

Brought to you by
Stonehouse Town Council

stonehouse news



ISSUE 61 SUMMER 2026

SHOP
STONEHOUSE

Supporting the Community

Arboretum news,
fundraising and lots more

Summer Festivals

News and events from local
organisations and groups

welcome

Summer is here!

With longer days and plenty of sunshine, it's the perfect time to enjoy what Stonehouse has to offer.

Here are some fantastic upcoming events to add to your diary over the next few months:

- **Family Garden Bug Hunt** – Friday 12th June
- **Church Cafe and Teddy Bear Zip Wire Event** – Saturday 13th June
- **APT Yard Sale** – Sunday 28th June
- **Stonehouse Canal Festival** – Sunday 5th July
- **Stonehouse Summer Fayre & Dog Show** – Saturday 25th July
- **EAT Food Festival** – Sunday 16th August 2026
- **Mini Horticultural Show & Car Boot Sale** – Sunday 23rd August

More details about each of these events can be found elsewhere in this edition.

Finally, please remember to support our wonderful local shops and the growing Stonehouse Market, held every Saturday morning outside the Willow Tree Practice.

We look forward to seeing you out and about enjoying everything Stonehouse has to offer this summer!

The Stonehouse News Team



Stonehouse in Bloom has a new website

Visit our brilliant new website: stonehouseinbloom.org to find out more about us, our history, our awards, how to get involved etc. It's our one-stop shop for all things Stonehouse in Bloom.

Stonehouse in Bloom has again been selected to represent our region in the RHS Britain in Bloom National Finals. This year, we will be competing against six other towns from across the country in the hope of once again being crowned Best Small Town in the UK. This success wouldn't have been possible without the generous support and financial help from local businesses and if you would like to support us this year, please consider making a donation via the website to ensure that Stonehouse really makes a splash in this prestigious countryside competition. Your help is hugely appreciated!

Mayor's Column

Since the last edition we have had one change to the Town Council, with David Drew having been elected in February. It is great to have David back and I am certain that the town will continue to benefit from his considerable experience – 28 years as a Town Councillor so far.

There is, as ever, plenty going on in Stonehouse and you will be able to find out more about many of the activities, events and projects in the pages of this newsletter. One of the key dates in the calendar for the Town Council is the Stonehouse Annual General Meeting, this year to be held on May 14th. This means that it has not yet happened at the time I am writing this, but will have happened by the time you are reading – a summary of the meeting, as well as the Annual Town Report, will be available afterwards.

The Annual General Meeting is also an opportunity to showcase some of the best of what goes on in Stonehouse. One item which warrants special inclusion in this introduction is the success of Stonehouse Town Football Club this year. After a great season, on May 1st they hosted Malmesbury Victoria at Oldends Lane in the Hellenic League Division One playoff final. Unfortunately we were narrowly defeated 1-0 thanks to a late penalty – whilst it is obviously disappointing that the club did not quite achieve

promotion this year, we should all be hugely proud of them.

On Sunday, May 3rd the Ship Inn Community Enterprise (SplCE) held a first birthday party for the group at the Ship Inn site, the first of several events being held over the coming months. It was a great day with a very strong turnout, and it is wonderful to see the space being used in such a positive way.

Stonehouse Town Football Club and SplCE are just two of many examples of the Stonehouse community in action – unbelievable levels of dedication and commitment from volunteers creating something special for the town, with support from local businesses and the Town Council. I recommend you get along to the Ship Inn site for one of the upcoming events, and if you haven't been to a match at Oldends Lane yet then I would encourage you to do so next season.

If you have any community news to share, please let us know. And as ever, I would be happy to hear from you directly at councillorparker@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk.

Cllr John Parker

Mayor and Chair of Stonehouse Town Council

Water me!

As we move into the warmer months, this is the time that members of the community can really help with looking after the Stonehouse Community Arboretum. Trees need water to survive, and whilst the Town Council team will be out watering young trees regularly, you can do your bit to help too.

How you can help

If there is a recently planted tree near your house, or in the park where you walk every day, then please consider giving it some water during particularly hot, dry periods. Young trees can require around 50 litres of water each day between May and September, ideally delivered in the morning or evening.

Every little helps! If you see a tree you are concerned about, or would like more information about the Stonehouse Community Arboretum, then please contact john@trees.org.uk



The Fig Tree
Stonehouse

www.Stonehousefigtree.org

In July the Fig Tree will have been on Stonehouse's High Street for 5 years. To celebrate we are collecting '5ps for The Fig Tree'. If you would like to support us pop in and we'll give you a jar to fill. They hold about £2.00.

Thank you for all the concern shown about our damaged window. There was no unkindness in the damage, it was a stone flying up from the road. It is all sorted now. Thank you to the town council for their support and it was expertly replaced by Roman Glass in Ebly.

Supporting the



Supporting our Community

If you are having a clear out and need somewhere to sell items, then the APT Yard Sale might be for you! **Sunday 28th June** 11am till 3pm. It will take place around the Park Estate but if you don't have a drive or space to sell your items let us know and we might be able to find you space on the hardstanding outside Park Parade/APT. Register with us by Monday 22nd June to be put on the map, £2 per stall, collected on the day.

The APT Family Fun Day will be held on **Saturday 8th August** from 12 noon till 4pm 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.

Monday Munch

Our Monday Munch Club is still running on a Monday 12.30pm till 2.30pm. No booking required, just turn up and make a donation if you can.

If you have ideas for activities you would like us to provide get in touch, by phoning 01453 822705 or email us at aptcentral@btconnect.com.



If memory changes are concerning you, reaching out could be your first step towards clarity and peace of mind.

Opening up about memory concerns can feel daunting, but you don't have to face it alone. Our friendly, expert Dementia, Diagnosis and Memory Support (DDMS) team is here to guide you with confidence from the very first moment you notice changes.

Not every memory issue is dementia yet fear and stigma often stop people from speaking up. Delaying that first conversation can increase anxiety at a time when reassurance and clear information matter most. Seeking early support can make a real difference. Whether or not a dementia diagnosis

follows, talking things through sooner can help you understand what's happening and continue living life your way.

Age UK Gloucestershire offers a free, non medical, tailor made service for you or a loved one. Our DDMS team provides compassionate emotional support and practical advice, including planning ahead and social care options. Working closely with partner organisations, we offer the right support for you focused on your overall wellbeing.

Support and guidance

For support and guidance, contact our Help Team 01452 422660
Email: Helpteam@ageukgloucestershire.org.uk
Visit: ageuk.org.uk/gloucestershire/dementia



SUPPORT
LOCAL
BUSINESS

ve community



What is the POD?

Pod is a safe space where young people can hang out and chill with the youth workers, making sure everyone is feeling ok.

Pod opening times?

Pod is open on Monday 15:30-17:30, Thursday has a revision/homework session from 17:00-18:00 and after at 18:30-20:30, and finally Friday with 15:30-17:30.

Different activities we do at the door.

- Litter picking
- Fundraising for the door
- Different trips to places
- Playing pool
- Food Friday (yum)



How going to Pod benefits you

- You can make loads of brand-new friends
- An extra person to talk to if needed
- Support with homework
- Supports mental health
- You can try new things e.g. activities and volunteering

Written by H.C, Year 8



Stonehouse Library news

We are looking forward to our summer **Library challenge** for children aged 3-12 years. This year we are exploring 'Tales through Time'. There will be the usual stickers and rewards alongside events and activities focusing on dinosaurs and fossils! We hope you can join us.

Regular events continue with **Baby Bounce and Rhyme** on Wednesdays between 10.30 am and 11 am.

Library Littles, (Sensory Play, Storytime, and Song) for children aged 1-3 is on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 11:00 am-11.30am.

Our **Over 60's** group meets on the 3rd Monday of the month between 11:00am and 12.30. Booking is essential because space is limited. However, we also have an informal **Tea and Chat** group on a Thursday afternoon from 3pm where people can drop in and meet others in the area.

For more information and dates for all our activities see gloslibraries.uk/



Volunteers wanted

We're looking for kind, friendly volunteers to support local families in our community. Could you spare just 2-3 hours a week? Whether it's sharing kindness, playing games with children, or reading exciting adventure stories together, your time can make a real difference.

Do you have a skill you could offer? We'd love to hear from you! We provide a free prep course twice a year, in spring and autumn, and you'll be fully supported every step of the way. We're just finishing our current course and are now welcoming interest for the next one.

We're a warm, supportive group and always happy to chat. Please get in touch on 01453 297470, we'd love to hear from you

Email us on: enquiries@homestartsd.org
Website: homestartsd.org

Community

STONEHOUSE GREEN SCENE

Local, organic, unwrapped & delicious

A little-known fact – Winstone's Scoop ice creams, including waffle cones, are sold at the Happy Shopper in Elm Road. The organic milk is from Jess's Ladies farm in Hardwicke, and the ice cream travels under 5 miles from the factory on Minchinhampton Common.

News from Ship Inn Community Space

This is becoming a great, green community space thanks to the huge efforts of volunteers. The site is situated on the canal, at the corner of Bristol Road/Downton Bridge. On Sunday June 7 there will be a Nature & Environment Day from 11-3pm with walks, talks, stalls, games, refreshments and e-bikes.

Among many green initiatives is an habitat friendly dead hedge, being made by stalwart volunteer Carol and others. Resident critters have been spotted already. More hands-on and admin help is needed.
Email: hello@spicestonehouse.co.uk.

Latest recycling news

Plastic plant pots and toothpaste tubes can now be put in the green bins.



Summer of Sun Days on the Ship

SpICE and Cotswold Canals Trust volunteers worked really hard over the winter months to install Phase 1 of the Boardwalk and a pontoon for all types of canal users. Next jobs will be to finish our accessible walkway and create steps to the new pontoon.

Successful 1st Birthday event

Our first event was launched in May with a birthday party. We took our best shot at Archery with Sportily, planted trees, and tubs with Stonehouse in Bloom, served refreshments, created bug hotels! School children started painting the kingfisher which is soon to enjoy a new home alongst wildlife on the canal bank, and we ate a lot of delicious burgers and cake!

Events are planned for the first Sunday of every month from 11am-3pm (apart from the **Stonehouse Canal Festival** in July which is from 12 noon til 4pm). Visit our website to book walks & talks during our **Nature & Environment Day**, or pirate-themed activities on the water and on land for the **Ship Inn Regatta. Walkfest Welcome** is organised by Stonehouse Walking Festival and our **Apple Day** will feature in next issue.

Our coffee van is now open for refreshments from 10-2pm at weekends.

Website: spicestonehouse.co.uk
Email: hello@spicestonehouse.co.uk



Shopping online? Beware of retail scams

Buying something online and finding that it looks nothing like the images shown is very frustrating. Retail scams where sellers deliberately mislead people and make refunds difficult to obtain are becoming increasingly common.

Some companies convince people they're based in the UK by using **deceiving brand names and UK websites or postal addresses**. They may use AI generated images of fake products and shops. Low quality items are then shipped from overseas and look nothing like the images advertised. Refunds require costly international return shipping fees, which puts many people off - and the sellers count on it.

If you've been caught out and paid by debit or credit card, you may be able to get a refund using the chargeback scheme. Credit card purchases between £100 - £30,000 may be covered by section 75. For help with online shopping problems or other consumer issues, call the national **Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline 0808 233133**.

Citizens Advice helps with a wide range of issues. For information and self help guidance, visit citizensadvice.org.uk.

To speak to a local adviser in the Stroud and Cotswold Districts, visit citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk to complete our webform or call us on **0808 800 0510**.



news & events



Stonehouse History Group

We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Park Junior School Hall at 7.30 pm. Cost £2 members, £3 non-members.

Visit our website stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk for more information.

Forthcoming Events 2026

June 10th – Alexia Clark – *MOD war detective*

July 8th – Nicola Potter – *Metal detecting and finds from Gloucestershire*

No meeting in August

September 9th – Martyn Beaufort – *Murders in Minchinhampton*



The Stonehouse Rose

The use of a rose as a symbol for Stonehouse goes back as far as 1348 when the manor lands were granted "by tenure de Marchacia by a rose per annum" to John Maltravers. This link with a rose may have influenced the carving of a Tudor rose at Stonehouse Court built in 1601, during the time of Queen Elizabeth.

The rose symbol appears in the logo of the Stonehouse Horticultural Society formed in 1867. It features on the programmes for their Flower Shows. It also appears on Stonehouse souvenir china which Mark Whaley sold in his newsagent's shop from 1884 until 1920. He designed the red rose symbol.

In 1978 Fred Rowbotham offered to donate a mayoral chain for the Stonehouse Parish Council. His design, including the rose, was influenced by both the Horticultural Society programme and the souvenir china.

From then on Stonehouse has used the rose as a symbol. It features on school uniforms, on newsletters, on the Millennium Stone and on the town sign painted in 1984.



Upcoming events

Chase the Sun

Every step for remembrance, and completed in resilience, our annual Chase the Sun event is driven with purpose. Over the course of a week, participants pledge to complete a 10K stretch, in their own way!

From June 14th - 21st, when the summer sun is at its peak, it's a perfect opportunity to get outside in nature - whilst supporting our cause!

Skydive

In this exhilarating event, you will traverse down the highest freefall that the UK has to offer!

On September 5th, you can take a daring leap and tick off a bucket-list worthy adventure, whilst also raising vital funds for Sunflowers!

Built for thrill seekers, be sure to save the date as this challenge is one that will push you to your limit!





teckels



Summer Fair & Dog Show

Mark your calendars for a lively summer weekend at the Teckels Summer Fair & Dog Show, taking place on **Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th August 2026** from 11am to 4pm at Fromebridge Mill, Whitminster.

This family friendly event promises something for everyone. Dog lovers can enjoy the ever-popular Fun Dog Show, where adorable pups compete in a range of entertaining categories. Visitors can browse a variety of stalls featuring unique crafts, gifts, and local produce, while delicious food and refreshments will be available throughout the day.

Children can look forward to games and activities designed to keep them smiling, and the exciting raffle offers the chance to win fantastic prizes.

Entry is just £4, with free admission for children, and there is ample free parking on-site, making it the perfect day out for all!

Please contact events@teckelsanimalsanctuaries.co.uk for further information.

ENTRY £4
(KIDS GO FREE)

teckels
we love animals, unconditionally

Summer Fair & DOG SHOW

SATURDAY, 29TH & SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST, 2026
11 AM - 4 PM (BOTH DAYS)

FROMEBRIDGE MILL, FROMEBRIDGE LANE,
WHITMINSTER, GL2 7PB

- VARIETY OF STALLS
- DELICIOUS REFRESHMENTS
- GAMES FOR CHILDREN
- EXCITING RAFFLES AND MUCH MORE!

PLENTY OF FREE PARKING AVAILABLE ON-SITE



WILD HOGS HEDGEHOG RESCUE

Registered Charity no: 1168800

Nesting season

Hedgehogs respond to our changing climate and this year have started breeding at the earliest that we have ever recorded in 16 years. Please be aware that they are nesting, and their nests may not look very special but provide a great home for hoglets. If you uncover a nest, please cover it back up and call us immediately. Equally, hoglets on their own are likely to have lost mum so need urgent care. Please don't try to care for them yourself, every year we sadly lose hoglets that could have survived if people called us immediately but instead try to feed them unsuitable food, or don't have the medical treatments they need.

If you see adult hedgehogs out in the day, some may still be injured or sick so please just call for advice. We are available on the phone from 8am – 6pm and please leave a message if we can't answer straightaway. We always call you back.

Upcoming events

Wild Hogs Hedgehog Rescue has some upcoming events:

- **Twilight Trails** – An evening talk and walk on 3rd June 9pm
- **Jumble Sale** – Whitminster Village Hall 7th June 10am



Hedgehog admissions: 07949 976717
General enquiries: wildhogsoffice@gmail.com
wildhogshedgehogrescue.org.uk



LOCAL
FOOD & DRINK
FESTIVAL

**SUNDAY
16 AUGUST**

TOWN CENTRE



In Partnership with:



Stonehouse to host its first food and drink festival

Stonehouse Town Council are working with event organisers, eat:Festivals to deliver Stonehouse's first food and drink festival on Sunday 16 August 2026. Plans are coming together and the festival is now full for producers.

The festival will be happening in the heart of the town, on and surrounding the High Street.

Bev Milner Simonds from eat:Festivals told us

"We specialise in developing festivals that bring the community together, showcase local producers and give businesses the chance to welcome new people into their premises."

We have been focusing on producers from within 30 miles of Stonehouse and are thrilled to have a full festival for our inaugural year.

We are grateful to Schreiber Foods for their support of this first festival. We hope the festival will grow and develop and become an established part of the Stonehouse calendar. So hold the date: Sunday 16 August for a great free day out focused on food & drink.

Stonehouse Community Centre summer events

Exciting events are coming to Stonehouse Community Centre this summer, with something for everyone to enjoy. In June, July and August, the centre will be buzzing with community activity. We are proud to host the "Capture the Canal" photography competition in partnership with Stonehouse Town Council, alongside the Canal Festival on **5th July** – with our café open to visitors throughout the day.

On **25th July**, join us at Laburnum Park for our Summer Fayre, featuring a fun dog show, a wide variety of stalls, and entertainment for all ages.

Then, on **23rd August**, don't miss our Mini Horticultural Show, including exhibits, a car boot sale, fairground attractions and more.

We'll also be hosting a range of clairvoyant evenings across the summer.

Visit stonehousecommunitycentre.co.uk for full details.





Stonehouse Town Football Club

With the season now at a close, our last matches played, we can reflect on the 2025/26 season. Our first 11, with a new management team in place, have completed a monumental year for the club. Finishing the season in 4th position in the Hellenic league, gaining that all important playoff place, and making it through to the final of the County Cup.

The future is looking bright across both senior and youth sections, with two of our youth teams, under 9 and under 10 Magpies, both through to Cup Finals.

As we look towards the summer months our junior section will continue to train, if you have a child who may be interested in playing, or you are an adult who would like to get involved with coaching please contact youthsecretary@stonehousetownfc.co.uk

The Nest is available to hire for functions, at very reasonable rates, enquiries can be sent to treasurer@stonehousetownfc.co.uk

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Stonehouse junior parkrun

Stonehouse junior parkrun is looking forward to the warmer summer months and welcoming even more families to our friendly Sunday morning event. We've recently seen lots of new faces, with many children achieving milestone wristbands, and we're excited to continue supporting them as their confidence grows.

We've also had some brilliant young people volunteering with us as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award, and it's been great to see them develop their skills and confidence. We would gladly welcome more DoFE participants who are looking for a supportive place to complete their volunteering section.

Although we don't have any special events scheduled at the moment, we're always open to hearing from local groups or schools who may like to join us in the future.

Our free 2km event takes place every Sunday at Oldends Lane Playing Field. Please arrive at 8:50am for a brief welcome before we start at 9am.



Chess & backgammon

Enjoy Thursday evenings playing Chess & Backgammon 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



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Join a community walk for a great cause

Longfield Community Hospice invites us to a heartwarming day of community spirit and support at its annual Walk for Longfield event on **Saturday 13 June 2026**, from 10am to 4pm.

Set in the picturesque Minchinhampton countryside, this family-friendly sponsored walk welcomes participants of all ages to come together in celebration, remembrance, and solidarity. Dogs on leads are also welcome.

Supporters can choose from a range of walking routes, making it accessible for everyone - whether walking in honour of loved ones or simply enjoying the outdoors.

The event will raise vital funds for Longfield Community Hospice while showcasing its important work within our community. The ticket price includes a Longfield T-shirt, plus a drink and a serving of strawberries and cream to enjoy afterwards.

Tickets:

£15 Adults, £10 Children (4-16 years), £40 family
To book, visit longfield.org.uk/event/walk-for-longfield



Stonehouse Walking Festival

Our 7th Stonehouse Walking Festival will be from **4th - 13th September**. On Sunday 6th September many of our walks will launch from the Ship Inn Community Space where we will have an event with walks & talks, pilates with Sportily, nordic walking taster session, and even a teddy bear's picnic, walk & zip wire! Stalls include refreshments: BBQ, Bubble & Brew, Los Cubanos and Stroud Brewery. As ever there will be our popular canal, tree and history walks, fully accessible walks.

In addition to the usual tree, history and canal walks, this year there will also be night walks, and visits to cheesemakers in Stonehouse, a 10 mile pilgrimage walk to all our churches, and even a pub lunch! As usual, there will be walks for all ages and abilities.

There are so many lovely destinations to walk to from our own doorsteps and we aim to bring them all, and more to our festival.

The festival will end with a tea party on Sunday 13th September organised by Stonehouse in Bloom.

Visit our website for more details: stonehousewalks.co.uk
or email: stonehousewalkfest@gmail.com



A Summer of Jazz at Stonehouse Court Hotel

Join us for an unforgettable afternoon of smooth Jazz with the incredible Tom Carpenter happening on the last Sunday of every month.

Free entry to everyone - bring your friends, relax and soak up the summer vibes with soulful tunes and good company. Perfect for jazz lovers, families, or anyone looking for a mellow Sunday afternoon.

SUPPORT
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BUSINESS

Faith groups

St Cyr's Church

The Stonehouse Church Reordering Project has officially launched. Visit St Cyr's Church to collect a booklet for more details or visit: stroudwaterchurches.org.uk/about-us/churches/stonehouse/stonehouse-project.

St Cyr's Church welcomes visitors daily and holds a Family Service every Sunday at 9:30am. For updates, follow "St Cyr's Church Stonehouse" on Facebook and Instagram or visit the website stroudwaterchurches.org.uk.

Upcoming events include:

- 150th Anniversary of the Mothers Union, with a Church Café on **Saturday 9 May** from 10am and an Afternoon Tea at 12noon, followed by a Celebration Service on Sunday 10 May at 9.30am.
- On **Saturday 13 June**, enjoy the Church Café and a Teddy Bear Zip-wire event. Bring a picnic, refreshments available from 10am, with the zip-wire starting at 12noon.
- The Stonehouse Canal Festival is on **Sunday 5 July** from 12noon featuring live music, a church café, and tower tours.

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



Bethel Church

At Bethel Church Stonehouse, we warmly invite you to join us over the coming months. Our Sunday services take place each week at 10:30am, offering a welcoming, family-focused environment with a blend of modern worship and traditional hymns.

During term time, we run Toddle-In every Monday from 9:30–11:00am, providing a friendly space for parents, carers, and young children to connect and play together.

We also host a Coffee Morning on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month – an ideal opportunity to meet others in the community over a warm drink.

For young people, our Youth Fellowship meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month, including games, worship, and learning from the Bible. No registration is required.

All are very welcome to come along and get involved.

Website: bethelchurchstonehouse.org.uk

Stonehouse Methodist Church

Our Minister is Revd Jimmy Cullingford and our **Sunday services** are at 10.30am. You will receive a warm welcome - Refreshments are served afterwards to continue fellowship.

Our **monthly Community Lunches** at 12.30pm are on the 4th Thursday – 28th May, 25th June, 23rd July and 27th August.

Other Community Events:

Friday 12th June – Great Big Green Week Family Bug Hunt – after school. Come and explore our Garden and help us look for and record the bugs which live there!

Sunday 5th July – Church Anniversary Service at 10.30am led by Revd John Kime

Saturday 18th July – Afternoon Tea and Beetle Drive 2pm – fun and friendship

Friday 2nd October – Our popular Quiz with Fish & Chip Supper returns

Everyone is Welcome! We are a Fairtrade and Gold Award Eco-Church

Follow us on Facebook:
Stonehouse Methodist Church
www.stonehousemethodist.church



Education



Stonehouse Park
Federation

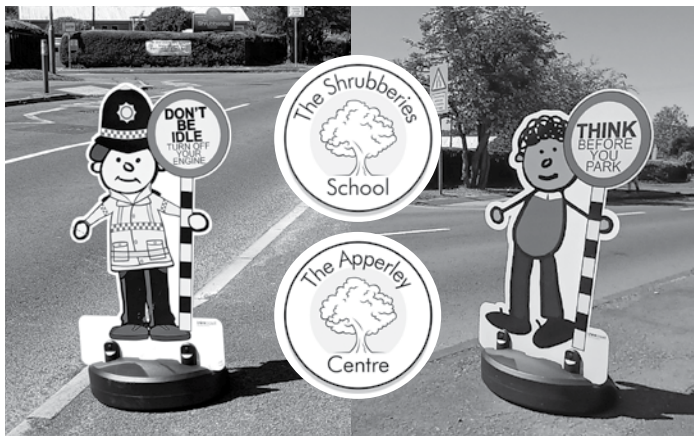
Recent Science Activities

Children at Stonehouse Park Federation have been keeping busy with a variety of hands-on science and engineering lessons.

In a recent workshop, the pupils were challenged to design and build air-powered K'nex cars. The children did brilliantly, and there were some fantastic results on the test track. One car managed to travel an impressive distance of 8 metres and 9 centimetres! Many thanks to the Stonehouse Rotary Club, as their funding made this hands-on learning experience possible.

Alongside the engineering activities, every class took part in an active, practical lesson exploring the science of bubbles. Afterwards many parents and carers joined us for Bubbly Family Fun, to see what their children had learned and explore all the activities available

If you would like to find out more about what the children are studying, our science curriculum and termly overviews are available to read on the school website.



Parking Buddies

The Shrubberies School has felt the impact of a recent accident in which one of our pupils was injured just outside our gates. It was a difficult moment for all of us, and a reminder of how vulnerable our children can be. We're incredibly grateful for the support shown by families, staff and neighbours, and we're more committed than ever to keeping everyone safe. To help raise awareness, we've introduced our new 'Parking Buddies'. These are bright, friendly figures placed along the roadside to gently remind drivers to slow down, take care, and park responsibly. We hope they bring an extra layer of protection and encourage everyone passing by to look out for our wonderful pupils.

Rachel Stephens



Hopelands Prep School & Nursery

We are delighted to be working with The Cotswold Canals Trust and The Ship Inn Community Enterprise this term. From Nursery to Year 6, all of our pupils will visit the site, take part in fascinating workshops, explore the canal, and discover more about our local history.

During their visits, the children become history detectives, using clues from old canal maps to learn how the canal was used in the past. They also have the exciting opportunity to examine real records of boats and shipments from over 100 years ago - a truly fascinating experience that brings local history to life.

To top it all off, the children enjoy a boat ride along the canal, spotting and photographing wildlife as they travel. We feel incredibly fortunate to have such a valuable local resource on our doorstep, and experiences like this remind us just how special Stonehouse really is.



Canal news



Volunteers help to transform our site at Ryeford

Cotswold Boatmobility were delighted recently to welcome volunteers who work locally in Stonehouse along with international colleagues from PHINIA. Armed with much enthusiasm, tools and materials, they set to work under the skilful guidance of our facilities team to transform our operational site at Ryeford, into a more welcoming environment. Shelters were refreshed, cladding cleaned and treated and gardens tidied.

They said it

"was practical support delivered with care - the kind that makes a real difference."

Being the proud recipients of the 'Diversity in the Community' award recently we were thrilled to have them say this about us:

"Cotswold Boatmobility impressed everyone with its dedication to making boating accessible for people with mobility and learning disabilities as well as their friends and families. Run entirely by volunteers, the charity opens up the Stroudwater Canal to more people, creating moments of fun, inclusion and connection that might otherwise be out of reach".



Guided walking tours and boat trips

It's a busy and exciting year for the Cotswold Canals Trust following last year's success in securing National Lottery Heritage Fund support to reconnect the canal from Eastington to Saul Junction. You can learn more about this ambitious project by becoming a member from just £20 a year and receiving our quarterly Trow magazine. Sign up online or visit our visitor centres or bookshops to find out more.

Our guided walking tours are now underway on selected Wednesdays and Saturdays. For just £5, join our volunteers to explore both restored and in-progress routes, including Stonehouse to Westfield Bridge, Wallbridge to Ebley, and Fromebridge to Saul Junction.

Boat trips are also running from Wallbridge on Saturdays and Saul Junction on Wednesdays, with private charters available for special occasions and group bookings.

For more information and to book tickets, visit cotswoldcanals.org.

Don't forget our Stonehouse Charity Book & Music Shop, open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10am-4pm.



Meet your Councillors



Mayor – John Parker

Hi everyone, my name is John Parker and I was elected to the Council in 2025 for my second period as a Councillor in the town, the first being 2019-2021. Since November 2025 I have been the Chair of Council and Mayor of Stonehouse. I am also a Stroud District Councillor for Stonehouse Ward, and a Standish Parish Councillor. My other volunteer roles around the town include being a Governor at the Stonehouse Park Federation, a Trustee of the Doverow Hill Trust, a member of the Stonehouse Community Partnership, a Director of the Stroud Valley Canal Company and the founder of the Stonehouse Community Arboretum project.

For my day job, I am Chief Executive Officer at the Arboricultural Association, a charity and the UK's professional body for tree care. I grew up in and around Stonehouse, and after a few years living away I returned in 2013. I am incredibly passionate about our town, and determined to ensure that everyone in Stonehouse feels listened to and properly represented. Being elected as Mayor of Stonehouse was a great honour and it is a role I am very proud to have. It is a pleasure to work alongside such a great group of volunteer Town Councillors and committed officers, all pulling together to make sure Stonehouse remains a fantastic place to live, work and visit, for everyone.

Stonehouse Canal Festival

The much-anticipated Stonehouse Canal Festival is set to return on Sunday 5 July 2026. Events and activities will be held across Stonehouse Court Hotel, St Cyr's Church, the Ocean Canalside, Church Lane, the canal and the Ship Inn Community Space. This year's event promises more excitement than ever before, with plenty to see and do for all ages.

Festival-goers can look forward to live music, delicious food and drink, children's games and inflatables, boat trips, market stalls, handmade gifts, cakes, crafts, art, plant sales and more. The event is family-friendly, fully accessible and completely free to attend.

Stonehouse Court Hotel will be serving food and hosting live musical acts, plus offering inflatables and a bouncy castle for children. Teckels will be on the manor lawns with a Dog Show.

At the **Ocean Canalside**, the Cotswold Boatmobility and Cotswold Canals Trust stalls will be offering boat trips.

St Cyr's Church will see musical performances from local choirs. The church café will be open for refreshments and visitors can join guided tours of the tower.

Along the **churchyard footpath and Church Lane**, there will be over 30 stalls. Severnside Vintage will be displaying a range of classic and vintage cars alongside more food options.

At the **Ship Inn Community Space**, visitors can enjoy live music, a range of family entertainment including Sportily's climbing wall, refreshments and boat trips.

We encourage everyone to walk to the sites if possible. Regular bus and train services also run to Stonehouse. Parking will be available (weather permitting) at Wycliffe College's Berryfield.



See you at the festival!

Look out for our next edition, due September 2026

stonehouse town council information

Contact us

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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

25th June 2026
20th July 2026

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

1st June 2026
6th July 2026

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

8th June 2026
13th July 2026

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 822070
Keren Capeling (Vice Chair)	01453 822070
Keith Creighton	01453 822070
Deborah Curtis	01453 822070
Marcus Dixon	01453 822070
David Drew	01453 822070
Stephen Hunter	01453 822070
Carol Kambites	01453 822070
Simon Macgregor	01453 822070
John Parker (Chair)	01453 822070
Val Randell	01453 822070
Keith Terry	01453 822070
Carol Trim	01453 822070
Theresa Watt	01453 822070

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

District Councillors - stroud.gov.uk

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County Councillor - gloucestershire.gov.uk

Dean Botterill
Dean.Botterill@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament - parliament.uk

Simon Opher	01453 621304
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