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Stonehouse Town Council

# stonehouse news



ISSUE 56 SPRING 2025

SHOP  
STONEHOUSE

## Ship Inn space opening soon

Spring events, education  
and sports news

## Tribute to our willow

Support for the community, and  
news from local groups



# welcome

Welcome to the Spring edition of Stonehouse News and we hope that your 2025 has got off to a fantastic start. After a seemingly endless grey and wet winter, it feels like the days are getting longer, brighter and drier.

You are all aware of the sad decision to safely take down the iconic Globe Willow. We have left some of the trunk standing in the hope that, in time, it will begin to re-grow. If it does not, there are several genetically identical saplings taken from the cuttings of the tree waiting to be put in its place. You can read more about the Globe Willow in this edition of Stonehouse News.

## The Stonehouse News Team



Please support your local shops and services in our Parish. Go to [shopstonehouse.co.uk](http://shopstonehouse.co.uk) for more information.

## Do you want to improve the energy efficiency of your home?

The home energy project that the Town Council have been carrying out with Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA) is now coming to an end. The (anonymised) results of the surveys will be published on the Town Council website soon and printed booklets and flyers will be available. SWEA has offered to attend an event in Stonehouse to talk about the project and to give advice. Details will be available soon.

Stroud District Council is working with other local Councils, and a company called Furbnow offer a comprehensive (paid-for but subsidised) service that includes:

- Expert advice on home energy improvements
- Whole house assessment and Energy Plans for eligible properties
- Access to trusted, pre-vetted contractors
- Tailored advice for the many older and listed properties in our district
- Support throughout the entire process from Furbnow retrofit experts

You can find more details at [furbnow.com/gloucestershire/](http://furbnow.com/gloucestershire/)

SWEA, Severn Wye Energy Agency, can provide a wide range of advice on energy saving and how to improve your home as well as on grants you may be eligible for.

You can also find out about grants through the Fairer Warmth app, Fairer Warmth | Save Energy, Save Money and Access Grants and Support.

## The Globe Willow

You will probably have seen by now that one of the most iconic trees in Stonehouse – the Globe Willow – has received some drastic pruning work recently. Unfortunately, the willow suffered significant damage in one of the November storms which resulted in a split on the stem opening up significantly. Having considered the matter very carefully, including options such as repollarding and bracing, with the help of professional arboricultural advice it was decided that by taking drastic action now, we could improve the chances of the tree recovering and thriving.

The tree work was carried out safely and professionally by a qualified and experienced arboricultural contractor, using a mobile elevated platform because the willow was too dangerous to climb. The remaining section of stem is expected to regenerate strongly. It will be very closely cared for, and in time it is expected to develop a new canopy to ensure that the Globe Willow – planted in 1921 – can continue for years to come as the centrepiece of the Stonehouse Community Arboretum. If and when replacement is required, cuttings have been taken and are growing around Stonehouse so that a genetically identical clone can be planted in place of the original.

For more information about the Globe Willow or the Stonehouse Community Arboretum, please contact John Parker at [john@trees.org.uk](mailto:john@trees.org.uk)



## Spring opening for Ship Inn space!

We as a community, achieved a lot in 2024:

- Events were attended throughout the year, extending the membership of the group and informing anybody that is interested, what the idea was and the plan for the site
- A survey was carried out on the Site use and how people could access the space, which has added significantly to our plans and thoughts on how you would like to use the site.
- All the necessary surveys and biodiversity reports were carried out. These are vital to ensuring that when the site is developed by the community, the result will give more back to the ecology than it removed. **Our thanks go to the Town Council who has financed this vital step and allowed us all to get access to the site. The Town Council and District Councillors have facilitated a Licence with Stroud District Council to allow SpICE use of the land until March 2026.**
- Cotswold Canals Connected used a tractor to cut the overgrown scrub on the site and 52 (in total) generous volunteers from the membership came and cleared the vegetation (approx 60 cu meters of it!) and a Bridgend resident removed it for composting.

The initial phase of allowing you all to use the site is now underway. The Town Council have allocated funds for a seating area to be created along with information board and pedestrian access gate. See you on site this spring!

Donations to SpICE to help fund the project would be gratefully received at [www.peoplesfundraising.com/donation/spice](http://www.peoplesfundraising.com/donation/spice)

For more information, go to [www.spicestonehouse.co.uk](http://www.spicestonehouse.co.uk)

## Exciting News!

The SpICE group are thrilled to announce our partnership with the team at **Cotswold Canals Connected** to bring you a summer full of activities at the Ship Inn site!

Imagine a summer filled with: delicious food vans, scenic nature trails, community picnics, beautiful flower shows. And that's just some of the ideas! We want to make this summer unforgettable for everyone, so we would love to hear what you think would make a great event for the people of Stonehouse. What activities would you like to see? Share your thoughts and let's create a summer of fun for all the family together!

We would also love to collaborate with local groups who would like to get involved. If your group has an idea or would like to participate, please reach out to us!

Looking forward to hearing from you!  
Email: [hello@spicestonehouse.co.uk](mailto:hello@spicestonehouse.co.uk)

## Mayor's Column

Firstly, a Happy New Year to all our residents from everyone at the Town Council, including staff and councillors. 2025 is going to be a busy year in Stonehouse.

First of all, I would like to mention the issues we are having with the historic 103-year-old willow on the Town Green. This tree had been a much loved and prominent feature of Stonehouse for generations, but like all things, it has got old and diseased beyond saving. The only safe thing to do was to prune the tree back to a degree whereby it might just be able to regenerate and sprout a new sibling, rather like the sycamore on Hadrian's Wall. The Council arrived at this potential solution only after a great deal of thought and consultation with local tree expert, John Parker. We want to keep the tree's genetics alive and will give the pruned stump time to regenerate but if it's not successful, we have clones of the tree waiting in cultivation to be transplanted.

Still on the subject of trees, many of you will be aware of the groundbreaking Community Arboretum plan your Council adopted a couple of years ago. To keep the plan as a living and developing initiative, I was successful in proposing and introducing a new Arboretum and Open Spaces Working Group. The Group consists of councillors and experts and will focus on developing and implementing the Arboretum plan as well as developing projects and initiatives to improve our open spaces in terms of tree planting and other environmental measures.

By the time this reaches you, we will hopefully have completed the new mains sewerage project at Oldends Lane which will do away with an obsolete septic tank and allow both the sports pavilion and Stonehouse Town F.C. to take advantage of mains drainage for the first time. I know this is not a glamorous project, but it has been technically challenging, and money well spent. I should like to thank all those members of staff and councillors who have worked so hard to achieve this.

Best wishes

**Cllr Neil Gibbs**

*Mayor and Chair of Stonehouse Town Council*





# Supporting the community

## Citizens Advice

If you find yourself struggling financially, don't panic. Support is out there, and Citizens Advice can help you understand what's available. We're here to help you find a way forward.

Please look at the public website first if possible ([www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)). If that isn't possible or you need further help please call us on 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511 (Monday and Tuesday 10am to 4pm; Wednesday and Thursday 10am to 12.30pm). You can also access our local website ([www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswood.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswood.org.uk)) to complete our email form.



## Supporting our Community

The Team at APT have just completed our annual planning session for 2025. Lots of new ideas for the year ahead and our first one is up and running already! One of our volunteers has made a bookcase to fit in the entrance hall at APT so that free books and games can be given out. Just come in when we are open and see if there is anything you would like. You can take away for free or do a book swap.

There are lots more ideas including activities for children, a Yard Trail around the Park Estate, Family Fun Day in August, with our usual coach trip in September.

If you have ideas for activities you would like us to provide or where you would like us to visit on the coach trip this year, get in touch, by phoning 01453 822705 or email us at [aptcentral@btconnect.com](mailto:aptcentral@btconnect.com).



## Craft a better future for older people across Gloucestershire

The Big Knit is heartwarming initiative that will bring people together, spread creativity, and raise vital funds to support older people across Gloucestershire.

Here's how it works: crafters knit and crochet adorable, tiny hats that will later adorn smoothie bottles (yes, hats for smoothies!). For every bottle sold wearing one of these hats, Innocent will donate 30p which will go directly to help us provide vital support for local older people when they need it the most.

Whether you knit one hat or one hundred, every stitch counts and patterns range from simple to super-creative. You have until 1st July 2025 to complete your hats, so grab your needles, yarn and creativity, and let's show how powerful a community of crafters can be!

For more information, patterns and inspiration visit: [ageuk.org.uk/gloucestershire/BigKnit](http://ageuk.org.uk/gloucestershire/BigKnit)  
Email: [supporters@ageukgloucestershire.org.uk](mailto:supporters@ageukgloucestershire.org.uk)  
Call: 01452 420900



Home-Start Stroud and Gloucester are a local charity supporting families within the community experiencing a time in their lives when they need a little extra help and support, practically and emotionally. Parenting is not always easy, but with support, together we can really make a difference.

If you are starting the New Year thinking you may like to volunteer for a local charity, our new volunteer training starting in March, provides people with the skills and confidence to share their parenting knowledge to help make that difference when it's needed the most.

If you have 2-3 hours a week spare, please visit our website for more information and to apply [www.homestartsd.org](http://www.homestartsd.org) or call 01453 297470 for a friendly chat, we would love to hear from you.



## Find your Forever Job with Hft

A charity which supports learning disabled adults is looking for new staff to join its team.

Hft, which supports people to live independently across Stroud, Stonehouse, Ryeford, Ebley and the wider Gloucestershire area, is recruiting for support workers.

Support workers help service users with a number of everyday tasks from cooking and shopping as well as social activities, such as attending clubs and going out for coffee.

Hft Recruiter for Gloucestershire Rene Hunt said:

*"The adults we support in our supported living in Stonehouse love being part of the community."*

*"We are looking for people who want to give something back and make a real difference in helping the adults we support to achieve their goals and ambitions in life."*

For more details about the roles available, contact Rene on 01453 820940 or email [rene.hunt@hft.org.uk](mailto:rene.hunt@hft.org.uk).



## Teaching young people social enterprise, profit and creating things

The energy in The Pod Youth Club is really settled and respectful with young people fully comfortable in the space and in their group dynamics. Through December, youth workers focused on teaching the young people about social enterprise, profit and creating things to sell at Stonehouse Goodwill. All profits were intended to go towards the revamp of The Pod. The cohort worked hard to create, price and budget for this, which unfortunately got rained off. Despite this, the young people jumped to action and set up their own internal fundraiser during a Pod session, where we had Christmas dinner, Christmas games and prizes to win.

Together with The Pod's group of young volunteers, we will use one youth club session a week to paint and decorate the space in a way that reflects them and their respect they have for their youth club.

If anyone would like to make a contribution to the group, we are looking for a second hand 3 seater sofa, LED lights and some warm light lamps. Donations are of course welcome!





# Community news & groups



THANK YOU  
Stonehouse  
for your fantastic  
support in 2024!

RBL Poppy Appeal.

**TOTAL RAISED BY YOU: £21,818.92 and counting!!**

'Counting' as we continue to raise funds all year round.

Donations to the Poppy Appeal go 100% to the charity, and its work helping ALL members and former members of the Armed Forces.

Money is used across the country helping veterans and service men and women in need, covering those who served in any of the military branches.

The RBL has been able to fund Recovery Centres to help those badly injured back to health- like the Battle Back Centre, founded in 2011 to support wounded and injured service personnel who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

There are 7 care homes around the UK for war veterans, run by the Royal British Legion.

We are ALWAYS looking for volunteers – could this be you?

Please contact me: Ruth Creighton  
e: poppyorganiserMCE25@gmail.com



## Stonehouse Community Association

### Rooms for hire

A selection of rooms to hire per hour /sessions including main hall /annexe, lounge, 3 meeting rooms. Ideal for parties/charity/music events, craft fayres, training, exercise groups.

### Regular events

- \* Hearing Aid batteries dispensed Mondays & Fridays 8am-11.30am
- \* New children's group for children aged 1-5 years on Tuesdays (term time only). The Phonics class is both educational and high energy fun, opening children and their parents to a world of literacy. Contact Aneesa on 07712 406142 or email: [aneesa@robotreg.co.uk](mailto:aneesa@robotreg.co.uk)

### Café

- \* The Community Café is open on Thursdays & Fridays 9am - 11.30am (cash only)
- \* Community lunches including 2 courses and tea/coffee, for £7.50 are now available on Wednesdays 12 noon - 1.45pm. Telephone for bookings: 01453 823241

Email: [stonehouse1@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:stonehouse1@tiscali.co.uk)  
Webpage: [stonehousecommunitycentre.co.uk](http://stonehousecommunitycentre.co.uk)  
Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

Reg charity since 1962 – serving the community of Stonehouse & surrounding areas

## Stonehouse Saturday stalls

The Saturday market in Stonehouse has grown in popularity with both customers and stallholders.

It has a friendly atmosphere and sells a huge variety of items.

There is fruit and vegetables, plants, Stonehouse gift company, birthday items, macrame, curry, cookies, and brownies, croissants, and bird, butterfly, and bee houses. Plus much more!



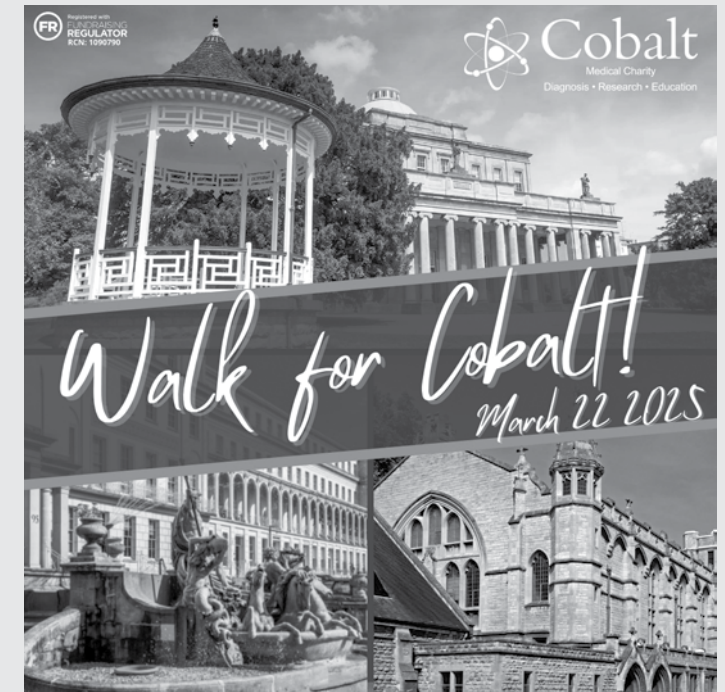
The Fig Tree  
Stonehouse  
[www.stonehousefigtree.org](http://www.stonehousefigtree.org)

We sell fantastic greetings cards and the funds they raise enable us to provide our sessions for free. So do pop in soon! Mother's Day and Easter cards are in already.

### Memory Café

A regular session is the Memory Café on the second Wednesday in the Month 10.00-12.00noon. Come with those you support, who have memory issues, and meet folk who understand. There are various activities on offer each month. For example, listening to vinyl records played on a record player and singing along, listening to various speakers who come and give short talks about useful things, looking at familiar items from the past that bring back memories of childhood and working life or just have a chat. Come for as long or as little as you want. We can always promise great cakes and a warm welcome!

**Future dates:** March 12th, April 9th, May 14th, June 11th



## Support Cobalt: Your Local Medical Charity

Cobalt is making a difference across Gloucestershire, and your support helps change lives. Whether you organise an event or join one of ours, there are plenty of ways to get involved.

### Make A Will Month – April 2025

Partner solicitors will write or update a straightforward will in exchange for a donation:

- **£150** for a single will
- **£200** for joint mirror wills

In 14 years, this initiative has raised over £130,000 for vital equipment and services. Places are limited—visit our website or call 01242 535922 to find out more.

### Upcoming Events

- 22nd March 2025: **Walk for Cobalt** – Family-friendly walk through Cheltenham's history.
- 13th April 2025: **Quenington Open Garden** – Rare plants and homemade treats.
- 16th May 2025: **Snowdon Sunrise Trek** – A magical climb for a great cause.

Learn more at [www.cobalthhealth.co.uk](http://www.cobalthhealth.co.uk)

## SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

Shopping local and weekly High Street stalls are so essential to keeping a small town vibrant.

Come wind and rain stallholders will be outside the Willow Tree Practice on Stonehouse High Street, Saturdays from 10th February to Christmas.

**If you can support us, we can help you...see you soon.**





# Stonehouse History Group

Stonehouse History Group meetings are 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

**February 12th** – Vicki Walker and Shirley Dicker – *Stonehouse in WW2.*

**March 12th** – Ian Boskett – *The Great Train Robbery 1963.*

**April 9th** – Nick Sharpe – *Hillforts – A legacy of the Iron Age Dobunni tribe.*

**May 14th** – AGM – *Members' short talks.*

**June 11th** – Shepherd's Crook Folk Choir – *Songs from the Workhouse – a talk on life in the workhouse and traditional songs.*

**July 9th** – Kirsty Hartsiosos – *Arts and Crafts stained glass in Cotswold Churches.*

**Sept 10th** – Mike Fenton – *The GWR railway in Stonehouse.*

Our Facebook page features old photographs of Stonehouse and memories of the people and places shown. If you have any photographs of Stonehouse in the past that you would like to share, please add it to "mentions" or message us.

Find out more on our website [www.stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk](http://www.stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk)  
Or contact [info@stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk](mailto:info@stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk)

## Stonehouse Singers

Love to sing? Come and join us!



**Tuesdays**  
**11am–12.15pm**  
**SINGING FOR FUN**  
**and to STRENGTHEN**  
**OUR VOICES**

- \* A welcoming, friendly singing group for all abilities
- \* Led by Sophie Sterckx
- \* Practice vocal warm-ups and breath support
- \* Sing rounds and songs in simple harmony
- \* No music reading skills needed
- \* New singers welcome!

**St Joseph's Church Hall,**  
**Oldends Lane, Stonehouse. GL10 2DG**

**£8 per session drop-in fee**  
**£7 with advance block booking**

Email: [sophie@sophiesterckx.co.uk](mailto:sophie@sophiesterckx.co.uk) Tel: 07913 665587  
Info: [www.sophiesterckx.co.uk](http://www.sophiesterckx.co.uk)



## Moreton Hill Care Home

Do you have a few hours a week to spare? Your time could make a real difference as a volunteer at our home.

There are many ways to volunteer at Moreton Hill and the role you could play depends largely on your own interests, the time you can commit and the needs of the people living with us. If you have a particular skill such as gardening expertise, art and craft, singing or music we would love to hear from you.

We also have outdoor and indoor space at the home available for community groups. Outside we have fields and gardens which could be used by local schools or groups for outdoor activities and projects.

To find out more please call in to see us at Moreton Hill Care Home, Horsemarling Lane, GL10 3BZ or call to speak Roxana Davis, Senior General Manager on 01453 826000.



**Cotswold Boatmobility – Bringing joy to the less-abled and their support workers by giving them access, on purpose designed craft, to our wonderful Stroudwater canal.**

We are celebrating our 10th anniversary on the 6th April and hoping to increase the number of our trips, embarking every Monday and Wednesday at the moment, with the help of more volunteers.

Embarking from 'Woody's Wharf' jetty named after our recently deceased founder member Colin Wood which is based on Harper's Field, Ryeford.

Please come and join our exciting volunteer team in this enjoyable venture.

To help organise our growing organisation we are hoping to attract more Trustees. There are many different aspects of Boatmobility so if you would like more information about how you can help please see our latest introductory video on [www.cotswoldboatmobility.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldboatmobility.org.uk), contact us on [info@cotswoldboatmobility.org.uk](mailto:info@cotswoldboatmobility.org.uk), call us on 07562 173659, or come and try a trip.



## Come and join us

**Share & Repair** Share & Repair are a volunteer-led Community Interest Company (CIC) whose members give of their time freely using and sharing their skills, experience and efforts to effect repairs on a variety of household items. They also function and safety test generously donated items for resale. These sales and modest charges for repairs cover our daily running costs.

Join us and add your support to making **Share & Repair** the best it can be.

### Your Community needs you!

No matter your skill or your experience – from 'front of house' to tinkering with toasters we need your time, your effort, your help. Come in and find out more.

[www.shareandrepairstonehouse.com](http://www.shareandrepairstonehouse.com)

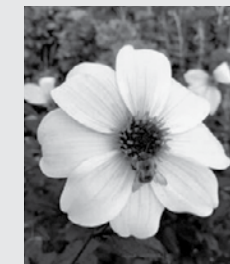


Spring is such a positive season, bringing fresh hopes and anticipation of things to come. Enthusiasm is high within Stonehouse WI at this time of year as our plans unfold. The programme for 2025 is underway and the talks and events arranged have been

cleverly set to surprise, educate and amuse. One sure thing in our group is that we can be certain of finding friendship and fun at our meetings.

Good news, ladies! If you want to give us a try and get involved, we have a few spaces at the moment. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you want to join us.

Contact us via our website [stonehousewi.weebly.com](http://stonehousewi.weebly.com) or simply email [stonehousewi@gmail.com](mailto:stonehousewi@gmail.com) to receive an invite for a visit. We're not strangers, just friends you haven't met yet!



**STONEHOUSE W.I.**

LEARN WITH US & LAUGH WITH US





# Faith groups

## St Cyr's Church

St Cyr's Church is open daily. You can also join us every Sunday at 9:30am for a Family Service. Stay up to date via our Facebook page "St Cyr's Church Stonehouse" and our website [www.stroudwaterchurches.org.uk](http://www.stroudwaterchurches.org.uk).

## Upcoming Events

- \* **Church Café:** Second Saturday of each month between 10am–12noon.
- \* **Lent Series:** Watch "The Chosen" every Wednesday at 7pm starting Wednesday 26 February.
- \* **Flower Posies:** Make a flower posie for your mums and loved ones on Saturday 29 March between 10am–12noon.
- \* **Palm Sunday Procession:** From the War Memorial at 10am, followed by a canalside service at St Cyr's Church at 11am.
- \* **Good Friday Walk of Witness:** Starts at 11am from the War Memorial.
- \* **Easter Sunday:** Canalside Sunrise Service at 6am and a Family Service and Egg Hunt at 9:30am.

For pastoral support or inquiries about baptisms, weddings, or funerals, contact Revd Dave Bishop on 01453 822332.



## March, April & May

**Saturday 29th March @ 1pm - 3pm.**  
CLWC (Christian Life & Witness Course) for youth.  
13 years and up.

**Saturday 12th April @ 10am - 12am.**  
CLWC (Christian Life & Witness Course) for Adults.

**Sundays:**  
08:30am Tamil service (with Sunday School)  
10:30am English service (with Sunday School)  
Every 1st Sunday Family Service with Meal 10:30am

**Saturdays:**  
09:00am Men's Ministry (BoysTo Men)

**Every 2nd & 4th Thursdays:**  
10:00am Coffee morning  
18:00pm Sportily Youth Group (Teenagers)

**Wednesdays:**  
14:00pm Connect Group

**Tuesdays:**  
12:30pm The Haven (Social gathering)  
18:00pm Seek His Face prayer

**Monday:**  
3rd March 12:30pm Encounter Ladies Group  
7th April 12:30pm Encounter Ladies Group  
12th May 12:30pm Encounter Ladies Group

**Every 3rd Friday:**  
09:30am Men's Breakfast (Atwools)

# SUPPORT ♥ LOCAL BUSINESS

**For every £10 we spend with a local business, more than a third (£3.80) stays within the area.**

Research conducted by Visa

# Recreation



## Stonehouse Town Football Club

As we go into the New Year the remaining few months of the season will be jam packed with games. With our Firsts chasing that all important playoff place and our Reserves sitting at the top of the GNSL league. Please save these all-important dates to your diary.

**March 1st – Firsts V Ludlow 3pm**

**March 5th – 'Derby Day' – Reserves meet Frampton 7.30pm**

**March 8th – Thirds V Chalford 2.30pm**

**March 15th – Firsts V Droitwich 3pm**

**March 29th – Firsts V Southam**



Also follow us on our socials, where you will find details of weekly fixtures. 'The Nest' also has its own Facebook page, giving information about events taking place, darts competitions, race nights and more. Give it a like and share.

The youth section continue their league matches on a Saturday morning at Oldends Lane playing field, with training continuing through the summer, please contact [youthsecretary@stonehousetownfc.co.uk](mailto:youthsecretary@stonehousetownfc.co.uk) if you require any further information.

## Chess & Backgammon

Lighten up the dark days playing Chess & Backgammon on Thursdays in The Woolpack, from 6.30pm. Sessions are fun, informal and free, for all ages - from 9 to 81years old so far, and levels of play, including beginners.

If interested contact Liz Green: [lizgreen1119@gmail.com](mailto:lizgreen1119@gmail.com)



## Stonehouse Junior Parkrun

Even with the cold temperatures we have had, we were thrilled to see participants keen to join us in the winter months and we are now excitedly looking forward to the warmer months, during which, we will be inviting any mums out there to join us on Mothering Sunday, 30th March, if they can.

We are really appreciating the help of some DoF volunteers at our event. We would love to see some more headliner/takeover events

where schools or groups offer to volunteer for many of the roles and invite children from their groups to join us, to encourage them to give it a try surrounded by familiar faces.

You'll find us every Sunday from 8:50am onwards, at Oldends Lane Playing Fields, where children aged 4-14 can run, hop, skip, jog, walk, etc our 2km event. Parents can cheer or go with them and it's all free.





# Education



## Hello to all from The Shrubberies School!

A little about us for those who aren't aware, we are a warm and welcoming Special Needs School for children from reception age right through to post 16 provision, based at two sites in Stonehouse - at Oldends Lane and for post-16 at our Apperley Centre on Woodcock Lane.

We currently need your help and are hoping that there's a couple of people out there who have the right skills and some spare time on their hands who would like to volunteer as co-opted Governors for the School. It's not a huge time commitment, with a maximum of 9 meetings over the course of a year, usually with biscuits or chocolate to help proceedings along!

Please contact [lpainter@shrubberies.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:lpainter@shrubberies.gloucs.sch.uk) if you think you could help.

Lastly, we'd love for you to join us at our May Fayre, please see image for all relevant details.



## Learning outdoors at the Stonehouse Park Federation

We are very lucky at Stonehouse Park Federation to have extensive grounds, well-established trees and an eco-garden which includes a pond where frogs and newts flourish. We are also extremely lucky to have parents who have given their time to renovate the area. It is a privilege to see children's faces light up with wonder after a siting of a newt and to be able to provide a lunch-time moment of quiet exploration. There were similar magical moments last summer when children stayed to see the birds of prey in after-school club.

Forest Learning fosters this school-wide awareness of the outdoors. Miss Sanders, a fully trained Forest School Leader,

organises these sessions with all year-groups. The aim is for learning to be child-led but Miss Sanders has also developed a rich variety of activities exploring wild-life and the environment. Parents will probably not be surprised to find the most popular activity is den-building! Rosie Todd from the Wildlife Trust also regularly visits Year 3 to talk about local nature.

These activities have enormous value inspiring the children, encouraging active learning, providing a resource for other lessons and supporting a full understanding of the curriculum.



## Hopelands Prep School & Nursery



At Hopelands, we believe a nurturing and supportive environment is key to unlocking every child's potential. As a small school, we truly know each pupil, tailoring their learning experience. With an average class size of just 12, we identify individual talents and instil a lifelong love of learning.

Visitors comment on our strong community spirit and warm, family-like atmosphere. This is especially evident in the way our youngest nursery children form friendships across all year groups. Watching them play, talk, and socialise with confidence is a joy to behold.

This March, we warmly invite families to our Open Morning, a wonderful opportunity to visit and experience what makes Hopelands such a special place for children to learn and grow. Alongside this, we have an exciting calendar of events, including a chess tournament at Bristol Grammar School, World Book Day celebrations, trips to Slimbridge and the Bristol Aquarium, and the opportunity to defend our winning title at the Stroud Mock Trials.



## WILD HOGS HEDGEHOG RESCUE

Registered Charity no: 1168800

Hedgehogs are vulnerable to extinction in the UK, but we are very fortunate to have a population in Stonehouse. As temperatures regularly reach 10C, hedgehogs start emerging from hibernation and this is when they can need our help. Putting out some fresh water and cat biscuits will help them as they awake from hibernation.

Hedgehogs often face dangers in our gardens as we start to clear away the winter and plan for the Spring. Please check areas of long grass and under hedges before you start to trim or cut back shrubs. We have already admitted a hedgehog with strimmer injuries from Stonehouse this year.

If you find a sick or injured hedgehog or see one out in the day, please call us immediately and leave an answerphone message. Our volunteers will return your call and arrange for an admission.

Hedgehog admissions: 07949 976717  
General Enquiries: [wildhogsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:wildhogsoffice@gmail.com)







Further improvements to public rights of way leading to Doverow woods to be carried out soon by Cotswold Volunteer Wardens

## New Parish Warden for Stonehouse & Standish

Did you know that Cotswold Voluntary Wardens are walking and monitoring footpaths all over Gloucestershire every day? They work with parish councils, farmers and local residents to help keep the footpaths open and identify local features in need of restoration.

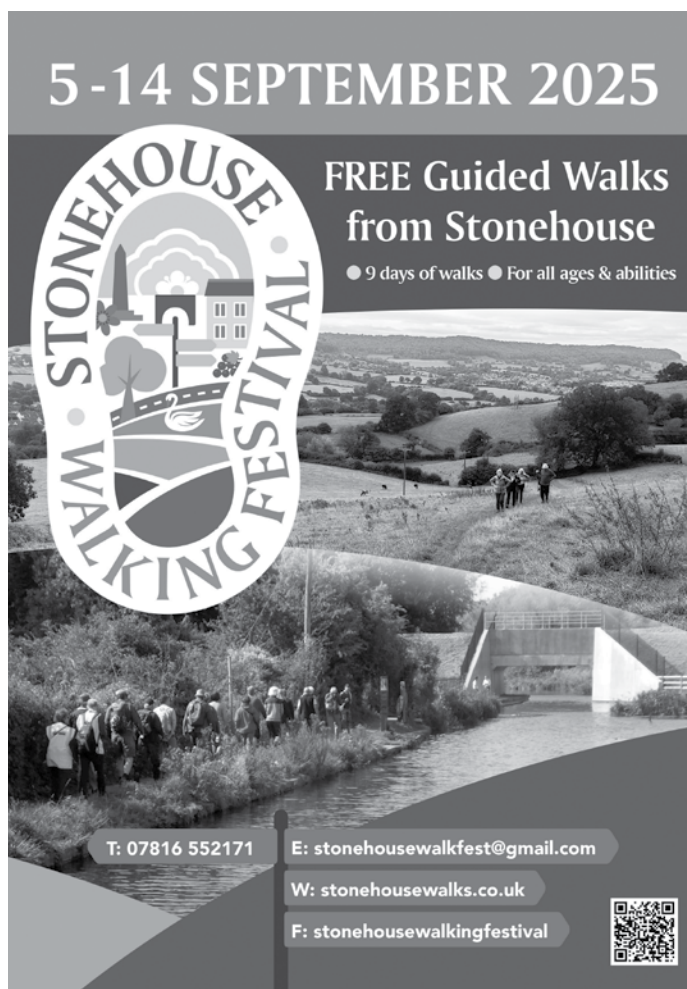
If you would like to report an issue with footpaths the first port of call is Highways online at [FixMyStreet Gloucestershire](https://www.fixmystreet.co.uk), however your new Parish Warden covering MST & EST footpaths in Stonehouse and Standish can also make assessments and report back to Cotswold Volunteer Warden work parties in our area.

In addition to clearing overgrown footpaths, work parties help to conserve and enhance the Cotswolds National Landscape, taking part in a range of projects from drystone walling, hedge laying, and tree planting, to installing kissing gates and pond restoration.

The Standish area stretches as far North as Haresfield Beacon and to the M5 in the West. It also encompasses Standish Woods. Including the parish of Stonehouse, it is a large area for one volunteer, so if you regularly monitor, walk or keep these routes clear please contact us so that your assistance and/or hard work can be recognised officially, and our workload can be targeted more effectively across these two parishes.

Email: [stonehouseparishwarden@gmail.com](mailto:stonehouseparishwarden@gmail.com)

To find out more about the work of the voluntary wardens including free guided walks, shows and talks, or if you'd like to volunteer please visit: [www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk/](http://www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk/)



# Council corner



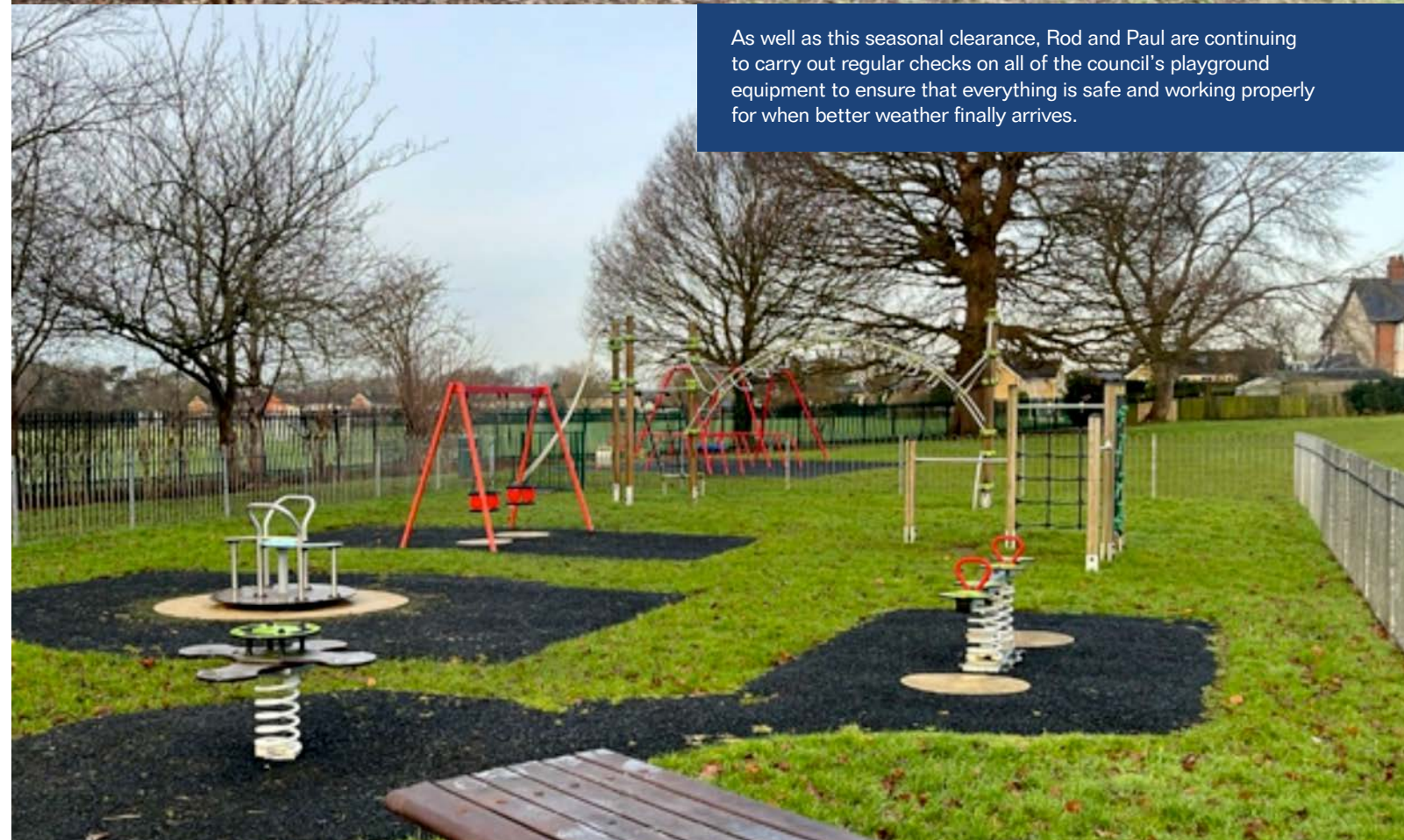
## Groundsmen's updates

There may not be much mowing required during the depths of winter but our groundsmen, Rod and Paul, are always busy, nevertheless. Now is the perfect time for cutting back and clearing bramble and unwanted undergrowth which would otherwise encroach, year by year, into our parks and play areas.

This important work also allows easier access for litter collection, and the maintenance of drainage channels and boundaries – as here in Laburnum Park.



As well as this seasonal clearance, Rod and Paul are continuing to carry out regular checks on all of the council's playground equipment to ensure that everything is safe and working properly for when better weather finally arrives.



Look out for our next edition, due May 2025





# 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](mailto:townclerk@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk)  
Deputy Clerk: Jacqui Sanders  
E: [deputyclerk@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk)  
Business Support & Communication:  
Carla Swindells/David Marsden  
E: [contactus@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:contactus@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk)

Visit [stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk](http://stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk)  
Facebook - Stonehouse Town Council

Opening hours: 9:30am - 4:30pm on every weekday.

Check our website for up-to-date information.

## Forthcoming meetings

### FULL TOWN COUNCIL

17th March 2025  
14th April 2025  
19th May 2025

### BUSINESS COMMITTEE

3rd March 2025  
1st April 2025  
6th May 2025

### ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

31st March 2025  
28th April 2025  
27th May 2025

Full Town Council meetings 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](http://stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk)

## Your Councillors

### Town Councillors - [stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk](http://stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk)

#### Stonehouse Ward

John Callinan	01453 825547
Keren Capeling	07834 855559
Keith Creighton	07773 025383
Deborah Curtis	07988 630951
Marcus Dixon	07813 807488
Neil Gibbs (Chair)	01453 828430
Stephen Hunter	01453 826783
Carol Kambites	07816 552171
Simon Macgregor	07813 541742
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. [councillorgibbs@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:councillorgibbs@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk)

### District Councillors - [stroud.gov.uk](http://stroud.gov.uk)

Carol Kambites	07816 552171
<a href="mailto:cllr.carol.kambites@stroud.gov.uk">cllr.carol.kambites@stroud.gov.uk</a>	
John Callinan	01453 825547
<a href="mailto:cllr.john.callinan@stroud.gov.uk">cllr.john.callinan@stroud.gov.uk</a>	
John Parker	
<a href="mailto:cllr.john.parker@stroud.gov.uk">cllr.john.parker@stroud.gov.uk</a>	

### County Councillor - [gloucestershire.gov.uk](http://gloucestershire.gov.uk)

Nick Housden	07754 466939
<a href="mailto:nicholas.housden@gloucestershire.gov.uk">nicholas.housden@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a>	

### Member of Parliament - [parliament.uk](http://parliament.uk)

Simon Opher	
<a href="mailto:simon.opher.mp@parliament.uk">simon.opher.mp@parliament.uk</a>	01453 621304

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