

Brought to you by
Stonehouse Town Council

stonehouse news



ISSUE 53 SPRING 2024

Town & Civic Awards

Stonehouse in Bloom

Selected for the National
Britain in Bloom Finals

Warm Spaces

Supporting our community,
Spring events, education
and sports news

SHOP
STONEHOUSE

welcome

Spring is finally here!

Since the last issue of Stonehouse News we have welcomed a new Senior Town Maintenance Officer, Rod Helps to join our hard-working staff team. You will see Rod out and about with Paul.

The rising cost of living is still having an impact locally. We are very grateful for the work done by APT, the food bank and others to help local people cope. Look out for the orange leaflets and posters around town with information about the help available.

Stonehouse Town Council have a number of exciting projects in the pipeline including extending the allotments and improving Stagholt Field. We are working with SplCE (Ship Inn Community Enterprise) and the District Council to establish a canal-side facility on the former Ship Inn site. Also, the campaign to reopen Bristol Road station continues.

We know many people are concerned about the reduced access to Verney Field. We are waiting to hear from Gloucestershire County Council on our applications for a Village Green and for the addition of the traditionally used footpaths to be recognised as rights of way.

And finally, please don't forget that you will need identification in order to vote in the forthcoming elections.

The Stonehouse News Team

Stonehouse Town Council

Annual Town & Civic Awards Meeting

Thursday 25th April at 7pm in the Town Hall/Library.

Every year, the Town Council asks for nominations for individuals, groups, young people and businesses that have made positive contributions to the local community.

THE CATEGORIES ARE:

- ★ **Person Making an Outstanding Contribution to Stonehouse over a Number of Years**
- ★ **Stonehouse Business of the Year**
- ★ **Stonehouse Community Group of the Year**
- ★ **Vicky Wakefield-Heath, Young Person of the Year** (up to the age of 25)

SEND US YOUR NOMINATIONS!

Please complete your nomination online at <https://www.stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk/civic-award-nomination/> or call into the Town Hall and pick up a nomination form.

All nominations to be received by Thursday 18th April.

Stonehouse to take part in RHS Britain in Bloom for the second time



Stonehouse in Bloom will once again be showcasing the town on the national stage when they take part in this year's RHS Britain in Bloom.

The volunteer-led group, which is supported by Stonehouse Town Council and numerous community organisations and town businesses, will be judged according to criteria that scores their commitment to improving the local environment, community engagement and horticultural excellence.

Stonehouse will represent the Heart of England, one of 17 Bloom regions in the UK that all hold their own competitions and nominate their highest-performing entries to compete in the UK Finals. A pair of Britain in Bloom judges will visit the town on a date to be confirmed in summer 2024 and all winners will be revealed in October.

Chair of Stonehouse in Bloom Pam Swain said the group was very excited and proud to be selected:

"This is great news for Stonehouse – we are absolutely delighted that Stonehouse in Bloom has been chosen to represent our region for a second time in the national Britain in Bloom finals. If you've ever thought of joining us, now would be the perfect time to do it and you will be very welcome! We also hope that as many local people as possible will join us for some extra weekend working parties in early summer to ensure that the town looks amazing for the judges' visit."

Please email stonehousebloom@gmail.com if you would like to get involved.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

The first few months of any year for Stonehouse WI are hectic, as we consider the Resolutions. Through a democratic process, WI members can bring any issue that matters to them, a 'Resolution', before the National board. These are short-listed to three or four, and members vote for the one they want

to go forward to be adopted as a Campaign. Now we wait to see which one received the most votes.

When Spring arrives, the planter we maintain in the High Street comes into flower, but this is not the only time it grabs our attention. This area is used for displays, marking occasions that have a special meaning for us. For instance in March, our thoughts turned to International Women's Day. Keep an eye out for more exhibits in the year.

Discover more about us and what we've been doing by visiting our website: <http://stonehousewi.weebly.com>



STONEHOUSE W.I.

LEARN WITH US & LAUGH WITH US



Stonehouse Gardening Club

The Gardening Club have an exciting and varied three months ahead. Visitors are very welcome with a £3.00 entry fee.

Wednesday April 3rd, 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start

Moths in your garden, by Bob Smith. As this talk is likely to be of interest to some children, we are inviting 10 year olds and above to attend with a responsible adult.

Wednesday 1st May, 7.15pm

Of Meads and Flowers; the Medieval Garden, a talk by Nathalie Mignotte.

Saturday 11th May, Stall on the Green, 9.30-11am

A great range of reasonably priced plants for sale on Stonehouse Green, along with used gardening equipment in good condition.

Wednesday 5th June, Leaving at 2.30pm

We have a visit to Brockworth Court Gardens. Entry £6.00. Car share from Stonehouse Community Centre Car Park, leaving at 2.30pm



Supporting the community



In what is usually a quiet month for Youth Work, due to weather and daylight being usually sparse, we have had one of our busiest and most fruitful winter seasons at The Pod.

Our work in The Pod, Maidenhill, our Breakfast Café, and in the digital sphere continues to add valuable support for the young people in Stonehouse.

Here is a reminder of our regular services:

- **The Pod Youth Club** is open for young people aged 11-17 Tuesday 15:30 - 17:30, Thursday 18:30 - 20:30, Friday 15:30 - 17:30.
- **Key Café** at The Pod for young people aged to 16 - 25 is on Thursdays 17:00 - 18:00.
- **The Breakfast Café** is on Thursday mornings for any Maidenhill student at 7:30 - 8:30.
- **Our Digital Session** is on YouTube every Tuesday evening at 18:30 - 20:30.



Are you looking for affordable accommodation in Gloucestershire?

Homeshare brings together older people who have spare rooms, with people who need affordable accommodation, who are happy to chat and lend a hand. Sharing a home brings so many benefits, find out if it could work for you!

As a Homesharer you are not only offered an affordable place to live, but the opportunity to join a welcoming home. Our Homeshare Team work to find matches who suit each other's needs, and will support both parties throughout.

Call Ramona on 07760 419260, email homeshare@ageukgloucestershire.org.uk or visit ageuk.org.uk/gloucestershire/homeshare for our latest opportunities.



Registered Charity Number 1111773

Free impartial Energy Efficiency Advice and Grant Funding

Severn Wye Energy Agency <https://severnwyenergy.org.uk/> provide free impartial energy efficiency advice to people in Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire on behalf of the local authorities and have access to grant funding for eligible people for energy efficiency improvements through the Warm & Well advice line, and advocacy services for people struggling with fuel bill debt, call 0800 500 3076 or <https://warmandwell.co.uk/> to find out more. They also provide in depth bespoke home energy surveys for people looking to upgrade their homes and are not sure of what to do for the best how to make them more efficient and to reduce carbon emissions. These are also potentially free at present see <https://severnwyenergy.org.uk/services/#householders> for more details.

A Stonehouse resident, Paul Sheridan, has worked for Severn Wye for 20 years and has just won a national Retrofit Assessor of the year award in London. This photo (right) is of Paul with his awards.



HOME START Stroud and Gloucester



Home-Start Stroud and Gloucester have a new hybrid volunteer training course starting on the 23rd May.

Many families with young children face difficult challenges, if you have parenting experience you could share and 2-3 hours a week spare, we need you!

For more details visit our website www.homestartsd.org or email: Enquiries@homestartsd.org

We are a Warm Welcome Space for all

Methodist Church

- Soup lunch on the fourth Thursday in each month 12.30-2pm

Community Centre

- The café is open from Tuesday to Friday from 9-11.30am.
- On the first Wednesday of each month lunch for £5 from 12 - 2pm

Baptist Church

- School breakfast club on a Thursday from 7.30 am to 8.30am is for Maidenhill pupils, during term time only and run by Sportily and The Door.

The Pod in Oldends Lane

- Food Friday from 3.30pm to 5.30pm, for 11 to 17 year olds

The Library

- Free access to PCs and tea and coee.

Bethel Church

- The Haven on Tuesdays from 12 - 4pm, light refreshments, games and puzzles
- Coffee morning 10 – 12 noon every 2nd and 4th Thursdays

St Joseph's

- Soup lunches on the first Mondays from 12 noon. The Whist group follows in the hall

The Bridge Café

- Monday to Friday 8.30am to 2.30pm

Contact Numbers

All Pulling Together (APT) 01453 822705, aptcentral@btconnect.com
Please contact for further information.

The following three contacts are available at APT on certain days

P3 Housing Charity,
Contact Number: 01453 750480

Citizens Advice Bureau,
Contact Number: 0800 800 0510

GL Communities, Financial and Debt Advice,
Contact Number: 01452 306581

The following contacts may be of help to you

Samaritans Gloucester - Contact Number: 0300 094 5717
Helping people in crisis

Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS)
Contact Number: 01452 726570
Help for those suffering domestic abuse of any kind



Supporting our Community

The team of volunteers at APT are looking forward to organising more community activities during the coming months.

We will again be running our **Easter Town Trail** around the shops in the High Street. The trail will be set up ready to start on Saturday 23rd March and finish on Thursday 4th April. You will be able to collect your trail sheets from the Pet Shop and APT and return the completed sheets to APT ready for the prizes to be awarded on Friday 5th April.

Keep an eye on the All Pulling Together Facebook page to see when we are **open for food supplies** and for information about all our other activities. We also have short **maths classes** available for anyone over 19 years of age who have below a level 2 qualification but would like to learn how to use maths in different ways, such as cooking; art; patchwork. If you are interested please get in touch, by emailing aptcentral@btconnect.com or phone the office and leave a message on 01453 822705.



News from all at Share and Repair

After a very busy winter season here at Share and Repair, we are all looking forward to spring!

Last year we repaired over 1000 items. We've kept lots of you warm with our heaters, slow cookers and draught excluders, not to mention our TVs which kept you entertained on dark winter evenings. But now we're getting items ready for the garden. We have some sturdy nestboxes made from recycled timber for your feathered friends and we've renovated garden tools, some of which have already been donated to Stonehouse in Bloom. More old rusty garden tools gratefully received.

As we have made a small surplus profit this year we have decided to pass it on to other organisations which support the Stonehouse community. And if anyone in need wants any particular tools or electrical items please come in and talk to us – we would like to help you out.

Keep supporting us to **Repair - Recycle - Reuse !**

Happy Easter!

Community news & groups



Stonehouse History Group

Stonehouse Shops

For our next research project we are planning to produce a book about the history of the shops in Stonehouse. If you owned or worked in a shop in Stonehouse, and have any photos, documents or memories that you would be willing to share, please contact us - email info@stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk or phone Vicki 01453 826334.

Forthcoming Meetings

The 2nd Wednesday of each month at Park Junior School 7.30 pm. Everyone welcome: £2 members £3 non-members. Visit our website www.stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk for more details.

April 10th – Dr Steven Blake – “The remarkable John Bellamy: the story of a Gloucestershire travelling showman”

May 8th – AGM followed by members' talks on “Shops of Stonehouse”

June 12th – Mike Smith – “Railway talk”

July 10th – Dr Toby Jones – “The Newport Medieval Ship: Unravelling the secrets of a mid-15th Century Clinker-Built Merchant Vessel”

No meeting in August

September 11th – Multi-award winning photographer Jack Boskett presents – “From Railways to Royalty”

October 9th – Jonathan Holt – “Architectural follies in Gloucestershire”

November 13th – Phil Bischler – “The history of chocolate”

December 11th – Nick Brunger – “Strange tales”



High Street shops in 1970s

Stonehouse to Join ‘Climate Cafe’ Movement

First meeting: Tuesday 30th April, 7 – 9pm, The Woolpack, 4 High Street, Stonehouse.

Climate Cafes are springing up to create a space to chat, share stuff and act together locally. They are community led where everyone is welcome to join the conversation and get involved in a relaxed, supportive environment. Climate Cafes are non party political and not for profit. All the chat and any action is led by those who live or work in that community. People elsewhere have enjoyed these informal meetings, feeling lighter, saying “I don't feel so alone with this”.

Together with other like-minded people, at our first meeting, we could explore what we want to do in Stonehouse. Some people may want to start or help existing green local projects, others to share seeds, produce, or green tips to save money, and some may want to focus more on what the climate crisis means to us.

All welcome, whether you come once or regularly – frequency to be decided by those at the first meeting. Help would be appreciated. Fair Trade tea and coffee can be bought as well as cold drinks from the bar. Liz Green, email: lizgreen1119@gmail.com.

Stonehouse Community Association

Stonehouse Community Association (SCA) continues offering weekly activities beneficial to health & wellbeing.

Easter Fayre

- Saturday 30th March 2024, 10am - 4pm
- Various stalls & face painting

Community cafe

- All welcome for breakfasts/light lunches raising funds for SCA
- Tuesdays to Fridays, 9am-11.30am
- Community lunches
- 1st Wednesday of each month, 12 noon-1.45pm
- 2 courses for £5
- Bookings essential: 01453 823241

Rooms available for hire per hour or 4hr sessions

- 4 meeting rooms for private meetings/small groups, training
- Lounge for up to 40 people
- Main hall for up to 200 people, ideal for parties, concerts, events

For further info and to check availability contact Sarah Townsend, Centre Manager on 01453 823241 or email: stonehouse1@tiscali.co.uk
Find us on Facebook/ Instagram
Website: www.stonehousecommunitycentre.co.uk



Longfield Hospice Calls for More Volunteers



A spare three hours a week is all it takes to develop a new social circle and spend time doing something fun while developing new skills - while making a huge difference across Gloucestershire.

We are urgently seeking volunteers to help across all areas of the hospice in Minchinhampton, out and about in the community or in our charity shops across Gloucestershire.

We have a wide range of volunteering roles, there is something for everyone and find out more at www.longfield.org.uk.

If you can find some regular time each week to volunteer with us, we promise fun, new friends, new skills and the simple joy of knowing you are making a huge difference contact volunteering@longfield.org.uk.

Longfield Community Hospice is a charity and relies on voluntary donations to provide the much-needed care and support to patients, their families and loved ones.

First Stonehouse Chess Club Meeting

Wednesday 1st May, 7- 9pm, The Fig Tree, 26 High Street, Stonehouse.

Whether you want to learn, or like playing, whatever your level, come and play, chess is fun. There has been some interest from people who would like to give playing chess a go locally, ages ranging from 8 to 80, beginners to competitive club players. A mid-week evening seemed the most practical but both the time and venue may need to change to fit demand. Donations needed for refreshments provided by the Fig Tree, to whom many thanks.

As seating is limited, please let me know if you are coming on May 1st, or would be interested at a later date.

Email Liz Green: lizgreen1119@gmail.com



Stonehouse Library News

We are looking forward to Spring at the library with many events planned. **Baby Bounce and Rhyme** is every Wednesday from 10.30-11pm. This is a fun and welcoming session enjoyed by everyone. Please come and join us!

Storytime is on the first Saturday of every month from 11-11.30 -6th April, 4th May and 1st June will be the next dates.

Saturday clubs for children have been very popular and are on the 2nd Saturday of the month. It is essential to book for these as places are limited.

Our **Happy Mondays Over 60's** Group is on the 3rd Monday of every month from 11-12.30. Join us for a chat and a cuppa on 15th April, 20th May and 17th June.

The library will be closed over the Easter weekend from Good Friday 29th March and will open again on Wednesday 3rd April.

The Fig Tree

Not many towns have a session specially for Dads and children, but Stonehouse does. 50 Saturdays of the year we're open from 10am til 12 noon for Dads to bring their children: toys, games, books, stickers, pens and paper as well as a drink and biscuit; high quality tea and filter coffee for the Dads. About every 6 weeks we welcome Colins electric trains to this session, for the children to enjoy loading the trucks with bricks and dinosaurs.

Dads, why not call in one Saturday morning and enjoy meeting other Dads.

Don't forget our next cooking series starts on Tuesday 9th April. We have an experienced chef who has lots of handy tips. Call in and book your place.

There's always lots going on at The Fig Tree. Call in to chat with our volunteer on card sales, check our website (stonehousefigtree.org), or just check the posters on our window.





teckels
we love animals, unconditionally

Teckels continue to receive requests for help on a daily basis, so we are encouraging supporters to continue to help us by:

- * **Attending our very popular pub quiz** at The Fromebridge Mill held on the first Wednesday of each month, great atmosphere and raffle, booking advisable.
- * **Selling at or visiting our car boot sales** at The Fromebridge Mill, first one hopefully on Sunday 24th March, £6 per car and £10 per van, weather dependent, do keep an eye on our social media for details.
- * **Organising fundraising events** individually or at your workplace.
- * **Sponsoring a dog or cat** monthly from as little as £5 per month. <https://teckelsanimalsanctuaries.co.uk/sponsor/>
- * **Adopting or fostering a Teckels cat or dog.** Please see our website for details.
- * **Come to our Spring Fair on Sunday 14th April** at Churchdown Community.

More information can be found at www.teckelsanimalsanctuaries.co.uk

Stonehouse Dog Training Club

The club meets at the Community Centre on Monday and Tuesday evenings and have been training dogs there since 1962.

They have recently made donations of £1,000 to Sunflowers Suicide Support, and £500 each to Teckels Animal Sanctuary and Allsorts Stroud, and have bought a new cooker for the Community Centre.

For information of class times and diary events please visit the club website at www.stonehouse-dtc.weebly.com



Above: Mary Coates with Celia Vines

Right: Mary Coates – Chair of Stonehouse Community Centre, Jane Jones – CEO of Allsorts, Stroud, Katie Williams – Sunflowers Suicide Support, Tina Benson – Teckels Animal Sanctuary, Celia Vines – Club Manager Stonehouse Dog Training Club



Join us for a day of furry fun at the Teckels Animal Sanctuaries **Spring Fair & Dog show on Sunday 14th April** from 11am till 4pm at Churchdown Community Centre, GL3 2JH.

Enjoy shopping at all the stalls, from local, small business for you and your pets, participate with your four-legged friends in our exciting dog show, try your luck in some of our fabulous raffles and let the kids indulge in some games whilst you savour some delicious cake and refreshments! Ample on site parking available. Don't miss the opportunity to celebrate with fellow dog lovers whilst supporting Teckels Animal Sanctuaries. It'll be a great day out, for all the family!

Gloucestershire
Age UK

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Grapevine brings joy to thousands of readers across the county. Packed with articles, puzzles, recipes, quizzes, craft ideas, local history and updates on our current work, there's something for everyone. It's like receiving a friendly hug through your letterbox!

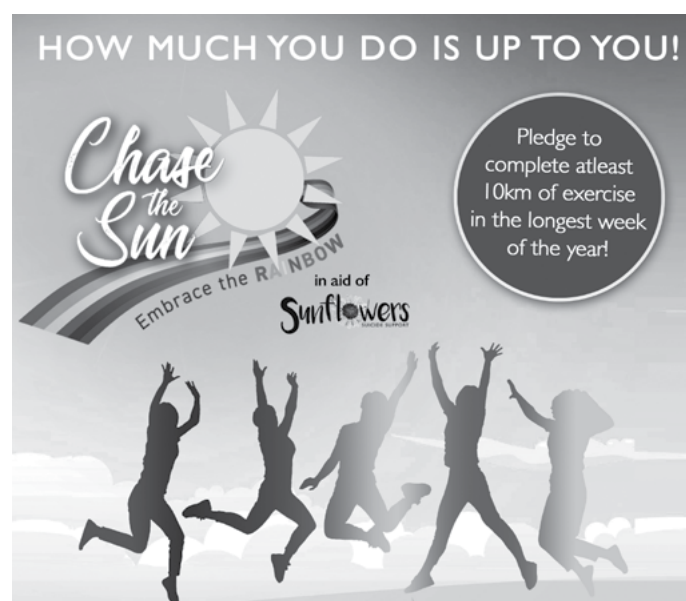
If you're online you could receive more regular updates, advice and helpful information with our monthly email newsletter. To keep in touch, just provide us with your details and tell us how you'd like us to contact you and we'll do the rest.

Call: 01452 420900

Email: supporters@ageukgloucestershire.org.uk

Visit: www.ageuk.org.uk/gloucestershire/publications

Scan the QR Code!



Chase the Sun in aid of Sunflowers

Get ready to 'Chase the Sun' by joining us from **16th - 23rd June 2024** for our annual challenge on the longest week of the year.

Sign up to compete in this virtual event to complete 10km or more, your way. You can walk it, run it or cycle it the choice of how and when you do it is entirely yours all we ask is that it must be completed by 23rd June at 9pm.

Entry Fee:

- * £15 to complete 10km
- * £25 to complete 25km and receive a FREE Chase The Sun T-shirt (£4 P&P fee)
- * Under 16's £10 each to participate

So get ready to get outside and get moving with others.

To find out more:

<https://www.sunflowerssuicidesupport.org.uk/chasethesun>



Stonehouse Walking Festival

Our 5th Stonehouse Walking Festival will be from **6th - 15th September**. Already booked are the ever popular tree walks with John Parker of the Arboricultural Association, and we shall have 2 different canal walks into the "missing mile" guided by Chris Mitford Slade, Canal Project Director of Cotswold Canals Connected, and more. Cotswold Boatmobility are also already on board, offering their fully accessible tours along the canal.

There are so many lovely destinations to walk to from our own doorsteps and we hope to bring them all, and more to our festival. We may even have a day trip in store this year.

If you would like to get involved, perhaps suggest a walk or a tour, please get in touch by contacting 07816 552171 or emailing stonehousewalkfest@gmail.com



Education news



Hopelands Prep School & Nursery

Summer term will be full of celebrations as we mark our 70th birthday. In 1954, Mrs Murray-Browne founded Hopelands with a vision to provide affordable, quality education in Stonehouse. What began as a modest gathering of 15 pupils around her dining table has flourished into a thriving school in Stonehouse.

The vision of our founder still echoes through the halls of the school. Achieving academic excellence while maintaining a family orientated and homely atmosphere remains at the heart of Hopelands. Our aim is to ensure pupils leave us in Year 6 as confident, resilient, inquisitive young people who have gained a love for learning and a zest for life.

As part of the celebrations, we would love to share memories from former pupils, please contact scompton@hopelands.org.uk to find out more.

To stay updated on the anniversary plans and gain an insight into life at Hopelands visit our Facebook page. Here's to 70 years of shaping young minds and fostering a love for learning at Hopelands!



World Book Day at Stonehouse Park Schools

There was a major focus on reading on World Book Day at the Stonehouse Park Federation. Assemblies provided a spectacular opportunity to see teachers and pupils dressed as characters from favourite books.

At a grand reopening of the Junior School Library children were all given a bookmark explaining the library categories and then listened to their teachers' reviews and suggestions.

It is quite a thought that every child in the two schools was then involved in the same activity: reviewing a book they love. The result is a fascinating collection of suggested good reads. The best will be saved in the library as a wonderful resource for children to trawl through when they need a reading suggestion.

Following World Book Day please try to attend your child's Stay and Read event. Reading is both a vital skill and a wonderful interest for life and nothing promotes it more than sharing it with people you love.



Sports news



Stonehouse Town Football Club

Spring at Stonehouse Town FC

As we approach the end of the season, we look forward to hosting the Cotswold League End of season Tournament at Oldends Lane on Saturday 18th May. Please come along and show support to our youth players, we will have BBQ, Ice creams, Tombola, refreshments too.

Training will continue throughout the summer at Oldends lane on Tuesdays 6.30-7.30 if you have a child aged between 6 and 16 please come along for a free trial session.



We will be holding some fundraising events in the Nest over the next few months so please keep an eye on our Facebook page for more details. We will also be showing the Euros in the Nest too.

For more information about playing for our adults or youth teams please email info@stonehousetownfc.co.uk or visit Facebook: [Stonehouse Town FC](https://www.facebook.com/StonehouseTownFC).



Stonehouse junior parkrun

After the wettest winter season at Stonehouse junior parkrun, we are looking forward to the warmer months. In these upcoming months we have some schools and cub scouts groups hopefully joining us for takeover events; this is where they contribute volunteers to help out and invite their children to take part.

To join us, pop down to Oldends Lane Playing Fields on Sundays at 8:50am for a 9am start. If you are aged 4-14 you can run, jog, hop, skip, walk or otherwise get yourself round the 2km course. It's all free and you can earn wristbands too. If you are older, you can cheer participants on or also volunteer too, as it's easy and so rewarding.

Please check our website <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/stonehouse-juniors> or Facebook page for confirmation of these events and/or any changes.



Faith groups



Stroudwater Churches

St Cyr's Church by the canal is open during the day so please feel free to pop in to have a look around, enjoy a time of quiet and say a prayer.

Join us for a time of worship at the **Family Service** for approximately 45 minutes on Sunday mornings at 9.30am, which is followed by refreshments.

We also live-stream our services on our Facebook page "St Cyr's Church Stonehouse" for those who are unable to attend in person.

We also have an active **Mothers' Union** who meet on the third Thursday of the month at 2pm, as well as **bell ringers** who ring on Sundays between 8.30am-9.30am and practice on Tuesdays between 10.30am-12noon.

Our **Church Café** has relaunched for Summer 2023. Come along on Saturday 13 April, 11 May, 13 July and 10 August between 10am and 2pm for tea, coffee, refreshments and homemade cake.

If you require any pastoral support or would like to enquire about a baptism, wedding or funeral, please contact Revd Dave Bishop on 01453 822332.

For the latest news and events, visit our website: www.stroudwaterchurches.org.uk

Bethel Church

WELCOME TO
**BETHEL CHURCH
STONEHOUSE
SERVICE IN TAMIL**

தமிழ் ஆராதனை
அன்புடன் அழைக்கிறோம்

**EVERY SUNDAY
8.30AM**

28 BATH ROAD, GL10 2JA

ஜெப உதவிக்கு
FOR PRAYERS

07368820195 / 07442485642

Canal news

Cotswold Canals Connected brings you another year of exciting events

After last year's many successful events, Cotswold Canals Connected (CCC) is set to bring even more to the Stroud district this year. The canal restoration project is committed to bringing people closer to the district's canals and the nature that surrounds them, through holding unique, engaging events.

This summer is going to be jam-packed with a variety of different events, from paddleboarding and bird watching, to textile dying and photography workshops; and everything in between! Starting with **Vyshyvanka Day** on Saturday 18 May in Stroud town centre – a day to celebrate the rich textile heritage of Ukraine. Come along for a parade, music, dancing, and food and drink!

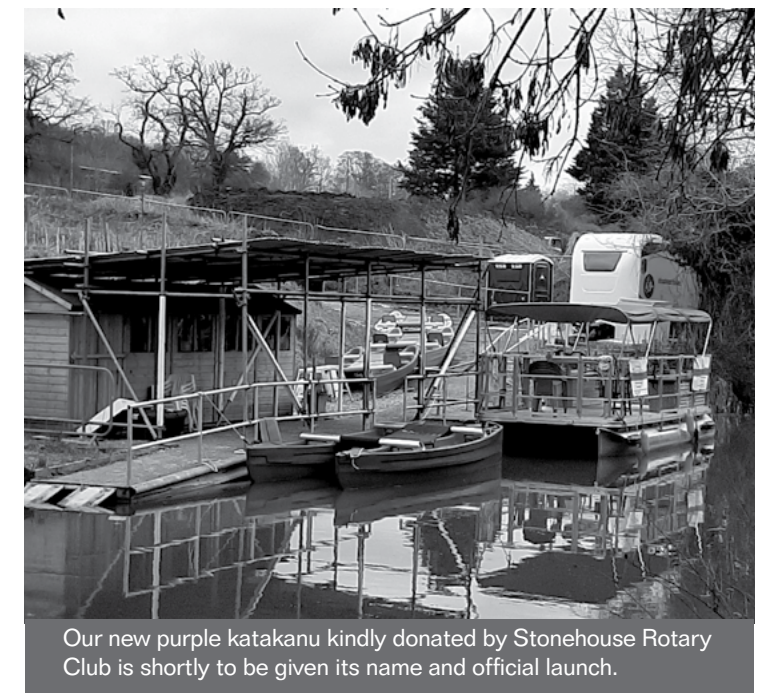
The Lock Challenge is also back this year and will take place on Sunday 14 July - make sure to save the date!

To stay up to date with the project, follow us on social media, and get notified when all of these exciting events are announced head to <https://linktr.ee/CotswoldCanalsConnected> (or scan the qr code), where you will find all the relevant links.



Dave and Alan, two of our more recent volunteers have contributed their new interest in Cotswold Boatmobility in a fun list – for volunteers and guests.

- Satisfaction of supporting those with less opportunity than me.
- Communing with nature.
- Active pursuits.
- Friendly, sociable and respectful fellow volunteers.
- Being part of a charitable cause that is well run and has a clear plan for exciting development.
- Pride in being able to undertake tasks fully and well, and being acknowledged for that.
- Fun.
- Pay as you feel.
- All necessary equipment including life jackets provided.
- Katanas take 6 people at a time, with two experienced volunteers at the back, you do not have to paddle, just sit back and enjoy.
- Two motorised boats which take guests in wheelchairs.
- Light refreshments provided.
- Training in handling boats and working with people of varying abilities.
- Aim to meet individual needs.
- Any new volunteers are very welcome to join us and enjoy meeting new people and making friends.
- Walk, bus or drive to car park off Ebley Road at Ryeford.



Our new purple katanu kindly donated by Stonehouse Rotary Club is shortly to be given its name and official launch.

Volunteering & Information

For more information look at the video on our website: www.cotswoldboatmobility.org.uk

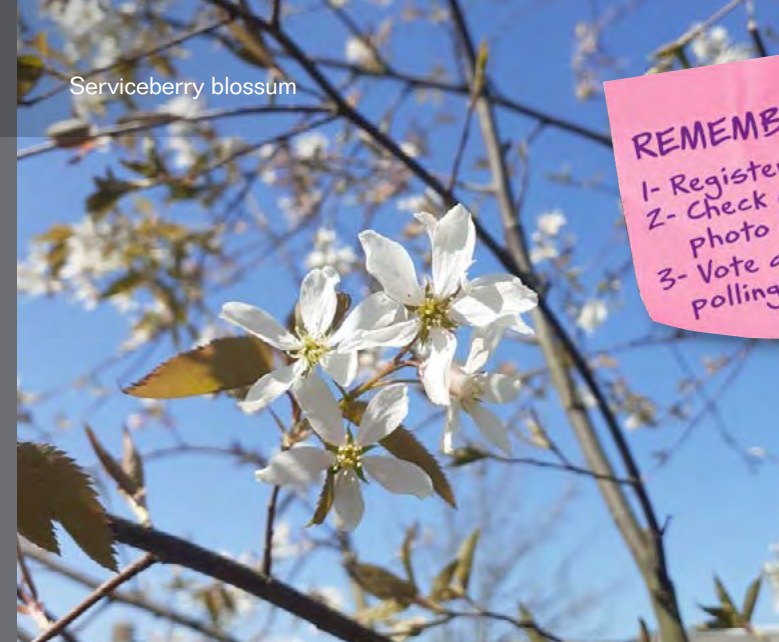
To book, email info@cotswoldboatmobility.org.uk or ring 07562 173659.



New Tree in Town

By the time you read this, there will be a new addition to the Stonehouse Community Arboretum courtesy of Gloucestershire County Council. Several years ago, a horse chestnut on the verge outside the Globe Inn was felled for safety reasons. Through the Stonehouse Community Arboretum Management Plan the Town Council has committed to regarding trees as an asset, and not a liability, and it is fantastic that the County Council has now agreed to plant a replacement for the one that was lost.

The new tree will be a serviceberry (also known as a Juneberry, or snowy Mespilus), Amelanchier arborea Robin Hill, and has beautiful white flowers in spring and fantastic autumn colour later in the year (*Image on right*). The tree will be fitted with a watering bag and an Arboricultural Association 'please water me' tag, to help keep it irrigated through the summer months. For more information contact john@trees.org.uk.



Serviceberry blossom

REMEMBER TO
1- Register to vote
2- Check my photo ID
3- Vote at a polling station!

Implementation of Voter ID

The Police and Crime Commissioner and Local Government Elections will take place on Thursday 2 May 2024. All voters are now required to show an accepted form of photographic identification (photo ID) to be able to vote at a polling station.

Your ID can be expired however you must still resemble the photo. You must present your original documents at the polling station.

If do not have ID you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate or apply for a postal or proxy vote.

Key dates:

Registration Deadline – Midnight, Tuesday 16 April 2024

Postal Vote Deadline – 5pm, Wednesday 17 April 2024

Proxy Vote Deadline – 5pm, Wednesday 24 April 2024

Voter Authority Certificate Deadline – 5pm, Wednesday 24 April 2024

Polling Day – Thursday 2 May 2024

For more information about the election and for a full list of accepted photo ID's, please go to the website www.stroud.gov.uk/elections or call 01453 766321.

Discovering the SpICE of Life in Stonehouse

The Ship Inn Community Enterprise (SpICE) is a group of local volunteers, who are working with Stroud District Council, Stonehouse Town Council and other stakeholders to establish a community venture on the site of the former Ship Inn on the canal in Stonehouse.

All ideas, skills, experience and expertise are welcome – we would love to hear from members of the Stonehouse community who would like to join us.

Please contact spicegroupstonehouse@gmail.com to find out more and discover how you can get involved!



Stonehouse Continues to Remember

Firstly a massive thank you to all of you who supported the Stonehouse Poppy Appeal in November 2023. Your amazing contributions achieved a total of £13,600 (so far) and meant that Stonehouse was the fastest growing, year on year, area in the county.

The RBL continues to work with Stonehouse both at our local branch level and with the Poppy Appeal to raise awareness and funds to support ex-service personnel and their families.

As part of the coming **D-Day80 commemoration** celebrations this June we are hoping to have a celebration event on **Saturday 8th June** in Stonehouse.

Please save the date and join us as we commemorate this great occasion. More details to follow very soon.

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Would you like to try out an Electric Bicycle?

With the support of the Town Council, Stonehouse has been chosen by Transition Stroud as one of three e-bike hire hubs. Two bikes, one of them a cargo bike, will be available for hire for up to a month. The Bridge Cafe has kindly offered their help and to be the base for the scheme, which is due to start in April.

A small number of volunteers are needed to be available, at times to suit themselves, to meet hirers, check their details and show them the bikes.

Please contact the Town Council on 01453 822070 or Transition Stroud if you might be able to help.



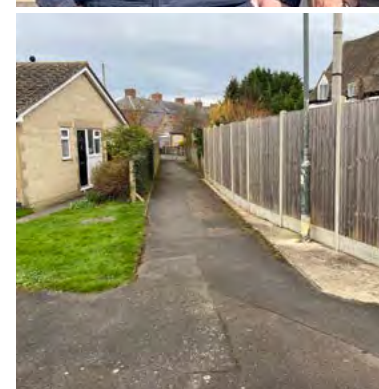
Stonehouse Bristol Road (Stroudwater) Station

Our campaign to re-open the direct link from Stroud Valleys to Bristol has had some coverage recently. Questions have been asked in the House of Commons and also the House of Lords. These questions were directed at the Rail Minister asking him to inform us if the decision was made to support the next stage of the work to re-open the station. The campaign was also featured in the Stroud News and Journal recently.

We hope that the rail minister will visit soon to update Stonehouse Town Council and Stroud District Council on progress of the project.



Groundsman's corner



Spring is finally here!

You may have seen a new face around the Town, Rod is our new Senior Town Maintenance Officer, and is working alongside Paul. They have been busy putting in new infant swing seats in Oldends Lane park and Meadow park, and clearing a number of alleyways around the town, ensuring they are kept accessible, clean and tidy. **Say hello to them if you see them out and about!**



stonehouse town council information

Contact us

Stonehouse Town Council
Town Hall
1 Queens Road
Stonehouse
GL10 2QA
T: 01453 822070

Town Clerk: Carlos Novoth
E: townclerk@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk
Deputy Clerk: Jacqui Sanders
E: deputyclerk@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk
Business Support & Communication: Carla Swindells
E: contactus@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk

Visit stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk
Facebook - Stonehouse Town Council

Opening hours
We are fully open to the public now between 9:30am - 3:30pm
on every weekday.

Check our website for up-to-date information.

Forthcoming meetings

FULL TOWN COUNCIL

22nd April 2024
13th May 2024
17th June 2024

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

8th April 2024
3rd June 2024
8th July 2024

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

29th April 2024
28th May 2024
1st July 2024

Full Town Council meetings now take place at the Town Hall/
Library. Moveable bookshelves allow for meetings to be held in
the Library.

Agendas and Minutes are published on the Council's website
stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk

Your Councillors

Town Councillors - stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk

Stonehouse Ward	
Rachel Armstrong	07443 470054
John Callinan	01453 825547
Keith Creighton	07773 025383
Deborah Curtis	07988 630951
Mike Davis	01453 350689
Marcus Dixon	07813 807488
Neil Gibbs	01453 828430
Carol Kambites (Chair)	01453 827929
Madelaine Maraboli-Roman`	01453 822070
Gary Powell	01453 826527
Val Randell	07964 852707
Keith Terry	07743 470094
Wendy Thomson	07766 712506
Theresa Watt (Vice Chair)	01453 821428

Town Councillors can be contacted via email using Councillor then
their surname eg. councillorpowell@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk

District Councillors - stroud.gov.uk

Chris Brine	01453 825917
cllr.chris.brine@stroud.gov.uk	
Nick Housden	07754 466939
cllr.nicholas.housden@stroud.gov.uk	
Mattie Ross	01453 826587
cllr.mattie.ross@stroud.gov.uk	

County Councillor - gloucestershire.gov.uk

Nick Housden	07754 466939
nicholas.housden@gloucestershire.gov.uk	

Member of Parliament - parliament.uk

Siobhan Baillie	020 7219 3000
siobhan.baillie.mp@parliament.uk	

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