such as the recent Fatlips gig in the Town Hall.

Posters have been up in the village for sometime asking for local musicians and artist to get involved and so far the response has been fantastic and we hope to be announcing acts soon.

Alongside the festival preparation we have continued with our other projects. Katie Forbes, Youth worker and singer songwriter has just run a series of song writing workshop for local young people.

If anyone would like more information or to get involved email us info@soundout.org.uk or check out our web site www.soundout.org.uk



TUGGING FOR GOLD

The Scottish Tug of War team have just returned from the world championships in Ireland. They have come home with FOUR gold medals.

These boys all work full time in agricultural jobs but they make the time to train and they also fund the sport themselves. They come from areas around Scotland such as Scottish Borders, Fife, West Lothian, Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire.

Tug of war is not a mainstream sport and yet as a nation, Scotland is very good at it! Some of the boys have accumulated 15-16 world titles over the years. Our own Graeme Hendry from Fountainhall has 15 titles now.

The photo shows the 600kg winning team. Graeme Hendry is in the middle, front row.



STOW SPORTS WEEK

Stow Sports Week 2014! 15th June - 21st June

Fun and games and thrills for all ages. Remember you don't have to be "sporty" to take part. Come and add to the friendly rivalry between Stow and Killochyett; cheer the runners on at the gruelling Hillheid; get creative for the Fancy Dress (not just for the little 'uns) and put on your dancing shoes for a great night out at the Dance on Saturday night (21st, June) (ceildh and cover music - tickets on sale in May for £4). Watch out for the programme - coming out soon!



YOUNG FUNDRAISERS

We all know that Stow is an active and generous community and it is nice to see that this spirit is continuing in our children.

In early February, Rachael Holloway (11) organised a cake sale on Townfoot in aid of one of her favourite charities RSPCA. Her challenge was to make £20 and she well exceeded that by selling all her goodies in less than 30 minutes, making £27. Molly Glennon (10) was inspired by a recent school project, focusing on life in the Rainforest, and organised a charity run for her school friends in the Beech Woods on a Sunday in March. Twenty-two eager runners joined Molly for the run with older siblings and parents acting as marshals. All together the children made £310 for Survival International, an organisation protecting the land and rights of indigenous tribes. Well done Rachael and Molly for great initiatives and hard work.

