



On a wet afternoon on the first Saturday in November a good-humoured band of volunteers completed the Poppy Project which had been worked on all summer. Local stone from Stagehall hill formed the bases for setting the ceramics and this wonderful site-specific artwork was blessed the following day during the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the war memorial in Stow.

## SOUND OUT HOME OF Stowed Out

### Stowed Out 2015

The sun shone and the bands played. Everything from an internationally renowned singer song writer in the form of Dick Gaughan to rising stars Model Aeroplanes to Scottish Borders Pipe Band to spoken word direct from the Edinburgh Festival made this year one of the most eclectic yet. Over the two days 900 people enjoyed the event and quite a few people travelled a fair distance to sample the array of talent on show. It was also great to see new and established local businesses taking the opportunity to display their goods and services and for some of us the heating in the main Marquee supplied by Eco Fitter was the icing on the cake as the night cooled down. In the run up 280 people took advantage of the local early bird reduced rate/free entry scheme and Sound Out hopes to continue this in 2016.

There was plenty of feedback from the public and Sound Out has taken this on board and it will help shape the event next year. A huge thanks to all the volunteers, sponsors and committee who, without their support the event just couldn't happen.

### Stowed Out Festival team needs your help

Sound Out have always strived to create an event that the community could be proud of and over the past few years we have started to generate interest from visitors and performers from across the country. We now desperately need help to keep the festival running and continue this level of success. If you could spare a few hours during the year to help us out let us know. We don't need experts we just need people with a passion for making something great happen in our community. We need help with a range of tasks from keeping the Website and other social media up dated, picking up equipment, painting signs, running stalls, booking bands. Involvement could be as little or as much as you can spare. Even an hour a month would be fantastic. Pick up the phone 07818284922 or drop us an email: [info@soundout.org.uk](mailto:info@soundout.org.uk) Chris Wemyss.

### Sound Out AGM Nov 18 Stow Town Hall 7.00

Everyone is warmly welcomed to join in discussions about the Community Music Group and the Festival. (no obligation to join committees etc just come along and have your say.

## STOW HIGHLAND DANCE SCHOOL

annual  
dancing  
display  
Sunday 3pm  
22 November

Stow Highland Dance School are holding their Annual Dancing Display on Sunday 22 November 2015 at 3pm in Stow Town Hall. Everyone welcome. Tickets can be collected at Stow Post Office nearer the event.

Any questions, just call Amanda Runciman on 01578 730268. Dancing classes resume on Wednesday 6 January 2016 at 3.45pm in Stow Town Hall.



## OPEN DAY

Friday 20 November  
2pm - 4pm



Please come along to Stow Kids Club open day, where the children can sample the club and parents can find out more information about the service that is on offer.

Many activities and refreshments for all.

c/o Stow Primary School, Station Road, Stow  
m: 07944 617310 e: [stowkidsclub@hotmail.com](mailto:stowkidsclub@hotmail.com)





Stowed Out is outstanding!  
28 & 29 August

# Stow & Fountainhall Know

## FIRST AID AT FOUNTAINHALL

Six members of our community have been on a course with the British Red Cross to train our residents in everyday first aid training. We are planning to deliver this course to all residents. It is designed for all abilities and ages.

Both the town hall in Stow and Fountainhall village hall will shortly have defibrillators available in an emergency. Part of the training will include how to use the defibrillator. We have managed to get an Annie doll and a training defibrillator to help us and show you how easy it is to use. Dates of the training will be posted in the post office, the community web site and also Fountainhall Village hall facebook page. More information is available by calling 760296.

Under an almost Mediterranean sun (yes, really!) Stow's Quoting Green on 5 September saw Stow and Fountainhall celebrate in style the opening of the Borders Railway.

Almost 1000 people came to enjoy and share in all that was on offer: pony riding, uncountable amounts of ice cream, food, drink, singing, dancing, castle bouncing, face painting, local craft, art and produce stalls and undoubtedly more than can be mentioned here, plus good old-fashioned blethering and the intangible that comes from hundreds of smiling faces and trains running on shiny new tracks.

Talent, community spirit, generous voluntary effort and good cheer were interwoven to make a perfect event, creating unique memories to mark this landmark occasion. Huge thanks go to Jemma Reid who led the initiative as a volunteer but utilised her professional skills as an events organiser who runs her own events management business ([www.jemmareid.co.uk](http://www.jemmareid.co.uk)) and the Community Council who backed it, together securing the funding. A great outcome was achieved in a very few weeks through the great commitment and hard work by many, in the great tradition of our villages.

## STOW PARENT COUNCIL

### WINTER DRIVING - KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE

With the clocks having changed and the winter darkness fast approaching, we would like to take this opportunity to remind drivers to be aware of pedestrians and cyclists who also use our roads. Stow Primary School children wear high-vis vests so they can be seen. Please put your headlights on so they can see you too.

Be aware of your speed. Both Station Road and Mill Road are 20mph zones. Children and toddlers can be unpredictable so slow right down when driving past pedestrians. Although the A7 is 30mph maximum through Stow, a slower speed may be more appropriate for winter conditions. If residents reduce their speed then other road users would also have to.

Pavements are intended for pedestrians. Please do not park your car on the pavement and bring bins in as soon as possible after collection.

Thank you for your cooperation. Have a safe winter.

## FOUNTAINHALL VILLAGE HALL

The hall is coming together nicely and should be completely finished soon. The work prior to Hallowe'en saw the painters finishing off and our new floor is being laid. We are waiting on delivery of our kitchen appliances and vinyl for the entrance hall, toilets and kitchen. The new stairs leading up to the hall should have arrived in the first week of November and will be popped into place.

We are going to have a village opening as our first event to allow the locals to come along and see the hall and have a bit of a social, something we have not had for many months. We have kept the inside a mystery to most this includes the colour, layout etc so it will be very exciting for us to show it to everyone at once. Keep an eye on our facebook page and the post office as we will advertise it there.

Next year we will have a grand opening allowing us to invite our funders and stakeholders who have helped us along the way and don't worry the locals will be more than welcome also. If anyone has an idea of who we could get to open the hall we would welcome suggestions. The rural are having their 90th anniversary in the hall in December and we will shortly be happy to take bookings for other events. Please call 760296 with any ideas or booking queries.



## STOW PARISH ARCHIVE

Well the archive has been busy in the past few weeks

On September 5 we all welcomed the arrival of the railway and the archive group were out with their cameras and recorders to mark the day. We took photos, we chatted to people, we ate ice-cream. And now we are putting all that together into a booklet commemorating the day. That should be ready for Christmas so look out for that in the post office!

As well as railway commemoration we are, of course, noting the centenary of the Great War. The archive bought one of the London poppies and then decided that anything London could do, so could Stow. Two members of the group dived into the archives finding out about the names on the war memorial while we also decided to make a poppy display to sit beside the village war memorial. Red for each of the men who died and a single blue poppy representing the nurses who also lost their lives. We spoke to everyone in the community that we could, telling them what we were up to and asking about possible types of display. We then had the fun of making poppies along

with lots of other members of the community under the kind instruction of Marianne Finlayson the ceramicist. Someone had a brilliant idea of also making forget-me-nots to remember those who fought but survived and whose names are not on the memorial. We also visited Stow Primary to talk to the P6/7s about the war and the memorial.

The poppy memorial was erected on Saturday 7 November when many in the community who made a poppy or forget-me-not came along and helped set it up. The final display was revealed on the morning of 8 November when the minister Victoria Linford said a few words before the usual remembrance service.

In between all that we have had a visit from thirteen post-graduate environmental architecture students from the University of Edinburgh. They are undertaking a project to imagine new buildings and structures in Stow as part of their Masters Degree. They have been keeping the archivists on their toes with lots of questions about Stow. What is interesting to note is that they chose Stow in part because of the new railway that has allowed them to visit so easily.



Cheers at Pirn House for the Queen's Train 9 September

photography by Abbie McCann  
www.abbiemccannphotographer.co.uk

### FOUNTAINHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Fountainhall have made a busy start to the school year. We started by participating in the Stow Flower Show, completing the colouring and handwriting activities as well as creating a whole class rainbow using natural materials. This tied in nicely with our ethos of outdoor learning and using our local environment as a tool for learning.

It goes without saying that the opening of The Waverley Line provided much excitement for our children! Our Roald Dahl themed 'Golden Ticket Assembly' was a fantastic success where children were invited to dress as a favourite character from one of Roald Dahl's books. Each child received a chocolate bar and one lucky child found a Golden Ticket inside for a VIP day to celebrate the new railway.

An invite from Network Rail allowed our children the privilege of being some of the very first passengers on the Waverley Line from Stow to Tweedbank and back again. What a brilliant opportunity and one which the children will remember for many years to come.

We all donned our Hi-Viz jackets and wellies on Wednesday 9 September to gather by the railway track with our banners to watch the Steam Train pass by with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on board. Another great day to be remembered and cherished!

Our Junior Road Safety Officers attended a conference in Galashiels to learn about their new role and started with a 'Be bright, be seen!' campaign. They have also recently run 'The Egg Challenge' to promote the importance of wearing a helmet when cycling.

We have had a very musical start to the year with violin tuition from Mr Jonathan Law, a guitar club after school run by Christine Armstrong and a weekly session of 'Trash Jazz' from Youth Music Initiative (YMI). The children will be showing off their new skills in a number of performances for family and friends of the school.

Our wonderful Parent Council organised a very successful Burger Boogie on Friday 4 September. This was a great social evening and was very well supported by both the immediate Fountainhall and the wider Gala Water valley community.

All of our children were treated to a visit from Zoolab, funded by our Parent Council. The children enjoyed meeting the variety of exotic creatures. The children have also had visits from the SSPCA which they thoroughly enjoyed, and from the Fire Service to promote fire safety on the run up to Bonfire Night. Our older pupils participated in the local Hockey and Rugby Festivals in Galashiels on Thursday 22 October and have been preparing for these in their PE lessons and with the help from our rugby coach Mr Iain Millar.

On Friday 27 November, we will be celebrating all things Scottish with our annual Kilts for Kids day which helps to raise money for the charity, Children 1st. The children will be singing Scottish songs, learning and reading Scots poetry and dancing Scottish dances, as well as learning about Scottish culture through activities across the curriculum.

Our Christmas concert this year, 'A Magical Christmas Journey', is on Wednesday 16 December. A night not to be missed!

### STOW PRIMARY COMMUNITY CAFE



A Community Cafe will be held on Friday 4th December 2015 at Stow Primary School from 10.45 - 12.15 pm. Entry fee is £2 for adults, children free, with teas and coffees being served. Crafts made by the children will be on sale as well as various stalls by the Parent Council.

new



The idea for the Community

- Cafe is new for this academic session; it has several aims:
- \* it is intended to build on links with our local community
  - \* to give the children an opportunity to organise and run an event which meets several of the Experiences and Outcomes across different areas of the curriculum
  - \* to raise funds either for chosen charities or school funds

Each event is run by a different class - this time it will be Primary 4/5 who take responsibility and any money raised will go to school funds.

### NOTES ON THE WIND

#### AWARDS MADE AT SEPTEMBER 2015 PANEL

- Tweed Valley Mountain Rescue Team: £5,000 to contribute to the cost of replacing the group's Command and Control vehicle.  
 Stow & Fountainhall Community Council: £2,692 to provide a fund for distribution in the Parish of Stow area in the form of micro grants for groups and individuals, up to a maximum of £250, for general charitable purposes.

#### APPLICATION DATES FOR 2016 (tbc)

- 18 January 2016 • 11 April 2016
  - 11 July 2016 • 10 October 2016
- Panel meets usually 6 weeks after application dates

NB at its meeting in June 2015 the Parish of Stow Community Funds Panel agreed to remove the two stage, initial large grant enquiry stage, from the EDF Fund. Only one stage will apply for all applications. Grants are awarded up to £25,000.

# What better time to have Wendy Ball in the spotlight than when she is on sabbatical from her six year, 21 issue stint as editor of this Newsletter? Initially conceived to keep people informed about the opportunities and outcomes of the windfarm funds, the community newsletter was an idea Wendy successfully proposed to, and sought funding from, the Community Council. She then created, developed and delivered it, in what is her typical "want to make things better" approach. Once she has spotted a need or potential, for Wendy it's "hard not to get involved" and once she's taken on a responsibility, well, to paraphrase - once she's started, she'll finish!

## spotlight on WENDY BALL



English as a Foreign Language. Edinburgh and the Borders fitted perfectly and the family (eventually to grow to three children) came to Stow via Redpath and Soutra, around 20 years ago.

Having spent six years teaching EFL in Edinburgh Wendy then became an early pioneer of the portfolio career. A golden thread running through all her work across several disciplines is of building connections; making a whole that is more than the sum of its parts. Her professional skills in education, social history and information management led to roles connecting communities; connecting professionals; and creating and recording living links between the past and the present. She also became very familiar with public authority funding quirks and all of this has benefitted Stow and Fountainhall. Having moved to Stow with young children she was keen to make contacts - to not live "in a glass bubble" - and so got involved in village organisations.

Thirty years a Borderer (half her lifetime, as it happens) Wendy grew up in Shropshire, and from her early teens, throughout her first degree in Geography and subsequent teacher training, maintained a keen interest in archaeology. This took her to archaeological digs in several Middle Eastern countries including Afghanistan, where she met her husband Warwick who had found his way there from Australia. Wendy and Warwick stayed in the Middle East and were living in Iraq when Wendy became pregnant with their first child. The couple felt the continuing Iran/Iraq war indicated it was not a wise place to start their family and returned to the UK in 1985. They needed to settle within commuting distance of a university with specialist collections for Warwick, and a source of international students for Wendy to use her skills as a teacher of

Over the years Wendy has: served on the Community Council; co-founded Stow Parent Council; co-founded Stow Kids After School Club; was informally on the committee of Wooplaw Community Woodland and co-founded and is currently Chair of Stow Parish Archive Group. As she takes a break from editing this newsletter to focus on a new venture linked to the coming of the Borders Railway, we can appreciate that Wendy is not stepping down, just aside and can also be sure that her natural curiosity and interest in developing links will ensure she remains actively involved, as always, to "make things better".

**wooplaw community woodland**  
November 29  
MAKE YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS WREATHS & CHILDREN'S 'FUN IN THE WOODS'  
13:00 - 15:00 at the cabin  
check for details  
[www.wooplaw.org.uk](http://www.wooplaw.org.uk)

**ScotRail** **BORDERS RAILWAY**  
TIMETABLE CHANGE  
Current timetables end on 12 December 2015.  
Pick up a new one or go to [www.scotrail.co.uk/plan-your-journey/timetables-and-routes](http://www.scotrail.co.uk/plan-your-journey/timetables-and-routes) (I know, I know... but aren't fairy stories lovely...?)

**wooplaw community woodland**  
December 27  
BLOW THE COBWEBS AWAY WALK  
10.30 Axehead Car Park  
check for details  
[www.wooplaw.org.uk](http://www.wooplaw.org.uk)

**THE OLD STATION HOUSE**  
Abellio are taking stock of all that they have taken over with the Scotrail franchise including the Old Station House. Once they have done this they will re-engage with Stow Community Trust

**EDITOR'S NOTE**  
Wendy is extending her sabbatical so Heather is Acting Editor until further notice. Thanks for all the input for this edition.  
**NEXT COPY DATE: 10 JAN 2016**  
heather@at@southcottage.co.uk  
01578 730507

### GALAWATER CAMERA CLUB



The Club's recent projects include: farm animals, the railway celebrations and "the Eildons". A members' exhibition is showing at the Cloudhouse café from 5 - 29 November - entry is free.

Why not come along and be pleasantly surprised! And you can join us on facebook.

### STOW COMMUNITY PARK



With voting taking place at Stowed Out and the Railway Celebration Day for park equipment suppliers we now have a clear idea of what the people of Stow and surrounding area would like to see in Stow Park. We will take these preferences forward to discussions with the council. Thanks to everyone for taking the time to vote.

The paperwork cogs are turning slowly.....

We are grateful to the Galawater Health and Fitness Club who have donated £120 to Stow Community Park; this is a generous display of community spirit; they are hoping for a nice bench to sit on. Over the coming months we would like to encourage people to create micro events for example invite a handful of friends around for tea/coffee/something stronger and ask them to donate £1. The collection can be put in an envelope marked Stow Community Park and left at the shop. Lots of £5-£10 amounts soon add up. Credit to Alison Runciman for kick starting our micro fundraising by selling slices of gingerbread and raising £12. All this will help the community involvement requirements for large grant applications.

Please continue to like/comment/follow us on Facebook: Stow Community Park. If you would like to help the development team or have any questions you can contact us through email: [stowcommunitypark@gmail.com](mailto:stowcommunitypark@gmail.com) or leave a note at the shop.

### CHRISTMAS

and all that jazz...

### CONCERT

Sunday 3pm  
6 December 2015  
Stow Church



£8 • children free  
nibbles included

tickets from:  
• Stow Shop  
• John on 01578 730289  
• on the door



Our concert this year contains a selection of the lush, the comic, the serene and, believe it or not, there is some of that Christmas Jazz! For those of you who remember the wonderful Zimbe! of summer 2014, we are doing some pieces arranged by the composer of Zimbe!, Alexander L'Estrange. Very different but also very lovely music.

A taster of the programme is on offer at our 'Songs in the Stairwell' free gig in Tesco Galashiels on Saturday 5, preceding our main concert, to raise funds for Save the Children. If you're shopping that day, we'll be singing from 2-3pm so be sure to listen out for us.