



Stowed Out returns on 13 August 2022

Stowed Out will go ahead this year as a live event on Saturday 13th August thanks to a grant from the windfarm fund. For the past two years, the festival team had adapted to the pandemic by curating two virtual Stowed Outs which kept the spirit of the festival alive, and attracted views from all over the world.

The team are now planning the festival's return to the quiting green, eager to bring an eclectic mix of artists, bands, spoken word performers, children's entertainment, bar and local food to the good people of Stow. *The Stowed Out Team*



Keep an eye on the facebook page www.facebook.com/stowedoutfestival for further announcements.

The cloudhouse café reopens on 1 April



...and you're not being April fooled!

Tracey Littlejohn and her son Lewis are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to The Cloudhouse Cafe.

NEW OPENING TIMES:

Tue, Wed, Thurs : 8.30am - 4.30pm
Fri: 8.30am - 10pm with evening supper menu. Saturday: 8.30am - 6pm
Sunday: 10am - 3pm Monday : closed

Watch out for special events. Come and speak to us about private events, parties or business meetings.



"The train stopping at platform..."

All trains to stop at Stow

Since the opening of the Borders Railway in 2015 and the arrival of coronavirus in 2020, considerable discussion has taken place between local campaigners, Bill Jamieson and Fraser Simm and ScotRail representatives about the service to Stow. At the heart of the discussions was that while the overall service was half hourly, Stow had only hourly scheduled stops during the daytime off-peak.

It was not clear how much off-peak demand for a 30 minute service there was in Stow, but with a much greater number of passengers than predicted using the peak service, it seemed extending the half hourly stops throughout the day was worth considering. Especially when Shawfair, with much lower passenger numbers, had enjoyed a full service from day one.

Positive discussions took place about this but ceased when coronavirus broke out and services were cut back in response to the greatly reduced

footfall – quoted as 95% down. At the moment the local service is hourly throughout. From May, ScotRail will be reinstating the half hourly service to Tweedbank – with the extra stipulation that all trains will stop in Stow. The press release noted that Stow will have "a half-hourly service all day for the first time".

The new timetable - which is essentially the same as the pre-March 2020 (minus the 05.33 train to Edinburgh) will begin on 15 May. It is a trial and subject to review but it is hoped that it will encourage more passengers back to the train on both longer and local journeys.

A draft timetable can be downloaded by going to: www.scotrail.co.uk/timetable-routes/east-scotland. Click on the 'Edinburgh to Tweedbank' section and download the PDF link at the foot of the update information.

Note from the editors: Bravo Bill Jamieson and Fraser Simm!!!! A big thank you from all of us.

2022 Census

The next census in Scotland will take place on Sunday 20 March 2022.

For more than 200 years, Scotland has relied on the information the census provides. It allows the Scottish Government and other public bodies to make decisions about how money is spent on essential services like schools, roads and healthcare. These help to improve the lives of everyone living and working in Scotland. The census is of huge benefit to us all, it enables planning for the years to come. All information is used anonymously.



For the first time, the Scottish census can be completed digitally, with paper questionnaires too. Help is available to complete the forms, from a free helpline (0800 030 8308) to online support.

The census becomes part of our history, enabling our descendants to learn about us and how we lived. It is a vital resource for historians and genealogists. It is crucial that the people of Scotland participate, and play their part in recording an accurate picture of our country.

STOW VILLAGE SHOP & POST OFFICE

COVID19 – There are still households finding themselves in isolation in the Parish: if anyone is needing supplies dropped off, please phone us on 01578 730225 and we will organise a delivery.

SLEDGES or SUN CREAM, GLOVES FOR SNOW or GLOVES for GARDENING? – As the seasons evolve (sometimes all in one day) we try to keep up to date with what customers need – pop in to see if we have what you are looking for.

TRAVELLING ABROAD – as the opportunity for foreign travel is opening up a wee reminder of a couple of travel money options:

■ We have **Euros and US Dollars** in stock and other currencies can be pre-ordered as required.

■ **Post Office Travel Money Card** – this is a prepaid card with 23 currencies available on it. The card can be obtained at the Post Office Counter with an immediate card if you are heading away in the next day or two or can be ordered in branch for home delivery with your name on it. It helps our footfall if you set this up in branch (as opposed to online). If your current card is about to expire we can organise a new one for you – again this helps our footfall. Any questions about this pop in for a leaflet or a chat.

LOCAL AND BANK HOLIDAYS 2022 - Easter/May/June – Dates we are taking are still to be confirmed. These will be displayed in the shop door at least a week prior to each one.

*Best wishes and good health to everyone.
from all the team at the Shop and Post Office*

New Age Kurling



Fountainhall New Age Kurling takes place in the Village Hall on Tuesdays from 9.30-11.30am. Intended to provide older people with an activity that is fun and provides gentle exercise as well as a good natter, age however is irrelevant. Pre-Covid we used to meet up with Clovenford Kurlers twice a year and are hoping to resume the tradition. Refreshments are provided. The total cost is £3. Newcomers welcome. If you would like more information, please phone Bob or Fiona. **Tel: 01578 760392**

Move it or lose it!

Before Covid, Fountainhall Village Hall hosted a gentle exercise class for those less mobile. It was enjoyed by all. We are inviting expressions of interest to start it up again.

Anyone interested please contact Jenny **01578 760297** or email jjmushlin@gmail.com. We need people to sign up for it to happen!!!! Everyone is welcome.



Do you have to choose between eating or heating?

Lauder Larder can help with food (see Article on page 3 opposite). For a delivery, contact Jenny (address below) for a list of foods available. Please contact on or before Thursday for a Sunday delivery.

Open to anyone. No application process, no means testing.

If a heating bill is unaffordable (or you are having difficulty paying an unexpected extra expense,) Stow Community Council can let you have a grant of up to £150 from the Stow Covid Hardship Fund. No form filling. Just phone or email Jenny on **01578 760297** or jjmushlin@gmail.com

FOUNTAINHALL SWI

In December, the members of Fountainhall SWI celebrated 95 years in the village together with a Christmas party. Due to Covid restrictions we were unable to go ahead with our planned January meeting, but our programme for the rest of the year is as follows:

March 16th – Floral Art Workshop

April 20th – Talk about The General Store in Selkirk

May 18th – Talk and Demonstration of Stained Glass

June 16th or 18th – Outing

September 21st – Ceramics

October 19th – Christmas Decorations

November – AGM/Air Ambulance Talk (and sales table for the charity)

Meetings are held in Fountainhall Village Hall at 7.30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month (excluding July and August). New members and visitors are always welcome.

The new Craft and Chat Group, which meets in the Station House, Stow on the first Tuesday of the month, has been so popular that it has been expanded to include the third Wednesday too. The informal get-togethers enable knitters, stitchers and other crafters to meet and have a blether from 2 until 4 pm.

For any further information, please contact Dianne Wilson, President, on **01896 668381**.



My name's Doddie fundraising goes to Mongolia



Fundraising
in support of

**MY
NAME'S
DODDIE**
foundation

The longest and toughest horse race in the world ...the Mongol Derby has just accepted a Crookston, business woman as a competitor. Alice Gully, who runs Aardvark safaris, hopes to raise thirty thousand pounds for the 'My name is Doddie' charity which aims to find a cure for motor neurone disease.

The greatest equine adventure in the world covers 1000 kilometers over ten days in August reaching from Kharkhorin to the Caspian Sea covering some of the most inhospitable terrain in the world. Alice and her co rider Kate McTaggart, also from the Borders, will race through huge valleys, river crossings, wooded hills, wetland, dunes and open steppe. They will live with the herders at night, exist on a diet of mutton and offal and rely on their wits by day. Temperatures will range from freezing to 38 degrees.

The race is dangerous, only half the jockeys complete it and the chances of injury are high.

Alice and Kate say they have been inspired by local Scottish Rugby legend Doddie Weir's attitude, resilience and humour in tackling the challenges of MND as well as his drive to raise money to combat its effects. The pair hope to contribute to the fund and, in their own small way, encourage others to take on life changing challenges. Training has begun, we wish them great success.

For more information visit www.mynamesdoddie.co.uk

Lauder Larder

The Lauder Larder opened in February 2021 as a response to covid. Initially based in the village Bowling Club, we moved to The Smiddy next to Lauder Leisure Centre. On 6th February 2022, we found permanent premises next door to The Byre. Thanks to the Lauder Community & Leisure Centre for their kindness. Food banks are a vital resource for many people who for reasons outwith their control find themselves needing a little extra help.

The Byre shelves are stocked with non-perishable food items like soups, pasta & sauces, breakfast cereal, tea, coffee, toiletries, cleaning products, pet foods and much more. Our service includes open-to-all regular drop ins, orders for collection and delivery and Christmas food hampers and gifts.

Since we opened we have helped over 1000 people, plus lots of cats and dogs.

We have a Donation box outside The Byre and a rescue table with food that would otherwise go to landfill.

Lauder Larder is open Wednesdays 2-4pm & Sundays 10am -2pm.



We have been overwhelmed by the response/donations of food, money and vouchers and help from the community and our many sponsors, local business, community groups and individuals.

A big thank you to our wonderful weekly volunteers who have driven this project forward and helped develop it into what it is today ... we will continue to be available for everyone who needs us!

We have a Sunday delivery service to Stow and Fountainhall, call or email Jenny on **01578 760297** or jjmushlin@gmail.com if you would like a delivery.

Our motto is : WE ARE OPEN FOR EVERYONE

Come in and see what we've got. Take what you need. Leave what you can (absolutely no obligation). Swap what you want.



STOW BOWLING CLUB: New Season

When this article was originally written, it said 'So far things are looking good for the new season'. That was just before we had the biggest floods we have seen for years...

On Sunday morning, members dashed to the club to lift tables, cables, and anything that could get damaged. We secured wooden panels in the doorways and siliconed them in place, but alas, the water seeped through the walls and up through the carpet. The photo (right) taken was just before we left and it was reported that it rose 4 inches inside the clubhouse.

Luckily there was no damage, apart from the Hoover blowing up and the carpet needing cleaned.

Floods aside, matches are all scheduled for both men and women's league matches this year, and all our in-house competitions are set to return to normal. We are looking forward to introducing the ladies team to the league, after a long absence.

We were privileged late last year to be given a grant by the SSE Toddleburn Fund. It will improve our seating area to the back of the clubhouse, allowing a more comfortable experience for members and visiting players. Slabs were laid recently in preparation for the new Gazebo and sitting spot. Over the years we have made a lot of improvements to encourage more members and enhance experience for existing ones.

Our season begins in April and we are having an Open Day on Sun 24th April where anyone can come along and have a go at playing bowls or just join us for a social.

Looking forward to a great year!



Water, water everywhere – the clubhouse at the start of the flooding

70 years? Time to sit and rest...

The Community Council are hoping to apply to the Council and the Windfarm for a grant to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Our plans are to build a drystone bench overlooking Stow and Killochryett in the larch wood on the backroad to Fountainhall just past the turnoff out of the village. Discussions are underway with Nigel Miller.

We are proposing putting in steps and a disabled access from the road up to a platform with stone seating. There will be a memorial plaque and an information board. The picture, right, shows an example of the type of bench we are suggesting.



EDF Longpark Wind Farm Community Fund Awards

Application Deadlines for 2022 – The EDF Longpark Wind Farm Community Fund has another three application rounds in 2022 – in April, July and October. Deadline for the next round is 18 April. If you or your group has a project or activity in mind, please go to www.foundationscotland.org.uk/apply-for-funding/funding-available/longpark for more information.

18/04/2022

04/07/2022

03/10/2022



STOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL – Spring 2022

The Parish of Stow Community Council covers both Stow and Fountainhall.

- The January meeting was attended by representatives from Greystone Knowe Wind Farm (see article opposite) who gave a presentation and answered questions. Following concerns from the local community about the lack of information about the proposed development, we invited all South of Scotland MSPs to attend the February meeting. Christine Grahame provided written answers to questions we submitted. Colin Smyth, Labour MSP, attended the meeting and responded to questions about the wind farm; he is now taking the lack of consultation to the Scottish Government. He also invited responses from residents in relation to the wind farm.
- Road safety in Stow and the X95 bus service was also discussed. Mr Smyth is very aware of the X95 two hourly service and is pressing to get an hourly service restarted. Both he and Christine Grahame are following up on road accidents in Stow.
- The topics we have been discussing at our meetings are:
 - **The lack of signage in Stow and Fountainhall.** It is suggested that Stow should be 'Stow of Wedale' on all signs
 - **Creating a Stow domain** on the internet which would replace the Stow websites and be one place to go to for all organisations and events in Stow
 - **Creating an emblem** for the Parish of Stow, in consultation with the community
 - **Lack of public lavatories** in Stow
 - **Dog fouling:** Rose Hogg, Dog Education Officer, SBC attended the March meeting where solutions to the problem of dog fouling in Stow and Fountainhall were discussed.
- Community Council meetings are currently on zoom and take place on the first Monday of every month. Everyone is welcome to attend and free to leave the meeting at any point they choose. Anyone interested in coming to a meeting, or wanting to raise an issue, contact jjmushlin@gmail.com.

Stow Station House

We've had a busy time over the past few months with community groups using the Station House for the first time. Our inaugural Pop Up was a huge success and we are arranging others - keep watching for details to get your bookings in!

We will be re-advertising for a tenant/operator over the next few weeks and will make sure we get the right person to deliver what the community has asked for at our fantastic facilities.

In the meantime, if you would like to book the Station House for a party or event, please contact us via our Facebook page or by emailing gracemurraystow@gmail.com

Community Development Action Plan

We are hopeful that this work will begin over the next few weeks. Our aim is to develop a Community Development Action Plan that reflects what we all want for our community and to identify new work that will help to achieve your aspirations. We will be looking for your thoughts and ideas through events and questionnaires - so look out for this and get involved!

Community Shed

Listening to feedback, there seems to be a lot of support for the development of a Community Shed (also known as a Men's Shed). To begin the process an exploratory meeting in the Station House was had on Monday 7 March. More news to follow...



STOW COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRE

at Stow Primary School Open 24/7

Please remember to make use of this community resource!

Crisp packets, toothpaste tubes, plastic toothbrushes, pens, glue sticks, batteries, milk bottle tops, sweet and chocolate wrappers and ink cartridges are all accepted.

Follow the signs through the school car park.

Community litter pickers are also stored here for your use.



Greystone Knowe

At the January meeting of Parish of Stow Community Council, there was a brief presentation by Coriolis Energy outlining the proposal for the Greystone Knowe wind farm. The site is about 2.5km west of Fountainhall and about 2km south of Heriot, with 14 turbines each up to 180m in height. Concern was voiced at the meeting by the community about the lack of information and consultation prior to the consultation deadline. This led to local MSPs attending the CC meeting in February (see minutes overleaf). They are now taking the community's concerns to the Scottish Government.

More information about the development can be found here www.greystoneknowewindfarm.co.uk/

A montage taken from their website of the view of the turbines at Fountainhall

The website has further information, including more viewpoints and also maps, site plans etc. The montages, like the one above, are designed to be viewed at A4 size and at arm's length rather than on a computer screen. The community council does have the printed images if people wish to see them. The developer will also establish a community benefit fund similar to the existing funds from SSE Toddleburn and EDF Longpark.

These are very large turbines, situated close to Fountainhall. If you are concerned, you can access, on the website, a residential assessment in the application documentation for houses up to 2.5km distance from the nearest turbine. There is also a noise assessment for nearby houses. The planned access route uses the minor road to Fountainhall off the A7, with a large turning circle close to the entrance to Still Haugh, and then a new access road up to the site. People in Fountainhall are worried about the disruption this may cause with many heavy loads and possible road closures.

Views of the turbines from further away will be more limited by local topography, there will be some visibility from the higher parts of Stow and from the surrounding higher farmland.

This planning application is being handled by the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) of the Scottish Government due to its very large size. Their web page for Greystone Knowe is www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx?cr=ECU00003341

Scottish Borders Council will consider it at a planning meeting probably in July and make a recommendation, but responses from the public and the local community councils should be made to ECU (copied to SBC Planners).

Responses are still being accepted by email to ECU at Econsents_Admin@gov.scot quoting [ECU00003341](http://www.greystoneknowewindfarm.co.uk/) as the reference.



Current or proposed Wind Farm Applications affecting the Stow & Fountainhall Area



Scawd Law

Scawd Law is another large scheme which will enter the planning process very soon. The site is on the flanks of Windlestraw Hill, the highest of the Moorfoots, about 5km south of Greystone Knowe and Fountainhall and about 7km west of Stow, with up to 12 turbines up to 180m in height.

This area is close to Walkerburn and so Walkerburn CC is the host community. As usual other nearby communities such as Stow are also consulted, and several communities have made initial responses to the consultation process.

The developers' consultation can be found at <https://fredolsenrenewables.com/media/hasdpan1/scawd-a5-brochure.pdf>

Further information will become available very shortly when the application is formally launched. Again the application will be to the Energy Consents Unit. The developers are currently setting up a liaison group with local community councils which should also provide more information.



There will be extensive intervisibility of the Scawd Law and Greystone Knowe turbines, and in most other areas within 7km of the two schemes either one or other scheme will be visible, from higher ground.

The vantage points on the eastern side of Stow will have extensive views of both schemes, whilst the low areas around Stagehall will have none.



Wull Muir

Wull Muir is a further scheme about to be submitted to SBC Planners and is sited about 1.5km west of Heriot and about 6km north of Fountainhall.

The application is likely to be for eight turbines up to 135m in height and is very similar to the scheme refused permission only a year ago. The developers' web site is at www.energiekontor.co.uk/our-projects/wull-muir

There will be visibility of these turbines along the Gala Water valley, including



from parts of Fountainhall and around Torquhan. From higher ground, such as Lauder Common, all three schemes will be visible.

We're all aboard...



the learning curve

We say it every time, but it's incredible how much has happened since the autumn!

■ Children from Primary 2- 7 presented to the SBC Executive Committee in January this year on their COP26 and Disrupter experiences. They were great ambassadors for the school, with each child talking about different aspects and then responding to questions from the Committee. The panel was impressed by the children's knowledge and understanding of their subject, as well as their ability to respond to unplanned questions over a broad range of subjects.

■ Stow Primary School is now running a free breakfast club which is open to all children and operates between 8.15am and 8.30am every morning, providing free toast and cereal to all. If you would like your child to come, please contact the school.

■ The Stow Eco Garden has been awarded the maximum grant of £1500 from the Tesco Community Fund. Along with a fantastic donation of a water butt by Harbro in Peebles. The project is gaining huge community support and help, enabling the children to continue to learn new skills. Recently they have been preparing the raised beds (see *photo top right*) and sowing has started in the polytunnel. We are looking for topsoil and gardeners! If you are able to help, please contact the school.

■ In early December the children revisited the trees they had each planted the year before. This community tree planting project is in collaboration with the Borders Forest Trust who worked with the children to measure tree growth and check on the sapling's health. The Trust was delighted with both, and the 100% rate of survival which was very encouraging given that storm Arwen had just devastated many woodlands in the area. The new little plantation is on the bottom side of the back road just as you leave Stow towards Fountainhall.

■ ELC got new two-part suits which according to the children are "better than the old ones because they are easier to get on!" They are also more flexible, durable and waterproof. Together with P1 the children have already put them to great use, testing them to their limits with mud sliding, rainstorms and plenty of outdoor play.

■ The partnership through Connecting Classrooms has enabled links and connections to be made as the Commonwealth baton passed through India. Children have been learning about countries within the Commonwealth, the history of the baton and its amazing features. Primary 4-7 have been discovering new skills as they take part in rugby sessions given by the Galashiels Rugby Development Team.



■ The school has received an incredible gift from Lego following on from the 'Build the Change' workshop at COP26 proving just how important and valuable relationships are in cementing connections.

■ Christmas saw some great sustainable tips from the Disrupters including reducing food waste, stocking filler ideas, how to make your own crackers and other decorations. The Parent Council helped the children create sustainable decorations, which were sold in a fundraising event. Although the concert was not able to go ahead with a live audience due to COVID restrictions, it was great to see the virtual show, which the children had fun making using digital technology.

■ Thanks as always to the Parent Council who have made so many events possible within the school. Everyone Enjoyed the end of year chocolate coin hunt house challenge, Christmas goodies for the parties and a film afternoon.



STOW PRIMARY SCHOOL NEEDS YOUR HELP

If you know anyone in our local area who has a child/children of school age who has not enrolled with us, could you encourage them to do so or remind them that even though the advertised time for enrolment has passed they can still go onto the Scottish Borders website and enrol for school or ELC

www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20038/school_and_nursery_places

If you would like any further information, please contact the school on **01578 730218** or stowps@scotborders.gov.uk

SSE Toddleburn Fund

At its November meeting, the Stow panel made awards totalling £16,250, one for an improvement project at Stow Bowling Club and £1,618 to the community council to carry out improvements at Stow Community Gardens. With more than £20,000 in the pot for grants this year, SSE is looking forward to welcoming more groups to apply to the fund for their projects. The deadline for the next round is 18 April. For an informal discussion, please contact Gareth Shields on **01738 340 142** or at gareth.shields@sse.com.



Stow Pump Track update



In December, hopes to have a pump track in Stow came a step closer when planning permission was granted for a pump track on the site adjacent to the park between the Mill Lade and Bowling Club. We are very grateful to the local wind farm funds - Foundation Scotland, EDF Longpark Community Fund, and SSE Toddleburn Community Fund who funded the feasibility study. We used money raised by the Garden Market Trail for the planning application fees so thank you again to all who supported this event.

● We are now applying for funding for the building of the track and we hope we can progress this quickly. We know how keen the children and young people are to have a pump track, especially after the taster on the portable track last September. Not only will the track support the development of bike skills and confidence but it will boost mental wellbeing and physical activity, which is needed now more than ever.

● We plan to do another Garden Market Trail fundraiser in the Spring so please look out for this (and keep in mind if you are doing a clear out!).

● If you haven't already done so please become a member of the Co-op and choose the Stow Pump track for the local project to support.

Thank you for your continued support!

Stow toddler & baby group is back with a bang!

We restarted in October after a long shutdown due to Covid but are now running sessions on Wednesday and Friday mornings 9.30 till 11.30 at Stow Town Hall (£2 per session). Babies, toddlers and their carers from Stow, Fountainhall and the surrounding area are most welcome. Sessions are friendly and fun, with a healthy sit down snack for the little ones and teas/coffees for the adults. Come and sing along with Jan and her guitar on Wednesday mornings!

We run different events throughout the year so keep an eye out on our Facebook page for further details. We had our Christmas Party which was a huge hit, with presents, games, party food and even Santa making a guest appearance! The children have recently been very busy making cards, prints and crafts for Valentine's Day and watch this space for Easter events coming soon!

If you have any questions or would like some further information then please feel free to contact us through our Facebook page www.facebook.com/Stow-Baby-Toddlers-Group-740671849469405/



STOW COMMUNITY GARDEN

What do I like about the community garden?

I find it strange that I feel quite happy to go and do some weeding or work outside when my own garden is a bomb site. I think it is nice to work where there is a community responsibility and the buck doesn't stop with one individual. It is also extraordinary to see how several (I won't say many) hands make light work; much is achieved in a relatively short time. It is a pleasure to see other people enjoying the garden - especially the children. We are looking forward to putting our plans for different age groups into action.

There are always flowers to enjoy from spring to late autumn and in summer the buddleias are alive with butterflies. Adding the hardwood trunks has created two open air meeting rooms which will bring people together in the warmer months.

I never tire of seeing Wendy's sculpture in the corner. It gives the garden a special feel. I can't wait for the trunks to line up the path because it will look amazing.

It great to see it evolving, our Thursday Walkit group wanders over there regularly. We are learning lots about Wilding.

The Community garden is a pleasure for me to be involved with as I truly love gardening. More than that though it is a very rewarding process, knowing that you are doing something for the whole community and not just for your own benefit. It is a refreshing change to modern life. Making such a place creates much positive energy not only for the community but the nature we so desperately need to protect. Seeing people of all ages and nature thriving in the garden is wonderful to witness. For me, joining forces with other people, their energy, their enthusiasm and their future plans for the benefit of all is why I will always be happy to be involved in Stow Community Garden, a space for all.

Andrea Carlino



STOW HEALTH CENTRE NEWS

Prescription Ordering

Stow & Lauder Health continue to ask patients to re-order prescriptions either by handing in their repeat slip or hand written on a piece of paper into the box outside the Health Centre, or by signing up for EMIS Patient Access - see SLH web page for information:- www.stowandlauderhealth.scot.nhs.uk/prescriptions1.aspx?t=2

The change in procedure allows the Reception staff to deal with urgent problems in a more efficient manner. We thank you for your continued cooperation.

Fountainhall Resilience are continuing to provide a volunteer run ordering service for those who have no access to the internet or cannot travel to the surgery. Contact Jenny on **01578 760297** for details



Receptionist Retiring

Stow & Lauder Health are sad to see Carolyn, Receptionist, leave the Team. Carolyn has worked at the Practice since June, 2011. She will be a huge loss to the Practice but we wish her all the best for her retirement.

We hope you have had a great start to the new year. Stow Kids Club certainly has, with many children attending our afternoon fun filled sessions.

We have received donations of toys and resources and we are very grateful for those. A big thank you to all those who thought of us and to Mrs Currie, and her daughters Amy and Rebecca, for always being on the lookout for resources on the web. A special thank you to James Currie, for servicing and donating many scooters: we probably have the largest fleet of scooters in Scotland. Our children absolutely love them.



A massive thank you to the late Mrs Richardson of Manorhead Park, for leaving a large quantity of arts and crafts materials to our club. It will be well used and enjoyed by the children.

Stow Kids Club is open to all children aged between 4 and 11 years old. Our philosophy is to offer children a safe and fun environment where they can chill out after a hard day's work at the school. We are based inside Stow Primary school so your children can come to us at the end of their school day. We try to spend as much time as possible outdoors. We are flexible, you can book pending availability, at short notice, in an emergency, just email us or leave a message with the school.

Opening Hours (during term time): Monday-Thursday 3:15pm - 6:15pm Cost: £8.50 per session, per child, this includes 2 snacks. £15 annual registration fee, per family £12.00 per session, per child for non registered families. The club accepts both Tax-Free Childcare and most Childcare Vouchers for payment. Staff Members: Andrea Carlino (Manager), Janice Currie. Please note that prices might be subject to change after Easter 2022.

FUNDRAISING: Help raise much needed funds for Stow Kids Club by using the following links when you shop online. <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/SC043975> <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> enter "Stow Kids Club" for your online shopping.

Since our last issue, Fountainhall has lost a much treasured member of the community. Sam touched the lives of everyone he encountered. He was often seen walking the old stage road with his wife Joanna or tending his immaculate vegetable beds. An encounter with this lovely man only enhanced your day.

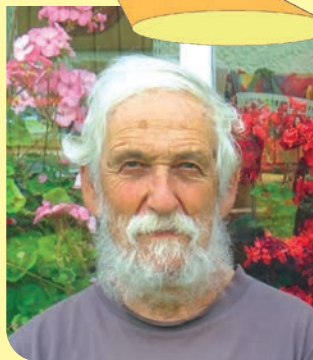
The text below is an edited version of the eulogy written by Joanna and Katie, his daughter and given at his funeral on the 7th of January.

Sam was born in Stafford and grew up in a village close by with his parents and sister Cherry. Even in his childhood Sam had a keen interest in agriculture, influenced in part by his father's job as an agricultural advisor and by spending time on relatives' farms in his school holidays. After 3 years at Stafford Grammar School, he was sent to a Quaker boarding school, where he developed his independent thinking, egalitarian attitude and simple ways of being. This was reinforced when he attended university in Aberystwyth which was far from an elitist institution. He developed his childhood interests by doing a degree in agricultural botany, after which, he completed his PhD at the Welsh Plant Breeding Station. It was while working here that he was introduced, through mutual friends, to Joanna. They met at her leaving party just before she embarked on a VSO year in Kenya. Despite this perhaps significant setback, on Joanna's return, they met up again and never looked back.

After his PhD in 1970, Sam obtained a post with the Forestry Commission, as a statistician at their research station in Surrey. Joanna and Sam were married in 1971 and it was at this time that they acquired an allotment and so began their 50 year long love of gardening. In 1976, their life changed completely with the arrival of twins, Laurence and Jamie. Within a year, they faced further upheaval ... Sam's job was transferred to the Northern Research Station in Roslin.

Despite initial misgivings, the move to Scotland proved to be one that they never regretted. Here Sam found his professional niche in the

spotlight on



Christopher John Arnold Samuel ('Sam')
(1945 - 2022)

Genetics Department and his ideal home at Braeside in Fountainhall. He often said 'who would want to live anywhere else?'. By 1981, they were immersed in the life of the community and Matthew was born. Sam became a member of the Stow and Fountainhall Community Council which he continued for over 20 years, both as secretary and chairman. Perhaps his most lasting legacy is what became known as 'Mr Samuel's snow posts' on Lauder Common. He was an active member of the Galawater Singers and could always be relied upon as the community's Mr Fix-It.

Life for Sam and Joanna became even more hectic with the somewhat unexpected arrival of a daughter, Katie, in 1987. Despite his busy life, Sam still managed to maintain and make improvements to Braeside, creating an idyllic family home and garden for his family, which now also included his elderly father.

In 2005, Sam retired from his full time post

with the Forestry Commission but continued to work part time. Becoming an inspector of forestry nurseries enabled many trips around the UK for him and Joanna. He finally retired completely in May of 2021, ending 50 years with the Forestry Commission. He loved his work but was just as happy at home, outside, restoring old machinery, which was his favourite hobby. He found plenty to occupy him indoors too on long winter evenings with family history projects, both his own and other people's. He once produced a 39 foot long family tree for the 70th birthday of an old primary school friend. He also was very interested in local history, writing a substantial document about the history of Fountainhall for a friend's 90th birthday. He was often asked by the Gala Water Archive Group to lead guided tours of the local area.

Sam was at heart an inquisitive person. He was curious about the workings of everything he came across and was somebody who could turn his hand to anything. However, he was always frustrated he could not understand knitting and it became a longstanding joke that it was the only practical thing Joanna could do that he could not.

Many people have described Sam as a wordsmith and a wit. This was evident in his long email communications to friends, he was also an avid speech giver, talking at many retirement dos and funerals.

His warmth, generosity, knowledge, curiosity and enormous sense of community brought so much to so many. Sam is survived by his wife, their four children and six grandchildren. He shall be greatly missed, not least by his family.

■ If you would like to give a donation in Sam's memory, please send it to the Margaret Kerr Unit at Borders General Hospital through the NHS Borders charity www.thedifference.org.uk/ or donate directly by post to **The Margaret Kerr Unit, Borders General Hospital, TD6 9BS.**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March/April/May 2022

20 March	2022 Census		
1 April	Cloudhouse re-opens		
4 April	Parish of Stow Community Council	7.30pm	zoom
18 April	Deadline for applications to wind farm funds		
20 April	SWI - Talk about The General Store in Selkirk	7.30pm	Fountainhall Village Hall
24 April	Open Day - Stow Bowling Club		Stow Bowling Club
2 May	Parish of Stow Community Council	7.30pm	zoom
18 May	SWI - Talk and Demonstration of Stained Glass	7.30pm	Fountainhall Village Hall

To be included in next issue's 'Dates for your Diary' contact galawaternewsletter@gmail.com at least 1 month prior to print.

Butterflies in Stow

Saturday 24th of July was a designated "looking at things" day in the community garden and as such my kind of gardening day. The sun had brought out, besides gardeners, lots of beasts of interest particularly in the wild meadow area which was fairly buzzing. During the garden's development, we have seen a number of interesting butterflies appear. Small Skippers, unknown in this area until 10-15 years ago, have started to frequent the local rough meadows around the village and sure enough, there they were in the community garden on that day. The caterpillars feed on grasses and they are moving north due to climate change.



What was rather exciting, was the sighting of a Common Blue butterfly in the wild meadow area. The Common Blue is like a piece of the sky that has landed on a blade of grass. It is quite simply beautiful and it was wonderful that we got to see one in the garden.

The final bit of insect excitement for me, took place in the "rockery" area. Over the last year, a number of wild type rock-rose plants have been introduced. They are now starting to expand, and their attractive

yellow flowers are a welcome addition to the garden throughout the summer. They are also the food plant of the Northern Brown Argus, a small brown relative of the Common Blue. The under wing is a combination of greys and pale browns so when it flies, the effect is a ghostly and ephemeral bluey grey. Perhaps because of this combination it has the ability to vanish in full sight! As a species it is largely found only in Scotland, just a few colonies exist elsewhere. Victorian collectors referred to them as the Scottish White Spot. Sadly, enthusiasts drove colonies to extinction in some places including Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh, but it has recently returned. It remains a "species of conservation concern".

The Luggate Valley now homes a thriving colony of the Brown Argus. Much to my joy, I discovered three eggs on the rock rose, so at least one semi-exhausted female had made it over the hill. The eggs are large by butterfly standards, white and laid on the tops of the leaves so they are quite easy to spot and recognise. Three eggs is not a thriving colony, but more rock roses in more gardens and a bit more time and who knows.

It would be a good thing if Stow got its Northern Brown Argus back. If a small area like the community garden can pull them in, then planting rock roses in the village even on a small scale can only help. So get planting and they will come! **Sandy Bruce.**

