



www.stow-borders.co.uk

STOW & FOUNTAINHALL

ISSUE 21 ~COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER~ SPRING 2015

Editor's Note: Sunday, September 6th 2015 sees the first regular train service into our area for over 46 years - a momentous event on many counts. Many people are wanting to celebrate and a number of exciting gatherings are being organised. The railway is of great importance to our community and so this issue is happy to be 'railway themed'. Please read on and remember everyone is invited to the party!

Stow Primary School *is pleased to present:* **'Lives on the Line'** on Friday 12th June 2015 from 5 pm to 7 pm at Stow Town Hall

The children and staff of Stow Primary School are delighted to invite everyone in the community to come to our Exhibition and to share in the learning we have been doing. Come and meet our 'Lives on the Line' and let's all celebrate what the railway means. We will also be joined by BAM, Network Rail, Galawater Camera Club, Stow Parish Archive and others. We look forward to welcoming you to our Exhibition!

The exhibition will also be open on Saturday 13th June 2015 from 10 am to 4 pm

....and the party continues ... with Stow Community Railway Celebrations

September 2015 - the train will soon arrive in Stow! We want to make sure we have a day to remember with lots of community led activities and events. Come to the next Joint Planning Meeting at Stow Primary School on **Monday 18th May, 2015 at 3.30 pm** or if you're unable to attend please email AFindlay@scotborders.gov.uk to register your interest, giving details of the event you are suggesting or would like to organise.



WORLD PREMIERE

created by John Nichol & Jim Letham

"The Waverley Line"
celebrating the return of trains to the Borders
based on ideas from children of the Valley Schools

STOW CHURCH

CONCERT

on the theme of trains and boats and chariots

Sunday 7 June 3pm

TICKETS

Adult £8	from
	# Stow shop
Children free	# John 01578
	730289
nibbles included	# on the door

 **SINGLE**



STOW KIDS CLUB

We wish our Manager Zara all the very best as she begins her maternity leave. We will all miss her. We have a program of events for our Fun Friday afternoons - details of which can be obtained by contacting the club - **07944 617310**, or email, stowkidsclub@hotmail.com

We are currently looking to recruit a manager to cover Zara's maternity leave - please contact the club for further details.

If you have a skill or craft that you would like to share with the children, we would love to hear from you - again, contact the club by phone or email. Check out Stow Community Website for upcoming events.



GALAWATER CAMERA CLUB

The Galawater Camera Club has had sessions at both Stow and Heriot churches and continues to pursue fresh ideas. Future activities include: displaying at the Horticultural plant sale in May, supporting the September "railway celebrations", technical sessions and outings to exhibitions. We meet once a month - usually on the last Wednesday; new members are welcome - please contact Robert Goodwin, Fraser Simm or any other member email galawatercameraclub@live.co.uk; or phone Paul Baxter on: **07925 536878**

GALAWATER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Galawater Horticultural Society's Annual Plant, Craft and Produce Sale is on Saturday 23rd May in the Town Hall from 10.00 to 12.00 noon. Coffee and Home Bakes will be served. Everyone who has spare seedlings and cuttings are welcome to donate their plants to be sold on at the Plant Sale - this is a good time to pass on any extra plants which are taking up room in the greenhouse or patio! Local crafters and producers will be selling their wares - please see the posters for details. Details of Car Trips will be advertised on the Website and posters throughout the summer.

STOW BOWLING CLUB

Have you ever thought of trying your hand at a game of Bowls? The Club is running an Open Day on Sunday 17th May at 2.00 pm. for anyone interested in visiting the Club and finding out what it's all about!

We are very proud of our green which represents years of care and attention and everyone agrees that its condition has never been so good at the start of a season. So anyone wishing to play should bring flat soled shoes or the lightest shoes they have. We shall look forward to seeing you on the 17th.

NOTES ON THE WIND

There were no awards made at the last Windfarm Community Fund Panel meeting. The current balance of EDF Longpark Community Fund is £68,925.94. However, there are a number of large grant applications in the pipeline. Any questions? Telephone Tom Black from Foundation Scotland for EDF generated funds **0131 524 0331** and Ciara Wilson for SSE generated funds 0141 224 7191.

Application Deadlines 2015

13th July (panel meets: 1st September)

12th October (panel meets: 1st December)

Next issue of the newsletter: deadline for copy - **Monday, 5th October 2015**, for distribution after **Friday 16th October**. 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.

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**

Councillor John Mitchell is holding a surgery in Stow Town Hall on Friday 22nd May

STOW TODDLER & MUSIC GROUP

Spring has now definitely arrived, we have made it through the winter months, and all at baby and toddler group are looking forward to this term. We will be holding our annual Bear Walk in Wooplaw woods in May and at our recent AGM there were lots of great suggestions for other fun activities. We always enjoy being part of our local festival 'Stowed Out' and are planning to have a stall again this summer. We welcomed a big, friendly teddy bear into our group last term (kindly donated by Wendy Ball) for our children to enjoy, but it came without a name. So a competition was held to name the bear and was won by Eva Lister who suggested 'Rocky'.

SBTG on Every Thursday and Music Group every Tuesday during term time



Two of many photographs held by Stow Parish Archive

STOW PARISH ARCHIVE

Lots of things are going on in Stow Parish Archive. We are collecting all kinds of records connected to the railway from local memories of the old Waverley Route to experiences with the modern construction and the opening of new railway. We are also working hard to get our catalogue online bringing Stow to the world and the world to Stow! The Stow Cafe Sessions are still taking place once a month where stories of times past are shared. All this is in addition to the usual cataloguing and collecting. Drop into the Reading Room some time and have a look at our new acquisitions which include the commemorative poppy and a Waterloo medal. Visit us on Facebook to keep in touch.

Stow Sports Week 2015 Sunday 14th – Saturday 20th June 2015

SUNDAY 14th 12 noon

Family Football day with BBQ and Refreshments,
Featuring Boys and Girls 7 a side football tournament

MONDAY 15th

6pm BASKETBALL (P5 - P7) (S1-S6) at the Multi Court
7.30pm Men's FOOTBALL Stow v Killochyett

TUESDAY 16th

6.15pm SUPERSTARS followed by TREASURE HUNT

WEDNESDAY 17th

7pm HILLHEID RACE P4 to Adult
Adults Sheaf Tossing / Children's Tug-o-War

FRIDAY 19th FANCY DRESS PARADE

In the park 6.30 for 7pm Judging

SATURDAY 21st SPORTS

In the park starting at 1.00pm

Followed by Ceilidh Dance

8.30pm till late in the Town Hall

STOW PARENT COUNCIL

Fundraising

The P3/4 children start swimming lessons this term. The Parent Council funds the transport costs for these lessons and this year we are very grateful to the Community Council for a grant of £250 towards the cost of this. The P3/4 children together with Mrs Leckie and parent helpers raised the rest of the money through a bake sale and selling chocolate egg filled mugs which the children had decorated, at the end of the Easter term. Thank you to all who baked, helped and purchased!

The whole school participated in a sponsored circuits at the end of term, raising over £400. A good way to work up an appetite for all the Easter eggs!

The Family Ceilidh held in February was enjoyed by all who attended it. Plans are being made for this term's fundraiser, **Stow Primary's Spring Fair is 16th May 2-4pm** - keep your eye out for posters!

UN Global Road Safety/ Scottish Road Safety week 4-10th May

Fiona Hodgson from the Parent Council has been liaising with the Community Council over road safety matters, sharing data from an A7 speed survey that was conducted recently. Road safety week is 4-10th May this year and is another opportunity to raise the profile of local road safety concerns as we try to ensure that children have safe routes to walk to school.

MUSICAL AND LITERAL TRANSPORTS



You can't have lived in the Gala Water valley over the past two years and been unaware of "...the longest new domestic railway to be constructed in Britain for over 100 years..." taking shape. For our youngsters this is a huge and rare event and as singers, we wanted to capture and celebrate that. How? Step forward John Nichol, one of the Borders' greatest creators and performers of musical theatre. GWS commissioned John to go into our valley schools, with the blessing of school staff, and engage the children in expressing their thoughts about the Borders railway.

From the children came the ideas; from John came the lyrics; from Music Director Jim Letham came the music and on 7 June Stow Church is the venue for the World Première of 'The Waverley Line', sung by the adult and children's joint choir, in celebration of this extraordinary event.

The rest of the concert programme keeps to the theme, sometimes flexibly interpreted, of celebrating transportation with our performance enhanced by soloist Fraser Harris from Selkirk, currently a music undergraduate at Aberdeen plus, once again, the joy of live musicians. This promises to be a very special concert; join us if you possibly can.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(All venues in Stow Town Hall unless otherwise stated)

Regular Meetings - Weekly

Tuesdays - Gala water Singers - 7.00pm - Fountainhall School

Tuesdays - Singalong for Babies and Toddlers - 9.30 - 10.30

Wednesdays - The Pipe and Drum School practice in the Stow Church on Wednesday evenings

Wednesdays - Stow Highland Dance Dancing Class 3.45pm - 5.15pm

Thursdays - Babies & Toddlers Group - 9.30 - 11.00am

Regular Meetings - Monthly

First Monday of the month - Community Council 7.30pm

Second Monday of the month - Stow Parish Archive Group 7.30 pm

Last Wednesday every month - Galawater Camera Club 11am - Cafe

SPECIAL EVENTS

16 May: Stow Primary School Spring Fair 2 - 4pm

17 May: Stow Bowling Club 'Open Day' 2pm - newbies welcome

23 May: Gala Water Horticultural Society 'Annual Plant, Craft and Produce Sale' 10am - 12pm, Stow Town Hall

7 June: Waverley Line Concert, Gala Water Singers - 3pm, Stow Church

12 June: 'Lives on the Line' Exhibition opening, 5 - 7pm, Stow Town Hall

13 June: 'Lives on the Line' Exhibition 10am - 4pm

14 - 20 June: Stow Sports Week

28 - 29 August: Stowed Out!



STOWED OUT FESTIVAL

**EARLY BIRD
REDUCED
RATE ENTRY
FOR LOCAL
RESIDENTS.**

This year local residents will have the opportunity to purchase Saturday Festival tickets at a reduced rate, in advance, from Stow Post Office. Visitors from outwith the local area who book online or arrive on the day will pay the full rate. U18's and concessions who will be entitled to free Saturday entry must also pick up their free wristbands in advance from the Post Office to ensure free entry. Notices will go up in Stow, Fountainhall and online when tickets and wristbands are available.

So why would you want to go to the Festival? Well, on Friday night we have folk legend, Dick Gaughan, hailed by the late John Peel as 'one of the five or six great voices of our time'. Veterans of 18 years in the business, Old Blind dogs, are vital, innovative ambassadors of traditional music and opening the evening the internationally acclaimed Stow Pipe Band.

On Saturday we have Model Aeroplanes, a young band who last year played the main stage at Wickerman Festival, T in the park and BBC introducing. Other acts performing include Snide Rhythms, Stray Days, The Stark Palace, Emma McNeill, Rhythm Beats Workin, Lorna Brooks and Alan Bertram and a number of other excellent bands. This year also sees the launch of a spoken word stage. Tasty Festival food will be provided by the Cloudhouse, the Sound Out Bar and kids entertainment.

You can find out more about the Festival on the new Festival facebook page. Just search for "Stowed Out Festival" See you all on the **28th and 29th August**.

MESSAGES

WELL DONE to Melody McConchie and Erika and Freya Doherty who ran a bake sale for Comic Relief on Red Nose Day. They made £94.30.

THANK YOU AND GOOD BYE to Dorothy Riddell who has retired from the Post Office after 18 years of working there. Fantastic service - enjoy your well-deserved free time!

ALL BEST WISHES from Stow Kids Club to Manager Zara Brown as she begins her maternity leave. We will all miss her.

spotlight on

Simon Walton



The railway is coming back to the Borders after an absence of 46 years but this is no sudden bolt out of the blue. It was over 20 years ago that people started talking about the feasibility of re-opening the railway and as the ideas gathered momentum, the Campaign for Borders Rail (CBR) was formed in 1998. This is a genuine grassroots campaign and it has achieved a great deal during its existence, including campaigning for a station at Stow. The work is entirely voluntary and whilst every one chips in, it is particularly demanding on office holders. For the last three years, the Chair has been Simon Walton who lives in Fountainhall.

Simon is definitely not a train spotter but he places great value on railways. He strongly believes that the Borders lost out when the Waverley Route was closed. Simon is a journalist and broadcaster by training and he has witnessed first-hand the closing of industries in Bathgate, Ravenscraig and Hawick and in doing so became aware of the industrial heritage of our country and how the railways channel the economic life blood of an area.

So how come he is living in the rural Borders? He is in fact a gutterbluid - born in Peebles - and although brought up in Edinburgh he has a sentimental attachment to the Borders. When house-hunting Simon just fell in love with Fountainhall. In the relatively short time he has lived in the village, he is greatly impressed at how welcoming and active the community is. Once Simon had moved in, he wanted to get involved in the community and as the railway was at the back of his house, he offered his services to the CBR. Here was a case of serendipity because with increased media attention on the building of the Borders Railway, it was of increasing importance to not only have a good communicator but also someone savvy about the media. Before long Simon was elected Chair.

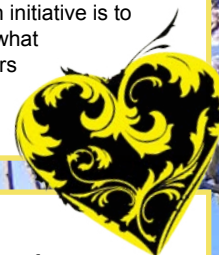
When asked about how CBR work has affected his life, Simon says that it has impacted in a spectacularly wonderful way. He reckons that it takes at least half his waking hours at the moment and why does he let it do that? Because, he says, he does some pretty exciting things in his life, travelling all over the world, interviewing the great and the good, and yet he finds this is the most exciting thing he does. Why? Because it allows him the satisfaction of using his skills and experience freely, to make a true difference to the community and to engage with Border's life in a way he never expected.

Work commitments are alas taking Simon away. He'll be back on the train to visit but remember, for the CBR Edinburgh to Tweedbank is just Phase 1 - so he'll be back to campaign!

STOW COMMUNITY TRUST

The comment in the previous newsletter that a lease on the building might be negotiated by early spring turned out to be wide of the mark - in a new development, presumably because Network Rail no longer has any use for the building (at one time it was thought that a couple of rooms might be used by their maintenance people), it will be offered to Abellio, the new train operator for the ScotRail franchise. Also it now transpires that the gable end of the building will have to be taken down and rebuilt to increase the clearance from the platform edge, and taken together these factors are going to delay things by months. However, it is likely to be beneficial in the long run, with Abellio being very committed to the concept of community rail.

Despite this delay, I would still encourage anyone who is interested in working with the Stow Community Trust and has not already made themselves known, to contact either **Alan McNeilly or myself** - email A.McNeilly@ed.ac.uk or sparrowcastle@btinternet.com, Tel 730209 (Alan), 730262 (Bill). With the opening date being less than four months away, it is certainly time to start progressing the idea of a 'FRIENDS OF STOW STATION' group. With the SCT already having a constitution and a bank account it would seem sensible to run such a 'Friends' group as a sub-group of the SCT and if anyone is particularly interested in this aspect please get in touch as soon as possible so that we can have an early meeting. The activities that such a group would undertake are not particularly onerous, for example the most common initiative is to enhance the station environs with planters or hanging baskets (depending on what is appropriate). Abellio will finance the purchase of materials, with volunteers carrying out the work - obviously there is a longer term commitment in terms of watering, weeding etc.



STOW COMMUNITY PARK



A lot has happened in the planning of new facilities for Stow Park since the last newsletter. Our feeling that we should create a community park that is an attractive and safe place for everyone to enjoy has strengthened. Our committee has been working hard and achieved several outcomes, the main one being the agreement from Scottish Borders Council (SBC) to provide the land, grass cutting and safety checks. In return they require the community to raise funds for the initial installation and also for the upkeep of the equipment for a period of 10 years.

We have started investigating the kind of costs involved and we have initial quotes. Needless to say that play equipment and outdoor fitness equipment that carries all the correct health and safety documentation for a public space comes with a hefty price tag. The initial estimate

is approximately £150,000 which includes pathways for disabled access.

To give you an idea of the plans, the committee, together with Stow Primary School pupils are making a scale model of the park with the proposed location of the new equipment. **This will be on display at the 'Lives on the Line' exhibition on 12 - 13 June and at Sports Day on Sat 20th June.** Please come and have a look and tell us what you think.

Our next steps are to rally support from everyone with an interest in the Heart of Stow to demonstrate that the community is really serious about the development of the park as a place for people and not just rabbits. We are focusing on two main activities:

1. Fundraising. We really need people to come forward to help bring some of our fundraising ideas to fruition, the bigger the team of people the faster we will be able to have new facilities in the park.

2. Communication. We have set up a Facebook page: Stow Community Park, where we will post progress of the park project so please like/follow/comment. You can also get in touch by writing to stowcommunitypark@gmail.com or hand a note into the Post Office. Tell us what you think of the park currently? What would new equipment and facilities mean to you? Let us all work together to make Stow Park - Fit for the Future.

Chair: Helen Houston

IN THE CLOUDHOUSE

We have run our Friday nights for 4 months now and they are still going strong, especially the Curry Nights! However with the lighter evenings we are going to change the format slightly and add a few more early evenings for 'Drinks and Nibbles'. We have joined up with The Scottish Charcuterie Company and Cambus O'May cheeses to provide the nibbles, we have an ever expanding wine selection and watch out for our new cocktail menu too!

May Opening Hours:

Tuesday & Wednesday 10am-4pm

Thursday, Friday & Saturday* 10am-7pm

Sunday - 10am - 3pm

Mondays - Closed

***Drinks and our new 'Light Bites' served from 15:30-18:30**



We are ever hopeful for a sunny hot summer so we are preparing early and getting a blender to be able to get some fruit smoothies on the menu and iced coffee's as well as usual fresh hot drinks.