

IT'S STOW SPORTS WEEK : SUNDAY 18 - SATURDAY 24 JUNE 2017

132 That's right - 132 years! That's how long since the birth of Stow Sports, initially as a one day event. Other villages and towns have

Gala days, Ridings or Summer Festivals but the Parishes of Stow and Fountainhall, and Heriot, have a community celebration of sport and entertainment spanning almost one-and-a-third centuries (with breaks during the two World Wars). But not every tradition from 1885 stays the distance, so let's have a look at what makes our Sports Week special.

Its strength lies in the enthusiasm of organisers and participants, and its openness, without haste, to adapt to changes in society. Continuity and gentle change keep the

core structure and favourite events while innovating to meet changing times and interests. In

1895 local MP Sir Thomas Carmichael donated a silver teapot for 'Best Turned Out Farm Servant's Horse' and pony races were a popular part of Stow Sports until the 1930s. Quoiting was big in the initial years as the Quoiting Club were the instigators of Stow Sports, and events were mostly adult and predominantly male. The Edinburgh Cup was donated in 1900 for the major men's handicap race by Stow ex-residents then living in the city, and is still used for that today. It was 1955 before the ladies' handicap race had an equally prestigious prize in the Watson Cup, which had originally been given by a Mr Watson of Lauder in 1939 for the winner of an under 14 dance competition. Pride in Stow Sports across the decades is clear.

No longer is there an event 'Slicing the Ham' with the ham as the prize, or races for women to run in separate groups according to whether they were 'Married' or 'Unmarried' but puzzlingly, also no more is the 'Old Men's Race' for over 50s! And there is much more for children with the popular 'Superstars' and 'Welly Throw' with of course, the amazing Fancy Dress Competition.

A core principle of Stow Sports is keeping eligibility for most of the track and field events to only present and past residents of the parishes. This ensures that any 'all star' athletes cannot distort the outcomes of what remains primarily a local event. The challenging Hillheid Race from the park to the cottage ¾ way up Craigend

Hill has changed little and the historic local rivalry between Stow and Killocheytt is played out good-humouredly each year. Handicapping is done on previous form with pragmatic guesstimates for new entrants, with accuracy increasing with every year as their ability becomes known. Many team sports are played too and traditions like 'Tug-o-War' continue. Music and dancing have always been part of things and Stow Pipe Band heads the parade from the Town Hall to start the final Sports day in the park, then playing throughout the day. This grand Sports day is bookended by a Family Fancy Dress Disco on the Friday evening with the grand finish of the Ceilidh Dance with band and caller on the Saturday night.



1880s?



2015



1911



1950s?



1950s/60s?

The full week's events, and application forms for adult sports to be returned by 21 June, are available at Stow Shop. People are always welcome to get involved in putting on Stow Sports Week and younger parents are extended a particular invitation. Committee membership involves only 4-6 meetings a year, but if that doesn't appeal, willingness to take responsibility for a specific area e.g. the raffle, stewarding, some administration or whatever time and skills you'd like to offer, would be thoroughly appreciated. To follow up, contact Hamish Hunter 07970 465527 or Elliot Whitson 07904 516008 ... and have a great Stow Sports Week!

HELP RAISE £4000 FOR THE PARK THROUGH YOUR REGULAR SHOP IN MAY & JUNE

The Stow Community Park team has been very busy lately, gathering final funding for our up and coming project.

A piece of great news is that Tesco Bags for Help Scheme has also chosen to back our community park project, helping us with part of our fund-raising initiative. Votes from Tesco shoppers are calculated during the months of May and June. So can we ask all the Tesco shoppers from Stow & Fountainhall

to help and support us by giving their vote to Stow Community Park, as through this we could raise a fantastic £4000!

Another piece of good news; we were gladly accepted as one of the local charities to benefit from Radio Border's Cash For Kids, fun packed, Superhero Day; in which a few of our team, along with their kids, went down to visit the station, to put forward our need for new park in Stow that's "Fit For The Future". Many thanks

to the team at Radio Borders for taking the time to show us around and making us all feel so welcome.

A big thank you to Scottish Borders Council, having generously donated the newly proposed path and access for all ramp for the project. This has really helped propel the start date of the building of the park, which largely due to this, is now drawing increasingly nearer. 10 p2



MICROGRANTS AVAILABLE

The Parish of Stow Community Council meets every month on the first Monday of the month. The two windfarms run by EDF and SSE have given us funds that we can give out for Stow and Fountainhall. People can apply to us for a microgrant of up to £250 for anything that is of benefit to the community. This applies to any groups but individuals can also apply if they wish to do something for the community. We, however, cannot pay out money to help an individual. It has to be for the community. There is no form. A simple letter is all that is needed, giving us a breakdown of costs if more than one item is needed or it is for running costs.

Requests should be sent to Jenny Mushlin, Secretary, 18 Fleming Place, Fountainhall TDI 2TA or to any other member of the community council. Any queries to Jenny 01578 760297. All requests for funds are decided immediately at each meeting and a cheque issued. Anyone asking for a microgrant is very welcome at our meetings. All our meetings are open to all members of the public.

Our next 3 meetings are:

Monday June 5th at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall

Monday July 3rd at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall

Monday August 7th AGM at 7pm to be followed by a meeting at 7.30pm in Stow Town Hall.

STOW PIPE BAND

The pipe band have been practising all winter and getting ready for the first competitions of the season. There are five Major competitions of the year and we will try to play at them all, funds permitting. Our first Major is the Scottish Championships held at Dumbarton on Sat 29 July; we will be taking a bus so if you fancy a day out and are keen on Pipe Bands please book a seat. We will also be competing at the 'Worlds' Pipe Band Competition on Sat 12 Aug on Glasgow Green, again we will be taking a bus so all welcome.

Locally we will be playing at Stow Fancy Dress on Fri 23 June and again on Sat 24 June at Stow Sports week, and then at Lauder Fancy Dress on Wed 2 August and lauder Common Riding early evening on Sat 5 August. We will also be competing at local competitions - Dunbar earlier in the year and Peebles and Innerleithen in September.

Stuart Robinson (Pipe Major) commits hours a week teaching young pipers and more hours a week tuning pipes! What a temperamental instrument! His continual commitment to the Band is relentless. The young players of the band today are a credit to him.

Our practice night is Thursday in the Stow Church; the beginners start the evening off at around 6.30 on chanters and pads (for the drummers) then intermediates, then the main band. Please pop along and have a listen, alternatively we are hoping for lovely summer evenings so we can play outside so that you can hear the pipes echoing through Stow, that's if the midges don't get us first!



photo: Jane Ellis

from pl As a team, we are getting really excited about this and cannot wait to have this new, engaging park on our doorstep, ready for everyone to come and enjoy! As ever, the Stow Community Park team are eager to keep you informed with the progress of our project via our Facebook page, where you can send us a message, or you can contact us by dropping us an email to stowcommunitypark@gmail.com



STOWED OUT MUSIC FESTIVAL 2017

This will be the fifth year of Stowed Out and we are working hard to build on the success of last year's festival to bring an eclectic mix of top quality music to Stow. We have now booked our headliners and still have a few acts to finalise.

The Friday night will have a party atmosphere with the amazing *Orkestra del Sol* headlining. We have some interesting ideas for support up our sleeves to be finalised, so watch this space. We may finish off the evening with a guest DJ and some great beats to dance away any energy you might still have at the end of the night.

We are delighted to announce that the *Van T's* will be headlining Saturday night to blow away any cobwebs, and any preconceptions about girl bands... We have still to confirm the complete line-up for Saturday, but already we have *Millie*, who performed a storming set at our Big Syria Gig, and Hawick lads *The Boy with the Lion Head*.

The Roar tent will be back, featuring some of the best in spoken word during the day and later in the evening this may transform into an 'unplugged' venue for new musicians wanting to try out in front of a small audience, or anyone that just wants to come along and jam.

Last year we were described as 'one of the best boutique festivals of the year' (... I think they mean 'A great wee festival') and, as this is a community-based festival we are always looking for volunteers to help out on the day; if this is something you would like to be part of this year, please get in touch via our web page or Facebook page. See you 25 and 26 August!

STOW BOWLING CLUB

The Stow Bowling season starts again! This year's President Ian Swan welcomed all members for the 'Opening of the Green' the start of the 2017 Bowling season on 15 April 2017. The green was officially opened by Ian's son Fraser by throwing the first Jack of the season. There was a good turnout and the weather wasn't too bad at all.

The first competition of the season was the Club Pairs which took place on Sunday 23

April and was won by Anne Swan and Bob Preston with runners up Jane Ellis and Stuart Runciman.



The first 'Hat Night' started on Monday 24 April - this is where any member can turn up on Monday night (6.45pm) and draw a number from a hat, this then dictates which team they are in and who they play. This is basically a bit of fun and a bit of a practice night. So please if you fancy a go these nights are the ones to come along to.

The second competition of the season was held on 28 April and was the Herds Trophy this consisted of 3 bowls each and we played singles. This was won by John McCann with runner up Anne Swan.

The league matches for the men's team have now kicked off; these are played most Wednesdays and are home and away games against teams such as Hawick, Kelso, Lauder, Peebles and Abbotsford.

Our 2016 President Neil Beaton sadly passed away in October 2016; he was a great supporter of the club and played at every opportunity. He was a skilled player and his 'firing' and 'putting the jack in the ditch' were renowned. He is sadly missed.

So if you fancy having a go please do not hesitate to pop along!



**GALAWATER
CAMERA
CLUB**

Cloudhouse Café

We've had a very successful and fun year filled with meetings, outings and projects.

Our regular meetings are held at the Cloudhouse Café or Fountainhall Village Hall, and beyond the valley we've visited The Haining, Selkirk; the National Wildlife Photographer Awards Exhibition at the Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh, and the Wood Neuk, Blainslie. We're also developing contacts with our

neighbours and attended presentations at other local photographic clubs.

Over the year members staged well-received exhibitions in the Cloudhouse Café; Thomas and Ethel Tearoom Earlston and Woodside's Bird Tearoom and as we appreciate sharing skills, an enjoyable workshop on 'still life' was given by club member Mari. We use Facebook to share pictures between us and also maintain 'Galawater in Pictures' pages which are open to view by everyone.

If you have an interest in capturing the world around us through photography and would like to do this with like-minded folk, with the option to improve (though it isn't compulsory, enjoyment is the essence of our activity!) do come along; we welcome new members - contact Fraser Simm on 01578 730297. We now have a syllabus and a constitution and are in the process of joining the Scottish Photographic Federation.

**BACKROAD
PICTURE
HOUSE**

CINEMA FOR ALL

Thanks to everyone who supported the community cinema's first season. Jackie, Rhiannon and Claudia are now hard at work to put together a programme for autumn/ winter 2017-18. The first showing of the new season will be at the end of September. Detailed programme to follow. Watch this space.

If you want to join in, or have any suggestions to make, please get in touch. We are also compiling a mailing list, if you want to subscribe, please email plencloth.00@btinternet.com

**COFFEE MORNING
& PLANT SALE**

**SATURDAY 3 JUNE
STOW TOWN HALL
10.00 am to 12.00 noon**



Raising funds for
Gala Water
Horticultural Society
2017 Annual Show

STOW & DISTRICT O.A.P. SOCIETY

If you are 60 or over you can join this Pensioners' club for a £2 Annual Membership Fee which entitles you to go on the Annual Summer Trip in June and you are also provided with a high tea.

We also enjoy a Christmas Dinner in Stow Town Hall. All new members welcome; please contact Jane Riddell on m: 07745 923470.

THE OLD STATION HOUSE - STOW COMMUNITY TRUST UPDATE

The trustees of the Stow Community Trust are only too aware that it's some time since an update on our efforts to convert the former station house into a community hub appeared in this newsletter, and some residents may have concluded that the project has died a death. However, this is far from the case, and many hours have been put into the project since the public meeting held in Stow Town Hall just over a year ago.

The appointment of Lindley Kirkpatrick as ScotRail's Borders Railway 'tsar' has made a big difference - up until that point our dealings with the railway authorities had a feeling of wading through treacle about them - and since the turn of the year we have made real progress, with the terms of a long-term lease agreed in principle and an extremely positive letter of support received from ScotRail.

On the basis of these developments, we have been able to start looking seriously at the funding possibilities. We now either have applications submitted or are in the process of preparing applications for grants to eight different funders. One of them - the Railway Heritage Trust - has earmarked £100,000 for the project but this still leaves us £0.5M short of the total estimated cost. To maximise our chances of obtaining what is obviously a sizeable amount of cash, we need to demonstrate that there is significant support for the project within the Parish.

To that end we wish to sign up new members of the Trust. Membership is free and doesn't involve any sort of commitment (although we would be extremely grateful for offers of assistance from anyone with appropriate skills), it just requires the filling in of a very simple form.

We should just remind you what our proposals involve. A main feature is the ability to host a pop-up bar/bistro, which will require the provision of a new glass extension, as well as a catering kitchen and toilets within the existing building. ScotRail now seem to be happy with this aspect of the project, subject to the opening times not clashing with peak use of the car-park. A café facility is also envisaged. Part of the remaining space will be used for exhibition/museum purposes, and the Galawater History and Heritage Association is keen to use the building as its base rather than the town hall. In particular, we intend to have a large degree of flexibility so that rooms can be available for hire to local groups or any other acceptable use for the benefit of the community.

Finally, it must be emphasised that we are determined that this project should not impact adversely on any of the existing facilities within the village. To that end both Alison in the village shop and Gemma in the Cloud House cafe have been involved since the inception of this idea a scarily long time ago, and more recently we have had discussions with the Stow Brewery, but it would be premature to say any more than that at the present time.

Bill Jamieson, SCT Trustee - contact me either on 01578 730262 or at sparrowcastle@btinternet.com for a membership form, or download it directly from the Community Website at <http://www.stow-borders.co.uk/stow-community-trust-station-house-regeneration-project/>



WHO DO WE THINK WE ARE?

With the coming of the railway, many of us had to cope with the mispronunciation of Stow by railway announcers until the penny finally dropped that we were Scottish Stow that rhymed with 'now' and not English Stow that rhymed with 'toe'. But how Scottish are we? Interestingly there are hints that we might not be Scottish at all, perhaps we're all Welsh?

In 410, the Roman garrison was withdrawn from Britain. The various tribes in Britain then moved around to fill the power gap. The Angles and Saxons, who later became the English, gradually took over England and started to make inroads into the lands of the Welsh tribes. The Welsh fought a series of brave, but losing, battles against the English until most of them were forced back into the area of land we know of as Wales today. Even there the Welsh were pursued by the English until some decided to set sail and leave Wales. One group sailed north up to the river Clyde landing firstly at Dun Barton, the kingdom of the rock, and then moving on to the kingdom of Strath Clyd. Unfortunately Strath Clyd was in a state of war at that time and so our intrepid Welsh explorers moved east and south and found the borders. This was a land that was rich in pasture, timber and fresh water. It was also, at that time, a relatively peaceful area and so the Welsh settled here. So where's the evidence? All around us, if we just look. Take a wander along the Gala Water valley and see for yourself.

Let's start with Wedale, or should that be Gwyddel? The Welsh name for a forested place. How about Torsance, Torquhan and Torwoodlee? All beginning with Tor, the Welsh name for a rocky height. Originally spelt twr but pronounced tor. Then there is Carsinker law and that would be Caer, the Welsh name for a fort, often found on the top of hills. Another hill might be Cribbie law from Cribi, the Welsh name for a summit. And then there is Allan's Haugh, and all the other haughs from Haf, the Welsh place name for meadow, pronounced similar to the Scottish haugh.

Now place names change over the years as language evolves, but faint though it may be, there are enough remnants here to point to our Welsh origins. And then of course we have the legends of King Arthur. In 946AD Nennius, the monk, wrote that King Arthur had received a vision before the battle of Guinnion, in which Mary promised victory to a Christian champion. Arthur won the battle and, in gratitude, built a chapel and holy well in Stow in Mary's honour. A legend? Perhaps, but then why does St Mary's church, have a stained glass window of King Arthur as a crusader knight. And yes Nennius and King Arthur were both Welsh!

So who do we think we are? Well it seems, as they say in the valleys, "Rydym yn Gymraeg"*.
*I!HE THE WELSH!

IS A 'CLASH CALENDAR'

Recently it has been suggested that a calendar would be really helpful for organisations in Stow. It's easy to see what's already planned on or off and it's a chance to appeal to the people you want to come to your event. This can be a chance to choose a different date. This can be a chance to choose which organisation to support.

An obvious place for this would be on the Stow website. It will only work if groups kept it up to date and put it on their page if that's where you will post updates. Many groups now have Facebook pages, and you can post your page if that's where you will post updates. It's a good idea for residents checking lots of individual groups; it's a good idea for groups.

But you'll have noticed 'up-to-date' as the crucial part. It's kept up to date by all groups and organisations. It's a bit of time to discuss this in your group and to post your comments in the newsletter. This article and post your comments in the newsletter summarised in the next newsletter.



visiting relative Katherine and Catrina from Fountainhall assist with lambing at Symington Mains Farm
photos: Charlotte Hendry



photo: Nettie Simm

CASH FOR KIDS

A huge thank you to the children and families of Stow and Fountainhall who raised a brilliant £63.50 for Radio Borders Cash for Kids.

Fountainhall School kindly hosted a cake stall on 'Superhero Day' and bought up all the goodies and Stow Primary Parent Council and Kids Club kindly donated money from their 'Beat the Goalie' stall at their Duck Race & Fun Day.



CALENDAR? A GOOD IDEA?

Calendar showing all of the activities going on in our parish in the early stages of planning events. It would be around a tentative date and if something which would be already on the calendar, it gives you the opportunity to be especially useful when fund-raising so that no-one is in two places at once.

Calendar on the CommWeb & Fountainhall Community Website, but it would be better to have their event on the calendar as early as is possible. Your entry on the CommWeb could direct people to the event. An up-to-date calendar on the CommWeb saves time and would be a one-stop check.

Calendar phrase. The calendar would only work if it was posting information early and regularly. Please take a look at www.stow-borders.co.uk/, look under 'News' in the 'reply' section. Feedback on the response will be

WIND FARM FUND

APPLICATION DATES 2017

DEADLINE	NOTIFICATION
10 April	end May
10 July	mid September
9 October	mid December

PANEL MEMBERS

Stuart Anderson
Jane Ellis
Bob Howarth
Tommy Miller (Community Council) - Chair
Diana Muir (Community Council)
Jessica Troughton
Christopher Whelan

Notes
on
the
Wind

The SSE Toddleburn Windfarm Fund is administered by SSE. The EDF Longpark Community Fund is administered by Foundation Scotland. Applications to both funds are assessed and grants awarded via a joint panel drawn from residents of the Parish whose names are above.

"SSE is delighted to see the money provided by its Toddleburn Wind Farm continue to benefit good quality projects which have a positive impact on the Stow community. With over £32,000 still in the pot and more money to come later in the year, we encourage community focused local groups or charities who are looking to carry out a project which will benefit Stow to speak to us to find out more about whether the fund may be able to help.

We are also thankful to the panel of local people from Stow and Fountainhall who make the decision on which projects are funded, and their continued thorough approach to researching and bringing their much needed local knowledge to the panel meetings."

Recent Awards:

£25,000 to Foundation Scotland towards an Endowment Fund for Stow
£1,650 to Fountainhall School Parent Council for a new storage shed
3 x £1,400 annually to Stow Sports Committee towards the Christmas Fireworks and Sports Day
£3,314.58 to Stow Community Council for the expansion of the Community Newsletter

"At the end of April the available balance in the EDF Longpark Community Fund for grant making in 2017 was £75,482.00".

Recent Awards:

£3,510.00 to Stow Community Council for six metal signs along the A7 road between Stow and Heriot advising motorists of the high rate of accidents along the road in an effort to reduce speeding
£1,970.50 to the Community Council to enhance the floral display around the village

DO YOU ENJOY WALKING?

At this time of year the weather favours nearly all the different kinds of land and locations for walking and getting out every day. We are collecting 'Walks around Stow' with the intention of publishing them in a booklet and would appreciate help from those who know this area best - you!

If you have any favourite walks (either short or long) that you feel could bring pleasure to someone visiting or new to our area, please contact either: (all code 01578) Stuart Jeffrey 730336, Dorothy Small 730550 or Alan McNeilly 730209.



photo: Becca Mackenzie

photo: Wendy Paul

STOW PRIMARY SCHOOL - SPRING UPDATE

The Easter holidays have marked the end of a busy winter term at Stow Primary School and the start of an exciting spring/summer term. For the last two years the school has been involved in a Government Programme aimed at Raising Attainment in numeracy. This programme has had excellent



Chess Team



Poem Winners



Basketball Team

results and is now being introduced into the children's literacy education.

Our P5-7 pupils were given the opportunity to take part in a Young Writers competition with winning poems being published in the book 'Once Upon a Dream'. Congratulations to Isla Duncan, Megan Healey-Smith, Meghan Hendry, Aidan Hodgson and Rebecca

Leyland who all had their poems selected for publication. A very special well done to Isla, whose poem was the overall winner in a collection of over 150 poems!

It has also been Scots Language time of year again. The children have enjoyed learning poems in Scots for recital and also writing their own poems. Well done to our recitation winners Daisy Dearden, Maggie Hodgson and Aidan Hodgson and to our Scots writing winners Kayleigh McKinlay, Michael Dunning and Ben Naylor. Our winners attended Galashiels Academy where they competed against the finalists from all Galashiels Primary Schools. We are delighted that Aidan won a silver medal for his recitation of 'To a Louse'. A great effort by all our finalists who were fantastic ambassadors for the school!

It hasn't all been work work work though! The pupils have had lots of fun and some exciting trips too. P6-7 have been on a trip to Robin Wood Activity Centre in Cumbria where they took part in three



action packed days of activities. The nursery and P1 pupils have had a fantastic trip on the train to Tesco where they took part in a 'Farm to Fork' tour. The pupils were delighted to learn about where their food comes from and to be allowed behind the scenes into the huge fridge, freezer and bakery. The favourite part of the tour was being able to sample some of the produce at the end!

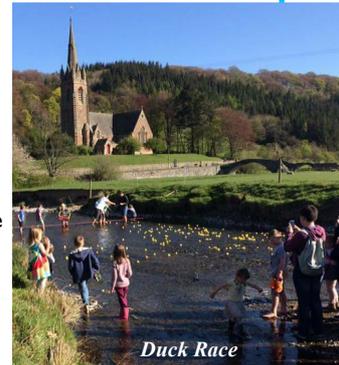
Some of our pupils took part in the Cross Country Running Competition at Netherdale. A great performance by all but a special well done to Lucy Weir who came away with the Bronze medal!

Stow Primary School took part in the LIVE Borders Galashiels and Selkirk Basketball Tournament. A strong team of eight of our P6/7 pupils competed at a high standard to finish second in their pool and fifth overall in the finals. Well done to all who took part and for showing great commitment in giving up their Friday lunch breaks to train for this event.

We have also seen the annual chess competition against Clovenfords Primary School. A great team performance with Stow the overall winners on the day. Well done to all who took part and to Ben Naylor for his bronze medal, Evan Holloway for taking the silver and to Aidan Hodgson for his gold medal for scoring highest in the competition. We would like to say a huge thank you to Will McConchie for giving up his time to come in to school to teach the children how to play. For the past few years Will's enthusiasm and knowledge of the game has rubbed off on the pupils and we really appreciate his coaching!

In March P3-4 organised a Red Nose Day Raid to raise money for Comic Relief. £414.75 was raised for this truly worthwhile cause. Many thanks to all contributed, attended and helped on the day. Fundraising is always an essential part of school life and many thanks to the whole community for the continued support with this. The past months have seen a race

night which was a huge success raising a phenomenal £1535 and a duck race/ BBQ raising another whopping £1500. These funds will be shared between Stow Primary School and After School Club and used to purchase IT equipment and experiences which will enhance the children's learning at school.



Duck Race



SUMMER FUN AT STOW KIDS CLUB

Stow kids club is a registered Scottish charity providing a wonderful, fun and caring after-school childcare facility to the children of Stow and the surrounding area for those aged 4-12 years. We are delighted to inform club users and the wider community that we have received some substantial grants in support of Stow Kids Club.

The first of these was awarded in February from Awards for All Scotland as part of National Lottery funding. This grant will allow the club to pay for general costs as well as to purchase new materials and organise some fun day trips. The second grant is from

Foundation Scotland which will enable us to provide staffing for the next 6 months in conjunction with our new intake of children from age 4 years and attending nursery. We really appreciate this funding and are keen to continue fundraising efforts to enable the club to develop and provide ongoing after school childcare to local families.

The grants are also enabling us to run a summer club for the children so keep a look out for the programme of activities. For all bookings during term time and for the summer club please email our club

manager Andrea Carlino at stowkidsclub@hotmail.com or phone 07944 617310.



STOWBABY & TODDLER 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! You will find us downstairs in Stow Town Hall in the meeting room on the right.

Our long-running Baby and Toddler Group meets on **Thursday*** mornings from 9:30am - 10:30am. 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 a large variety of toys for the children (young and old) and plenty of space for the toddlers to run around and burn off some energy. Children's snacks and drink are also provided**. You will find us upstairs in Stow Town Hall in the main hall.

Cost per session: £2 per family
Contact Angela (07979 637888) or Eleanor (07746 972664) for more info or just come along!

*Groups run during term times.

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

STOW ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Over the past month you may have noticed 30mph stickers appearing on wheelie bins along the A7 through Stow. This is a pilot scheme offered to residents by the East Scotland Safety Camera Unit and Scottish Borders Council (SBC). The aims of these stickers are to increase driver awareness of their speed and to serve as a reminder of the speed limit through the village. The safety Camera Unit have also agreed to deploy the mobile speed camera vans more often in the village and at varying times of the day. This will include early morning when residents are most concerned about the speed of HGVs through the village. New signage indicating 30mph with a picture of a speed camera have also been put in place at two locations along the A7 within the village courtesy of Police Scotland and the Safety Camera Unit. The effectiveness of these measures in reducing traffic speed will be assessed by traffic surveys later in the year. These are small but positive steps which will hopefully make a difference. If the results of the traffic surveys do not show a significant reduction in traffic speed through Stow we will continue to push for the introduction of fixed speed cameras.

SBC have continued to work closely with SRSC to improve road safety both within Stow and along our stretch of the A7. SBC have spent a lot of time with us discussing our concerns and have been very supportive at implementing measures that will help. Last year a raised flat top crossing was installed on Station Road and the 20mph speed limit was reinstated in the middle of the village during school run times with flashing school signs to warn drivers. New signs on Lauder Road were put in place warning drivers to expect pedestrians on the road as there is no footpath and the route confirmatory 'Edinburgh 25' sign has been removed from the north end of the village.

SBC roads engineers have met with us in Stow to look first-hand at the areas where residents feel there are safety issues. As a result of

this SBC engineers have drawn up plans of potential improvements at various locations within Stow. These plans can be seen on our Facebook page or are available on request by email. Funding for two of these has been agreed by SBC subject to completion of the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders. We will continue to campaign for funding to complete the others. In the longer term we plan to campaign for improvements to the wider A7 between Galashiels and Edinburgh. We attend meetings of the A7 Action Group and will continue the work of Stow residents Alan McNeilly and Jack McKenzie to achieve improvements outlined in the group's A7 Action Plan.

SBC have recently produced a Route Action Plan in response to this outlining what could be done to improve sections such as Heriot, Galabank, Crookston and the Whin Cottage. This will require a large amount of funding but we will push to have these improvements made. In the meantime SBC have made improvements to the road surface at Crookston and Torsonce and it is hoped that this lessens the chances of accidents occurring at these points.

Many thanks for the continued community input and support of the SRSC efforts. Particular thanks to Stow Primary School Junior Road Safety Officers and residents who joined Police Scotland to distribute the wheelie bin stickers. We are grateful for the ongoing support of all our elected representatives who have helped us immensely in bringing these projects to fruition. For any further information, to give us your opinions or if you wish to help please get in touch: e: stowroadsafetycampaign@yahoo.co.uk f: Stow Road Safety Campaign tw: @StowRoadSafety



The Community Choir's successful sixth year concluded with a wonderful celebration of the music of the USA. Our concert 'A Sentimental Journey' spanned 70 years of American music from 'the Charleston' through 'Rock 'n Roll' and across too many musicals to count with some lush harmonies and many rollicking good tunes!

The concert gave us all plenty of feel-good, musical memories, but the 'sentimental' theme had another connection. This was the last concert with our Music Director, Jim Letham, who has been Choir Leader since those 'Come and Sing' sessions in Heriot and Stow back in the summer of 2011 which led to the setting up of Gala Water Singers. Jim's input and commitment to the choir has been superb and he will be hugely missed but demands of work elsewhere means he could no longer continue as our Music Director. Jim was presented with a 'thank you' gift and leaves the Gala Water a fine legacy of community singing.

And of course, the choir continues! What would we do without our weekly singing, and the good humour? Feelers are out for a new Choir Leader, and if anyone is interested in taking on this remunerated position, or knows of someone who might, please contact our Chair, John Wilkinson on 01578 730289 for a chat. We are extremely fortunate that Nancy Muir, who has worked with us before, is willing to lead the choir until the end of 2017. If singing with an enthusiastic group - from those who cannot read music or had sung at all before joining Gala Water Singers, while a few are trained musicians - appeals to you, do join us. It is a great experience. We restart in August, so keep your eyes out around then for the start date on posters around the area and on the Community Website or ring John (number above).

[Of necessity the newsletter publication date meant this article was submitted a week before the concert... in the confidence that our plans did come to pass...]

GALA WATER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY 2017 ANNUAL SHOW - SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER



You may have some of these lovely things already made, or are planning to get busy over the summer, so here is advance notice of the craft and children's categories for this year's Horticultural Show. Remember items entered must have been made in the calendar year leading up to the Show. See the full schedule for all categories.

OPEN SECTION

Handicrafts

- 79. Recycled Item (described)
- 80. Painting/drawing any medium
- 81. Any Knitted Article
- 82. Any Handmade Jewellery
- 83. Any other craft item

Photographs. Max 6" x 4" unmounted

- 84. Garden Scene
- 85. Comedy wildlife photo with caption
- 86. A weather scene

Floral Art

- 87. Garden Flowers in a Mug
- 88. Buttonhole - Ladies & Gents
- 89. A Hand-held Posy of Flowers

CHILDREN'S SECTION

School Entries

- 102. School Entry - Picture made from leaves and grasses (board to be provided)
- 103. Chocolate fairy cakes (3)
- 104. Make a bug house
- 105. A decorative medal
- 106. A lantern for a tea light

Individual Entries

- 107. Photo of a sporting event or carnival 6" x 4" unframed
- 108. Make a wig from natural materials

spotlight on

STUART
ANDERSON

One of the key questions to put to anyone in the Spotlight is 'what motivates you to do what you do for the community?' Well, it was a question I forgot to put to Stuart Anderson as we shared a chat over coffee for this article. Caught up in hearing about who Stuart is and what he does, in the moment the question got lost. You'll understand why as you read on.

Stuart's life is bounded by the world of patterns and rhythms - of storytelling through music and song and of the seasons through the annual farming round of lambing, showing and selling. You'd be hard put to place an emphasis on one more than the other as his commitment to playing and singing is unmistakable, and his immersion in the world of farming, complete. Interweave this with his enjoyment of people, and creating a good social occasion that benefits everyone seems to be simply natural to him.

A musician who focuses on traditional and folk songs and tunes, Stuart plays the accordion and sings with a beautiful, lyric tenor voice. By day he is a self-employed farming contractor working with stock, mainly sheep, and has his own small flock of a traditional Scottish breed, North Country Cheviots. His voluntary involvement in farming includes periods on Committees for the Westruther Show and the (UK) National Council for North Country Cheviots and his expertise with sheep has been recognised further afield; this summer he boldly accepted the challenge of Judging the Champion Sheep at the Aylth Agricultural Show Blairgowrie.

In addition to paid gigs, Stuart shares his music on a voluntary basis which means performing for local groups essentially for expenses only and he is a well-known face at the annual Stow Pensioners' Christmas



photo: Robert Scott

image from Stuart's new CD : call 07527 393468

Lunch and other Parish events, but this too extends beyond our patch. Having been part of 'Perfect Harmony' for many years, Stuart is currently Chair of the Borders charity of around 20 musicians making up eleven musical acts who perform in Care Homes and Sheltered Housing complexes etc. throughout the year. For a small annual fee a member institution will receive 4-6 concerts per year

depending on funding available for the musicians' expenses. The outcome of constant funding applications and donations received, determine how much can be done. Alongside this, Stuart the professional musician is a stalwart of Common Ridings entertainments and the Burns Supper circuit.

So from where came those twin strands which brought Stuart to share so much within and outwith the Parish? A native of the Gala Water valley Stuart currently lives in Stow, was born at Falahill at Heriot into a farming family and spent many years at Fountainhall. Musically his grandparents between them performed melodeon, piano and voice and his great-grandfather was a fiddler, but all solely for family gatherings. At the age of five, Stuart was

given an accordion - he thinks a mix of his interest and someone's inspiration led to the gift - and took lessons for four years before leaving it aside. In his teens he returned to it and has self-taught, as with his singing, ever since. Outside of music and farming, there is still more community involvement. In the past Stuart has been on the committee of Fountainhall Village Hall and is a member of the Stow Windfarm Panel which he joined at its inception in 2010.

Look at the image and you see the balance of Stuart Anderson captured perfectly. I hazard that asking Stuart the question about his motivation to do what he does is akin to asking him why he breathes. He doesn't disagree...

23RD SEPTEMBER - SAVE THE DATE!

The GHHA will be having its annual 'Friends Evening' around the 23rd September. Our Friends will be treated to an exhibition of images of Stow in the 1950s and 60s. Who knows who you might spot? The fellas from Fairgrievies, the sprinters at the sports week, the fancy dress, the pipe band, the Boys Brigade and the Girls Guildry, the list goes on and on. So if you're already one of our 'Friends' pop the date in your diary and if you're not? Well come along and join. Watch this space for more details!



COULD YOU GIVE OUR PLANTS A DRINK?



It would be greatly appreciated if more people shared in watering the planters in the village and new ones at the station. It only needs to be done once a week.

If you can help please contact: Fiona Jeffrey e: fionajeffrey321@btinternet.com t: 01578 730336 or Jack MacKenzie e: jwfmackenzie@btinternet.com t: 01578 730666

ART EXHIBITION : SANCTUARY IN STOW

In medieval times, Stow was a place of sanctuary based around the church of St Mary of Wedale. This meant that anyone in fear of their life or persecution could seek refuge: it seems a fitting thought in these uncertain times to reclaim it for the 21st century.

In order to celebrate and explore this theme, there will be an art exhibition this summer, titled 'Sanctuary in Stow'. Visitors to the exhibition will also be able to read more about the story of sanctuary in Stow and what this meant in medieval times, as part of the research being carried out by Mary Craig, the Community Archivist on behalf of the Galawater History & Heritage Association.

You will be able to visit the exhibition at The Cloudhouse Café and Gallery in August and it will be linked to Stowed Out festival. It is hoped that refugee organisations may also take part in some way. Please come along to view personal interpretations of sanctuary, and share what sanctuary means to you, in a special book.

If you would like to submit one or more pieces of your work on this theme for the exhibition, then please contact me on 01578 730763 or at andrea.carlino@yahoo.co.uk, by the end of June.



NEXT NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2017 : NO. 29

COPY DATE 28 Aug 17 DELIVERED FROM 17 Sept 17

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