

Stow & Fountainhall

community newsletter
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www.stow-borders.co.uk

free copy



STOW COMMUNITY LEARNING HUB GETS UNDERWAY

Stow Community Learning Hub With the summer holidays coming to an end and the autumn hues just around the corner we have devised a superb programme of events to keep you busy through the colder days and nights. Coupled with a new website going live soon, we have an exciting period ahead!!

We are absolutely delighted to be able to offer language classes through Stow Community Learning Hub at its home in Stow Primary School. These classes commence this September offering fun and professional teachings for children and adults.

Under the tuition of Kath Lothian, our children's Spanish Classes commenced on **Thursday 5 September** running for a 10 week block at the cost of £65. We will also commence our German Stage 1 Classes for Adults on **Wednesday 25 September**, again for a block of 10 weeks, at the cost of £72. If you have missed the start of a block and would like to join the class, please get in touch. If we can accommodate you we will and if that's not possible we would still like to note your interest so we can plan for future classes and keep you informed.

We would also love to hear from you if you are interested in a learning a language? Whether that be adults French/Spanish and or, kids German/French please let us know. We are in a fortunate position to have a wonderful teacher who is keen to offer lessons.

To book your place, give us your views, make suggestions, ask for information, or simply make contact please email stowcommunityhub@gmail.com or via [facebook.com/StowCommunityHub](https://www.facebook.com/StowCommunityHub) or call the [School Office 01578 730218](tel:01578730218).

Have a look below at our planned schedule for the coming months. We will continue to advertise these on Facebook, where you can confirm your interest and /or attendance, or use any of the contacts above. If you are interested in our language course please come back to us ASAP so we can gauge demand.

Please do contact us if you have any questions, in the meantime, enjoy the rest of the summer sunshine and we look forward to welcoming you all over the coming weeks.



Ukulele Club	Wednesday	18:00-19:00	28.08.19 - 18.12.19
German Stage 1 (Adults Only)	Wednesday	19:00-21:00	25.09.19 - 27.11.19
Christmas Crafts - Tree Felt Decorations	Saturday	10:30-15:30	02.11.19 - 09.11.19
Christmas Crafts - Sustainable Wrapping	Wednesday	18:00-20:00	04.12.19 - 04.12.19
Christmas Crafts - Pom Pom Wreaths	Saturday	10:30-15:30	07.12.19 - 14.12.19
Mindfulness for Parents/Carers	Tuesday	18:30-20:30	22.10.19 - 12.11.19
Internet Safety Follow UP	TBC		
Spanish Club (Children Only)	Thursday	15:15-16:05	05.09.19 - 14.11.19
French Club (Children Only)	TBC		
German Club (Children Only)	TBC		
Creative Writing	TBC		



what's the story
of this poor wee chap?
see p 4

WHO CAME HERE BEFORE US (AND WHAT DID THEY GET UP TO...)?

In June the SSE Toddleburn Wind Farm Community Fund awarded £11,250 to Stow and Fountainhall Community Council for a book on the history of the area, to be produced by a local historian.

The book will cover from the earliest known history of the area around 5AD to the present day and will include elements such as the right of sanctuary, the visits of various medieval kings, the weaving mills and the Victorian railway

system of which Fountainhall junction was an important site. Modern developments will also be included such as the recent wind-farms and return of the railway.

Material will be drawn from the archive maintained by the Gala Water History and Heritage Association, GWHHA, as well as from members of the local community. If you have a story to tell, be ready to share it!



Congratulations and Well Done to the Stow Bowling Team who won The Henderson Machinery Division 3 of the Border Bowling League for 2019. This means that next year they will move up to Division 2. They won 12 matches and only lost 2 away matches (very close they were too). Their nearest rivals were St Ronans and Wilton B who both won 9 matches and lost 5.

We now have our new changing facility up and running and it not only looks great it has made such a difference already. It now means that all our bowling equipment and lockers are not taking up space in the club house, and we have a designated changing area. We have had a lot of excellent comments about the green this year from many visiting clubs thanks must go to the our contractor and green keeper who cuts the green everyday! Thanks also to Hamish who keeps the flowers looking really colourful throughout the bowling season.

It is now coming to the end of the bowling season and all the in house competitions are coming to a close where we find out who is the Men's and Ladies champion for 2019.

The 'Closing of the Green' is on 21 September with our presentation night on Saturday 2 November.



STOW PRIMARY SCHOOL RECYCLING STATION IS OPEN TO ALL IN THE COMMUNITY SO PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!



You can safely get rid of: plastic toothbrushes; toothpaste; ink cartridges; any kind of household battery; clean milk bottle tops; pens – all types including highlighters etc. and tipp-ex to be recycled.

There is also a book swap and rag bag collection.

IF YOU COME DOWN TO THE PLAYGROUND TODAY...

Fountainhall Parent council are delighted to have taken delivery of our new table tennis table. Funding was received from Longpark EDF wind farm allowing us to purchase the table.

Kids have already been practising their skills. Grab your bats and come down to the school playground for a game.



GALA WATER SINGERS NEWS

As the season shifts it heralds the **restart for our community choirs**. The main choir started on 10 September 7-9 pm with the Junior Choir starting on 17 September 6.15-7 pm. Both meet at Fountainhall Primary School in term time. For more information contact John on 01578 730289 or just turn up. First two weeks are offered as a free trial and it's not too late to join. New members are welcome to join at any time.

Our Winter Concert is on Sunday 15 December 2019 at 3pm in Stow Church. See posters going up around the community for more details nearer the time or check out our Facebook page.





The Stow Community Trust has had a busy summer, with the Station House development project well on-track, and an application to the Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) gaining approval.

For more information on the work of the Trust, and to keep up to date with the latest news, please visit: stowhub.co.uk

The Station House

In June, the Trust were pleased to announce that the funding target had been reached, with contributions from Borders Railway Blueprint, Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF), Railway Heritage Fund, SCRF and BCCF. This

excellent news has given the project a real boost, and work has progressed at pace to appoint building contractors and engage the community in this exciting project.

Throughout May and June the Trust held a community survey, designed to solicit responses and opinion on how the spaces within the new Station House can be utilised. Over 100 responses were received, with the information collated and presented to Scottish Borders Council as part of the project development programme.

Key dates for the project are as follows:

2019

July - Building Warrant submitted
August - Tenders invited for building works
September - Building contractors appointed
October - Building work commences

2020

March / April - Fit out
April / May - Building work concluded
Opening Spring 2020

Community Trust Annual General Meeting

The Trust will be holding our AGM in October, please see the local notice board, or visit our website, stowhub.co.uk for further details.

Stow Community Trust joins DTAS

Stow Community Trust has recently been accepted as a member of Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS). In recent years there has been a huge increase in the number of development trusts set up across Scotland. They are diverse in nature: large and small, rural and urban, mainland and island based. What development trusts all share in common however is a determination to see their community or neighbourhood flourish, through community-led activity, partnership working and enterprise.

As a membership organisation, the Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) uses its expertise to inform, support and represent this network of development trusts, facilitating the sharing of knowledge and expertise and encouraging mutualism and co-operation.

Stow Community Trust is looking forward to benefiting from the support that DTAS will provide to help us to grow and develop our work here in Stow. They will provide professional advice and resources that covers practically all areas of our activities. We will also benefit from the opportunity to be part of the wider network, sharing experiences and together finding solutions to the challenges that we all have in common. This support will be really valuable to us as we move forward with the Station House.

A SHOCKING STORY FROM STOW'S PAST & MORE RECENT NEWS



The Gala Water History and Heritage Association continues to explore the cultural life of our villages and countryside.

In May we were delighted to combine with the Gala Water Singers, Stow Primary School, Galawater Camera Club, Stow Pipe Band and other parties to research and perform a concert based on local music. At the heart of this was research by Ruth Flavin – and the recordings and transcripts used in the concert are now part of the valuable local archive.

In June we were pleased to change the display in the reading room, which now features the local mills; many of the new items have been donated by members of the local community. Why not come along and have a look?

The GWHHA's next venture is to invite the local community to an exhibition centred on local witches of bygone times. This event will feature the story of the six Stow witches executed in 1649 and also incorporate the annual "Friends Evening" on 15 November, followed by an open exhibition the following day. Please add this date to your diaries. New members are always welcome – just pop into the town hall reading room.

STOW HEALTH CENTRE EARLY NOTICE OF CLOSURES

Stow Health Centre will only be closed for 25 and 26 December and then 1 and 2 January.

You do not need to order double amounts of your medication, but if you could order in plenty of time, this will allow the dispensary staff to prepare your medication.



Free Heartfulness relaxation and meditation classes continue to run in Stow on Tuesdays 9.30 am and Wednesdays 7.45 pm.

All over 18 welcome.

Please ring Sarah 07784 740179 for details.



A KIND GESTURE



Alistair Riddell cares deeply about Stow village and gives a lot of his time to physically looking after the old churchyard. He was cutting grass there one day last year when a visitor from Glasgow arrived, via the Archive, seeking information about his family.

The two men chatted for a while and then were successful in finding the visitor's family headstones. As the man left, he spontaneously gave Alistair £100 to help with looking after the graveyard.

In the picture you can see the fine mower, acquired from Sherriff's and maintained by them, which that generous donation bought. Pushed by a smiling Alistair, it's a welcome and practical addition to the village while also adding its own wee story to our collection.



SILENT AUCTION

BEING HELD BY STOW AND HERIOT CHURCH

SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER AT 2 PM
FOUNTAINHALL VILLAGE HALL

WE HOPE TO HAVE A LARGE VARIETY OF ITEMS
UP FOR AUCTION AND WE WILL BE
SERVING REFRESHMENTS

PROCEEDS TO STOW AND HERIOT CHURCH
ENTRY £2

A SAD AND CAUTIONARY TALE

Anyone who has seen the film 'Babe' (about a pig who herds sheep, for those who haven't) will remember the sheep's cries of 'WOLF' whenever a sheepdog comes to herd them. For sheep, there is still the terror of being hunted by a dog despite the domestication of both animals over centuries. It's those hunting instincts of a dog that farmers have harnessed, also over centuries, to produce the adaptation that is a sheepdog - a dog which can move sheep around without raising their fear to the level of panic. Even so, not panicking in the presence of a sheepdog is something sheep have to learn, and the sheepdog and shepherd use a skilled approach to help the sheep with that learning.




The young lamb in the picture was early in that learning when it, and its flock of young lambs recently separated from their mothers, experienced a 'WOLF' in their field. And it wasn't a sheepdog. Too inexperienced not to panic, they ran as far and as fast as they could to escape it. Maybe the dog was still on the lead; maybe it was at the edge of the field some metres away; maybe it was being carried? Still, it was a 'WOLF' and the lambs ran. And then they stopped running. WHAM! They'd hit a wire fence which toppled them and stopped them running. But it was the leaders who took that first hit and the rest of the flock couldn't see what was happening (blind panic does that) and kept running until they too went WHAM! - into all the lambs who had already fallen. There was running and falling and crashing and crushing until they couldn't run any more.

Afterwards, most were shocked and bruised; the one in the picture was in a worse state. Six weeks later, as we go to press, the cast has just come off the broken leg; how successful the healing will be known soon. One lamb had to be euthanased. There are not many weeks in the year when farmers hang notices on the edge of their fields asking dog walkers to please avoid this field for a specific time. Sharing space in the countryside between landowner and public is legal and not disputed. But sharing brings negotiation. Sometimes the needs of livestock mean a 'WOLF' in a field can cause tragedy when at other times in the year, a well-controlled 'WOLF' will not. If there is a sign at the edge of a field asking that dogs be kept out for a specific time, please respect it.



STOW COMMUNITY GARDEN



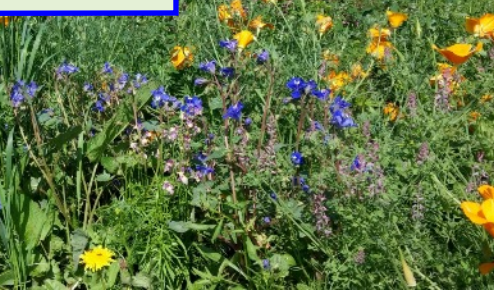


Our garden is looking great thanks to the hard work from all the volunteers. It's alive with plenty of birds, butterflies, bees and many colourful flowers that we have all been enjoying.

The opening party was a success thanks to the perfect organisation of Wendy Ball and many delicious cakes with a scavenger hunt for children.

KEEP FIT WITH WEEDING.

We need you at our **Free Weeding Wednesdays Workout** sessions on **Wednesday mornings from 10 till 1 o'clock**. Also if you want to know more about gardening theory and practice our experts (no, we haven't had enough of them) will be at hand to answer your questions.

If you would like to donate plants, bulbs, seeds or garden centre vouchers please contact Andrea at andrea.carlino@yahoo.co.uk.





After a fun filled Summer club, the club has reopened for a new academic year. The summer club was terrific fun with activities like water fights, den building, picnic by the river, weeding at the community garden, trips to Portobello beach and Wooplaw wood.

The club is a charity, not for profit organisation; we operate solely to support parents with their child care needs and to provide a safe and fun environment for their children. We rely on grants which our committee, at the moment consisting of only three people, is very skilful at applying for and getting. We are not

government funded and our fees cover only a small part of our costs. We would appreciate your help so if you can spare a few hours every month your support would be hugely appreciated as the club is a small but important part of our community.

Please contact Andrea at stowkidsclub@hotmail.com to see if we can help you with your child care needs or if you would like to volunteer either as a committee member or as a helper one afternoon a week. The latter can count towards your Duke of Edinburgh award.



WIND FARM FUNDS

LAST APPLICATION DATES 2019
EDF LONGPARK (Foundation Scotland)
& SSE TODDLBURN
(combined deadlines & panels)

DEADLINE 19 October
PANEL MEETING 3 December

Notification of the outcome within two weeks.

AWARDS : JUNE 2019

SSE TODDLBURN

Parish of Stow Community Council

£11,250

To commission a local historian to write a book on the history of the local area

CURRENT, PAST & FUTURE FINANCES

There is currently £46,480.27 available in Longpark Community Fund and £27,444.40 in the Toddleburn Fund for projects benefitting the Parish of Stow.

It's now nine years since EDF's Longpark Community Fund was launched. Since then grants totalling £423,991.72 have been awarded from the Fund to projects benefitting many different aspects of life in the Parish, from preservation of local heritage and culture to sports opportunities and activities for children and families.

The Fund has supported projects costing £1,039,558.16 in total, so for every £1 awarded from Longpark Community Fund £2.56 was brought in from other sources. A report on the Fund and the outcomes it has enabled is available to download at <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/communities/funds/longpark-fund-news/>

Similarly, SSE's Toddleburn Fund has awarded in excess of £300,000 since its inception eight years ago. A summary of awards made in 2018/19 is now available in their new Community Investment Report, available here: <https://sse.com/communities/communityinvestmentannualreview/>. Previous years' reports are also available on this page.

In addition, in 2016 the Parish of Stow Community Funds Panel decided, after consultation with the Community Council, to invest some of the monies from both wind farm funds in a long-term 'community endowment'. This is a pot that should grow over the years to allow more local initiatives to be funded into the future, and potentially beyond the lives of the two windfarms. £70,000 has been squirrelled away in this pot, which is now worth £84,024.41! The endowment is managed by Foundation Scotland on behalf of the community.

BABY CLUB 0-3's
(WITH SAMMIE)

TUESDAYS
9:30 - 10.30AM



STOW TOWN HALL

TODDLERS
(PRE-SCHOOL)

THURSDAYS
9:30 - 11AM

We've looked forward to our new Autumn term with a few changes to our Tuesday music group. Sammie has brought some exciting changes to Tuesday and introduced our new Baby Group where under 3's can enjoy a mixture of heuristic play, music and messy play, a fantastic creative variety for little explorers!

Toddlers continues on Thursday and we welcome new members to both groups - please come and join us!

Huge thank you also to the EDF Longpark Wind Farm Fund for additional funds to help us continue through into the new year and purchase new soft play equipment and a book corner for the group.

For any further information please contact Kat (07708 395619) or Sammie (07953 713772).



Fountainhall Baby & Toddler Group

We are a warm, friendly and welcoming bunch who love to meet new people and their teenies. Looking after the cherubs can be the hardest job out there. We empathise with the tough times and celebrate the good.

- Warm greeting on arrival 😊
- Friendly and open environment 😊
- Cuppas & biscuits ☕🍪
- Hugs on demand 🤗

#itsoknottobeek

We will be at Fountainhall Village Hall every Monday 10-11.30 but work on a drop-in basis (we know how challenging it can be to get out on time 🤦🏻) We kindly ask for a £2 donation per family which will include tea, coffee and biscuits We hope to meet you soon 😊

Find us on Facebook

@Fountainhall Baby & Toddler Group

@Fountainhall Friends & Residents

School has started again and we have welcomed new P1s and new Head Teacher Kerry Collins into the school. Last term seems a distant memory but what a busy term it was before giving the P7 leavers and Kevin Wilson a Stow farewell and sending them good wishes for the future.



Congratulations to all those who were awarded medals when the Braw Lad and Lass came to visit, also the competitors in the Borders School Chess Tournament who came third.

The school was excited to welcome the BBC into the school. P7 pupil Pierre had entered and done well in their Young Reporters competition about the sustainability work he had been involved in. The BBC showed and worked with the children to direct, write and do the sound and filming for reports. This resulted in the P7s making two films and interviewing the rest of the school about the work done and what it means. They can be seen at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00kl3tf/clips> or search BBC LAB clips. Well worth a look.

The school became Scottish Champions at the Better Energy Schools Awards for their work on sustainability at an award ceremony in London Zoo hosted by the Young People's Trust for the Environment. Children met with like-minded children and adults including Dermot O'Leary, Naomi Wilkinson, Andy Stanton and Adrian Cale. The school was delighted that the EDF Longpark Wind Farm Fund and Stow Community Council enabled all #100 Disrupters to enjoy a day out by sponsoring a trip to Edinburgh Zoo for the those not in London.

The school was very proud to receive the Plastic Free School status from Surfers against Sewage. Another award to add to the growing collection! The school entered the Galashiels fancy dress in June rapping the recycling message to the town from a #we are the change float and taking second place for their effort.

Huge congratulations go to those who competed in the Mini Olympics, winning overall in the small schools' section. The children showed incredible teamwork and resilience; skills well developed and used by Stow children in many areas of their lives.

Along with other Galashiels schools, Stow won the 2019 Ivor Goodsite Hoarding competition for their artwork showing why they love living in the Borders. Stow's hoarding demonstrated their love of Stow and the colours in nature around them. The hoardings can be seen on Huddersfield street in Galashiels.

The P6/7s raised an amazing £500 for Radio Borders Cash for Kids. Money was raised by selling toast and milk at break time. This social enterprise uses milk in glass bottles and palm oil free bread to raise money for different charities throughout the year.

The outdoor classroom is continuing to take shape. Hedges and willow are looking really good. Planters have been installed and benches are on their way. Both of these have been kindly given by Community Council via windfarm funds. A big thank you goes to Pat and Sandy Bruce who have been incredible in their enthusiastic help and support for this project. The school would welcome anyone else in the community who would be interested in getting involved in any way with the garden, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thanks to all those who came along to the last sustainable Community Café. Next Community Café will be the Macmillan coffee morning on Friday 27 September 10 am -12.15. Please come along to meet and support us and this worthy cause. The following Community café will be 10 October where Outdoor Learning will be showcased. There will be a Remembrance service on Monday 11 November afternoon to which, as always, the community is welcome to come to.

As always, the recycling centre is open to all at the front entrance, come along and see what else you can recycle at the school. While you're in, why not buy a bamboo toothbrush? Help look after the environment, support the school's social enterprise and learn more about what you can do. P4/5 are in charge of sales this term, using their numeracy and literacy, teamwork and leadership skills among others along the way.



A STITCH IN HISTORY!

The building work for the Great Tapestry of Scotland's new home in Galashiels is now underway and preparations for the internal gallery space has commenced. Part of the preparation is a stitched *Welcome Panel* and the Stitches o' Stow are really excited to be asked to help create this new panel.

Part of the project is to reach out to the community and let anyone add a stitch. **We are having an open day where people can come along and add their stitch to the Welcome Panel in the Reading Room in Stow Town Hall on Thursday 14 November between 2-4 pm and 7-8.30 pm. Everyone welcome, no sewing experience needed!**

Look forward to seeing you.

Stitches o' Stow

We will be holding a
HOGMANAY PARTY ON TUESDAY 31 DECEMBER
FROM 8PM IN FOUNTAINHALL VILLAGE HALL

A night of live music from
THE TUBBY HORSE COMPANY
in a friendly family atmosphere.
Bar and music to bring in the new year. See our
facebook page for more information.

Stow Highland Dance School
Annual Dancing Display
Saturday 23 November 2019
2.30pm Stow Town Hall
Further information available from
Amanda on 07767 616229

