

'On yer bike' ...and welcome the world!

The 17th Tour of Britain - Penzance to Aberdeen - is coming to town!

The tour takes place from 5-12 September and will sweep through Heriot, down the A7, through Stow and onwards to Lauder on Saturday, 11 September! A huge event and spectacle, not to be missed.

We have seen pictures of spectators lining the streets along the Tour de France - surely we can match that here!

Stow Community Trust have pulled together a programme of events (see right) to celebrate the occasion.

As well as cycling, the Borders Walking Festival is taking place 10/11/12 September <http://www.borderswalking.com/> and we are running tours of the Station House.

Get involved! Come along to some of the events, dress your house and garden with bikes and bike memorabilia and have some fun!

We are conscious that Covid is still around, so we'll be taking all the necessary precautions to make everyone feel as safe as possible.

| DATE | TIME | ACTIVITY | LOCATION | CONTACT |
|--------|-------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| 8-Sep | 5.30-7.30pm | Bike checks and fix your own bike support | Cycle Hub, Stow Station House | Eibhlin McHugh |
| 9-Sep | 5.30pm-7pm | Ebikes come and try | Stow Park | Eibhlin McHugh |
| 10-Sep | 2-4.30pm | Heritage Walk | Stow Station House | www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/stow-of-wedale-heritage-walk-tickets-166895176967 |
| 10-Sep | 2-5.30pm | Station House Tours | Stow Station House | Grace Murray |
| 10-Sep | 5.00-7.00pm | Confidence building cycle skills for women | Stow Park | Eibhlin McHugh |
| 11-Sep | 12.30pm | Lining the streets for the Tour of Britain | Galashiels Road | www.tourofbritain.co.uk/race/2021-tour |
| 11-Sep | 1.30pm | Children's cycling events | Stow Park | Cameron/Leonie/ Eibhlin |
| 11-Sep | 2-5pm | Station House Tours | Stow Station House | Grace Murray |
| 12-Sep | 10am-5pm | Gala Water Valley Walk | Stow Station House | www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/galawater-valley-walk-tickets-167073155305 |

NEW PARK BENCHES



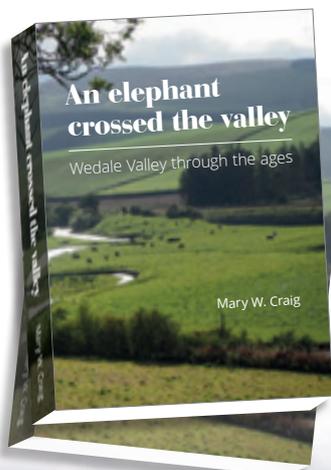
Remember the trees in Stow park that had to come down because they were unsafe, back in 2018?

Plans to re-use them as seating were beginning to take shape but were thwarted by the pandemic. The project is now underway again! Thanks to Dave Mack, Maurizio and Andrea Carlino and a small grant from the community council - we have some fabulous natural seating along the A7. They add to the existing fantastic facilities in the park - go and see for yourself - feel free to sit, climb and play on them. Felled trunks can also become home to lots of tiny wildlife, adding to the park's biodiversity.

I have been speaking to SBC about the plans to replace the trees, which we hope to replant in the very near future.

Andy Anderson

An elephant crossed the valley...



The parish of Stow lies in the Wedale Valley and its history is the history of Scotland in miniature. Historian Mary W. Craig has written a new book, 'An elephant crossed the valley: the Wedale Valley through the ages'.

Scotland has grown from a sparsely populated land of local tribes to a country with global connections. Wedale has mirrored that change, evolving from part of the Votadini tribe's territory to a modern community with international residents. The valley has links with significant historical figures and events, cultural innovations, and scientific breakthroughs.... from King Arthur to Dolly the sheep.

A small valley in a small country, but with a big heart and an even bigger history: this is the story of the Wedale Valley. The book was commissioned by the Parish of Stow Community Council and has a foreword by Doddie Weir. Why not join us for one of the launch events?

- Saturday 25th September at 7.30pm in Fountainhall Village Hall
- Sunday 26th September at 7.30pm in the MacFie Hall, Heriot
- Stow launch - tbc

And the story behind the title? Well, you will just have to buy the book to find out.



POST OFFICE NEWS

Here we are –having come through a few lockdowns – in the last year and a half the shop and post office has operated in different ways, from serving at the door to a queuing system with one customer in at a time and somewhere in between. Thank you to everyone for your patience as there have been some long waiting times on occasions. But safety of staff and customers has always been the highest priority.

On Friday 16th April this year, the doors were opened wide on a very sunny morning and the old signs and chains taken down, but with restrictions on the number of shoppers allowed inside still in place. Now having moved beyond level zero, we still encourage social distancing and ask customers to be mindful of the numbers inside. Everyone can then feel comfortable .

In the front shop a few things have been moved around allowing an easier shopping experience. Have a look when you are next in – you will be surprised just how many lines of groceries are available – this has grown throughout the last year to meet demand and hopefully can be sustained with ongoing support.

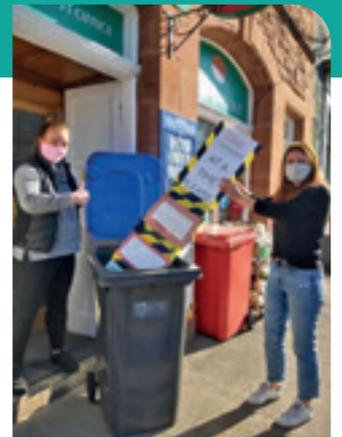
The rear shop/PO counter area has had a wee makeover with new display units.

Please note new opening hours for the shop and post office counter below. (There are slight differences in closing times to pre-covid hours. These hours are permanent going forward.)

| | SHOP | POST OFFICE |
|------|------------------|------------------|
| MON | 6.30am - 5.30pm | 9.00am - 5.30pm |
| TUES | 6.30am - 5.30pm | 9.00am - 5.30pm |
| WED | 6.30am - 5.30pm | 9.00am - 5.30pm |
| THUR | 6.30am - 5.30pm | 9.00am - 5.30pm |
| FRI | 6.30am - 5.30pm | 9.00am - 5.30pm |
| SAT | 6.30am - 4.00pm | 9.00am - 12.30pm |
| SUN | 8.00am - 11.00am | CLOSED |

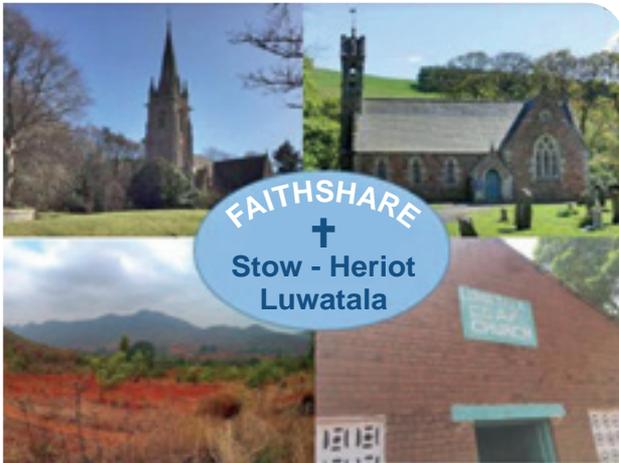
As always, thank you to our customers for their loyal support through the last year.

Good health and best wishes – Alison and all the team at Stow Post Office



★ The Newsletter Team, on behalf of the community, would like to thank Alison and her staff for providing such a lifeline for many during the lockdowns. Their constant hard work, positivity, resilience and determination to keep the shop open has been inspirational. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful service.

Parish Partnership: Stow – Heriot – Luwatala



Malawi has waves of Covid-19 throughout and it has been valuable to exchange our experiences, as a shared view of the pandemic.

Thank you to the Gala Water History and Heritage Association for sharing their Gala Water Covid year book with Malawi so they can see some of our stories.

Our partnership also contributed to a Malawi Broadcasting Corporation programme on partnership during the pandemic.

There is no piped water in Luwatala and soap is a luxury item. We thank all those who contributed towards getting hand-washing facilities to Luwatala and keeping them in prayer.

The church in Luwatala has continued to worship. The community is building a manse so they can have their own pastor in the valley. Thank you to all those who are supporting this. Take a tour of the construction of Luwatala Manse at www.stowandheriotchurch.org.uk/parishpartnership.htm

Fountainhall Village Hall has now re-opened.

Following Scottish Government guidelines, everyone has to wear masks, apart from when exercising and sitting at tables eating and drinking unless exempt. We also have to have contact details of all people attending groups in the Hall. We have a plentiful supply of hand sanitiser. Conditions of let are different from before covid.

Among the activities there will be New Age Curling, yoga, Women's Institute, carpet



bowling and community council meetings.

The AGM of the Village Hall will be taking place on Wednesday 29th September at 7pm. All are welcome.

For details of activities, please contact: Jenny Mushlin, Secretary, jjmushlin@gmail.com or phone 01578 760297.



GALA WATER SINGERS are planning on starting back mid September - singing safely. More information will be on the Facebook page www.facebook.com/galawatersingers or please contact **John** on **01578 730289**.



STOW BOWLING CLUB: Bowling Club loss

It is with great sadness that the Stow Bowling club lost one of its finest bowlers recently. Walter Hunter sadly passed away last month.

Walter will be remembered for winning the Men's Club Championship 10 times, from 1974 to 2005. When he won the Men's Club Champions competition in 1986, he entered the Champion of Champions Competition, for bowling clubs across the Borders. Walter won in 1988. In 1990, Walter represented the Borders at the prestigious Ayr Bowling Green in the Men's Singles. Playing at Ayr is every competitive bowler's dream. George Burns, the Stow Bowling Club's President at the time, presented Walter with a crystal decanter for his great achievement. More recently Walter was unable to play but would be seen on Station Road watching all the competitions from his car. He will be

greatly missed but his achievements will be talked about for years to come as his photos are there for all new bowlers to see and admire.

Walter being presented with decanter from George Burns in 1990



Stow Ladies Team at Border Ladies Bowling Tournament - from left to right - Anne Swan, Angela Fotheringham, Jane Ellis, Linda Hewitt and Arran Gillis.

Although many competitions have not happened this year, the men's team made the semi-finals of the Knockout Cup, their highest position to date.

The Stow Ladies entered the Borders' Ladies Bowling Tournament for the first time and also made the semi-finals. It is

a huge achievement as the ladies have been unable to enter competitions for more than 20 years, due to a lack of lady bowlers. We have had quite a few new members this year which has been fantastic and great to see the club going from strength to strength.

Summer with Play Borders and Stow Toddlers

It has been a very busy and fun-filled summer with our free outdoor family sessions for babies and toddlers.



Songs, stories, puppets, activities, messy play, nature play, free play - we have had it all! It has been wonderful to see parents and carers enjoying the sessions as much as the little ones. Lots of lovely friendships have been formed over the recent weeks that will no doubt continue and become a core part of the community.

Lorna from Play Borders and Rachel representing the Stow Toddlers would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all who have attended. It has been such an enjoyable experience.

If you would like any more info about play sessions available for 0-5 please contact info@playborders.co.uk



FOUNTAINHALL SWI

MEETINGS RESUME ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH, COMMENCING IN SEPTEMBER.



Anyone interested is warmly invited to a demonstration of MOSAIC WORK by MARION ROSS

in Fountainhall Village Hall on Wednesday 15th September 2021, 7.30 to 9.00pm
Bring your own cup for tea and a blether at the end.
Competitions: 3 Viennese Fingers and a pair of earrings.



Once we have the details of speakers and demonstrators finalised, we will put up posters advertising future meetings this session.

EDF Longpark Wind Farm Community Fund Awards

The EDF Renewables Longpark Wind Farm Community Fund has made two recent awards.



Stow Community Trust has received £7,500 from each of the EDF Longpark and SSE Toddleburn Funds to kick-start Stow's first Community Action Plan.

Together with £11,000 from Scottish Borders Council, the grants will enable the Trust to recruit a freelance Community Development Worker. They will conduct in-depth discussions with people right across the community, from local actions to tackle climate change, new ideas for community facilities or what younger people want to see in the area. Everyone will have a chance to have their say.

The consultation work will help determine what activities community groups can potentially take on themselves or work with others to

achieve. The resulting plan will provide a community resource to influence future strategies and priorities, triggering new projects and celebrating the contribution of existing local groups.

With access to community benefit funding from both EDF Renewables, Longpark, and SSE Toddleburn wind farms, the community can drive forward those projects and services which matter most.

A resident reference group has already been formed to support the activities and ensure inclusivity across the community supported by the Community Council. For more information see: www.foundationscotland.org.uk/about-us/our-news/green-light-for-stow-community-action-plan

Bird Gardens Scotland CIC received £5,000 to contribute to the costs of employing an Animal Keeper and Maintenance Officer during the launch phase of the not-for-profit Bird Zoo in nearby Oxton.

As well as providing an inspiring place to visit, educational facility, and tourist attraction, Bird Gardens Scotland have committed to doing some sessions in Stow with local groups. Their website www.birdgardenscotland.com has more information and contact details.

The next deadline for applications to the funds is 4 October 2021 – check out www.foundationscotland.org.uk/apply-for-funding/funding-available/longpark for more information and latest Fund News.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish of Stow Community Council covers both Stow and Fountainhall. The following update is from matters arising at recent zoom meetings.

- Jack Mackenzie has resigned from the community council after many years of hard work, including currently as co-chair. He will be missed and we would like to thank him and wish him all the best. Stuart Jeffrey is now co-chair with Charlotte Hendry. We are welcoming Gordon Stewart, who is bringing us into the technological age. He is upgrading the Stow Website. You can now add news and events to it. www.stow-borders.co.uk/add-your-event/
- The community council currently supports 11 projects. The Old Kirk and The Bishops Palace are now complete and Robin MacMillan is improving the Subscription Bridge for us.
- Speeding through Stow continues to be a concern, with speed signs only recording speeds below 28mph. The police will only position cameras at the south of the village.
- We have been pleased to see local residents at our zoom meetings, raising various matters including bonfires. These can be a nuisance to neighbours. The SBC website has a link with guidance about bonfires www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20052/environmental_problems/93/bonfires_and_burning_outdoors
- Scawd Law Windfarm (proposed site at Walkerburn) have been attending our meetings to update us on the proposal (at pre-planning stage). We have also had regular attendance about the logging lorries from Watherston Forest going through Fountainhall.
- For anyone struggling financially, we have hardship funds from the wind farms. We can pay up to £150 to cover basic necessities or towards large unexpected essential bills. This is completely confidential and all decisions are made by the four office bearers. If you want to apply, please contact Jenny Mushlin (see below).
- We are hoping to go back to face to face meetings in either Fountainhall or Stow on the first Monday of the month soon. Check Stow website www.stow-borders.co.uk/. Minutes are put up on the notice boards in Stow and Fountainhall and are also on the Stow website. Jenny Mushlin, Secretary, can email or post minutes if needed. All residents are welcome to attend. For further details, please contact Jenny (details below)
Jenny Mushlin, Secretary
e: jjmushlin@gmail.com
t: 01578 76029

The Stow Community Trust has had a busy summer behind the scenes moving forward on some significant projects.

- We are still working to identify a tenant/operator for the Station House. It is a hugely challenging time for the hospitality sector and we have been clear from the outset that we need to get the ideal team. We continue to work to get it right.
- The development of a Community Action Plan will start soon when we appoint a Community Development Worker. We will be reaching out to get the views of everyone across the Gala Water valley about projects and activities to make this an even better place to live and visit.
- Our walking activities are going very well. The Tuesday and Thursday Walk It groups have been great fun with many new friendships formed. Everyone is welcome - Tuesdays at 12.30, meeting at the Station House for a briskish 45 minute walk, and Thursday at 10.30, meeting at the crossroads for a gentler stroll, finishing with a coffee at the Cloudhouse.
- The new ebike trials have proven successful, with more ebikes delivered over the past few weeks. You can hire a bike on a daily basis or if you need to build your confidence to get back onto a bike, have an underlying health condition or if you would like to try an ebike for commuting, visit our website: <https://stowhub.co.uk/ebikes/>
- Everyone will be aware that COP26 is going to be a huge event for the world and we will be doing our bit across the Gala Water - look out for more information over the next few weeks!
<https://stowhub.co.uk/>



VIRTUAL STOWED OUT 2021

The Stowed Out Festival was online again this year and a live stream went out on 14 August. We worked with our friends at the MacArts to organise and produce 'live' performances on the MacArts stages (our 'Main Stage'). There was a great line-up packed with Borders talent, with Mother Bru (pictured right), The Boy With Lion Head, Three Out Of Four, Patersun, Rule of None and Geckohead on the bill. We invited Fife outfit Foreign Fox to headline after Jonny's Watt's storming 'unplugged' set for us last year.

Performances were all recorded as live sets, to stream 'live' on the night. It has been a difficult year for everyone involved in live music or staging live performances, this format supported a great local venue and got performers back on a 'live stage'. We have had some excellent feedback from performers on what it has meant to return to the stage and perform again.

We kept our links with the spoken word and this year a fantastic ROAR stage featured Imogen Stirling, Harry Josephine Giles and Poet & Geek. We

also had a virtual 'Open Mic Tent', to showcase local talent, with local lads Tandale heading that bill supported by the Jockuleles, Aul Kirk, Stark Palace and the BlackHope Project. This was also a great opportunity to include performers' home-produced videos.

If you watched, we really hope you had a great night, but if you missed it, you can still enjoy the videos of each performance via the links on our 2021 festival page <http://stowedoutfestival.org.uk/2021/main.html>

It has been an interesting challenge for



us over the last year and a half putting on two online events and we have learned a lot, but we are hoping to be back live on the Quoiting Green again next year – although we are having a short break before we start planning for that!

The Stowed Out Team – For further info contact Andy Anderson on aastow32@gmail.com or 07977821017



News from Stow Health Centre

Repeat Prescription Ordering

Stow Health Centre is currently phasing out telephone repeat prescription ordering, by asking patients to order their prescriptions by either

- a) handing in their repeat slip (or a piece of paper with a note on) with their request into the post box on the outside of the surgery, or
- b) by signing up for Patient Access.

Patient Access is an App that enables patients to order their repeat prescriptions online. If you have not already signed up for Patient Access, then please check out the website www.stowandlauderhealth.scot.nhs.uk and look under 'Prescriptions' to download an application form. Hand this form into the Health Centre and a PIN letter will be issued which will allow you to register - www.patientaccess.com

As you can appreciate, our telephone lines need to be kept free for patients who need help in urgent or emergency circumstances and/or patients trying to make an appointment.

As a practice, we were answering around 200 telephone prescription requests per week, taking up valuable reception time. We hope this explains our need to phase this out. There is a 4-working day turnaround for prescriptions. We appreciate your co-operation.

The new team at Stow Health Centre:
Dr Bethan Williams (GP Partner),
Dr Pippa Hart (GP Partner),
Dr John Usher (GP Partner),
Dr Gladys McCollum (GP Partner),
Dr Matt Coles (Regular Locum)



No internet? No transport? No Worries!

With the phasing out of telephone orders at Stow Health Centre, Fountainhall Resilience is organising their own phone-in service, extending the existing prescription delivery service for Fountainhall and Heriot.

Stow residents struggling with the new process can use this service too.

Currently a volunteer delivers repeat prescriptions to Fountainhall and Heriot every Friday to those who cannot get to the surgery. This will now extend to collecting repeat prescription forms. A volunteer can collect forms on a Friday.

If you need your form collected, please phone Jenny Mushlin on 01578 760297 (or leave an answerphone message if no reply). Please phone by the day before (Thursday) at the latest.

LAUDER LARDER

Lauder Larder is a community food bank set up at the beginning of the Covid epidemic. There is no referral process and it is completely confidential.

Fountainhall Resilience organises food deliveries from Lauder on Sundays for anyone in Fountainhall or Stow. Please contact Jenny if this would help you. Food bags/boxes are available for one or two weeks.

Jenny Mushlin, Deputy Coordinator, Fountainhall Resilience
Email: jjmushlin@gmail.com
Tel: 01578 760297





The club is open to all children aged between 4 and 11 years old. Our philosophy is to offer children a safe and fun environment where they can chill out after a hard day's work at the school. We are open Monday to Thursday from 3.15 to 6.15 p.m. We are based inside Stow Primary school so your children can come to us at the end of school giving you the freedom of a full day for your needs. We are very flexible so you can book in at short notice in an emergency, just email us or leave a message with the school.

The cost is £8.50 per child per afternoon, including two snacks. There is a yearly registration fee payable in August of £15 per family.



Members of staff are Andrea Carlino and Janice Currie, both very experienced in working with children. The chairperson of the committee is Angela Wells; the treasurer is Claire Hendry and the secretary is Jennifer Boyle.

We try to spend as much time as possible outdoors, enjoying the fresh air and the mildly tropical Scottish weather. We have many resources



which we try to renew in an eco-friendly way by buying second hand goods or with donations. If you have unwanted toys, art materials, board games etc please think of us: we will be very grateful.

If you have any questions please contact us at stowkidsclub@outlook.com or on 07709234413.

Andrea and Janice



Stow Baby and Toddler group

...has found a new chairperson! One down, only two board positions to go. If you feel you can help, please get in touch. Otherwise the group cannot re-start.

There is a lot of support for the re-launch and everything is in place to pick it up easily! We wish to continue to provide a service and place for all young children in the community and surrounding areas to play together and to continue for generations to come.

We have a huge resource cupboard full of fantastic toys and hands on help to get the ball rolling! There is an active



Whatsapp group where families/carers can chat, support each other and arrange to meet up.

If you would like to join our Whatsapp group and/or would like to help by taking a board position, please email stowparentgroup@gmail.com. We hope to hear from you soon.



STOW COMMUNITY GARDEN

Our community garden continues to flourish at an amazing pace and offers beautiful flowers, herbs, butterflies, bees and even damsels!

There are now six planters filled with topsoil; three dedicated to flowers and three to vegetables. We have also completed a border of weed suppressant membrane topped with reclaimed roof slates.

The space is for all kinds of activities: a chat with a friend on one of the comfortable benches; relaxing with a book from The Little Book Shed (with many thanks to Wendy Ross for masterminding that project and for replenishing the book selection regularly); enjoying the abundance of plants and creatures

buzzing around; having a hot drink whilst reflecting on life; jumping from log to log; safely meeting other members of your group face to face instead of suffering on Zoom; doing some gardening whilst having a chat!

If you would like to help with the upkeep of our community garden, you can find other volunteers at the garden most Sundays from 10.30 a.m. If you are unsure and you want to know more, then please contact Andrea on 01578730763 or andrea.carlino@yahoo.co.uk

Your help will be very much appreciated!



The Little Book Shed

A huge thanks to all those who have contributed to The Little Book Shed this summer. Without your generous contributions, it would not have been such a success.

It has been so nice to see so many people of all ages not only enjoy the books but the beautifully kept garden as well.

If a book you want is not in the shed, please feel free to ask on 'The Little Book Shed' Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/371455880864182/> You never know, someone in the village may be happy to lend. *Wendy Ross*



Stow Station has been looking particularly good this Summer!

We are very grateful for many contributions in various ways but would to specially thank the following for their hard work and support:

- ScotRail Station Adoption and Community Rail Partnership for this year's generous planting budget. This has enabled us to create the wildflower border and the new little conifer island at the station entrance.
- Alison Runciman at Stow Post Office for supplying most of the annual plants.
- Tony and Irene Trent and John Hermiston for allowing us to fill up our watering cans at their houses, particularly invaluable when trying to establish the wildflower bed during the extremely hot dry spells in June and July.
- Will Finlayson and Judy and Alan McNeilly for helping with the watering over the season.

Your support and kind comments are very much appreciated.

Fiona and Stuart Jeffrey



WALKS AROUND STOW – The next leaflet 'Stagehall and Lugate Valley' has been printed and will be available in the post office shortly. Only three more gates to be installed, before we can put directional posts in place to show the way. Oh and a little bit of path clearing.

Many thanks to Nigel Miller for his support and encouragement.

The next two leaflets are at the design stage and should be available at the end of this year or at the beginning of 2022. Watch this space!

We're all aboard...

The summer term ended with a fantastic acknowledgement of the last few years' work and commitment by children, staff, parents and community as the School was awarded two major national awards for their sustainability work. Stow won the Schools Champion Category in the Surfers Against Sewage Plastic Free Awards. This prestigious national award was judged this year by, among others, Richard Walker, Lucy Siegle and Liz Bonnin. We join Sir David Attenborough and Afroz Shah as past recipients of their awards.

■ For the third year in a row, Stow Primary School became Scottish Champion at the Better Energy Awards for Excellence in Environmental Education, this year for the local community recycling centre. The Food Growing and Tree Planting project was runner up in the Totally Active Category; Disrupter Face Masks were regional winners for the Totally Clued-Up Category and the Disrupters Lockdown Shanty was a regional winner for the Totally Creative Category.



the learning curve

■ Both the food garden and recycling centre continue to thrive, please continue to recycle your pens, toothpaste, toothbrushes, ink cartridges and crisp packets and if you would like to be involved in the food growing project, please contact the school. As always bamboo toothbrushes and face masks are on sale stowpsdisrupters@gmail.com

■ The school joined in with the community once again to litter pick the river bank for The Great Borders River Clean in May.

■ As the School bade farewell and good luck to the P7 leavers, it also welcomed new P1 pupils and elected Pupil Leaders to work with the school, Parent Council, and community. New families are currently being welcomed into the school community though the freshly refurbished nursery, which has been renovated to create a more open space and larger outdoor area.

◀...And the award for Excellence in Environmental Education goes to... Stow Primary School! Again! **Well done.**



As the station house nears completion, we have been speaking to one of the drivers of the community trust project. Helen Corcoran, Chair of the Stow Community Trust and secretary of the Stow Community Park committee, has a long association with the village and as we discovered, is a very busy person.

My family came to Stow in 1977, to take over Millburn Garage, when the Fairgrievs retired. I was a student at Newcastle studying Fashion and Business. When I left college, I joined Selfridges as a management trainee and moved around the country managing Miss Selfridge stores. Then it was homeware and Habitat... I was a store manager and I worked with the group until it folded. Had I known in the seventies there was such a thing as an interior design course, I would have done it!

What brought you back to Stow?

After 30 years in Pearl Assurance, my husband took redundancy. We moved to Gullane and bought and ran Goose Green Bakery and Cafe. Then we came to Stow with our two children. My brother Hamish who lives here built us a house.

I love Stow it's big enough but not too big. I've met lots of people, got involved with community groups and through the children have made many friends. I have been heavily involved in the community park committee. It has been a real learning curve. I gained a huge amount from being part of such a massive community team effort.

And then you got involved in the station house project ...

None of us realised just how much it was going to take! It actually all started many years before the train line was re-opened. Previous Trust members contacted Network Rail and Transport Scotland and did a tremendous job preventing the building from being flattened. Trying to work with Network Rail is rather like working with the secret squirrel society. It's taken years and years to find out even the simplest things.

spotlight on



Helen Corcoran

How much of a local enterprise has it been ?

We really wanted to focus on using local tradespeople. Our architect, Ben Glennon, lives in the village as does Andrew Mackenzie, the artist who's lithographs have been reproduced on the walls in the dining room. We also want to hear as much as possible from locals who remember the station from before 1969. It would be great to use their stories and to show them what we've done. I know of someone from Transport Scotland who was brought up in the station house, his father was the station master.

How difficult has it been to get to this stage?

It has been a real team effort, hard work but well worth it. Several members of

the Community Trust, past and present, have done a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes. Bob Howarth, Eibhlin McHugh and Grace Murray deserve special mention.

What is your vision for the station house?

I hope it's going to be a really vibrant place, run by a great chef and host. I see the bar and restaurant being somewhere everybody wants to come and meet, for business, private events, discussions or meetings. I want it to be a fantastic place to see all your friends and family. It needs to be good enough to attract people from outside yet accessible enough for locals to use on a regular basis.

When is it going to open?

That's the 6 million dollar question! As soon as we get a tenant, it will be open. There has been much interest but we haven't yet found the right people. We may in the meantime do some events here with outside caterers. We want to make sure that the tenant is part of the community and knows what happens here, gets involved with events, musical and artistic.

And what's next?

Now we've got the experience of being able to fundraise, know who to go to, where to go and who to get together; the Community Trust has many other projects in mind, for example the old Royal Hotel site.

Has the station house been a labour of love?

Absolutely .. It's taken much longer than I thought, partly because of the pandemic. But I think it will completely change the whole atmosphere of Stow. It's going to give us all somewhere to socialise, it's going to be the impetus to lots of other things. It's a brilliant catalyst and I think it will bring more people to Stow ensuring that other businesses thrive. My vision is to encourage sustainable self supporting ventures that benefit Stow in the long run.

WE NEED YOU...

Stow Resilience is looking for volunteers. There is still a need for people to help occasionally. It is not a regular weekly commitment, just

now and then. It involves help with shopping, prescriptions, or keeping an eye out for neighbours etc, especially in severe weather.

If you are interested in signing-up, please request a form from: stowresilience@gmail.com tel: 07821 026 004



Galawater Horticultural Society

Keep an eye on the post office noticeboard for the date of our AGM in October. We would love to see new members and look forward to a full programme of events next year.

All interested please contact jenknox1981@yahoo.co.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September/October/November 2021

| | | | | |
|---------------|--|--------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Wed 15 Sept | SWI meeting | 7.30pm | Fountainhall Village Hall | Mosaic Work by Marion Ross |
| Sat 25 Sept | An Elephant crossed the Valley Book Launch | 7.30pm | Fountainhall Village Hall | |
| Sun 26 Sept | An Elephant crossed the Valley Book Launch | 7.30pm | Macfie Hall, Heriot | |
| Wed 29 Sept | AGM Fountainhall Village Hall | 7pm | Fountainhall Village Hall | |
| Thurs 30 Sept | Ladies Cocktail & Pamper Evening | 7-11pm | Macfie Hall, Heriot | Tickets: Natasha 07894079801 |

This is a new feature we would like to introduce in the coming issues. Hopefully with some normality returning, the diary will be filling up. The magazine is distributed to most residents in Stow and Fountainhall - a fantastic marketing opportunity for your event! To be included, contact galawaternewsletter@gmail.com. The newsletter is published the 2nd weekend of September, December, March and June. The deadline is roughly a month before. So get organised and get your dates to us in time!