


STOW & FOUNTAINHALL

ISSUE 20 ~ COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER ~ WINTER 2014/15

THE HEART OF STOW



THE OLD KIRK: Many members of the community have been shocked at the number of tombstones that have been laid flat by Scottish Borders Council in the Old Kirkyard. Whilst health and safety considerations are very important, this action seems draconian. Several community groups have written to the Community Council and the CC have passed on the community concerns to the SBC in the strongest terms. The SBC have now offered reassurances that many of the tombstones will be re-erected but the timescale is uncertain. The Community Council will monitor the situation.

STOW STATION

As some of you are probably aware, the Stow Community Trust has been actively pursuing the possibility of taking over the station building and putting it to some use which would complement both the village and the railway once the latter opens next September. In fact it's almost two years since we first made contact with the Estate Manager at Network Rail and were given access to the interior of the building. This allowed us to measure up the size and layout of the rooms and to draw up very tentative proposals for what could be done. NR seemed to be impressed and gave us their support in principle, since which time we have had regular contact with them through the site offices at Fountainhall. However there has been no progress regarding the terms of a lease etc., although we expect this to be resolved, one way or the other, by the early spring, at which point we intend to call a public meeting. Even if no agreement can be reached with NR, there is still the possibility of setting up a Friends of Stow Station group, so a meeting will be called regardless. As we would like to establish a core email list of interested people, it would be helpful if you could contact either Bill Jamieson at sparrowcastle@btinternet.com or Alan McNeilly at A.McNeilly@ed.ac.uk

A further idea we have been pursuing is to establish a joint Waverley Route / Stow Museum and to that end an initial meeting has been held between the Community Trust, Stow Archive and the Waverley Railway Heritage Association (based at Whitrope). As the indications are that

it is now unlikely any rooms in the building will be put to railway use, there would still be plenty of space available to use for other purposes. If you have any Waverley artefacts or photographs which could be made available, any of these community groups would be delighted to hear from you.

STOW PARK

When a child aged 8 says 'The park is rubbish because everything is for babies' it is perhaps time to re-evaluate what facilities exist. With only two swings for children of primary and secondary age there is certainly a dearth of play park equipment in Stow for the older child. SBC do not have any money for new playground equipment however they are happy to support a community lead project.

A group 'Stow Community Park' has been established to look into the feasibility of securing funding for engaging play park equipment for older children which will be located within the football park. This location will provide a focus for outdoor play away from the railway. The current play park would remain, it works well for the under 5's.

On a damp November day 59 young people expressed their disappointment at the current park facilities. The children have completed a questionnaire about the type of apparatus they would like, the result was very clear, something to climb on. The park is not just for children so we are hoping to secure enough funding for outdoor gym equipment for teenagers and adults along with a trim trail for both kids and adults. Many people have said they would like a path within the park so they can enjoy walking through it without getting their feet wet and some well positioned benches. We are speaking to Stow AFC and Stow Sports committee to ensure any new facilities benefit everyone that uses the park.

We are very much at the planning stage and would like to hear your views. There is a great deal of work to be done to turn this idea into reality and although to date we have received a lot of support, for which we are grateful, we will welcome anyone's help. Please email stowcommunitypark@gmail.com or leave a note in the shop. Here's hoping that in the future we can all enjoy being in the park and not just walk on the pavements around its perimeter!



FUN Friday

NOTES ON THE WIND

Tom Black from Foundation Scotland **0131 524 0331** reports that the current Windfarm Community Benefit Fund Panel is working well with clear decision making processes and good governance (e.g. declarations of interest). There was a space on the Panel up for renewal last year but no nominations were forthcoming. The Panel want to start staggered elections so they invite anyone interested in taking an active part in the development of our community to get in touch with Tom.

Latest Awards:

Stow Kids Club: £4,000.00 ... To fund a greater variety of activities in the Club and provide transport to Galashiels where the proposed activities would take place.

Sound Out: £15,000.00 ... To contribute to running costs of the 2015, 2016 and 2017 Stowed Out Festival.

Application Deadlines 2015

19th January (EDF) and 6th February (SSE) (panel meets: 3rd March)

13th April (panel meets: 2nd June)

13th July (panel meets: 1st September)

12th October (panel meets: 1st December)

STOW KIDS CLUB - FUN FRIDAY AFTERNOONS

The Kids Club runs between 12.15 and 6.15 on a Friday, so any parents wishing to have an afternoon shopping / relaxing / doing housework, whatever they want, are welcome to bring their children along to the club. We cater for ages 4 - 12 and will be issuing our schedule in the next few weeks.

We are offering a special offer of Free Registration for the Friday afternoon session, applicable during January and February. The normal session fee applies. For more details, please contact Zara Brown on **07944 617310** or stowkidsclub@hotmail.com. Check out Stow Community Website for upcoming events.

SCOTTISH BORDERS ALERT (www.sbalert.co.uk)

This is an alert system that will advise people about various different matters such as weather, missing people, thefts and other information that is relevant to the area you live in. You can sign up online at the web address above. The alerts come from authorised sources such as, police, neighbourhood watch, community groups. They can come via email, text and telephone depending on your preferences and also the severity of the alert. This is a free service for all. If you don't have a computer you can still receive alerts by signing up (your local library is able to assist) and requesting a telephone alert.

STOW A.F.C. - CLUB UPDATE

At the time of writing the Club currently sit second in the league with 8 league fixtures to play and also remain in the South, Beveridge and Waddell Cup competitions.

The clubroom alterations are almost complete with only some snagging issues to deal with.

We hope to return to Stow Park in February providing the weather and surface are suitable. The posts should be back up at the end of January 2015. Likewise the new smaller seven a side posts kindly supplied by The Borders Railway project will be installed by Scottish Borders Council sometime in the near future and the club will be host a small event for local youth teams to "open" the new smaller pitch in May - further details will follow. www.stowfc.co.uk

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



FOUNTAINHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

We celebrated St Andrew's Day in our usual style last term, with P1-6 joining together with Heriot for a day of Scottish themed activities. The day was finished off with an assembly for family and friends to allow children to share their learning and perform Scottish songs, dances, poems and music. The ELCC (Nursery) children and staff celebrated with a ceilidh. Thanks to Howie's mum and dad for providing the excellent playing. All the children had a fantastic time and looked great in all their tartan!

Fountainhall Primary and ELCC were extremely busy in the run up to Christmas with lots of exciting activities and events. At the beginning of December, some of our pupils performed at Stow Church as part of the Junior Gala Water Singers, along with children from Heriot and Stow. They sang a variety of Christmas carols and songs and sounded absolutely amazing! Later that week, the whole school had a trip to the Brunton Theatre to see Jack and the Beanstalk. Thank you to our Parent Council for funding this super experience.

Our younger children enjoyed a variety of Christmas tree trips where they visited pupil and staff houses to look at their Christmas trees. They also took part in door step singing to some lucky Fountainhall community members! The children also performed their Christmas singing and signing at our whole school concert on the final Wednesday evening. ELCC children finished the term with a Christmas party with the children in all their finery.

Our P1-6 children performed Prickly Hay: A Nativity Hoedown for our Christmas concert. There was fantastic singing and acting all round - a huge success! Our grande finale was a rendition of We Wish You a Merry Christmas, singing and signing, from all our children aged 3-11. Our Parent Council then treated everyone to mulled drinks and mince pies which was a lovely social way for us to end the year. On the last day of term we had a Christmas assembly led by Rev. Linford. The P1-6 children gave performances with their ukuleles and guitars which they had been learning through Youth Music Initiative.

We have welcomed 6 new children into our ELCC this term so we are now completely full! We also welcome 2 new members of staff: Mrs Currie and Mrs Wilson. This term, our P1-6 children will be working on a pupil audit with Linda Young from Children in Scotland. One of our P5 children, Stanley, will be representing the school at our Learning Community Chess Competition. The P1-6 children will be travelling up to Heriot to celebrate Burns' Day with a special lunch, followed by our Scots Language Competition. The children will also be completing a block of rugby this term.

Fountainhall Primary now has a Rag Bag collection bank in the playground. Please support us in raising funds for the school by depositing unwanted clothes and shoes.



STOW PARISH ARCHIVE

Mary Craig, our Community Archivist, works in the archive in the Reading Room in the Town Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mary is focusing on outreach activities and just before Christmas we had a very successful session in Fountainhall. We have several interesting projects on the go, one of which involves recording the impact of the construction of the new Borders Railway on our community. Please see the enclosed flier for details. Copies of **"A Stow Story - the Comings and Goings of an Edinburgh Evacuee, 1939 - 1945 and beyond"** are still on sale in Stow Shop.

GALAWATER CAMERA CLUB

The Camera Club was delighted with the success of its first exhibition in the Clouthouse, Stow - many thanks to the Clouthouse for helping us hold this event, which will remain on show until the end of January. As the Club develops and ideas are forming for future events the members have decided that it should be constituted giving freedom to apply for further funding in the future. A syllabus is being drawn up by the members so that each meeting there will be a topic for discussion or a practical session chosen by the group and in the future there will be a page on the Community Website providing further details. The Club meets on the last Wednesday of month at 11.00am. For dates and topics, please see dates for your diary section. We are also discussing a possible trip to a photographic exhibition in Glasgow. Interested? email galawatercameracub@live.co.uk; or phone Paul Baxter on: **07925 536878**



STOW TODDLER & MUSIC GROUP

Stow Baby and Toddler Group enjoyed a fun filled 2014 and it has been lovely to welcome some new faces to the group over the last few months. Our Halloween and Christmas parties were a great success and we look forward to more events this year. The weekly fee per family remains at only £1 so please come along and enjoy a cuppa whilst your little ones play.

Every Thursday (during term time), 9.30 - 11am, Stow Village Hall
Stow Singalong (Music Group for Babies/Toddlers): Every Tuesday (during term time), 9.30 - 10.30am, Stow Village Hall
kglofthouse@tiscali.co.uk

Next issue of the newsletter: deadline for copy - **Thursday, 19th March 2015**, for distribution after **Friday 3rd April**. 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**



SOUND OUT

It has been a busy few months for Sound Out and we see exciting times ahead. The most important development is the fantastic news that we have been awarded a substantial grant from the EDF Longpark Community Fund to cover part of our Festival running costs for the next three years. This will make it far easier to plan ahead. In April we will also receive funding from ESH Added Value to purchase a 10m x 6m marquee which will give us much needed additional Festival space. We would like to make this marquee available to all local community groups. The recent AGM was well attended and resulted in a healthy turnover of committee members including a new Secretary and Treasurer. The team that book the Festival bands are currently in discussion with a number of acts but would also like to hear from any local musicians that did not play last year who would like to be considered for Stowed Out 2015. Stowed Out will be held on August 28th and 29th. Following the success of the Fatlips gig in 2014 we hope to bring another band to Stow to blow away the winter cobwebs so watch out for posters.

Survey results

The recent Festival survey produced some very useful data that will help us develop the event. Of the 42 responses 98% said the Festival was good for the area and only 2 people said we should not grow the event. The full survey results will be made available on the website and the notice board shortly. soundout@gmx.co.uk



One week later than we thought at the time of our winter concert, the Community Choir restarts on **Tuesday 20th January, 7-9pm at Fountainhall School**. New members are welcome to give us a try for a couple of weeks at no charge. If you then decide to join, there'll be one payment of £20 this session and another of £10 after Easter to complete our 2014/15 season. Ability to pay shouldn't hold anyone back; have a word with our Membership Secretary Judy, or Chair John (**01578 730289**) who'll be happy to discuss a smaller amount, or even waiving costs altogether. If you want to sing with others, we'd love to have you join us.

If you've been holding your breath for the day, you can access our very own website.... a few technical/provider hitches have delayed its birth. Hopefully, this will be resolved in time for the next newsletter to carry its birth announcement.

STOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

WeActive Schools is a sportscotland led programme designed to encourage children and young people to get active. sportscotland works in partnership with Border Sport and Leisure Trust to encourage more children in the Borders to take part in extra-curricular activities. To develop the extra-curricular programme that Active Schools Galashiels already has in place we are looking for volunteers to come and help us. If you think you could maybe spare 1 hour per week then Active Schools would really like you to get in touch. We need volunteers to help us with different activities from after school clubs to helping at festivals. Any contribution you think you could make would be hugely appreciated. If you are interested in finding out more about volunteering through Active Schools please contact Lesley Kerr Lkerr@bslt.org.uk or **07887471127**

'Stow Railway - Past, Present and Future'

Between January and March 2015 the whole school will be learning about 'Stow Railway - Past, Present and Future' in anticipation of the opening of the railway in September 2015. It is hoped that the work will be displayed in a community exhibition in the summer term. We held a community planning event on 14th January in the school. If you could contribute to the project in anyway please contact the school.

Stow Parent Council - Family Ceilidh

The Parent Council are holding a Family Ceilidh on Saturday 7th February 4.30-6.30 pm at the school. Everyone welcome! There will be stovies, refreshments, music, dancing and a raffle. Tickets available at the school and Post Office.

DOG POO FAIRY STRIKES AGAIN!

This time she is leaving a little gifts all over Stow School playground. Dog mess is dangerous to children. Do NOT encourage the dog poo fairy - **PLEASE DO NOT WALK YOUR DOG IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS!**



SUNDRIES

Note from the Stitches o' Stow

A People's Panel is being stitched for The Great Tapestry of Scotland and it is hoped that a large number of people will add a few stitches each, no experience of stitching required. The People's Panel will be in the Scottish Parliament between 13th Jan and 28th Feb 2015. You can add your stitches on Tuesdays, Fridays or Saturdays between 10.30 and 12.30.

"Chernobyl Children Lifeline, which is centred in Stow, is holding a fundraising film evening at The Heart of Hawick on Friday, 6th February. The film to be shown is "The Sting" starring Robert Redford, Paul Newman and Robert Shaw. Anyone wishing to support the charity by attending should contact Fraser Simm...transport may be available!

FINE ART EXHIBITION

by Lauder Artist Robert Goodwin
1st to 28th February 2015 Cloudhouse Café and Gallery in Stow
Open: Tues - Sat 9am to 4pm. Sun 10am to 3pm. Admission Free
This exhibition brings together a selection of Goodwin's paintings from his studio. His use of colour, texture, vibrant light and shade create inspirational landscapes, seascapes and still life.

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
Second Saturday of every month - Old Time Dancing 7.30pm

SPECIAL EVENTS

28 January: Galawater Camera Club - practical session -Stow Church
6 February: "The Sting" showing at Heart of Hawick. Fundraising film evening for Chernobyl Children Lifeline

7 February: Family Ceilidh at Stow Primary School, 4.30-6.30pm

1 - 28 February: FINE ART EXHIBITION by Lauder Artist Robert Goodwin at the Cloudhouse Café and Gallery. Admission Free

14 February: Old Time Dancing - Bon Accord - 7.30pm

March: date t.b.c. OAP Society coffee morning

14 March: Old Time Dancing - Keith Robertson - 7.30pm

28 March: Sound Out Open Mic Night

11 April: Old Time Dancing - Stuart Anderson - 7.30pm

24 - 27 April: Galawater Outdoor Activities Club trip to Shore Lodge, Arran

spotlight on

Bob Fleet



Everyone knows Bob! He was the one who introduced industrial quantities of pancakes at the Galawater Horticultural Society plant sales. Have you ever ended up with a tray of 20 birch or oak trees to plant? They will be from Bob. If you see a stall at any community event with wood shavings flying everywhere and surrounded by lots of excited children (and adults) making their own wooden whistles and gypsy roses, that'll be Bob the Bodger. Have your children had a spookily fun time in Wooplaw woods at Halloween? That would have been organised by Bob. Stow Park floods and there's someone canoeing in the park - of course, that's Bob! These are just a few of the things that have Bob's touch - slightly eccentric, always enjoyable, always open to everyone.

Bob throws himself into all his activities with unquenchable enthusiasm and enviable energy but this conceals a long time of working very hard and seriously for the village community. The job as manager of the hospital laboratory at the Borders General Hospital brought Bob, Moira and their young family to Stow in 1989. The village was a very attractive place to live with an excellent school, two shops, a cafe, and a lively social life with a pub and two hotels. Stow was also ideal because it is here that Bob found a garden that had a house attached!

Having young children can help a family integrate into a community but also Bob liked to take an active part. He joined the PTA and later the School Board. He was a member of the Stow Sports Committee - instigating an enjoyable children's event that was much like a horizontal bungee jump and even a hot air balloon one year! Bob also resuscitated the Galawater Horticultural Society after it had been moribund for 13 years and he helped in starting up the Stow Parish Archive. Added to all of this, he was a member of the Community Council for a number of years, helping it develop into a more democratic group.

Perhaps Bob is best known for his work for our local community woodland at Wooplaw. He and the family discovered the woodland not long after they arrived in Stow and they then began to visit on a regular basis, as it is a marvellous place for children and families. Never content to sit back, Bob started to take an active interest and began to learn about green wood-working. He has gone from strength to strength and progressed to such a degree that he now has his own little woodturning business selling articles in 'The Crafters' co-operative in Melrose Square. He became a Wooplaw Warden and was a mainstay for many of the events held there over the years. He ultimately became chair and in 2012 oversaw the 25th anniversary celebrations of the founding of Wooplaw - which is the first ever community woodland in the U.K. Bob's great love of woodlands continues and he is now chair of the Tweed Valley Forest Festival. For him, life is full of endless possibilities - a series of what ifs? So Bob has a go and the community benefits.

On the subject of woodlands, over the past few years there seem to be stretches of trees growing up along the roadsides around Stow - they could be described as a kind of linear forest - does this look like the hand of Bob?



GOODBYE AND HELLO!!

It was sad to see Ronnie, Susan and family leave the Cloudhouse after several years of excellent service in this now iconic establishment. We wish them all well in their future ventures. Since opening on 11th November, the Cloudhouse is in the creative hands of Gemma Blacker. Say hello to her team Zanna, Merlin and chef, Alistair - all recruited from the Gala Water area. WiFi is now on the menu, together with superb food and service.