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Stonehouse Town Council

stonehouse news



ISSUE 54 SUMMER 2024

Civic Awards Results 2024

Support for the community,
and news from local groups

SHOP
STONEHOUSE



Stonehouse Walking Festival

Free guided walks, tours
accessible boat trips, and
lots more fun events

Town Council's Annual Report

Recognition for Stonehouse Community Arboretum

welcome

Summer is finally here!

Although it doesn't feel like it, Summer has officially arrived. Our groundsman Rod and Paul are very busy keeping up with the mowing and strimming and ensuring the town is looking great. It is wonderful to see all the beautiful flowers on display in the town - thank you, Stonehouse in Bloom!

Since our last newsletter, a new Mayor has been elected, Councillor Neil Gibbs who we warmly welcome back into the role! We would like to thank Councillor Carol Kambites for all her hard work during her leadership over her term in office, it has been very much appreciated by all.

Remember to 'Shop Stonehouse' and support our wide variety of businesses.

The Stonehouse News Team



Going for Glory in Britain in Bloom!



D-Day 80 celebrations

D-Day 80 has been a momentous time for the Stonehouse Branch of RBL. The D-Day flag raised to the sound of Reveille played by a Wycliffe Cadet in the morning with the National Proclamation read by Town Mayor Neil Gibbs.

Later at 9.15pm a Beacon was lit on the memorial green for 15 minutes. Both events were attended by many Stonehouse residents and town civics.

Saturday 8th saw us once again on the Memorial Green with many stands of local organisations - the weather was kind and many people came, saw the displays, visited the stalls, tasted samples of Muller Milk products, and enjoyed a free tea/coffee & biscuits by Gamble Funeral directors - we were also supported by Moreton Hill Care Centre who provided refreshments and raffles.

A huge thank you to all who took part and to the Companies and Town Council who generously sponsored this event. We now look forward to the Poppy Appeal later in the year.

If you would like to know more or volunteer please contact:
Ruth Creighton e: poppyorganisermce25@gmail.com
mob: 0772 5187445

The final countdown is under way for 'In Bloom'

Stonehouse in Bloom volunteers will soon be welcoming two sets of RHS judges to the town for this year's Britain in Bloom and Heart of England in Bloom competitions.

First up will be Heart of England in Bloom judges David and Lesley Pritchard, who will be visiting Stonehouse on July 23. Lesley last came to judge in 2016. The team is excited to reveal how much has changed since her last visit.

On July 30, national judges Dale Hector and Alan Hulme will be in town for Britain in Bloom. Stonehouse is one of three selected to represent their regions in the small town category and will be vying with Frinton-on-Sea, in Essex, and Randalstown, in Northern Ireland, for the title of Best Small Town 2024.

"Stonehouse in Bloom is a labour of love all year round but the pressure is particularly intense in the run-up to judging, when lots of last-minute jobs need to be finished to make sure that the town looks the best it can for the judges," says SIB chair Pam Swain.

"We are grateful for all the help and support we have received from Stonehouse Town Council, GWR, Network Rail, Stonehouse History Group, Moreton Hill Care Centre, Shrubberies and Park Schools, Stonehouse Court Hotel, Wycliffe College, local charity Building Circles and many individuals from all sectors of the Stonehouse community, who have once again pulled out all the stops so that we can showcase our town at its summer best. We are excited to show both sets of judges all that we have been doing as a community over the past nine years to improve the local environment and enhance our town."

Mayor's Column

The recent District and Town Council elections in May have led to some significant changes in Stonehouse. We have seen a few former Town Councillors standing down to be replaced by a new team consisting of many former and some new members. Please remember that all your Town Councillors are unpaid volunteers. We have 3 new District Councillors representing us at Ebley Mill. Having worked with them all, I can confidently say we will be served by a group of commonsense, hard-working individuals who are all committed to Stonehouse

I am confident we have a really great team to move forward with over the next 4 years, backed-up by our professional paid staff, led by Carlos, our Town Clerk and supported by Jacqui our newly qualified Deputy Clerk.

I have the great honour of having again been chosen to serve a third term as Chair of Council (Town Mayor) and I am committed to move the Council forward on our agreed priorities. The canal redevelopment, Stagholt Allotments, Bristol Road Station and Oldends Lane facilities are some.

Stonehouse faces many changes in the coming years but I'm confident we are now well placed to meet those challenges.

Cllr Neil Gibbs

Mayor and Chair of Stonehouse Town Council

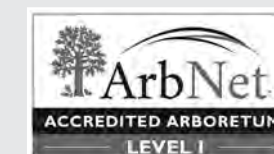
Formal recognition for the Stonehouse Community Arboretum

The Stonehouse Community Arboretum has been awarded a Level 1 Accreditation by The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and The Morton Arboretum, for achieving particular standards of professional practices deemed important for arboreta and botanic gardens. The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program is the only global initiative to officially recognize arboreta at various levels of development, capacity, and professionalism.

The Stonehouse Community Arboretum is also now recognized as an accredited arboretum in the Morton Register of Arboreta, a database of the world's arboreta and gardens dedicated to woody plants. This is a great achievement, demonstrating international recognition of the hard work that has been done to make Stonehouse an arboretum town, using trees to bring a wealth of social, environmental and economic benefits to our community.

Please do your bit to help this summer by watering newly planted street trees near you!

Contact John Parker at john@trees.org.uk for more information.



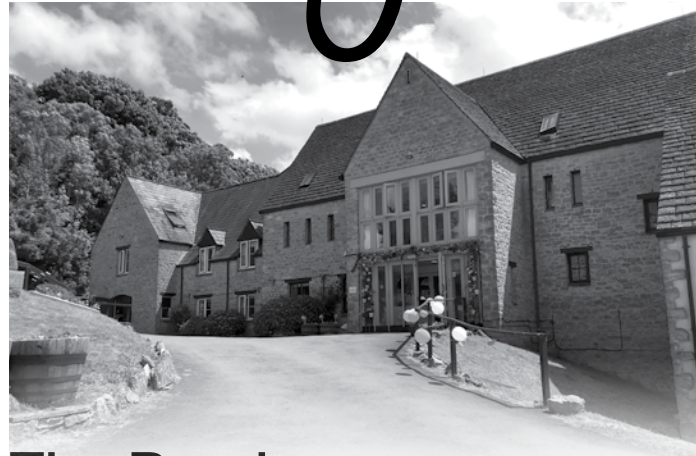
Supporting the community



Supporting our Community

For the first time we are supporting a local resident to hold a **Yard Trail** on the Park Estate. It will be held on Sunday 4th August, starting at 11am and continuing until 3pm. Sellers will be charged £2 per house, with the funds being used to help fund the food support at APT. If you would like to sell your unwanted items outside your house and you live on the Park Estate, get in touch with APT before 22nd July. Phone 01453 822705 or message us on facebook. Maps will be available from 27th July.

The APT Family Fun Day will be held on Saturday 17th August on the Three Greens in Park Estate. If you would like to book a pitch please get in touch, using the information above. There is no charge for a pitch we just ask that you donate a prize to our raffle. Lots of stalls and activities already booked, so come and join the fun.



The Barchester Charitable Foundation

Did you know that Barchester, the company that owns Moreton Hill Care Home has a Charitable Foundation that helps older people and other adults with a disability or mental health problems? Grants are given to help people connect or re-connect with others in their local community, the focus and aim being to combat loneliness and enable people to be active.

To find out more please visit our website on www.bhcfoundation.org.uk or call in to see us at Moreton Hill at the top of Horsemarling Lane GL10 3BZ.



Free summer activities for young people

The Pod Youth Club is thrilled to announce an exciting series of free summer activities for local young people, aimed at providing enriching experiences and fostering community spirit. These include a visit to Airhop in Bristol and longer sessions on Tuesdays (1-5pm) throughout the summer holidays including, cooking, nutrition education and serving free food. These sessions are designed to offer fun and special activities during the break.

In addition, the club proudly celebrates a significant milestone with five young members successfully completing the Young Leaders Training Programme, where they learned about safeguarding, boundaries, leadership skills, challenging behaviour and youth work practice. These newly qualified young leaders have demonstrated exceptional commitment and are positive role models, ready to contribute positively to the community. They also wrote this article!

The Pod is open on Tuesdays 3:30-5:30pm (1-5pm in Summer holidays), Thursdays 6:30-8:30pm and Fridays 3:30-5:30pm (comes with free food!).



Rotary make a world of difference

Like you, our members live locally in Stonehouse, and surrounding villages.

If you like helping others and being active why not find out more about Rotary? We can offer you something really worthwhile by supporting local and international community projects. Not only will you gain a sense of achievement, you will also enjoy a wide range of social activities and make many new friends of all ages.

About Us

Q. You're all businessmen aren't you?
A. No, we're men and women from a wide range of backgrounds.

Q. You have to be retired don't you?
A. No, you don't.

Q. Rotary is a big commitment isn't it?

A. No, you can contribute in a number of ways, whatever fits with your circumstances.



Contact:

learnmore@stonehouserotary.org.uk

Facebook
Stonehouse Rotary



Our latest issue of Grapevine is available now!

Contact us for your copy today

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



Cobalt Medical Charity

Did you know that local medical charity Cobalt is celebrating 60 years of providing support and innovation to the people of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire?

The charity, established by Dr Fred Hanna in 1964 was originally set up to enable people to receive their radiotherapy for cancer locally. Since then Cobalt has continued to grow and is now at the heart of delivering cutting edge imaging technology to people across the region and the UK. Recent projects include a partnership with the NHS supporting the new diagnostic centre at Gloucester Quays by providing a bespoke imaging centre, in addition to funding nurses for breast cancer research and support to teenagers and young people with cancer.

You may have seen our Cobalt cards in your local GP or shop? Our cards have been made by volunteers for over 40 years and last year raised over £32,000 for the charity. This is only possible because our supporters donate cards for us to upcycle. If you would like to get involved with our upcycle card project then please contact us on 01242 535922.

We are also holding events through the summer to celebrate our anniversary and to raise money for the work we do.

Visit our website to find out more at www.cobalthhealth.co.uk/support-us/



Home-Start Stroud and Gloucester are a local charity providing support to families with young children. If you could spare 2-3 hours a week to become a volunteer and offer help to others, by providing a listening ear and practical parenting support, we need you!

For more details please see our website www.homestartsd.org, call: 01453 297470 or email: enquiries@homestartsd.org

Give the gift of time and make a real difference to someone else when they need it the most.



Community news & groups



Longfield Summer Fete

Longfield are thrilled to invite you to a day of joy, laughter, and community spirit at our Summer Fete on August 3rd, 2024, from 12pm to 4pm at the Longfield Community Hospice's Wellbeing Centre, Burleigh Lane, Minchinhampton, GL5 2PQ.

Explore our beautiful grounds filled with an array of stalls offering everything from homemade crafts to mouthwatering cakes. Enjoy live music from talented local performers, providing the perfect backdrop for an afternoon of fun and relaxation.

Entrance is free so bring your family and friends to enjoy games, delicious food, and the chance to support a wonderful cause.

For more information visit
<https://longfield.org.uk/event/summer-fete/>

Longfield Ice Walk

Will you brave the elements for your local community hospice? Join Longfield on August 3rd, for our coolest challenge ever: the Ice Walk! Whether it's already on your bucket list or something you've never considered, this unique experience is the perfect way to support Longfield Community Hospice with your friends, family, or colleagues. Fearless fundraisers will walk over hundreds of pieces of sterilised broken bottles, navigating razor-sharp shards under the guidance and safety of professionals. It may sound tricky, but it's perfectly safe and an exhilarating way to show your support.

Take a step out of your comfort zone and help us continue our vital work in the community. Are you ready to face the challenge?

For more information or to sign-up visit
<https://longfield.org.uk/event/ice-walk-2024/>



Verney Fields Town Green Application

The community has shown significant support for Stonehouse Town Council's Town Green application for Verney Fields/Doverow Hill.

It is a vital green space for the community of Stonehouse and is the last main area of 'unimproved' land within easy reach of the town centre. It connects the town centre to Doverow Wood which is owned by Stonehouse Town Council (STC) and forms an integral part of the Stonehouse Community Arboretum Management Plan. The people of Stonehouse and surrounding parishes have, for decades, enjoyed unrestricted access to this land.

In February 2023, STC submitted an application for Town Green to Gloucestershire County Council (GCC). This was accompanied by 121 witness statements. The application was validated in January 2024. In April 2024 STC launched a survey to encourage and enable residents to further register their views. Over 1,100 supporting responses were received. They are now with GCC's Commons Registration Authority (CRA) along with others for consideration. A decision is expected sometime in September. This significantly large number reflects the importance of this issue to the people of Stonehouse.



Introducing SpICE – Ship Inn Community Enterprise

Significant progress has been made in recent months towards creating a community space on the former Ship Inn site.

A newly established working group – Ship Inn Community Enterprise (SpICE) is working alongside other stakeholders: Stroud District Council, Stonehouse Town Council and Cotswold Canals Connected, to achieve this aim.

SpICE is currently in the process of gathering input from members of the Stonehouse community to establish what facilities people would like to see in a sustainable community space on the site.

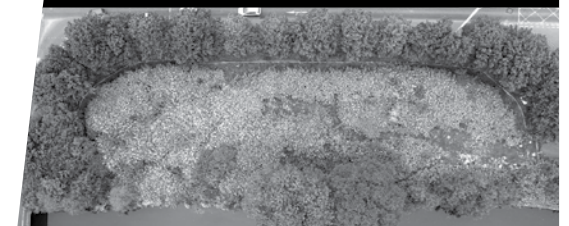
To that end, a new survey has been initiated to help guide future plans and assist the SpICE team in writing a business plan.

To fill in the survey, please visit spicestonehouse.co.uk/links

All previous members of ShIPS are now urged to join this next phase of the project by becoming a member of SpICE. Thank you for your support so far!

Sign up here: spicestonehouse.co.uk/links

Creating a canalside community space in Stonehouse

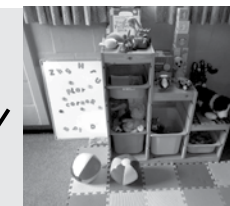


Scan the QR code to do the 'Ship Inn Use' survey online

End date: 30/09/2024.



Stonehouse Community Cafe/ Hub & children's play corner



Café

Thursday/Friday 9am-11.30am: All welcome for breakfasts, hot/cold drinks and a selection of cakes. Monthly lunches will resume on 1st Wednesday of each month from September 2024.

Events

Following on from the last pre-loved clothing sale, Longfields charity have events booked throughout the summer. We are pleased to support this much loved local charity.

Stonehouse Community Association are pleased to support Stroud Food bank & look forward to working with this fantastic charity helping the community of Stonehouse.

Rooms for hire



Stonehouse community centre offers a choice of 3 meeting rooms, lounge, main hall and kitchen area to hire for 1hr-4hr sessions. They are ideal for 1-1 meetings, small/large groups, children's parties, charity/music events, etc.

Email: stonehouse1@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone: 01453 823241
Webpage: stonehousecommunitycentre.co.uk
Find us on Facebook and Instagram

The Fig Tree

We can't quite believe it, in July we will have been open 3 years! This has only been possible because of our amazing team of volunteers, almost all of whom come from Stonehouse itself - they give their time freely because they want to give to the local community, to make it a better place.

We have a couple of card sales volunteers each day and volunteers run sessions throughout the week.

Our varied programme of activities includes our regular weekly sessions: Toddlers, Babies, Toddler Singing, Toddler Crafts, After School, Saturday Dads, Quiet Space, Friendship afternoon and Language Support, and a monthly Memory Cafe.

We also run short series of activities, like our Cooking sessions, evening adult Craft series, and occasional 'one-off' sessions too.

If you're new to Stonehouse, why not pop in and find out from our volunteers what's going on - it's a good way of meeting new people.



Summer News from all at Share and Repair

What a busy and productive year at we've had at Stonehouse Share & Repair. Whether it's mending an ailing vacuum cleaner or a treasured toy from years gone by, our engineers have the magic touch! Rolling back the years to put new life into old favourites is a common day occurrence, much to the delight of our customers.

Volunteers who work front of house love to match faltering tools with a skilled engineer, who all give their time freely. Seeing a customer return to take away a restored friend is reward in itself, and every one of us that work our daily slots want the same outcome.

We are a not for profit CIC aiming to provide the best service we can to those that need us. Repairing items that would be discarded to landfill is a mission we all aspire to.

So come along and see us when you're next in town. As winners of the Stroud News and Journal community award 2024 for 'Best Customer service', you'll always get a warm welcome.



Stonehouse Town Council

Annual Report 2023-2024

Introduction from the Town Mayor – Cllr Carol Kambites

It is my privilege to introduce the Annual Report for the year 2023/24. In doing so, I would like to welcome the Councillors and staff who have joined us during the last year, all of whom have hit the ground running and are making valuable contributions to the Council and the town. We have gained two new members of staff during the year. Some of you will have seen Rod Helps, our new Senior Town Maintenance Officer, around the town. He and Paul are working hard to keep the town neat and tidy as well as looking after the fields and play areas. David Marsden has recently been appointed to provide cover for Carla, our Business Support Officer, who is on maternity leave. We look forward to working with David and welcoming Carla back in due course.

I would like to thank all the staff and Councillors for their hard work and dedication during the last year. I'm proud of the way that Council and staff have pulled together to tackle the various challenges that we have faced. But Stonehouse would not be Stonehouse without you, the residents. So, I would like to use this opportunity to thank all those members of the community whose work and enthusiasm make Stonehouse into such a friendly and welcoming town.

The next year will no doubt produce new issues and the election will produce new Councillors to deal with them, but I am confident that we have a strong basis from which to move forward with existing projects and face new challenges.

Stonehouse Town Council Income and Expenditure 2022-2023/2023-24:		
Income	2021/22	2022/23
Precept	357,130	373,973
Investment interest	3,059	32,337
CIL/s106	*	*
Grants	15,027	0
Leases	10,228	11,521
Facilities Hire	1,355	2,673
Stonehouse in Bloom	1,788	650
Events	934	1,400
Other	6,027	5,693
*CIL Funding included in Grants total		
Total	395,548	428,247

Expenditure	2022/23	2023/24
Staff	151,297	182,897
General Expenditure	52,460	37,986
Streetscene inc SIB	47,424	68,924
Building Overheads	34,491	37,759
Youthwork	46,851	55,625
Equipment and Vehicles	20,285	3,424
Grants	37,497	22,136
I.T.	10,882	8,884
Events	5,372	6,437
*CIL Funding included in Grants total		
Total	406,559	424,072

Business Committee activities/ achievements

The Committee has been chaired by Cllr Mike Davis with Cllr John Callinan serving as Vice Chair. The Committee has a 'Terms of Reference' that can be viewed online; it covers the review of council policies, scrutinises the council's finances, oversees the council's staffing including their training, and generally supports the council in its efforts to deliver quality services to the community. The Committee also checks the draft budget before it is presented to Full Council.

Owing to the increased costs of contracted services across the board and a much-needed increase in staffing levels, the precept has had to be increased by 6.83% in 2024, representing an increase of £10.64 per property per year. Of the total increase in the council's budget, £20,000.00 is being met from reserves.

Human Resources Sub Committee and the Internal Audit Panel report to this Committee in addition to the following working groups: Business Networking, Climate Change Action Forum, Communications, Policy and Youth, Oldends Lane Development, Support Stonehouse and Events.

Grants Received	2023/24
	£0
Total	£0

Grants Awarded	2023/24
Citizen's Advice	£2,451.00
Cotswold Canals Trust	£5,000.00
Sherbourne Community Group	£1,000.00
Child Led Tutors	£300.00
Stonehouse Gardening Club	£500.00
Stonehouse Community Association	£60.00
Tiny Toes Stay and Play	£195.00
Sportily	£630.00
Homestart	£10,000.00
Allsorts	£1,000.00
Stonehouse School of Trustees	£1,000.00
*Total	£22,136.00

*This figure allows for adjustments to original codings.

Budget Headings	2023/24	2024/25
Staffing	180,000	205,000
Grants	15,000	17,400
Climate	5,000	5,000
Business	146,380	149,980
Environment	69,600	58,100
Contingency	0	0
Gross Expenditure	415,980	435,480
Income and Use of Reserves	-42,007	-51,610
Precept	373,973	383,870

For a comparison of the precept with that of other parishes, please see your council tax bill.

This year, Business Committee has:

- Completed the programmed review of the Town Council's policies including its Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Scheme of Delegations, Data Protection, Role of Working Groups, Memorials, Health & Safety, Reserves, Council's Inventory, Transparency Code Information, FOI Publication Scheme.
- Reviewed the Town Council's internal controls with very positive outcomes, through its Internal Audit Panel for each quarter of the 2023/24 financial year and reported these to Full Council.
- Supported Stonehouse Town Football Club in continuing to improve its welfare facilities, primarily to allow the club to maintain its current status and also to support additional facilities for the wider community.
- Supporting the Workshop, Pavilion and STFC Hospitality Suite to join the main sewage unit.
- Provided grants for a number of organisations in need of financial support.
- Approved the cost of installation of CCTV in the Town Hall car park.
- Approved the purchase of an additional CCTV camera for the POD building.
- Secured a new 3-year IT support contract.
- Progressing discussions with Stroud District Council regarding improvements to public conveniences and the High Street car park.

Environment Committee

The Committee has been chaired by Cllr Neil Gibbs, with Cllr Keith Terry, serving as Vice Chair.

In 2023/24, the Committee has:

- Continued to support Stonehouse in Bloom in its efforts to prepare for the RHS Heart of England in Bloom National finals in 2023 with new planting containers and plant suppliers. They won Gold in the Heart of England in Bloom and Winner of Best Small-Town Category.
- Supported the Events Working Group in organising community events such as Goodwill and supporting with the Canal Spring Festival.
- Responded to consultations on Stroud District Council's Community Governance Review, Street Trading Policy, Public Spaces Protection Orders in respect of dog control, review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023.
- Undertook a tree survey of trees in Doverow Wood and various other trees in the town, including the Willow at the Globe. Following the tree surveyor's recommendations, employed qualified and certified specialists to carry out the necessary remedial works.
- Continued to support the public consultation regarding the future of Verney Fields. Over 120 questionnaires were completed by residents supporting the application for Town Green status to be applied to the fields which was presented to Gloucestershire County Council.
- Secured the services of a planning consultant to prepare a planning application to extend the allotments at Stagholt, a Flood Risk assessment of the area and an Ecological Report.
- Supported the canal rejuvenation by networking with stakeholders along the canal frontage in Stonehouse to pinpoint future opportunities for economic regeneration, health & wellbeing, and environmental conservation that will come with the restored canal. Produced an outline business case for a community facility on the former Ship Inn site as well as identifying potential opportunities at other locations between Bond's Mill and Ryeford.
- Supported the Town Council's work on ensuring the town's Public Rights of Way remained protected.
- Supporting highway improvements through its Transport and Highways working group
- Providing support for the community's most vulnerable through its Support Stonehouse working group, All Pulling Together (APT) and its contributors.
- Secured a new 5-year Grounds Maintenance contract.
- Supported the purchase of materials to build small scale boat planters.
- Supported the purchase of replacement, inclusive swings at Laburnum Park.
- Supported and matched funding for an e-bike hire project.



Great Oldbury Primary Academy & Stonehouse History Group

What an exciting term for Year 2 it has been! Our site manager Barry 'found' a time capsule from a boy named Wilf who used to live in an old cottage in the field that is now our forest school area. The children were learning about their school and its history but GOPA has only been open for 3 years so this time capsule couldn't have been found at a better time. Inside, was a letter from Wilf explaining that he walked to Eastington Primary school everyday and had explained that his head master had given them the task to write to the children of the future to explain what schools were like 100 years ago. Wilf wrote down a typical timetable of his day which was very different to ours in 2024. Wilf also included some photographs of his Dad, who used to work down at Pike lock, his school friends, his classroom and some old maps of the great Oldbury site, all very useful when finding out about our history.

Mrs Hancock decided to write to the local history group in Stonehouse to see if they could help us discover more about Great Oldbury and sure enough a speedy reply came back from Vicki Walker who provided more excellent articles and photographs. She also put us in touch with Steve Mills, a local historian from Eastington. Steve told us about our estate and street names and that they were named after local veterans and people that were special to the Stonehouse and Eastington community.

Not only did Steve provide us with local knowledge but he offered to talk to us about how the canals worked and about Pike and Blunder lock (where Wilf's Dad worked!) so what better way to learn about the locks than to go and visit them! Steve kindly met us at the locks and told us about how they were made, what they were used for and how they worked. We learnt lots about the boats transporting coal to the nearby Stroud factories where they then made woollen cloth.

Great Oldbury Primary Academy would just like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Stonehouse History group, Vicki and Steve for bringing our local history to life!



Stonehouse History Group

Meetings are normally held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Park Junior School Hall at 7.30 pm. Cost £2 for members, £3 for non-members

Forthcoming Events

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 – Jack Boskett – 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.

Find out more on our website www.stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk

Or contact info@stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk

Local History in the Five Valleys

Highways and Byways - An exhibition at the Museum in the Park, Stroud

Saturday 13 July to Sunday 21 July (11-4.30 weekends, 10.30-4.30 Tues-Fri, closed Mondays) - free entry

Displays from local history groups around the Stroud area including Stonehouse



Photo shows Gloucester Road c1900



Bandit Music Projects

<http://www.banditmusicprojects.co.uk/>
<https://www.longtrainride.co.uk>

BandiT is a four-day songwriter and band workshop for 50 to 60 students aged 7 to 17. Students throughout the community come together to form bands and to be creative in song writing and performing. The prime function of the workshop is to give young people from all backgrounds the opportunity to gain experience in musicianship, creative song writing and performance skills.

Also alongside the music workshop we also provide around 5 to 10 places for older students to gain work experience in Teaching, Musicianship, events, stage management, live sound, PA setup and lighting.

On yer bike! Community scheme will make it easy to try e-bikes in Stonehouse

A local scheme to enable people to try e-bikes before they buy is about to be launched in Stonehouse. Transition Stroud, which supports local people to aim for a more sustainable lifestyle, has joined forces with The Bike Drop and Stonehouse Town Council to get the project off the ground.

The aim of the scheme is to take the fear out of trying e-bikes, which are expensive compared to standard bikes – however, they can easily do the work of a small car at a fraction of the price – and they're a lot easier to park. E-bikes are for everyone - they're cheaper, more convenient, healthier to use, brilliant at hills, and better for the planet.

The project will have two types of bike available for people to loan out, both coming with all the kit you need to carry kids and equipment safely. Pick up and drop-off for the e-bikes will be from the Bridge Cafe, so easy for everyone to get to.

The bike loan scheme is supported by Stonehouse Town Council, Stroud District Council and the Rural England Prosperity Fund.

Find out more on the Transition Stroud website: <https://transitionstroud.org/transition-stroud-action-groups/e-bike-hire>



STONEHOUSE W.I.

LEARN WITH US & LAUGH WITH US



Stonehouse WI continues to be busy. In April we celebrated meeting at the Community Centre for 56 years, a pleasant and proud reminder of how long our group has been involved in and concerned with the people of Stonehouse.

Currently our thoughts are turning to our annual summer outing. This year we're visiting Stanway House, near Cheltenham, a beautiful Jacobean Manor House with the world's highest, gravity-fed single-jet fountain within its garden.

We are very much looking forward to going, especially after Kate Peake, one of our recent speakers, featured the building and grounds in a film show presentation earlier this year. The video was showcasing views of the Cotswold Way and the inclusion of Stanway was a happy coincidence, but it's given us a taste of what to expect.

There's more to discover about Stonehouse WI and the things we do – just visit our website: <http://stonehousewi.weebly.com>



In May we witnessed many heartwarming moments that have brightened our days. Our animals are finding loving homes, and we cherish their journey towards brighter futures and the happiness they bring to their adoptive families.

Our fortnightly **car boot sales** continue at The Fromebridge Mill and are a fantastic opportunity to find hidden treasures, every penny from seller's fees supports our sanctuary. Please check Facebook for dates.

Also our **pub quizzes** on the first Wednesday of each month are supported by the wonderful folks at The Fromebridge Mill. Gather your friends for a fun night, again all in support of our animal friends. £3 per person and up to teams of 6, we have on average 100 quizzers taking part so booking a table is advisable.

Finally, save the date of our **Summer Fair** at The Fromebridge Mill, August 17th and 18th which promises to be a great weekend.



Stonehouse Walking Festival 6-15 September

For our 5th Stonehouse Walking Festival, we aim to celebrate the range of walks the Stonehouse area has to offer with free, guided, group walks in our local area and beyond.

This year we are highlighting our surrounding 'peaks' and our 'trough'! We are following the progress of canal restoration works to restore the 'Missing Mile'.

For a full walk schedule and booking information, scan the QR code to visit the website: <http://www.stonehousewalks.co.uk>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Stonehousewalkingfestival>
Email: stonehousewalkfest@gmail.com



Date	Start time	Title of walk	Miles	Start from
Friday 6	18:00	Festival Launch Walk to the Vineyard	2	PCP
Saturday 7	09:10	Four Ways and a Path TRAIN to Kemble	10	SRS
	10:00	Bridge over the 'Missing Mile'*	7	PCP
	10:30	Family Fun Walk	2	APT
	11:00-16:00	Ghosthunters walks*		SCC
Sunday 8	10:00	Eastington Farm Shop	5	PCP
	11:00-16:00	Ghosthunters walks*		SCC
	14:00	Stonehouse History: High St*	2	PCP
	18:00	Sunset & Green Walk	3	PCP
Monday 9	10:00	Over Doverow to Standish	5	PCP
	14:00	Stroudwater Canal Then and Now*	4-6	StC
Tuesday 10	10:00	Up to Haresfield Beacon	8	PCP
	14:00	Meditative Woodland Walk*	2	PCP
	18:00	Moreton Sunset Walk*	4	PCP
Wed 11	09:30	Selsley Common and Canal	7	PCP
	11:00	Fair Shares Accessible Walk	0.5	APT
	14:00	Freedom on Water Boat Trip*		SCC
	14:00	Canal Walk to Ebley Mill	4	StC

* Booking essential.

Date	Start time	Title of walk	Miles	Start from
Thursday 12	10:00	Beards Mill and Eastington*	5.5	StC
	10:00	Trees of Stonehouse 1: Around the Town	2-3	PCP
	14:00	Standish Church Walk	6	PCP
Friday 13	10:00	2 Churches and an Orchard	4	CC
Saturday 14	14:00	Trees of Stonehouse 2: Doverow	2-3	PCP
	10:00	Vistas of Coaley Peak	8	PCP
	10:00	Railway Track to Cycle Track	3	PCP
	13:00	Wildlife Highways from Ship Inn		SCC
Sunday 15	14:00	Freedom on Water Boat Trip*		SCC
	15:00	Trees of Stonehouse 2: Doverow	2-3	PCP
	09:00	Fromebridge to Saul Environmental Walk*	4.5	PCP
	10:00	Kings Stanley for a 'Rest'	6	PCP
	14:00	Trees of Stonehouse 1: Around the Town	2-3	PCP
	14:00	Wycliffe Wanderings*	1.5	PCP
	18:00	Canal Walk Festival Finale	3	PCP

Starting Points:

APT All Pulling Together GL10 2DB
CC Community Centre GL10 2NS
PCP Public Car Park GL10 2NG
StC St Cyr's Church GL10 3QP
SCC Stonehouse Court GL10 3RA
SRS Stonehouse Railway Station

Faith groups

St Cyr's Church

St Cyr's Church is open daily so please feel free to pop in, enjoy a time of quiet and say a prayer.

We meet on Sunday mornings at 9.30am for a **Family Service**, lasting approximately 45 minutes, followed by refreshments.

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

Check out our Facebook page "St Cyr's Church Stonehouse" and our website www.stroudwaterchurches.org.uk for details of our upcoming events, church services and fundraising events this summer and autumn including church cafes, harvest and remembrance.

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.



Every Sunday morning 8.30am: Tamil church followed by our main service 10:30am.

First Sunday of every month 10.30am: Family/Youth Service.

Every Tuesday 12.30pm-3.30pm: the Haven (snack, socialising and companionship).

Every Tuesday 6pm: 2.7.14 prayer and Bible Study.

Every Wednesday 10.30am: Bible Study.

Every Saturday 9am-10.30am: Men's Ministry.

Saturday 13th July 9am: Men's breakfast. All men welcome.

Thursday 3rd & 18th July 10am: Coffee morning.

Saturday 3rd August 12.30pm: Encounter, ladies afternoon tea.

Saturday 10th August 9am-3pm: Holiday Bible Day – games, crafts, food and bible study.



Stonehouse Junior Parkrun

Stonehouse junior parkrun has really been enjoying the improved weather. We have had a fair few takeover events where members of various schools and a Scouts group have joined us. We are also thrilled that more people are also discovering the event for the first time. Furthermore, we have helped more Duke of Edinburgh volunteers achieve their awards whilst they have helped us too. We'd like to remind you all that our event is free and open to

all participants aged 4-14, who can run, jog, hop, skip, walk or otherwise make their way round the 2km course. You just need to register online for a barcode for your child, then they can work towards earning free wristbands for doing the total equivalent of a half marathon, marathon and more, which we love to reward. Join us weekly, at Oldends Lane Playing Fields on Sundays at 8:50am, for a 9am start.



Civic Awards

Civic Awards 2024

A huge thank you to all that came to the Annual Town Meeting and Civic Awards on 25th April. It was a great evening with presentations by a range of community groups. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Civic Awards.

- ★ Business of the Year
– Winner: Wynn's Coffee & Sandwiches
 - ★ Business of the Year
– Highly Commended: La Campagna
 - ★ Business of the Year
– Highly Commended: All Pets & Garden Accessories
 - ★ Stonehouse Community Group of the Year
– Winner: Stonehouse Town Football Club
– Highly Commended: Stonehouse in Bloom
– Highly Commended: All Pulling Together (APT)
 - ★ Young Person of the Year
– Winner: Kai Painter
 - ★ Person of the Year
– Winner: Catherine Thompson
– Highly Commended: Ruth Creighton
- I'm sure you all agree that they are very worthy winners!

Wynn's Coffee Co is honoured to be the winners of the 2024 Business of the Year Award

Our family-run company has been supported by Stonehouse and surrounding areas since we opened our doors over 10 years ago. It is with great pride that we continue to serve the local community by providing a friendly service and welcoming environment.

We offer our locally loved coffee, well stuffed sandwiches, freshly cooked breakfasts and sweet treats, to eat in or take away, from 8am to 3pm Monday to Saturday.

Our upstairs seating area is available free of charge for local groups and charities to book for meetings and sessions. The space is also available to hire for businesses and larger gatherings.

Most importantly, we are very dog friendly and are more than happy to give your furry friends a little treat when you visit us at Wynn's.



Business of the Year – Highly Commended: La Campagna

La Campagna are thrilled to have won the Highly Commended Business of the Year Civic Award this year.

We would like to say a massive thank you to the Stonehouse Community for the continuous love and support over the years and for voting for us.

We are very proud of our team and the positive atmosphere we have created, ensuring all our customers enjoy their experience with us.

La Campagna is a very inviting family-owned restaurant with delicious authentic Italian dishes. We prefer to source our food locally, so all our meat produce comes from the local butcher – Broomhall.

If you would like to book a table, please ring 01453 821559 – we would love to see you!

Website:
la-campagna.co.uk

Email:
stonehouse@la-campagna.co.uk



Business of the Year – Highly Commended: All Pets

All Pets are proud to receive the Highly Commended Business of the Year Civic Award once again.

This year All Pets are celebrating 10 years of being owned by the Fox family. Staff are friendly, knowledgeable and happy to help or discuss and advise on your pet's individual requirements and if we don't have what you require in stock, we are happy to order items in.

For the household and garden we stock many pesticides and remedies. Potatoes, onion sets, beans, fertilisers and grass seed are available to buy loose by the kilo.

We offer good, old fashioned customer service with competitive prices.

Contact us on
01453 824724.



Community Group of the Year – Winner: Stonehouse Football Club



Stonehouse Town Football Club are the proud recipients of the Civic Award for Community Group of the Year 2024, for the second year in a row! We are thrilled to be recognised by the local community as we are a group of enthusiastic volunteers who strive to make football available to all ages –

starting at six years old, going up to adults, then the veterans team. We have also just started an under 9's girls' team.

If you would like more information, or to join one of our teams, please contact us at info@stonehousetownfootballclub.co.uk

Our new facilities, The Nest, is somewhere the local community can use and are welcome. Stonehouse Town Football Club are applying to increase the licensing hours from 12:00 to 23:45 Fridays and Saturdays, 12:00 to 23:00 Monday to Thursday, and 12:00 to 22:00 on Sunday. The extended hours are for booked/planned events and NOT regular opening times.

The application will be submitted to Stroud District Council.



Christmas Goodwill Fest

Stonehouse Goodwill will be held on **Saturday 7th December**. Please save the day! More information will be given nearer the time.

Groundsmmen's corner



Rod and Paul, the town's groundsmen, have had a challenging spring with persistent heavy rainfall giving them a grass mowing headache. But recently – even though it hasn't grown much warmer – the rain has finally let up and the two of them have been able to swing into action with mowers and trimmers to get the grass back under control.

They both work incredibly hard to help make Stonehouse look beautiful. So do say hi if you see them working about the town!



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/David Marsden
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 July 2024
23rd September 2024
21st October 2024

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

9th September 2024
7th October 2024
4th November 2024

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

2nd September 2024
30th September 2024
28th October 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

John Callinan	01453 825547
Deborah Curtis	07988 630951
Marcus Dixon	07813 807488
Neil Gibbs (Chair)	01453 828430
Carol Kambites	07816 552171
Simon Macgregor	07813 541742
Madelaine Maraboli-Roman	01453 822070
Gary Powell	01453 826527
Val Randell	07964 852707
Keith Terry	07743 470094
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

Carol Kambites	07816 552171
cllr.carol.kambites@stroud.gov.uk	
John Callinan	01453 825547
cllr.john.callinan@stroud.gov.uk	
John Parker	
cllr.john.parker@stroud.gov.uk	

County Councillor - gloucestershire.gov.uk

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

Member of Parliament - parliament.uk

Simon Opher
Contact details to be advised

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