

QUEST FOR COMMUNITY CHOIR LEADER - RESULT!!

When Gala Water Singers learned in April that Jim Letham, our first and only Music Director for the six years of the choir's existence, was resigning due to work demands elsewhere, we knew he would be a hard act to follow. Nancy Muir, who had worked with us occasionally in the past, offered to step into the Director's chair and lead us up to our winter concert 2017 to give us time to recruit a new leader - an offer we were very glad to accept. This term we have really enjoyed working with Nancy whose place in our story includes the gift of regular tongue-and-vocal-twisting warmups alongside gently humorous encouragement which has been a great way to start each week. You can judge for yourselves at our concert on Sunday 17 December, 3pm, Stow Church, if we manage to pull off all the 'ring', 'sing', 'king', 'jing(le)', 'bring' - fest she's challenged us with - and not only those!

This year's concert programme is chosen from traditional, around the world and religious seasonal songs and carols with interludes of Clarsach and Recorder duets by our own Ruth Flavin and Nancy Muir - a combination new to most of us and which promises to be a treat.

After diligent efforts to recruit a new leader, including one singing workshop with a candidate in August which was

great fun but didn't result in a 'match' the committee discovered choir leading talent amongst Gala Water Singers and two of our singers, Julia Campbell and Helen Taylor, will be our Choir Leader and Accompanist respectively from January 2018 till May 2018, taking us to our summer concert. We'll then together decide if Julia and the choir feel we've 'clicked' and if Julia and Helen want to continue in their new roles.

Helen has been with the choir from the start and is well known to many through her involvement with junior drama and musicals in her home village of Heriot, where she is also the church organist. We greatly appreciate her generosity in adding us to her 'hats' and could not be more pleased to warmly welcome her as our Accompanist.

Julia joined the choir last year after settling locally with her family to run their family business in Burnhouse Mains and Middletoun. Julia is a music graduate of Edinburgh University who then went on to have a career as a Headteacher in primary education in the North of England. Fully trained in choral singing, Julia is experienced in directing choirs and in bringing communities together and teaches singing, piano and music theory privately. We are delighted to welcome Julia to the position of Choir Leader.

Tuesday January 16 sees Gala Water Singers' new term and if you've ever swithered about giving singing in the community choir a go, at the start of a new era for us this may be the time to give it a try - with no knowledge or experience of singing, or music, required at all. A slightly later start time of 7.15 pm, finishing at 9 pm with a short break mid-evening and breaks for the school holidays, may make it easier for some folk and we appreciate being accommodated in Fountainhall School once again. Should you need a lift to choir (or want more information) give John a ring on 01578 730289 and we'll do our best to arrange it. The first two weeks are free to try out, then costs are £50 a year paid in part each term (pro rata for joining during the year) reduced or waived if that's a problem.

Join us at our concert to close 2017 and maybe join your voice to ours to start 2018?

People singing together - experienced or not, skilled or not, improving together - is what Community Choir is all about and is so, so enjoyable. Treat yourself.



Nancy Muir in rehearsal

The poster features a blue sky background with a street lamp on the right and several colorful Christmas ornaments hanging from the top. The text is in various colors and fonts, including purple and green. At the bottom, there is a white box with black text containing concert details.

Gala Water Singers
Community Choir of the Gala Water Valley

Carols
Songs
Clarsach &
Recorder
Duets

'HERE WE
COME
A-CAROLING!
CONCERT

Sunday 17 December
Stow Church 3pm
Buffet Included
£8: Children Free
tickets from
Stow Shop, on the door
John 01578 730289

Stow Health Centre

The Health Centre will be closed for

2 days over Christmas (25 & 26 December) and
2 days over New Year (1 & 2 January).

Please make sure you have enough medication to cover you over this period, only putting in an order for your medications if required.

We hope everyone has a lovely time over the Festive Period and look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year.

From Doctors & Staff
at Stow & Lauder Health

[Have a look at the Practice home page for some beautiful pictures taken by Dr Mason
www.stowandlauderhealth.scot.nhs.uk/]

EDITOR'S COLUMN

The winter 2017-18 edition, number 30, of Stow & Fountainhall Community Newsletter (SFCN) is finally here. A bit later than intended I'm afraid due to a minor failure of my immune system when faced with an unfriendly virus but finally resolved.

This seems a good time to share some of the thinking about the newsletter by the editorial team (Wendy Ball and me so far) for 2018, but first a thank you to Wendy Ball, our Distribution Organiser for services above and beyond. Number 29 of SFCN was edited by me but laid out and sent to the printers by Wendy to help with a tight timetable. She not only made it easier for me to get away on holiday, she made the issue beautiful as always, as I'm sure you noticed. SFCN's first and founding editor, she hasn't lost any of her touch.

BUSINESS ENTRIES: some you will remember that several issues ago there were plans for a 'Business Extra' - a four page loose insert into the newsletter carrying a short entry for all locally-based businesses. There would be no charge for being in the Extra, the intention being to let residents know what is available on the doorstep for our convenience and to support the local economy of self-employed and small businesses in our midst. Additionally it would expand the profile of our parish and as a copy goes on the Community Website, would provide a longer-lasting platform for business visibility. This received a limited response so did not go ahead but is something we'd like to do in 2018.

If you work for yourself, or run a small business and are based within Stow and Fountainhall Parish (local government) area, please contact the Editor to log your interest in being included in the Business Extra. When there are enough expressions of interest you will be contacted and advised of timing, space and style needs as the supplement is put together - likely to be Spring / Summer 2018. The broader and more accurate the Extra can be, the more useful it will be so **please, do make contact now.** An email to the editor (details below) with 'Business Extra Entry' in the subject line and your name, type of business and contact details within the text is all that is needed for the moment. Don't put it off - once you've sent that email, the initiative passes to SFCN and you will be contacted at the appropriate time for fuller information. Even if you have been established for some time, not everyone knows everything, and new residents do arrive fairly regularly so your business being in the Extra is a valuable connection.

Meanwhile, any new business which contacts SFCN will be given one mention, space permitting, to announce to the community that it exists and help them get established.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: by the next issue I aim to be able to send out a short sheet of guidance on sending information to the newsletter. This will include such things as a reminder to include essential detail e.g. contacts, and the best way for me to receive copy e.g. images as attachments, not in documents etc.

CLASH CALENDAR: this was floated two issues ago and received no response though verbally it receives support. Recently a community event in Fountainhall clashed with three events happening on the same evening in Stow; another Fountainhall event was affected by a clash with an event in Heriot - to the detriment of numbers attending each time. It should be technically possible to set up an electronic calendar so that it is easy to operate by registered organisations. If there is enough interest this can be explored in detail. **If you'd like to see something effective and workable happen around this, please email the editor by Monday 8 January 2018** (details alongside) with 'Clash Calendar' in the subject line and your name, contact details and organisation within the text. If there is enough interest it will then be taken forward.

WISHING YOU ALL THE BEST OF THE FESTIVE SEASON AND FOR 2018

Heather Johnston



STOW BOWLING CLUB PRESENTATION NIGHT 2017

On 4 November the President of Stow Bowling Club, Ian Swan, presented all its winners and runners up during 2017 Bowling season with a selection of cups, trophies, medals, plaques and rose bowls

There are a number of in-club competitions throughout the year where everyone gets a chance to compete. The competitions range over mixed pairs, ladies and men's singles, triples, floodlit competitions mainly taking place over weekends. Below is a list of all the competitions and winners:

Competition	Winners
Men's Singles	Craig Tait
Ladies Single	Anne Swan
Selected Pairs	Robbie Wilson & Willie Frew
Ladies Doubles	Irene Scott & Jane Ellis
Club Mixed Pairs	Bob Preston & Anne Swan
Herd Trophy	John McCann
Torquhan Trophy	Stewart Runciman
Stow v Killochyett	Robbie Wilson (for Stow)
Graham McLeod Trophy	John McCann, Robbie Wilson & Hamish McGregor
Club Triples	Craig Stewart, Robbie Wilson & Jane Ellis
Sanderson Cup	Jane Ellis
4 Bowls Singles	Stewart Runciman
Craigie Trophy	Anne Swan
Scott Medals	Stewart Runciman & Andrew Millar
Club Pairs	James Runciman & Robbie Wilson
Stewart Cup	Ian Swan
Hunter Cup	Ian Swan
Fox Trophy	Craig Stewart & Jane Ellis
Crawford Trophy (for Ex-Presidents)	Victor Crawford
Hat Night	Margaret Donaldson

The biggest cheer of the night went to Victor Crawford who won the Crawford Trophy who ironically donated the trophy 14 years ago. Well done Victor!

It was Arran Gillis's first bowling season this year and she made a runner up for the Hat Night, she has a lot of potential for next year watch out! One of the unlikely winners of the season was Andrew Millar (Nod) who only stepped in to make up numbers on the Floodlit completion and ended up winning with just a little help from Stewart Runciman.

Well done to all the winners and runners up for 2017 and a big thank you to Stewart Runciman who did all the competition organising.

NEXT NEWSLETTER : SPRING 2018 : NO. 31
Please send copy to : Heather Johnston, Editor
heather@southcottage.co.uk 01578 730507
copy date 12 February 2018 / delivered from 3 March 2018
if you would like an email reminder of the copy date nearer the time, email the editor and ask to be put on the list

STOW Kids Club's famous Halloween Party was a terrifying success. The children enjoyed dooking for apples, jelly slurping, pumpkin carving, face painting, icing biscuits, dancing, mummy wrap and a fancy dress competition. We all had great fun so a big thank you to all the adults who made it possible.

We are trying to develop our outdoor space and would welcome any donation of construction materials which are safe for the children to use to build dens, obstacle courses and similar structures i.e. guttering, small blocks of wood, old pans, plastic buckets etc. Please contact Andrea preferably via email (stowkidsclub@hotmail.com).



ready for jelly slurping

We are very busy at the moment: Thursdays are full (unless cancellations occur) but we have a few spaces left the other days of the week (we are closed on Fridays for the time being due to lack of demand). If you would like to be added to the waiting list for a Thursday or are interested in other days please do let us know. We will be circulating a survey soon.

Our ethos is to offer a safe and caring environment where the children can relax and choose amongst a wide range of activities after a long day in school. We also provide two snacks: always fruit with salad and tomatoes at 4:30; one of the following at 3:30: cereals with milk, hot dogs, waffles with jam, crackers with cheese, beans on toast and a few more.



mummies

Stow Kids Club is currently looking for bank (relief) staff. Should you be interested in working on an ad hoc basis please contact Andrea by emailing stowkidsclub@hotmail.com for more information.

STOW 'BABY AND TODDLER' & 'MUSIC' GROUPS

Our ever-popular **Music Group** meets on **Monday*** mornings from **9:30am – 10:30am**. Come along with your little ones and join in with some singing, actions and a few musical instruments. Perfect voices are not required!

Our long-running **Baby and Toddler Group** meets on **Thursday*** mornings from **9:30am – 11:00am**. Come along with your little ones and meet some of the local mums (and dads) and children. We can offer you a hot cuppa and a friendly atmosphere.

We have just received some much appreciated funding from both EDF Longpark Community Fund and Toddleburn Community Fund. This covers our rent for this school year plus additional funding for new toys and equipment so we now have a selection of new toys for the children to play with. Children's snacks and drinks are also provided**.

Join us for our **Baby and Toddler Christmas Party** on **Thursday 21st December** for lots of festive fun.

You will find both groups upstairs in **Stow Town Hall** in the main hall.

Cost per session: £2 per family

*Groups run during term times.

**Of course we welcome breast/bottle feeding also.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!



Gala Water History & Heritage Association continues its many activities, and we are currently researching and recording for projects on the First World War in the Gala Water valley and local memories and experiences in Music. Watch for more news on these in 2018.

We shall be sorry to lose the enthusiasm, knowhow and services of our founder **Wendy Ball** who is stepping down from her involvement with the group; tribute is paid to Wendy for leading "The Archives", now GWHHA, since 2005. We don't really know how we shall manage without her, and it would be great to have any new members come along to join us.

Mary Craig, our professional archivist is our anchor, and she, or any other members of the group, will be pleased to answer any questions. Mary is in the Archive Room in Stow Town Hall most Tuesdays or contact Fraser Simm on 01578 730297.



YOGA WEEKLY CLASS

with Susan Cotterill

FOUNTAINHALL VILLAGE HALL

TD1 2SY

Mondays * 10.00 am - * 12 noon

lifts available from other students

Restarts 8 January 2018

£7.00 per class

suitable for all levels, beginners to experienced



please note
*new start time 10 am
*class time extended to 2 hours

for further information or to book a place
contact Susan on 07983 167075 or email sueandkev1@aol.com
to arrange a lift from/to Stow contact Heather on 01578 730507

GALAWATER CAMERA CLUB

Over the last few months, the camera club has had exhibitions at the Woodside Tearoom (at Ancrum).

We were also delighted to host photographic talks by Libby Smith (on the Borders) and James Frost on their travels in the Bay of Bengal.

Outings to an exhibition on early photography "A Perfect Chemistry" in autumn colours (see below) have also taken place. New members are accepted on a month, usually on Wednesday mornings (contact Hazell Morell, or Frances).



POSSIBILITY OF PERFORMING ARTS CLASSES

• EXPLORING IF THERE IS INTEREST •

Alana Grant, performing arts teacher and Stow resident would like to run some classes here in the Borders if there is enough interest.

She is looking at running toddler classes, after school and evening classes, but would really like to find out if there is a need/ desire before going further. Anyone who would like to find out more about this possibility please contact Alana on 07831 320171.

WIND FARM FUNDS

EDF LONGPARK

(administered by Foundation Scotland)

SSE TODDLERBURN

funding applications are determined by the Stow Community Funds Panel - a joint panel for both funds which usually meets four times a year

APPLICATION DATES 2018 will be posted on the website below by the end of 2017

www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/edf-longpark/

Notes
on
the
wind



Stow Highland Dance School

Anyone interested in Highland Dancing?
4 years old and upwards?

Classes Restart

Wednesday 10th January 2018
3.45pm in Stow Town Hall

Contact: Amanda on 01578 730268 for more information
We walk the children from Stow Primary School to the Town Hall



Alana Grant, therapist, trainee at Reid International Spa Academy, obtained worldwide qualifications in beauty, massage and spa treatments offering the Stow and Borders community newsletter readers special treatments in the month of January quoting Newsletter Call 07399193839 or message to book an appointment

JB

The Hirsell, the Cloudhouse Café

(prints) and by Drs Hazel Mason

" and to Dawyck to shoot the
always welcome – we meet once
raser Simm on 01578 730297).



TO THE TEAM WHO WORKED DURING SUMMER 2017 TO



Thank You

A big thank you to the team of people who cared for the plants in Stow's planters and at the station throughout a summer of difficult weather. Despite the cold, rain and wind, Stow's bonny blooms and bushes gave our public environment living shape and colour which would not have been achieved without the stalwart commitment of local people.

Rosebank **RASCALS**

Registered Childminder in Stow

SPACES AVAILABLE

Contact Lisa on 07706 199 505
or email rosebankrascals@gmail.com

CHANGE OF VENUE FOR MEDITATION

The two open to all Heartfulness Meditation Groups run by Sarah Naylor are now well established and running regularly each week in Stow on Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings.

The Tuesday morning group has recently moved venue and both groups are now in Stow Town Hall:

Tuesday 9.30 - 10.30 am

Thursday 8.00 - 9.00 pm

If you have an interest in trying out this simple meditation technique feel free to drop in as and when you feel like it on either a regular or occasional basis. There is no charge for coming along though a small donation is appreciated where possible to help cover the cost of room rental in the Town Hall. Give Sarah a ring on 07784 740179 or go to www.heartfulness-uk.org to find out more.



Heartfulness
Through meditation, joy



Choir Restarts

Tuesday 16 January 2018

7.15 pm - 9 pm

Fountainhall School

(meets in school term times)

‡ NO AUDITIONS ‡ ALL WELCOME

‡ NO NEED TO BE ABLE TO READ MUSIC
‡ come and try for two weeks at no charge

‡ for more info ring John 01578 730289

New Choir Leader : Julia Campbell

07399193839
ainte Beauty

med at The Mary
demmy where she
ifications in
therapies. Alana
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Fountainhall
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of December by
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A SNAPSHOT IN TIME - EX

A fascinating exhibition based on the photograph collection of Gilbert 'Gib' McCall Miller, was staged by Gala Water History & Heritage Association on Friday and Saturday 17 and 18 November in Stow Town Hall.

Gib Miller was born in Stow on 13 December 1923 and having been introduced to photography by his uncle when he was young 'was soon capturing images of Stow and further afield and then returning home to develop the photos in his own darkroom'. He had the good fortune to marry a lass, Jessie, from Leith and Jessie and Gib then settled back in Stow to raise their two children. 'Gib died in 2009 and was buried in Stow cemetery and left [this] legacy of photographs'. A careful selection from the 50s and 60s were on display creating that 'Snapshot in Time'.

The exhibition was curated by Dorothy Riddell, a long-time volunteer with the Archives who assists Mary Craig, the professional archivist employed by GWHHA. This is the first exhibition which has been wholly curated by Dorothy. Many congratulations to Dorothy and GWHHA on a very successful event and



enthusiasm shared



NUGGETS FROM THE ARCHIVE

Local Doctor fined: 1887 At Midlothian Justice of the Peace Court, Dr Middleton of Stow was found guilty of having employed a male servant and keeping a carriage at Stow railway station without obtaining a license. On questioning Dr Middleton stated that he had kept the carriage in order to save him [walking] the journey home after visiting patients in Fountainhall and Heriot. While it was accepted that he had need of transport home, the justice reminded him that as a professional man of some standing in the community his disregard of the need to obtain a license was a serious breach. He was fined £5 including court expenses with the alternative of one month's imprisonment.

FOUNTAINHALL VILLAGE HALL

We continue to develop and improve the facilities at the hall and were recently successful with a windfarm grant from SSE Toddleburn. The grant will allow us to extend our decking at the front providing an outside space allowing the hall to be more versatile.

We have also got funding for a new noticeboard. One that people will be able to read the notices. Also acquired is some new equipment for the New Age Kurling club who meet on a Tuesday Morning at 9.30am and Tuesday Evening at 7pm: £3 per session including Coffee and Cake (home made). Sessions are suitable for all ages and abilities.

We are also getting a new Hoover to help our many volunteers who go in and clean the hall. If anyone would like to help it takes about 1-2 hours 2-3 times a year. We work in pairs at a time that suits you around bookings.

The hall is going from strength to strength with regular user numbers increasing:

- Monday morning yoga class
- Monday Evening Carpet Bowling
- Tuesday New Age Kurling morning and evening sessions
- Tuesday evening Callanetics
- Wednesday (every third Wednesday of the month) Women's Rural/ SWI
- Thursday evening Metafit

If you are looking for a venue for any event please get in touch. Rates start from as low as £7.50 per hour including WiFi. For further information or to check dates contact 07730 353916.

Dates for your diary:

- **Sunday 17th December 5.30pm Christmas Carol Singing - Come along and sing a few carols for all ages, mulled wine and mince pies; £3 Adults, kids free. This is a favourite in the calendar**
- **Sunday 31st December 8pm New Year Party; Free entry, Licensed bar. Video room for kids so bring a bean bag.**
- **Saturday 27th January 7pm Burns Supper. Booking essential £15 per ticket. Call Jenny on 01578 760297**

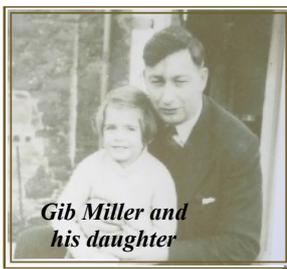
EXHIBITION BY GWHHA



congratulations to Mary for passing on her skills so well. Around 40 people attended the opening night on the Friday which was an event for the Friends of GWHHA which included drinks and nibbles. A further 40 or so people attended on the Saturday when the exhibition was open to the public.

This snapshot in time clearly connected with many people and if any particular photograph caught your imagination, GWHHA has made copies of Gib Miller's photographs available to buy. At £2 each they can be bought as A4 size pictures or blank cards. If you would like to place an order, or browse the selection on offer before making your choice, drop in to the Town Hall Archive Room; Mary and Dorothy are there most Tuesdays.

Please note that most of the images of Gib Miller's photographs reproduced here were taken in situ at the exhibition so are not as good as the quality of the original photographs.



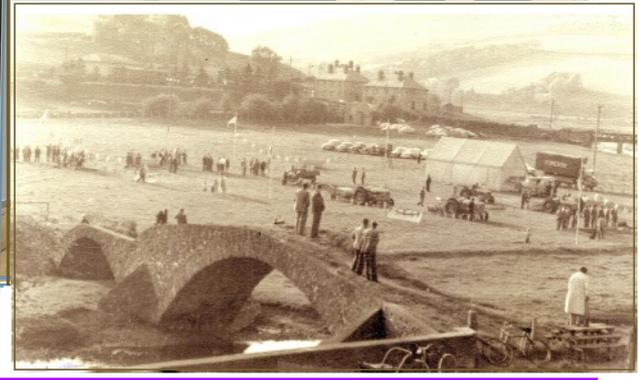
Gib Miller and his daughter



Wendy Ball, Chair of GWHHA, welcomes the Friends



Dorothy Riddell (left) and Mary Craig



STOW PRIMARY SCHOOL

With the first term of our academic year well and truly under our belts, our learners have been engaged in exciting activities coupled with new experiences and challenges. There have been changes along the way too and it's with great pleasure that we have welcomed our new head teacher Mr Kevin Wilson to the school, along with Danielle Paterson our new P4/5 class teacher. Sadly, we have said our farewells to Mrs Amanda Findlay and our P7s who are now starting new exciting journeys; I think we would all like to take this opportunity to wish them every success in the future.

Here at Stow Primary we are now settling into our winter term after welcoming the boys and girls back from a well-earned October break. It's with great anticipation that the children are integrating with exciting topics, stretching their imaginations. In particular, recently the children have been delighted to participate in our science fortnight at the school. These interactive, engaging sessions have been welcomed with enthusiasm and excitement by the children. More to follow in the next edition.

Some of the activities, events and learning from Stow Primary:

National Quality Improvement Awards
It with great pride that we announce Stow Primary has been shortlisted for an award at this year's National Quality Improvement Awards to be held in November, for our targeted intervention on Maths. In particular, our very own Fiona Riddell has been shortlisted for the coveted title of 'Quality Improvement Champion'. This is a fantastic accomplishment in the nomination itself and we will inform you all of the results.

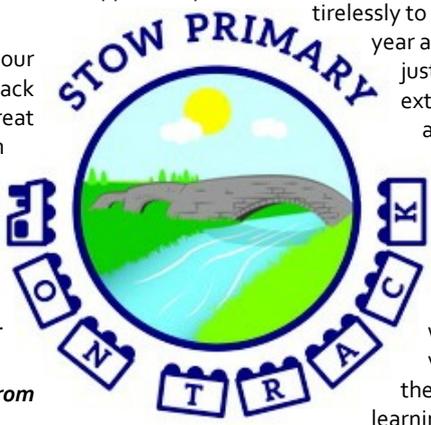
Macmillan Coffee Morning
On a community level, Stow Primary recently opened its doors again to Macmillan's Big Coffee Morning. As in previous years this has been

kindly and enthusiastically hosted by our pupils, this year being the turn of P6/7s and their class teacher Mrs Ruth Leckie. It was a wonderful, empowering event raising a phenomenal £667.45 for a truly worthy cause, thank you to all who contributed, supported, attended, and helped with the event.

Fundraising
Our Parent Council fundraising sub-group have been working tirelessly to create, promote and deliver events over the past year and it's during our last term's event that we raised just over £1850 at the Ladies Fashion Night. We are extremely grateful to all who support these events and we are delighted to have the support of the community who encompass our endeavours to raise money for the school. Many thanks.

World of Work
Our young learners have been discovering though interactive workshops all about the wider world of work. Through the support of local volunteers and utilising the skills gained during the 'grow a pound' initiative, the children have been learning how these practicalities can be applied to the world of work. This will be an ongoing event throughout the school year and one that we will share more with you in coming months.

Big Drum Adventure
We are delighted to say that our P4/5 children have had the privilege of working with 'Matt the Hat' to develop their drumming skills. This musical programme came to a climax on 24 October with an astounding performance attended by parents and carers. It was fabulous to see the children so engaged, happy and excited with their achievements. Many thanks to Matt for his time, enthusiasm and ability.



spotlight on

MEG
STEWART

It's not often that the chance comes along to interview someone who's completed over half a century as a volunteer post-holder on the committee of an important local charity. Responsibilities for which they're well known and appreciated, but someone who is also smiling broadly and saying "I'm no longer the Secretary, or anything else! At last, after 50 years, I've managed to pass it on." Mention Stow & District Pensioners Society in the same breath however and immediately the only person who can be in the Spotlight is Meg Stewart.

Meg's years of service to the Pensioners Society isn't just confined to her 50 plus years as a post-holder. She first joined the committee when she was not quite 30 years old at the request of her aunt and as the Pensioners Society couldn't imagine itself without her, she is still a committee member but without a designated role. All the organising, liaising, writing and reporting is now done by others, but Meg's rootedness in and knowledge of Stow & District life in the 80 plus years of her life is too valuable to be given up by the society.

So things change, but also stay the same and that's a theme which rapidly becomes apparent in talking with Meg about her life. Repeatedly she says "it was ... then, now it's ..." and the amount of change Meg and her contemporaries have had to adapt to since the 1930s becomes clear in small ways as well as big ones

A sample: Meg's father was a Stow man and her mother from Galashiels; they met when Meg's mother worked at the Royal Hotel in Stow - now an empty wasteland; Meg was born in Stow in a house in The Brae - now called Earlston Road; attended primary school in Stow and then Roxburgh Street Secondary School in Galashiels - now merged into Galashiels Academy; and as a young woman Meg enjoyed singing in the choir of St Andrew's Church Stow - in whose footprint now stand two bungalows.

On leaving school at 14 Meg completed three years' training to become a darning in a Galashiels woollen mill (darners repaired damage done to bales of cloth coming off the loom; their skilled work saved wastage and loss of income for the mill and hence its workers) working there until her marriage to Rob, also from Stow. Soon they moved into Rob's parents' home in the village where they raised their two children. The house number was 12 - later renumbered 50 in anticipation of more homes being built,

but that didn't happen and the quirk remains. Rob was a local roadman employed by Stow's then Local Authority Midlothian County Council and while the village stood firm by the Gala Water, its local authority boundary skipped and Stow found itself in the new Borders Region in 1975 - itself replaced in 1996 by Scottish Borders Council.

Of course Meg also lived through a time of major change and was five years old when WWII began. As a small child she remembers seeing British soldiers marching through Stow and camping in Torsonce woods on their way to war - the garden by her home still has a concrete air raid shelter from that time, currently in use as a garden shed.



A life lived in Stow, bar a few years when her family needed her help elsewhere, Meg has also been happy to be on the committees of the Football Club and the 'Rural' (was SWRI - now SWI). In her lifetime no longer are the Minister, the Headteacher and young adults part of Stow & District Pensioners Society Committee. It's now run by old folks for old folks and still thriving, providing a day trip in the summer, a Christmas party and a Sale of Work and Coffee Morning each year. Hers is a generation that just expected "to get on with it" and they still do.

Ask Meg about her motivation and she says "If people ask me to help, I always say yes. We're put here to help one another and it's a sad business if we can't." It's that responsiveness to being asked that enabled this interview. "I'll get ribbed for doing this" she laughed, "but you asked me if you could interview me for the newsletter and I like to help" so of course, she said yes. In her ninth decade - how could she not?

NEXT NEWSLETTER SPRING 2018 : No. 31

COPY DATE DELIVERED FROM
12 FEB 18 3 MAR 18

to: Heather Johnston, Editor
heather@southcottage.co.uk
01578 730507

*if you would like an
email reminder of the copy date nearer
the time, email the editor and ask
to be put on the list*



STAFF VACANCIES STOW KIDS CLUB

**STOW KIDS CLUB IS CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR
BANK (RELIEF) STAFF**

**Should you be interested in working on an ad hoc basis
please contact Andrea by emailing
stowkidsclub@hotmail.com for more information**