

Brought to you by
Stonehouse Town Council

stonehouse news



ISSUE 57 SUMMER 2025

Summer Events

Stonehouse canal and walking
festivals and lots more

Civic Awards 2025

Support for the community,
and news from local groups



Town Council's Annual Report

Ship Inn Community Space is now open

SHIP
STONEHOUSE

welcome

Welcome to the Summer edition of Stonehouse News. As I write this the sun is shining, and the weather is beautifully warm – a lovely change from the cold and damp.

The Annual Town Meeting and Civic Awards were held in April and were a huge success. The Award winners are listed in this edition – all very worthy winners.

Finally, we are all thrilled that the Globe Willow is sprouting new shoots and starting to re-grow!

The Stonehouse News Team

Stonehouse in Bloom Digging for gold

Stonehouse in Bloom had a great day planting up all the hanging baskets and planters for this summer's displays, which will go up end of May/beginning of June.

Thanks to all the volunteers who worked so hard, to Pound Farm for supplying plants and making us all so welcome, and to all the Stonehouse businesses who have generously sponsored a basket or pole planter.



Arboretum news

Progress on the Stonehouse Community Arboretum took a step forward recently with the creation of the Town Council's Community Arboretum and Open Spaces Working Group, intended to coordinate some of the activities and actions relating to the Arboretum.

In addition, the beginnings of a new orchard have been started at the allotments at Stagholt, where representatives of the Allotment Group and the Town Council planted nine heritage varieties of apple. This is hopefully going to be the start of a much larger orchard project.

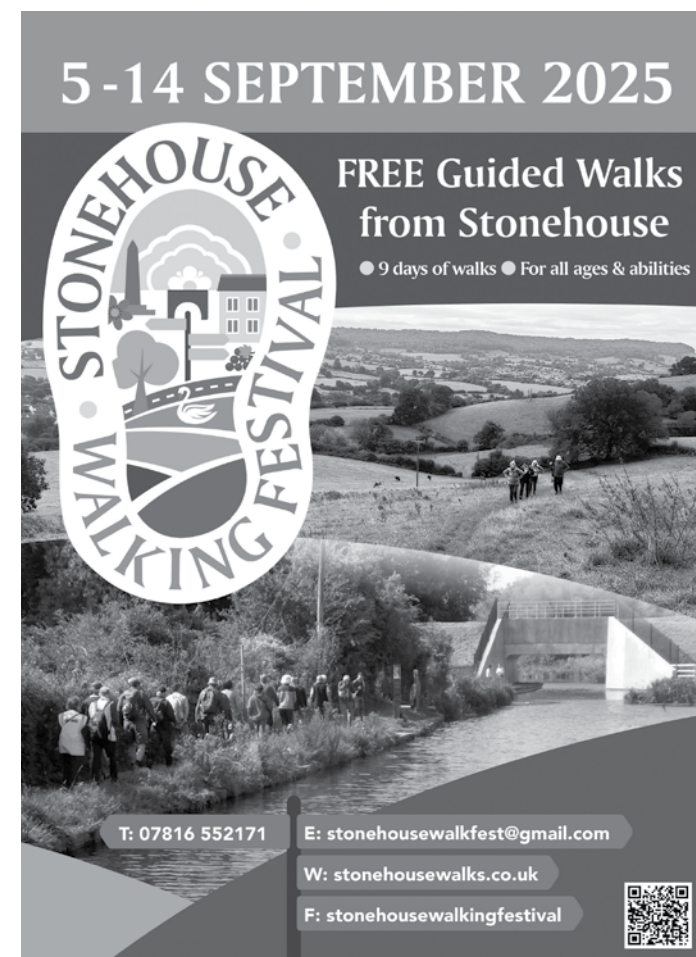
And finally, some good news about the Globe Willow. As was hoped when the pruning work was undertaken recently, the tree has now produced some healthy new shoots. It will continue to be monitored and cared for closely.

To learn more about the Arboretum, you could join one of the tours as part of the forthcoming Stonehouse Walking Festival in September or contact John Parker at john@trees.org.uk

Stonehouse Walking Festival 5-14 September

For our 6th Stonehouse Walking Festival, we once again 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 there will be new history and tree walks, and some new self-guided walks around Cainscross. We'll be venturing further afield to Cotswold Lakes and the River Thames, and nearby in Fromebridge we'll take tours of our new wetlands area.

For a full walk schedule and booking information, visit: www.stonehousewalks.co.uk or find us on Facebook.



Stonehouse Junior Parkrun

We are looking forward to enjoying the summer weather at Stonehouse junior parkrun. We are also excited to have members from Cashes Green Youth for a headliner event. This is where members from the group take on a number of the volunteer roles and invite their group of children to take part. All the roles are easy to do, and we love headliner events as these help to introduce the event to those that might not be familiar with it. If your group is interested in a headliner event, please let the junior parkrun team know. Email: stonehousejuniors@parkrun.com

To remind you, we are at Oldends Lane Playing Field every Sunday at 8:50am. Children aged 4-14 can run, jog, hop, skip, walk, or otherwise get round our 2km course and earn free wristbands, which we love rewarding for milestones. It would be great to see you.

Mayor's Column

Welcome to this Summer edition of Stonehouse News. In April I had the pleasure of hosting the Annual Town Meeting and had the privilege of introducing a number of guest speakers who gave updates on the great work going on in our community, and also presented the Annual Civic awards to those individuals and organisations deemed to have contributed most, in a number of different ways, to the life of the town in the last year.

The detailed Annual Report from the Town Council is available online and printed in this edition of Stonehouse News.

North and Central wards recently saw two separate By-elections following the departure of two former councillors and we are delighted to welcome Cllr Carol Trim (North) and Cllr John Parker (Central) to the now full complement of Town councillors. Both John and Carol are, I know, delighted to have been elected and will work hard for our community in the years to come. I would also like to take this public opportunity to thank former Councillor Gary Powell for all his hard work for the Town over many years, both as a Town and District councillor but also in his role with Stonehouse in Bloom.

There has been much in the press recently about the government decision to turn Gloucestershire into a unitary authority and effectively do-away with our District councils. We do not yet know the full implications of these proposed changes but what is almost certain is that there will be a number of significant challenges for Town and Parish councils like us, to meet. As well as the probability of having to take over some legacy services from the District, there may also be some potential opportunities for us. In order to best prepare for these changes, we are in the process of setting-up a specific Working Group to look at these issues and plan for the future in advance.

There is much going on in the Town so please keep an eye on the Town Council website and Facebook profile for news and information, as well as the traditional town notice boards.

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). 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-stroudandcotswold.org.uk) to complete our email form.



Home-Start volunteers share their own parenting experiences to help support a family with young children during a challenging time in their lives. We offer home visiting and peer support groups. Our free volunteer training course comprises of 8 sessions and enables people to give back to their own communities when it's needed the most.

If you've got 2-3 hours a week spare and would be interesting in volunteering please visit our website www.homestartsd.org or email: Enquiries@homestartsd.org or call: 01453 297470.

Help us, to help you, to make a difference to others.



Supporting our Community

This year we are helping to Paint the Town Pink for breast cancer. The day the bunting and decorations will be put up is Sunday 6th July, and the date we will take it down again is Sunday 20th July. If you would like to come and help, meet us on the Memorial green at 2pm. We have the original decorations to use, but if you would like to make your own pink items, please do. We already have groups around the town making new items to add to the decorations, so let's Paint the Town Pink.

The APT Family Fun Day will be held on Saturday 16th August on the Three Greens in Park Estate. Pitches are being booked already so if you would like to book a place, please get in touch. There is no charge for a pitch we just ask that you donate a prize to our raffle.

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.



Person of the Year

Congratulations to Jacky Edwards who won Person of the Year at the Annual Town Meeting and Civic Awards in April, for her hard work and dedication to APT.



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 to Share & Repair and find out more.

www.shareandrepairstonehouse.com



Coping strategies for young people

Over the last few weeks in The Pod, we have been working together on The Door's THRIVE Programme. This was designed to equip young people to explore and acquire positive coping strategies, understand and identify risky behaviours and negative coping strategies, and reduce negative ones. During youth club sessions, they engaged in a range of activities such as Just Dance, Journaling and Joke sharing. By practicing these coping strategies during sessions, they can feel confident employing them elsewhere.

Looking ahead

The Door are ecstatic to receive the Youth Work contract from Stonehouse Council for another three years. The young people at The Pod are planning a "relaunch" event at the centre on May the 20th, where we will celebrate this together with the public.



Age better with us

As we get older, life can sometimes throw unexpected challenges our way. One moment everything feels steady, and the next we may face worries about our health, finances, or feelings of loneliness. During times like these, it's essential to know where to turn for support.

Age UK Gloucestershire is here for you and by staying in touch with us, you'll receive our free Age Better eBulletin. Delivered to your inbox monthly it's packed with inspiring content to help you feel more engaged and informed, plus community news, updates on our services, ways you can get involved and how you can support our work.

Signing up is easy!

Simply scan the QR code or Visit: ageuk.org.uk/gloucestershire/StayConnected
Email: supporters@ageukgloucestershire.org.uk
Call: 01452 420900



Community news & groups



RBL Poppy Appeal thank you event - Stonehouse

Saturday 5th July – 2pm start
Maidenhill School, Kings Road, Stonehouse

So far YOU have raised over **£22,000 for the Poppy Appeal 24/25** which is a phenomenal amount. We want to thank you with a special concert which will be a free event and feature the Innsworth Military Wives Choir, plus more!

Do save the date, come along and share with us.

Tuesday 3rd June – 7pm
Woolpack Inn, High Street, Stonehouse

We have a special **Quiz Evening**. All welcome.

Details from: e: poppyorganiserMCE25@gmail.com or
e: Stonehouse.Secretary@RBL.Community



Did you know Stonehouse WI had it's 57th birthday in April? And we were very pleased to welcome four new members.

We loved Royal Photographer Jack Boskett's talk; such glorious pictures and hilarious stories! February's impromptu quiz on sweets dug up some memories and laughs. Jai Carr shared her photos and anecdotes from crossing Canada. Enjoying Vancouver and an Alaskan cruise, then the Rocky Mountaineer train and public buses(!), ending in Toronto at Niagara Falls. An epic journey by any standards! Upcoming meetings are Stonehouse in Bloom and Tales of a Midwife.

We hope you're enjoying the beautiful flowers and craft displays in our High Street planter, recently for International Women's Day and soon for VE Day 80.

If you want to come along and have a laugh, and make friends along the way, please get in touch. We're not strangers, just friends you haven't met yet!
stonehousewi.weebly.com or stonehousewi@gmail.com



STONEHOUSE W.I.

LEARN WITH US & LAUGH WITH US



Stonehouse Community Association

Feeling isolated, need to meet new friends? Pop in to one of our social groups. No need to book – just turn up on the day.

Pensioners Club

* Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday from 2pm

Friendly Circle

* Every 2nd & 4th Friday from 2pm

Community café

- * Open every Thursday & Friday serving breakfasts, hot and cold drinks and cakes
- * All welcome 9am -11.30am
- * Dog friendly
- * All proceeds to help with running costs of the centre.

Rooms for hire

- * Our Community Centre is a great venue to hire for meetings, parties, family gatherings, activities and charity events,
- * Available per hour or 4 hour sessions

Regular events

Hearing aid batteries available Mon -Fri 8am -11.30am at the centre office. This is a free NHS service.

The community centre offers a selection of activities throughout the week, all details, contact numbers can be found on Community Centre notice board, Facebook/Instagram or our webpage which is currently being redesigned to showcase more information.

Office hours: 8am-11.30am Mon- Fri

Please feel free to pop by to look at what Stonehouse Community Centre offers to the community.



The Fig Tree
Stonehouse
www.stonehousefigtree.org

Babies at The Fig Tree

The Fig Tree continues to welcome Stonehouse residents to join in the various sessions that we provide.

To find out what we do you can:

- Pop in and have a chat with us.
- Look at the posters in the window.
- Check out our website www.stonehousefigtree.org

Are you having a baby in 2025?

If you are having a baby in 2025 then do come to our Baby's Session 1-4.00 pm on a Thursday afternoon.

You can come to the whole session or pop-in throughout the afternoon. It's a great space to meet other parents and a place



for your baby to meet other babies! Refreshments provided. This session is free but donations are always welcome.

If you know any parents-to-be or new families please tell them about this session.

We look forward to meeting you.

Stonehouse Library news

This year's theme for the Library Challenge for children aged 3 years plus will be The Natural World. Stonehouse Library will be exploring everything under the canal! Expect stories and activities related to frogs, fish and dragonflies! The challenge will run from 12th July to 13th September.

Our regular events continue with Baby Bounce and Rhyme on Wednesdays between 10.30 am and 11. Our Library Littles sessions are every 4 weeks. These are suitable for early years (0-5) children and their families, encouraging reading, sensory play and song. Storytime is on the first Saturday of the month. For more information and dates see gloslibraries.uk/

Our Over 60's group meets on the 3rd Monday of the month between 11am and 12.30. Due to high demand booking is essential because space is limited. Stroud Library also have an Over 60's on the 2nd Tuesday of the month 2-3.30 pm.



Cobalt
Medical Charity
Diagnosis • Research • Education
Registered Charity No: 1090790

Talks about Cobalt

Is your organisation looking for a guest speaker? As a local charity we would love to come and talk to your organisation about our work and history. We have speakers who would love to come to your organisation for free.

If you are interested in learning more about Cobalt, why we were set up 60 years ago and what we do now as a charity in Gloucestershire and further afield then please do get in touch

Please email fundraising@cobalthhealth.co.uk or call 01242 535922.

Cobalt events



Highnam Court GL2 8DP Open Garden – 22 June 2025

Please join us for a summer afternoon of flowers and lakeside views. Explore the many beautiful gardens at Highnam Court in Gloucester, open on Sunday 22nd June in aid of Cobalt. Disabled access is limited due to gravel paths and stairs into The Orangery.

From 11am until 4pm.
Entry £6 per adult, children under 16 free.

Photo Competition April – 31 July 2025 'Capture A Moment'

Whether you're a seasoned pro or a smartphone snapper, this is your chance to get out and about and showcase your talent, support a great cause, and win incredible prizes!

Entries cost just £2 per photograph and you can enter as many times as you like or if you are under 16 it is free to enter.

Find out more www.cobalthhealth.co.uk/photocomp



Stonehouse Town Council

Annual Report 2024-2025

Introduction from the Town Mayor – Cllr Neil Glibbs

Last May saw the Town Council elections and a number of new members were elected to our 3 wards (North, Central and South). Immediately following this election, due to the anomalies of the system we were short of members, and we had to fill these vacancies by co-opting 3 additional councillors. Since then, Gary Powell has retired after many years' service to our town and another councillor decided to move on. This created another void which was recently filled by two separate by-elections.

We have also seen some changes to council staffing. Our Senior Maintenance Officer has moved on and Paul has been promoted to Senior Town Maintenance Officer. We have been successful in recruiting a replacement Town Maintenance Officer, Tony Gaylard, and would like to welcome him to the council. We are pleased to say that David Marsden will be job sharing the post of Business Support Officer with Carla when she returns from maternity leave.

The last 12 months have seen some seismic activity in town with the SplCE community group finally taking temporary possession of the old Ship Inn site for a canal side facility. This work has been facilitated by the Town Council in conjunction with Stroud District Council who own the site. We will have to wait until 2026 to see what the final arrangements for permanently occupying the site will be, but we are grateful for the District's co-operation in making this long discussed aspiration a reality.

There are very major changes in the offing with the Government's proposed move to unitary status for Gloucestershire. We do not know what these changes will look like at present or what final decisions will be made that will affect our town, but we can be certain that changes there will be. You will be glad to know that we are in the process, with other Towns and Parishes, to try to plan and prepare as far as possible in advance. This is a rapidly changing dynamic, and we must, as a small local authority, be prepared to meet those challenges head on.

We have a committed and forward-looking group of councillors and staff with a number of major environmental projects in the pipeline, not the least of which is the town arboretum plan. We have just completed a major capital sewer improvement scheme for Oldends Lane and the Football Club which will help bring our facilities up to modern standards and we are also still leading on the re-opening of the Bristol Road/Stroudwater railway station which could provide a major link direct to Bristol.

Finally, I would like to thank you, the folk of Stonehouse, for your ongoing support. All our councillors are volunteers and work hard for Stonehouse. Please be assured that party politics do not play any part in Town Council decisions. We all live here and want to do the very best for our community and that's the way it should be.

Stonehouse Town Council Income and Expenditure 2023-2024/2024-25:

Income	2023/24	2024/25
Precept	373,973	383,870
Investment interest	32,337	34,306
CIL/s106	*	*
Grants	0	10,000
Leases	11,521	10,285
Facilities Hire	2,673	11,694**
Stonehouse in Bloom	650	0
Events	1,400	1,305
Other	5,693	7,007
*CIL Funding included in Grants total		
** Includes £7,000 from Stonehouse Town Football Club towards the sewer line at Oldends Lane.		
Total	428,247	458,467

Expenditure	2023/24	2024/25
Staff	182,897	216,568
General Expenditure	37,986	152,924
Streetscene inc SIB	68,924	38,583
Building Overheads	37,759	35,335
Youthwork	55,625	55,745
Equipment and Vehicles	3,424	2,332
Grants	22,136	38,097
I.T.	8,884	9,664
Events	6,437	4,844
Total	424,072	554,092



Business Committee activities/ achievements

The Committee has been chaired by Cllr Theresa Watt with Cllr Carol Kambites 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 6.21% in 2025, representing an increase of £10.34 per property per year.

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	2024/25
	10,000
Total	10,000

Grants Awarded	2024/25
Royal British Legion	1,000
Stonehouse Gardening Club	500
Stonehouse Walking Festival	3,200
Cotswold Boatmobility	540
Home-Start	25,000*
Stonehouse Community Association	2,000
Night Angels	1,000
Citizen's Advice	1,807
Stonehouse is Bloom	3,000
Stonehouse Park Federation	50
Total	38,097

*£10,000 for year 2024/25 and £15,000 for year 2025/26.

Budget Headings	2024/25	2025/26
Staffing	205,000	223,800
Grants	17,400	17,400
Climate	5,000	5,000
Business	149,980	152,380
Environment	58,100	60,100
Contingency	0	0
Gross Expenditure	435,480	458,680
Income and Use of Reserves	-51,610	-48,537
Precept	383,870	410,143

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, Complaints, Equality and Diversity, Terms of Reference, FOI Publication Scheme, Transparency Code Information, Environmental Policy, Biodiversity Policy, Council's Inventory

- Reviewed the Town Council's internal controls with very positive outcomes, through its Internal Audit Panel for each quarter of the 2024/25 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.
- Supported 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.
- Collaborated closely with Stroud District Council to improve the High Street car park and public conveniences.
- Purchased three new computers for the office, bringing the IT structure up to date.
- H&S Advice contract.
- Agreed a 10-year lease with the Magpies Social Club.
- Agreed to produce four editions of Stonehouse News per year, to be hand delivered to all households.
- Supported the formation of the new Stonehouse Market.
- Secured a three-year Youth contract with The Door.

Environment Committee

The Committee has been chaired by Cllr Debbie Curtis, with Cllr Keith Creighton, serving as Vice Chair.

This year, 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 2024 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 the Canal Spring Festival.
- 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 necessary works to get approval from Stroud District Council to extend the allotments at Stagholt and develop a natural community area.
- Supported the canal rejuvenation to develop future opportunities for economic regeneration, health & wellbeing, and environmental conservation that will come with the restored canal.
- Continued to support the Ship Inn site clearance and maintenance, supporting the purchases of a wireless CCTV camera, new gates, a shed and tables and benches in an effort to secure the land long term.
- Continued to support the Town Council's work on ensuring the town's Public Rights of Way remain protected in Verney Fields.
- Supported highway improvements through its Transport and Highways working group.
- Provided support for the community's most vulnerable through its Support Stonehouse working group, All Pulling Together (APT) and its contributors.
- Supported the match funding of a Community Defibrillator to go on Town Council/Library building.
- Supported the adoption of the BT Telephone kiosk outside the Town Hall.





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.

Find out more on our website www.stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk
Or contact info@stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk

Forthcoming Events 2025

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

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

No meeting in August

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



Stonehouse Heritage Information Boards

Have you looked at our series of 12 boards around the town telling you about the history of our town?

Our information board trail leaflet has a map of where 10 of the boards may be found, including in Doverow Wood, and some of the stories behind what you can see.

Visit stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk/heritage-information-boards

Faith groups

Churches Together

24 hour prayer

Prayer Space, set up by Churches Together in Stonehouse, is hosting 24 hours of prayer at the Methodist Church, Elm Road from 7pm Friday 11th July to 7pm Saturday 12th July, followed by a short service at 7.15 pm on the Saturday.

Four Prayer Stations will inspire on various subjects including prayer for Stonehouse. And a labyrinth will encourage participants to deepen their faith.

We invite people to book an hour's slot, singly or in pairs, by QR access to the time table, on our posters in Stonehouse churches or by texting 07422 696902

Prayer can move mountains!



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 and Instagram pages by searching for "St Cyr's Church Stonehouse" and our website www.stroudwaterchurches.org.uk.

Upcoming Events

- * **Celebration Service and Annual Meeting:**
Sunday 18 May at 9.30am
- * **Church Café and Teddy Bear Zip-wire:**
Saturday 14 June. Bring along a picnic and enjoy quality time in the great outdoors. Refreshments available from St Cyr's Church from 10am. Teddy Bear Zip-wire from the top of the tower from 12 noon.
- * **Cotswold Singers present Songs of Sanctuary:**
Friday June 27th at 7pm. Refreshments available and raffle in aid of choir funds. Tickets available in advance and on the door. Adults £5, Children free.
- * **Mothers Union Summer of Hope:**
Saturday 12 July from 10am. A lovely selection of gifts and cards for sale, plus homemade cakes, bric-a-brac, plants and refreshments.

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

Education

Updates from the Shrubberies & Apperley!

The Children at The Shrubberies have been getting out and about! Upper School took part in a football tournament at Hartpury College which was enjoyed by all.

The Apperley students recently had a theatre trip to see Aladdin and all departments in main school really appreciated a theatre company visiting. Lastly, some of our Upper School and FE students have had the opportunity to do some work experience at Wagamama's, Orion Holidays, Longney Orchards and Dundry Nursery – thanks to all.

We have been celebrating cultural festivals including Diwali, Chinese New Year and Easter. Pupils in Middle School learnt about new countries during a modern foreign languages day and the whole school did exciting experiments on a day dedicated to all things science!

We gained a new Governor from the last newsletter, and could do with one more if anyone is interested!
Contact lpainter@shrubberies.co.uk.



Hopelands Prep School & Nursery

Summer term at Hopelands is always a time of energy, excitement, and learning. As the sunshine returns, so do the opportunities for our pupils to explore, discover, and grow—both inside and outside the classroom.

We begin the term with an exciting trip to Forest Green Rovers, where children will tour the ground and training facilities for an exciting glimpse into professional sport.



A highlight this term will be our much-anticipated STEM Day. Following last year's incredible whole-school marble run, pupils are determined to beat their own record—demonstrating their creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills.

Rehearsals will start for our school production. This year we're bringing Peter Pan to the stage, with nursery children performing alongside our Year 6 pupils—creating magical moments for all.

Perhaps most exciting of all is our Year 6 residential trip to Spain! Pupils will immerse themselves in Spanish culture, spend time in a local school, and even head off on a bear-hunting expedition!

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 81 years old so far, and levels of play, including beginners.

If interested contact Liz Green:
lizgreen1119@gmail.com



SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

Canal News

Stonehouse Canal Festival

Get ready for a fantastic day of community spirit, music and summer fun – the Stonehouse Canal Festival 2025 is back, and it's set to be an unforgettable celebration along our beautiful local canal. This year's festival takes place on Sunday 29 June 2025, with events running from 12 noon to 4pm across several lovely locations, including Stonehouse Court Hotel, St Cyr's Church, The Ocean Canalside, and new for this year: The Ship Inn Community Space.

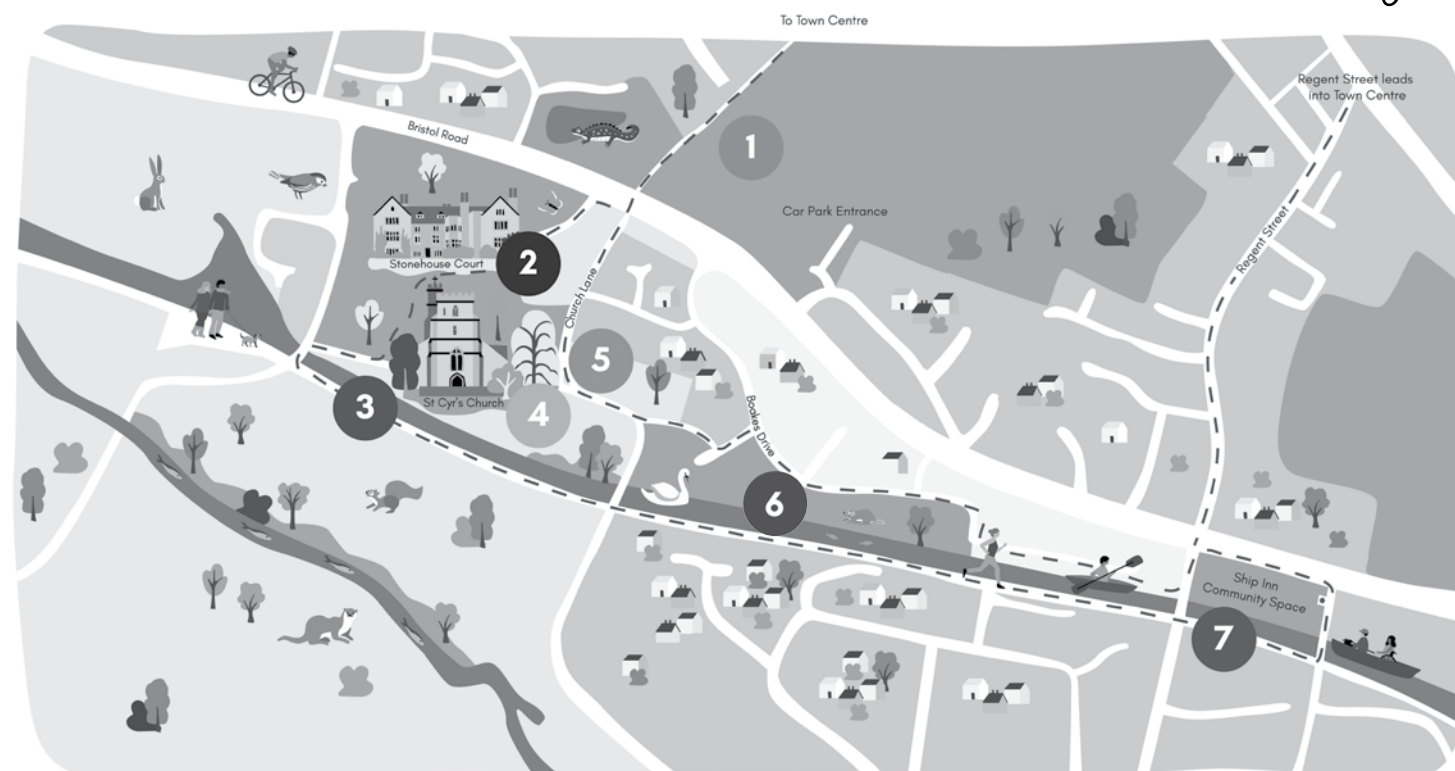
With so much happening in one afternoon, it's the perfect way to celebrate summer, support local groups, and enjoy the charm of the canal in Stonehouse. Tell your friends, bring your neighbours, and follow us online by searching for "Stonehouse Canal Festival" on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date! Like, share, and follow our social media pages – your support helps make this event a success.

Canal Festival Zones

- 1 Free car parking in the Wycliffe Berryfield
- 2 Live music, inflatable games, kids activities, food and drink at Stonehouse Court Hotel
- 3 Boat trips, paddleboarding and stalls at the Ocean canalside
- 4 Tower tours, choirs, prayer tent & church café at St Cyr's Church
- 5 Market stalls, plant sales, burgers, pizza, ice cream and cakes in the churchyard and along Church Lane
- 6 Relaxing space to chill on the green in Boakes Drive
- 7 Music, kids activities, ice cream, BBQ and boat trips at the Ship Inn Community Space



We can't wait to welcome you!



10 year celebration

It's 10 years now since the formation of our Cotswold Boatmobility in 2015. We celebrated this achievement with a large number of supporters, guests and volunteers on 6th April at St Cyrs Church. Volunteers provided numerous cakes, a photo & video presentation, boat rides, ukulele playing, poetry reading and bell ringing.

We were then featured in a BBC Countryfile broadcast on Sunday 13th April.

April has been a hectic month for our charity which has just been donated 6 brand new Katakonus together with funding for buoyancy aids and paddles by Omaze. Filming of the event took place on 16th April on the Stroudwater.

We are hoping to offer regular Saturday morning canoe trips (10.30am - 1pm) starting in May but we do need extra volunteers to achieve this - CAN YOU HELP?



Ship Inn canalside community space is now open!

Thanks to a huge effort from Stonehouse volunteers, the Ship Inn Canal Side Space is open for you to go and enjoy.

The space has been transformed from 0.6 acres of 6' high bramble scrub into a grassy open space for you all to enjoy. The initial Phase, dubbed "Phase 0" consisted of many people and businesses in Stonehouse, helping to clear the field, harrow, seed, compost the cut vegetation, roll the surface to consolidate, create a new entrance, construct an information board, create a tool shed, assemble benches and tables and even lay a wheelchair friendly surface from the gate! The Coffee Box will be on site serving fresh drinks and food from the mobile horsebox.

We hope to be building on this fantastic start, but I think we will enjoy the summer for now.

The Ship Inn canalside space will be one of the four main sites for the canal festival on June 29th this year. Come down and enjoy the sunshine with us.

Donations to SpICE to help fund the project would be gratefully received at www.peoplesfundraising.com/donation/spice

For more information, please visit www.spicestonehouse.co.uk



*Come and enjoy
our new canalside
space!*



Civic Awards

Civic Awards 2025

A huge thank you to all that came to the Annual Town Meeting and Civic Awards on 17th 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: John Kerry & Sons
 - Highly Commended: La Campagna
- ★ Stonehouse Community Group of the Year
 - Winner: Stonehouse Town Football Club
 - Highly Commended: The Fig Tree
- ★ Person of the Year
 - Winner: Jacky Edwards
 - Highly Commended: Nigel Sanders
- ★ Young Person of the Year
 - Winner: Ollie Townsend
 - Winner: Holly Stonehill-Brookes
- ★ Special Recognition
 - Jeff Evans

I'm sure you all agree that they are very worthy winners!



Business of the Year – Winner: John Kerry & Sons

We are truly honoured to have been named Stonehouse Business of the Year for 2025. On behalf of everyone at John Kerry & Sons, we would like to say a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful community, our loyal customers, and all those who have supported us over the years.

Over the years, the trust and encouragement we've received have allowed us to grow, but more importantly, it has strengthened our bond with this special town we proudly call home.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has been part of our journey – whether you've been a customer, a supplier, or someone who has simply stopped to recommend us to a neighbour. This recognition belongs just as much to you as it does to us.

We look forward to continuing to serve Stonehouse for many more years to come.

With sincere thanks,
The Kerry Family



Business of the Year – Highly Commended: La Campagna

We would like to say a massive thank you to the Stonehouse community for the continuous love and support and voting for us again for the Stonehouse civic award!

Our family-owned restaurant, with delicious authentic Italian dishes, is thrilled to have such a loving atmosphere in where all our customers feel welcome and enjoy their dining experience with us!

We also love to help other local businesses when we can, such as sourcing our meat produce from the local butcher Broomhall, and supporting Stonehouse in Bloom with their beautiful flower display!

If you would like to join us please ring 01453 821559. We would love to see you!

Website:
la-campagna.co.uk

Email:
stonehouse@la-campagna.co.uk



Community Group of the Year – Winner: Stonehouse Town Football Club

With league season finished, we turn our attention to the usual ground maintenance. Matches will resume with pre-season games during July. Please check our socials for the latest match fixtures.

We attended the Stonehouse Town Council Civic Awards in April and are very proud to have been awarded 'Community Group of the Year', along with a Highly Commended award for 'Person Making an Outstanding Contribution' being handed to our Chairman, Nigel Sanders, for his dedication and commitment to the club and community.

Our youth section will continue to train for much of the summer, with their league matches starting again in early September. If anyone is interested in their child joining, please contact youthsecretary@stonehousetownfc.co.uk

We have lots of availability, at very reasonable prices, for anyone interested in hiring 'The Nest', please do message 'The Nest' Facebook page or email info@stonehousetownfc.co.uk for further information.

We look forward to seeing you all for the 2025/26 season.



Stonehouse
Town Football
Club

Council corner



Groundsmen's updates

The last couple of months have been very busy. Paul has accepted the role of Senior Town Maintenance Officer after Rod left us, and we would like to welcome to the team, Tony Gaylard, our new Town Maintenance Officer to assist Paul.

Tony brings a wealth of experience to the role, and we know he will prove a huge asset.

Please say hello to them if you see them out and about!



Civic Award Winners



Look out for our next edition, due August 2025



stonehouse town council information

Contact us

Stonehouse Town Council
Town Hall
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Stonehouse
GL10 2QA
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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: 9:30am - 4:30pm on every weekday.

Check our website for up-to-date information.

Forthcoming meetings

FULL TOWN COUNCIL

23rd June 2025
21st July 2025

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

9th June 2025
7th July 2025

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

30th June 2025
28th July 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

Your Councillors

Town Councillors - 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
John Parker	01453 822070
Val Randell	07964 852707
Keith Terry	07743 470094
Carol Trim	07837 134281
Theresa Watt (Vice Chair)	01453 821428

Town Councillors can be contacted via email using Councillor then their surname eg. councillorgibbs@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

Dean Botterill
Official contact details to be confirmed

Member of Parliament - parliament.uk

Simon Opher	
simon.opher.mp@parliament.uk	01453 621304

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