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Stonehouse Town Council

# stonehouse news

ISSUE 44 AUTUMN 2020

**NEW Resident's  
Letter feature**  
A419 'Improvements'

**Community carries on**  
Advice, practical & emotional support  
and donations made available



**Coronavirus  
HELPLINE**  
01453  
822070

**Back to school**  
and thanking keyworkers

**Progress in Chapel Garden**  
consultations and new businesses



# welcome

The Coronavirus crisis is continuing in earnest and Stonehouse finds itself once again in a national lockdown. However, this has not dampened community spirit, as organisations, businesses and residents continue to come together to support the town. If you know of anyone who needs help please get in touch using our Coronavirus Helpline on 01453 822070. All articles in this issue were submitted before the latest lockdown and any services listed will resume after 2nd December, provided no further restrictions are announced. This issue is only available online so please share where you can.

The Stonehouse News Team



Coronavirus Helpline  
**01453 822070**

Between 9:30am - 3:30pm Monday - Friday

## Ready, steady, census

The decennial census is almost upon us. Households across Stonehouse will soon be asked to take part in the nationwide survey of housing and the population. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941. Information from the digital-first census will help decide how services are planned and funded in your local area. This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, housing or new bus routes. Households will receive a letter with a unique access code in the post, allowing them to complete their questionnaire online. Paper questionnaires will be available on request. For more information visit [census.gov.uk](https://census.gov.uk)

**census**  
**2021**

Census  
Day is 21st  
March 2021

## Mayor's Column



As I write, a national lockdown came into force on 5th November and local non-essential shops and services have, once again had to close their doors. Please follow the regulations and do your bit to keep yourselves and your loved ones safe and get our businesses open again. This is a good opportunity to remind residents that the Town Council Helpline is still running if anyone is struggling with food shopping, collecting prescriptions or would like to be paired up with a 'phone buddy'. The past few months have certainly been challenging but it was great to see the re-opening of schools and businesses that had previously been closed during our first lockdown, and we welcome some new businesses to the town.

Our new Library opened in the Town Hall and is full of brand-new books. The staff and volunteers are working hard to increase the services on offer and to extend the opening times. It is being well supported by local people and we know that it is a real asset to the town. In time it will become a true community hub. The Town Council office is now in the former Post Office and is currently closed due to lockdown. Please telephone, email us or refer to our website if you need help, information or advice.

The fantastic news of the £8.9 million National Lottery Award funding for the Cotswold Canals Connected Project means that five miles of the canal already restored, will be connected to the national inland waterway network at Saul Junction. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for Stonehouse to once again become the Gateway to the Stroud Valley's and it can bring untold economic opportunities to the town as well as leisure, health and environmental benefits. The Town Council's Canal Rejuvenation Working Group is working hard to improve access from the canal to the town centre and hopefully secure a physical mooring site so that when the works are completed in 2023, canal users can easily find our shops, cafés, restaurants, pubs and other amenities.

We are aware of concerns about the new road layout on the A419 and I am working with our County Councillor Lesley Williams and our partners at GCC to discuss how to improve safety for all road users, but especially pedestrians and cyclists. There are encouraging signs that concerns have been heard and that some important changes may be afoot.

Work is continuing in the Old Chapel Garden with the installation of new fencing, planters and, eventually, benches. The Stonehouse in Bloom team have been working extremely hard to make this area an inviting, accessible and peaceful place.

The Town Council is continuing to pursue the re-opening of the Bristol Road train station and you may have seen a piece on BBC Points West, where Cllr Theresa Watt, Siobhan Baillie MP and a local commuter were interviewed. This project is key to the social, economic and environmental future of the whole district and will benefit everyone for a remarkably small capital outlay. The key priority is to persuade the County Council to include the project in the forthcoming Local Transport Plan for Gloucestershire. An online petition is now at over 1000 names but we still need many more.

As ever, I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and any constructive comment is welcome. Kind regards,

**Cllr Neil Gibbs**  
(Mayor of Stonehouse)

## Making our town safer for walkers & cyclists

Following Lockdown - when many people discovered the joy of getting out to walk and cycle locally - the Town Council is exploring ways to make social distancing easier and taking exercise around the town safer.

Individual comments on an interactive map in a recent consultation identified danger spots for pedestrians and cyclists, with a wide range of solutions suggested that would help respondents feel safer to walk and cycle in the area.

As well as numerous comments highlighting the danger to cyclists following the Horsetrough Roundabout 'improvements' (the Town Council is continuing to push the County Council to take urgent action to make this safer), the responses identified places where pavements need re-surfacing and clearing of vegetation, footpaths that might be widened and locations where enforcement of traffic speeds or parking is needed for the safety of pedestrians.

Respondents also felt more needs doing to make the Shared Space on the High Street effective and to improve safety around the school entrances on Elm Road, the Co-op and the top of Regent Street.

The consultation also generated some ideas for strategic projects including developing the railway footbridge to enable employees on the Industrial Estates to pop into the High Street and a cycleway linking Stonehouse to the Cross Keys Roundabout on the other side of J12 of the M5.

Around 2/3 of respondents supported temporary measures to reduce traffic speed and /or volumes, with over half supporting making these permanent.

Neil Gibbs, the Town Mayor, said: "The Town Council is committed to encouraging more walking and cycling in order to reduce car use in the town. This consultation has given us a useful picture of where we need to prioritise our efforts in order to make residents feel safe to do this; thank you so much to all of you who took time to respond."

The Town Council has shared the Consultation results with County Council Highway Officers and will be working with colleagues to progress some of the ideas that have been suggested.



## INHOUSE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
AUTUMN 2021

Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter for Stonehouse Town FC. We are delighted that we are able to provide access to football for Stonehouse for all levels from U7's (all school age children welcome) including girls, right the way to Veterans, which includes our 4 men's Saturday sides. We want to reassure all that we have a strong Covid policy in place across the club, with clear guidelines to protect everyone involved.

We were delighted to welcome so many of the Stonehouse community (175!) to our first ever game under floodlights on Tuesday 6th October and followed that up with our long-awaited return to The FA Vase, which was our first time since 1979-80. Admittedly the results didn't quite go to plan, but certainly a sign of the trajectory of the club, which many have commented as having a real positive vibe around it at present.

We would also like to take this chance to share that we would love to welcome more players and volunteers to our club, whether that be from our Youth teams to our Adults. If you are interested, please get in touch with us via the email address below or through our brand-new club website.

Website: [www.stonehousetownfc.co.uk](https://www.stonehousetownfc.co.uk)

Email: [info@stonehousetownfc.co.uk](mailto:info@stonehousetownfc.co.uk)





# Supporting the community

## Stonehouse Police Update



During the Covid-19 outbreak Stonehouse officers have been working as normal with protective personal equipment. We saw an increase in our calls for concerns for welfare and vulnerable person's visits.

As Stonehouse is growing, so is our policing team for the area, we now have a third member to our PCSO patrolling team. PCSO Mark Lifton 9222 joins PCSO's Liz Ward 9081 and Deb Hudman 9233. Mark is no stranger to Stonehouse having already worked the area previously.

Both Liz and Mark featured on the BBC documentary "Reported Missing". Our Force was chosen to appear on BBC1 to show how the police find people who go missing.

Four in every ten people with dementia will go missing at some point, often unintentionally. Due to their vulnerabilities they will always be graded as high risk, leading to a demand on police resources. That's why it is important to ensure families and carer's have planned ahead by completing a Herbert Protocol Form - and keep it up to date. Details can be found Online.

Deb also took part in a recent traffic operation and accompanied the Force Engagement Vehicle at the M5 services. The mission statement was to explain, encourage, educate and enforce the Fatal Five in order to have safer roads in Gloucestershire.



## Are you being scammed?

citizens advice

Citizens Advice Stroud & Cotswold has the following advice:

- Be suspicious if you are contacted out of the blue, even if it's from a name you recognise
- If it sounds too good to be true it probably is
- Never give out your bank details unless you are certain you can trust the person contacting you, although a scammer can sound trustworthy
- Don't respond to requests to make a bank transfer to a safe account
- Don't be rushed - you never need to make a decision straight away and if you feel pressured say "no", hang up the phone, or close the door
- Your bank will never ask for your full PIN number or password over the phone
- Your bank will only use the last four digits on your card
- You may be asked to log onto your bank account via a link they will send you - do not do this
- HMRC and TV Licensing will not email or text you about refunds or rebates, nor ask you for personal details
- Never click on links included in suspicious emails
- To check whether an email is genuine click on the arrow on the sender's email address, if it shows a personal email address or one which looks unusual be suspicious
- If you receive an email or text which you feel is suspicious open a new tab and do a search
- Look out for poor grammar or spelling
- Be suspicious of organisations which do not use your name

You can register your landline with the Telephone Preference Service by calling 0345 070 0707. Talk to your phone provider to see what privacy services and call-blocking services are available. These services aren't always free but are useful in ensuring any call coming through is from a trusted or known source.

To check if something might be a scam and for further information go to our website [citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/check-if-something-might-be-a-scam/](https://citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/check-if-something-might-be-a-scam/)

Or call us on 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511 Monday to Friday 10am - 4pm – one of our friendly advisers will be able to help you.



COMMUNITY ADVICE, LINKS & MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICE (CALMHS) and Community Autism Support and Advice Service (CASA)

Independence Trust is here to support people who are experiencing moderate to severe Mental Ill Health. We also work with people experiencing social isolation, lack of motivation or difficulty coping with the stress and pressures of everyday life. The service is open to adults (18+) living in Gloucestershire and those making transition from young peoples to adult services. You must be registered with a Gloucestershire GP. The service can be tailored to help support you to build on your strengths and to make positive changes.

### Community Links

Our Bridge Building Service is a community-based programme of approximately six months focusing on your needs and what you want to achieve. We will explore with you a range of options and opportunities to support your recovery and social inclusion. You will be supported on a one to one basis by one of our Bridge Building team who will encourage you to achieve your goals. Together you will develop an action plan to support you moving forward. The plan will identify areas of interest and explore opportunities within your local community. We can work flexibly with you including the evening and at weekends.

### QWELL

Qwell is an online counselling and emotional wellbeing support service for adults, free to service users of Independence Trust, and available through laptop, phone or tablet. You will find help and support on the Qwell website [qwell.io](https://qwell.io). (available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year).

### Referrals

Referrals can be made to the service by any organisation or by self-referral. How do I refer? You can refer in a variety of ways:

- Via our website: [independencetrust.co.uk/CALMHS](https://independencetrust.co.uk/CALMHS)
- By contacting the team on: 01452 317460
- By emailing us at: [info@independencetrust.co.uk](mailto:info@independencetrust.co.uk)
- By post: Independence Trust, Conway House, 31 Worcester Street, Gloucester, GL1 3AJ

### Our Hubs

Gloucester: Conway House (Regus Building), 31 Worcester Street, Gloucester, GL1 3AJ Stroud: 1 st Floor offices, The Cross, Parliament Street, Stroud, GL5 2HL Cheltenham: Gas Green, Community Centre, 6 Baker Street, Cheltenham, GL51 9HQ

## Mobile food delivery

The Stroud District Foodbank is still open for business, since March has been operating a mobile delivery service rather than giving out food at local drop-ins. We have been busier than ever before. We know all too well that once finances start to get strained food poverty soon follows, it's not always going hungry, but making different choices about food purchases or skipping meals.

If you or someone you know is facing financial hardship we would love you to take the first step and seek some support. There are some resources on our webpage [strouddistrict.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/how-to-get-help/](https://strouddistrict.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/how-to-get-help/) or you can call Citizens Advice confidentially and for free on 0808 208 2138 or visit the Stroud District Council website.

If you are in a position to help we have put together information about ways to help this Christmas and would love for you to help if you are able at [strouddistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/christmas/](https://strouddistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/christmas/)





# Council's Helpline

Are you self-isolating and you've no family assistance?



Please call us so we can put you in touch with a local volunteer who can:

- pick up groceries
- pick up prescriptions
- give lifts to vital medical appointments
- walk the dog
- chat or offer other help as needed

Can you/are you already volunteering in your road/area?



Please call us if you are able to help in your road/area or are already doing so. This will enable us to better co-ordinate community efforts.

Do you know someone who needs help and hasn't seen anyone for a while?



Please call us if you know a family member, friend or neighbour who needs help and hasn't seen anyone for a while.

**Coronavirus Helpline**  
**01453 822070**

Between 9:30am - 3:30pm Monday - Friday



We will ask you for your name, telephone number, address and the nature of your enquiry. If the lines are busy, please leave a message on our voicemail and we will call you back. For further Coronavirus support information please see overleaf.

## Coronavirus

5 things you can do to help yourself and your community



Keep up to date on official guidance at [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)



Share information from trusted sources only - don't spread rumour and misinformation



Stay sensible - wash hands regularly maintain social distancing



Do you need help?  
Can you help others?



Stay in touch and keep your mind healthy

# SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

In spite of tough economic conditions, eight traders in the town signed up for Fiver Fest 2020. They each offered a special deal for £5, to encourage shoppers to spend in the High Street. From discounted takeaway food, to business cards and headphones, there was a little bit of something for everyone. The initiative, which is in its second year, is gaining momentum nationally and is more important than ever.

#FIVERFEST

IF EVERY ADULT IN  
**STONEHOUSE**  
SPENT JUST  
**£5 PER WEEK**  
IN THEIR LOCAL INDEPENDENT SHOPS  
& BUSINESSES IT WOULD MEAN  
**£1.5 MILLION**  
PER YEAR GOING DIRECTLY  
INTO OUR LOCAL ECONOMY\*

WHICH CAN LEAD TO MORE JOBS, A BETTER HIGH STREET,  
A STRONGER LOCAL ECONOMY & A NICER PLACE TO LIVE.  
**MAKES YOU THINK DOESN'T IT?!**  
TO HELP YOU SPEND THAT £5  
WE'RE TAKING PART IN THE

**TOTALLY LOCALLY**  
**FIVER FEST** 10-24 OCT. 2020

LOADS OF AMAZING £5 SPECIAL OFFERS  
FROM OUR INDEPENDENT SHOPS & BUSINESSES.  
SEE [WWW.FIVERFEST.CO.UK](http://WWW.FIVERFEST.CO.UK)  
LOOK OUT FOR POSTERS IN SHOPS, OR ON SOCIAL MEDIA

SHOP LIKE YOUR  
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**Tel: 01453 822 137**

9am-5.30pm Monday-Friday  
9am-5pm Saturday







Please support our Stonehouse businesses safely, and within Government guidelines, where you can, both during and between lockdowns

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Golden Charter  
Smart Planning for Later Life



# Help, advice, and donations



## Stonehouse Rotary Club celebrating 40 years

1980 was a memorable year. Mt. St. Helens erupted, John Lennon was assassinated, Ronnie Reagan was elected US President and Standish Hospital was still open. It was also the year in which Stonehouse Rotary Club was born. This year is a bit different to 1980, as we all face a global pandemic and global warming, but our local community is still at the heart of Rotary and we are still very much open for business!

Rotary are involved with a huge range of activities both social and charitable. We raise money for local and international charities including the worldwide End Polio initiative and you will probably most recognise us from the annual Christmas Carol Float that tours the district raising money locally.


At present we are unable to meet face to face so now, once a fortnight, we meet via Zoom and enjoy a range of engaging and interesting speakers. Our membership is broad and diverse and we welcome people from all walks of life. Our motto this year is 'Rotary Opens Opportunities', so if you're interested in doing something worthwhile for your community, being part of a worldwide ethical organisation, learning new skills or perhaps just making new friends, why not check us out at:  
[Learnmore@stonehouserotary.org.uk](mailto:Learnmore@stonehouserotary.org.uk)

## KEEP CALM KEEP VOLUNTEERING

**You stepped up at a time when your community needed you most and made a real difference throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.**


**But now is not the time to slow down, your skills and enthusiasm are still needed. At Rotary we have a unique position of being rooted within our own communities, but with a global outlook, ready to tackle challenges at home and abroad.**


**Join Rotary and channel your volunteering energy into projects which are transforming lives and making a difference in your area.**

 **Turn your ideas into change -** Whatever causes you care about, Rotary helps you turn your ideas into lasting change.

 **Grow your network -** Rotary is a great way to meet new people, make lasting friendships and expand your personal and professional connections.

 **Personal development -** Share your skills and learn new ones by collaborating with others.

 **Global outlook -** With over 1.2 million members, you'll be part of one of the world's largest humanitarian organisations.

 **Membership -** Joining Rotary costs as little as £2.50 per week, less than a takeaway coffee, with lots of benefits to being a member.

 **A trusted reputation -** We have been making a difference in our communities for over 110 years.

**So what are you waiting for - Join today**  
**[rotarygbi.org/join](http://rotarygbi.org/join)**

Contact your local Rotary club to find out more:

The Rotary Club of Stonehouse  
[Learnmore@stonehouserotary.org.uk](mailto:Learnmore@stonehouserotary.org.uk)

**Rotary**  
Great Britain & Ireland



## All Pulling Together

The Volunteers at All Pulling Together have been working through-out the summer months to give out ambient food supplies to the community. We have been open every Monday morning from 9:30 - 11:30am and hope this will continue for the foreseeable future. The food items are supplied by DEFRA via Fare Share food charity ([fareshare.org.uk](http://fareshare.org.uk)) and Morrison's in Nailsworth. Our volunteers collect the supplies when they are available and then bring them back to the office in Park Parade to be sanitised.



During the summer months we also made up 50 play bags to give out to local families. The bags contained a mix of craft and play items to help with the summer holiday period. We also circulated 50 more play bags for the October half term. Donations have already been received from the local PCSO's and people in our community. Thank you for your support.

The office is still only open on a Monday morning to give out food, and Tuesday mornings, by appointment only, for our advice worker from GL Communities. If you need to get in touch with us, you can either ring the office on 01453 822705 or message us on our Facebook page @AllPullingTogether.



Guideposts has been busy during the lockdown and the recent weeks where we've been pleased to reopen some of our Clubs and Hubs. While they were closed we offered opportunities for social catch ups, discussions, quizzes, guest speakers and more using Zoom. This was an adventure for us and for those who join us as we hadn't really used Zoom before but now we feel we all learned something new together. Our Zoom group continues every other week, and once a month we invite different guest speakers to share experiences, tips and information about living with health conditions, hobbies, and other topics of interest.

We also started a pen pal scheme connecting older people with children by letter. Some of the participants were interviewed on Radio Gloucestershire and enjoyed telling listeners why they are writing to each other and the positive impact it has had for them, especially during the times when it was difficult to see loved ones.

We opened a helpline to assist people with emergencies and general queries at the start of the lock down and were able to assist many people with a wide range of enquiries and challenges. Now that people are out and about more but many are feeling anxious or low, the helpline and our website gives advice on how to address anxiety and improve wellbeing.

Now that we are able to, we have reopened our CONNECT group at Whitminster Village Hall and our Community Hub for adults with learning disabilities in Stroud. CONNECT is for you if: you would like to make new local friendships, you like art, crafts, music and other hobbies, or you're living with a long term health condition, are a carer for family or a friend, or want to meet people in your local community. All of our groups are Covid-19 safe and all are welcome.

Please contact us if you'd like more information or to join Zoom, CONNECT, Community Hub, Pen Pals, or need any advice or tips on wellbeing. Guideposts Information Service: 0800 048 7035 [info@guideposts.org.uk](mailto:info@guideposts.org.uk) and [guideposts.org.uk](http://guideposts.org.uk)





# Education in Stonehouse



## A return to school: life after lockdown



Like everywhere else in 2020, Park Junior School is part of the new socially-distanced, Covid-aware world. Who would have thought back in January, that the government would be about to tell children not to go to school, that education for all would carry on remotely, that parents would be playing such a crucial role in those Maths and English lessons and that even the annual ritual of SATs would be cancelled?

However, as "the great pause" came to an end, it seemed to be on everyone's lips that children must get back into school. The children needed school for their education and their mental wellbeing and certainly their parents needed it for their sanity... To enable schools to open, teachers have all had to have a very close look at how they can keep their pupils safe and Park Juniors is no exception. One-way systems have been

news of the impact of the disease. Each class has spent time talking through what has been happening to help them assimilate the changes and develop resilience. Teachers have also been putting programmes of work in place to help children catch up so that they don't lose confidence in their abilities.

So, what do the pupils think of the changes? Isaac and Dolly, Year 6 Councillors, tell us: "First of all, we have a one-way system throughout school which helps us protect



## Autumn Term 2020 at Hopelands Preparatory School

Autumn term is filled with great excitement and a hive of activity at Hopelands Preparatory School and it has been lovely to welcome all our children back. With the Covid-19 measures firmly in place we were amazed at how quickly the children have adapted. Their resilience and perseverance are shining through every day and deserve huge amounts of praise and recognition. It was a joy to see the happiness and enthusiasm as the children were once again back with their peers and teaching staff in September.

At the start of term we were delighted to be invited by Stonehouse Town Council to take part in creating a chain of rainbows throughout the town to thank the NHS and other frontline workers.

Each Key Stage designed their own banner with a rainbow of handprints. The children had great fun working with their peers and the end results look fantastic!

Throughout the school year we hold several Head's Tea Parties, where every child is invited to this coveted and popular

occasion. Invitations are sent to the delighted children who have to RSVP to the Headteacher, Mrs Bradburn. The first one was held this term for children in Key Stage 1 and they were treated to 'tea' and iced buns served by Mrs Bradburn. An afternoon filled with fun and laughter which creates a wonderful, enriching experience for everyone.

Encouraging natural curiosity and instilling a love of learning is key to the teaching at Hopelands. Gaining hands on experience provides not only personal growth but prepares each pupil with skills ready for their transition to secondary school. At the start of term Year 6 had a fascinating experience of dissecting a pig's heart. This went alongside their science lessons where they have been learning about the circulatory system. Any squeamish fears were quickly overcome, and the children enjoyed comparing their diagrams, pictures and models with a real-life specimen.

For all the latest pictures and weekly activities please follow our Facebook page @HopelandsPreparatorySchool



established, extra cleaning routines are in place, hand sanitising equipment is available and desks have been re-arranged to list just a very few of the many precautions that have been taken. Practical considerations in place, teachers have also had to think about how they can help the pupils to cope with the impact of the pandemic on their education and on their mental health.

Many children will have been nervous about coming back to school after losing familiar routines and after hearing frightening

teachers, visitors and friends. On the field we have four sections with only a year group in each to help minimise the spread of the virus. Each year group is in a bubble which means no mixing with any other ages, older or younger. This is the group we are in at break and lunch. In the classroom we have our own equipment as we are not allowed to share it with others. All of these things are actually quite good as we like having our own equipment and our own space."

However, two comments stand out in explaining why it was so important to bring children back to school. Isaac and Dolly say: "We have really enjoyed coming back to school, seeing all our friends and getting back to learning new things."

Perhaps Ruby-Mae sums it up best when she says: "I like school because I get to see my friends and it is better than being home by myself."





## Maidenhill girls master Mathematics



On Wednesday 7th October, Year 11 students Natalie Brint, Maya-Rosa Blackie, Pippa Benn, Zoe Barton and Leona Beech, accepted the challenge and took part in the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls.

The competition is an annual event organised by the UK Mathematics Trust and is aimed at girls and young women across the UK, encouraging them to tackle advanced mathematical problems.

Past papers of the Mathematical Olympiad for girls are a source of high-quality problems that encourage students to think mathematically and are made available in preparation for the competition.

As it was not possible for the papers to be marked this year and to make it easier for schools to participate, the format of the paper was changed. Although the style of questions remained the same, candidates were required to submit answers only, rather than full written solutions. The length of the paper was also reduced to 2 hours and answers had to be submitted online.

The girls found that the questions tested a wide range of mathematical skills. Although challenging, the questions were helpful in identifying their understanding of more complicated mathematical problems, giving a better and deeper understanding of school mathematics in general. The challenge provided invaluable experience in solving non-standard problems, where thinking outside the box is definitely required. This was useful in preparation for GCSE examinations and helping them to decide whether to continue taking maths when they move on to complete their A Levels.

Full results of the competition including student scores will be available on Friday 23rd October and we know our girls will do us proud.

# Faith news

## Eco-Church

The Methodist Church registered as an Eco-Church with A Rocha UK in March 2019, and a small group met every couple of months, to go through the various (5) categories to see what our 'score' was. We organised some activities - garden tidy up, environment service, making bug hotels with our Youth Club and updating our 'green' credentials: using more Traidcraft/Fairtrade products etc.



### Bronze Award

Our application for a Bronze Award was submitted in February 2020 and on 25th March, just after lockdown and cancellation of church services, we received an email to say we had been given our Bronze Award! We look forward to celebrating this achievement at one of our future services.

### Continuing activities

During lockdown we have been able to continue with our Eco Church activities by asking our gardener to leave a one metre strip unmowed around the edge of our lawn to let the wild flowers grow for bees, butterflies and other pollinators. We also added some wildlife friendly plants and put up a sign explaining why the grass was left long.

We hope to create a wildflower border next year by planting seeds and other future projects include planting spring bulbs, installing water butts to save rainwater and plant one or two native, wildlife friendly trees.



Over the summer with restrictions easing, PSALMS moved from online youth provision, to face-to-face work. The 'Club Pulse' youth group met outside (COVID risk assessed), where it was great to see young people in the flesh again. Sadly the 'Crazy frisbee golf course' over the summer was cancelled due to rain.

### Virtual Holiday Club

With 'Churches Together In Stonehouse' we ran a virtual holiday club on five Fridays, which 24 children 'attended'. They collected their activity bags (worksheets, craft materials, drink and a snack) from Stonehouse Methodist Church and then visited our YouTube channel for the story, song, game and craft instructions. This wasn't something we'd done before, but was appreciated with 100% giving it 10/10 for enjoyment. Discussions took place about a half-term provision, in place of the usual sports holiday club and light party.

Late-August, PSALMS ran a Youth Adventure Day which 63 young people attended, and 'in bubbles' enjoyed activities such as paddle-boarding and archery, as well as rebuilding friendships and confidence. The theme was Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever' (Hebrews 13:8), and there were times for reflection on this. This event was so well received that it ran again in half-term.

### Club Pulse

With the government deeming youth provision as an 'essential service' we are able to meet with 15 young people plus leaders, and 'Club Pulse' has already restarted on Mondays, 6-7:30pm at Stonehouse Methodist Church for school years 7+. We're currently unable to run our schools-work, however Emily has been helping Park Jr. on Friday lunchtimes and by producing 'Collective Worship' videos which has been a great way to maintain contact.

For more information contact Emily at [emiy.twigg@psalms.uk.net](mailto:emiy.twigg@psalms.uk.net) or follow us on social media.



## THE LONG TABLE Freezers of Love

Morley Hall, Elm Road, Stonehouse Saturdays 12 - 1pm

The Long Table is building a network of Pay As You Feel Freezers across our county. This is about food equality not food poverty, if we share what we have there is enough to go round. If you, or anyone you know is facing challenges at the minute, maybe shielding, new baby, tricky job news, just feeling tired and overwhelmed, then now might be the time to share a 'Freezer of Love' meal?

There is a range of freshly cooked, locally and ethically sourced, healthy, seasonal meals, that are also familiar and delicious! The meals are pay as you feel but we are assuming many of these meals will be given for free to people who indicate they need them. Even a small contribution paid by text or QR code or cash, helps our work go that bit further and this way everyone can be part of the solution. As a guide £3.80 covers all the costs - anything less helps the food stretch further.

These meals are funded by The National Lottery and remaining costs are met by Friends of The Long Table and made possible by the people working at the location of each FREEZER OF LOVE in their community. Massive thanks to all who are making this possible.



# Green spaces for all to enjoy

## Hard work is bearing fruit in the Old Chapel Garden



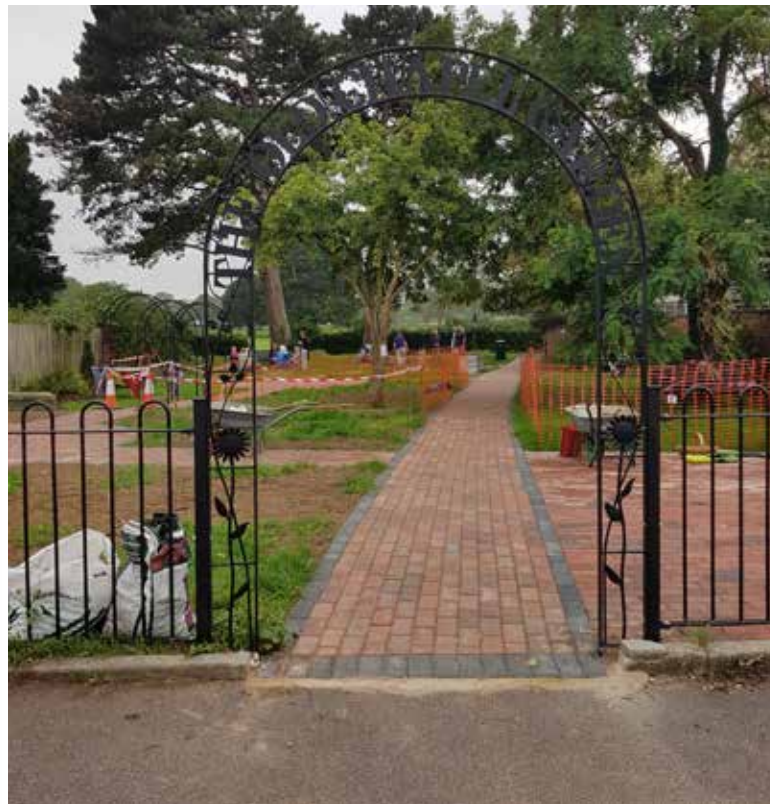
After four months of hard work since the lockdown restrictions were lifted in May, volunteers have worked 324 hours socially distanced on the Old Chapel Garden project to finish the garden before winter. They have moved and spread more than 10 tonnes of topsoil to level and prepare the site

for reseeded: a new flower border has been created: and the site has been cleared of weeds and stones. Most recently four trough planters have been put in place, filled with compost and planted with some perennial plants. Six trees and a bench, donated by local residents, will be put in place in late autumn.

Feedback from the community has been overwhelmingly positive. Caroline Wynn from Wynn's Cafe in Stonehouse High Street said "Wynn's are so pleased that the Old Chapel Garden has been given the care and attention it deserves. The garden is one of the most peaceful and underrated beauty spots in Stonehouse and it is a genuine joy to see it come to life. We are excited to be able to share it with the community."

Stonehouse Mayor Neil Gibbs said "Stonehouse in Bloom volunteers have worked incredibly hard in this project over the summer. We hope the RHS judges will be impressed with the change when they come to Stonehouse next summer." Next year Stonehouse in Bloom are not only entered for the Heart of England in Bloom competition but their success over recent years means that they have been entered for the National Britain in Bloom Finals.

For more information and to get involved, contact Debbie on 07988 630951 or email [deborah.curtis647580@gmail.com](mailto:deborah.curtis647580@gmail.com)



## New Old Chapel information board

Stonehouse History Group has created an information board showing the history of the Congregational Church. It can be seen in the newly redesigned garden in its old burial ground. The Church was built in 1827, a large stone building fronting on to High Street. It had a front garden with a Cedar tree which grew to be a huge landmark on the street. Behind the Church was a burial ground, established in the 1850s. The building contained a Chapel with an organ and two schoolrooms. It was well-used until the 1950s when congregations declined and the Church closed in 1965. In 1967 a fire caused serious damage leading to the building being demolished. The land at the front was sold and three shops built. The old burial ground land was given to the Town Council to maintain as a Rest Garden.

The new information board is sited next to the Laburnum Walk entrance and gives a short history of the Old Chapel and the garden. We are very grateful to Vivien Warren and the Midcounties Co-operative Society for sponsoring the board and to the Town Council for putting it in place. The board is the 10th in the series of boards around the town and we have created a leaflet showing their location. The leaflet will be available soon on our website [stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk](http://stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk).



## Stonehouse Boundary Walk

Unfortunately, Stonehouse Walking Festival had to be cancelled this year. The programme of walks, which was almost complete, will be carried over to next year. Rather than leave the date completely unmarked, organisers decided to try out a walk around the town boundaries that had been devised by Councillor Mike Davis.

On Friday 11th September, seven people met at the Ocean Canal Bridge and set out on what turned out to be a very enjoyable socially-distanced walk through field paths, over Doverow Hill, past Far Westrip Farm, down Horsemaring Lane, past the allotments and through the Oldends Industrial Estate, back to the Ocean Bridge. Several walkers had to drop out on the way due to other commitments or sore feet but two intrepid hikers finished the walk.

Look out for the Boundary Walk as part of Walkfest 2021.





# Community groups carry on

**Stonehouse Action 4 Youth**  
For young people from ages 12-18 who would like to do something to help improve their community.

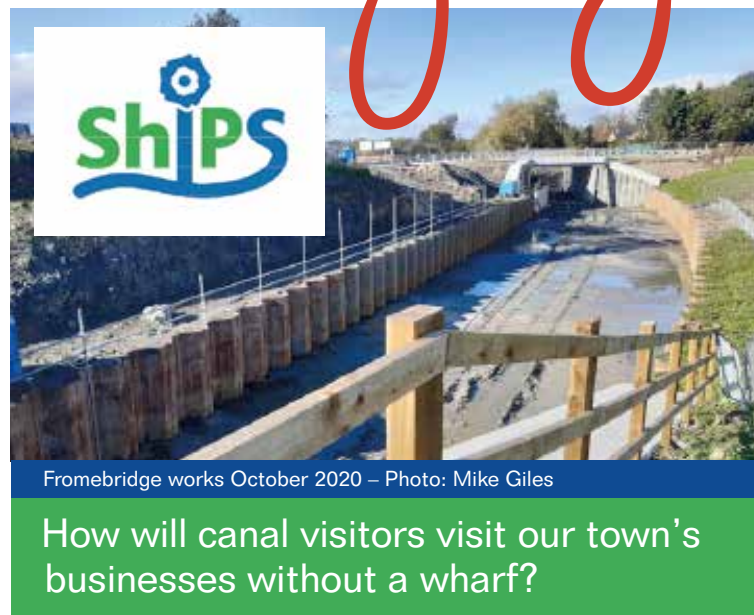
If you join then you could be part of something big, something to help your Community.

We meet weekly on a Thursday at 17:30 to discuss matters that affect young people.

We design projects and take part in events to improve Stonehouse.

If you are interested in joining or want more info contact the youth worker Jemma Grieve on 07795840730 or [jemma.grieve@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:jemma.grieve@stroud.gov.uk)

STONEHOUSE Action 4 Youth  
A BETTER FUTURE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



## How will canal visitors visit our town's businesses without a wharf?

Ship Inn Project Stonehouse (ShIPS) is a local group committed to ensuring that the former Ship Inn site is used for the benefit of the whole community. The Stonehouse Design Statement (2005) clearly states that the former Ship Inn site is considered to be "the prime candidate for the new Town Wharf". ShIPS committee members are working in partnership with and supporting the Town Council and key stakeholders at Stroud District Council in order to facilitate a land transfer as it is still in the ownership of SDC Housing. In October ShIPS submitted a business case to SDC to purchase the land, and to ensure its long-term use for the community.

Ground-breaking canal works at the Fromebridge roundabout have surged on throughout the pandemic, and the recent news of the National Heritage Lottery Fund's (NHLF) successful bid of £8.9 million has provided an enormous boost for completing the project. Work is also already underway to create a new railway bridge over the canal at Stonehouse Ocean. Stonehouse will become a canal-side town once again and aims to be welcoming boaters by the end of 2023.

### 3 year Activity Plan

For the next three years, Creative Sustainability – the community-interest company working in partnership with Stroud District Council, Cotswold Canals Trust, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Stroud Valleys Canal Company and Stroudwater Navigation Archive Charity – will work with local people, town and parish councils, community groups including ShIPS, and businesses, to make sure that the restoration project is inclusive, community-led and benefits local people and communities, wildlife and heritage.

Central to the NHLF bid was an Activity Plan and Action Points drawn up by CCC following extensive consultation with communities and stakeholders along the canal. The fulfillment of this plan in the next phase of the canal regeneration project will ensure that the key aims are delivered for the communities in the wider canal corridor. The Activity Plan can be read in full here: [stroud.gov.uk/info/Activity\\_and\\_Action\\_Plan.pdf](http://stroud.gov.uk/info/Activity_and_Action_Plan.pdf)

A key strategic aim will be to create a Hub on the canal at

Stonehouse. Social gateways must lead people from the canal to the town, and there is a need to create a sense of place and identify selling points for Stonehouse. CCC are arranging activities in the near future that will bring people together along the canal corridor and to help make this happen. There will be carnivals, boat trips, heritage days, walks, talks and art projects - whatever 'Floats your Boat' for all to enjoy! Hundreds of volunteer opportunities are also on offer - creating "clear pathways for people to gain skills, grow in confidence, become less isolated and for the unemployed or young to navigate their way into meaningful work".

### Selling Stonehouse

In a recent interview on BBC Radio Gloucestershire, Jim White, Chairman of Cotswold Canals Trust discusses the canal restoration work: "It will be up to both Stroud and Stonehouse Town Councils to sell themselves as canal destinations once more" he says, and "The Councils have got to put the attractions in and say 'Yes please come'. There should be places (for visitors) to put their boat, have a coffee or an overnight sleep at a hotel." The Trust is actively fundraising for the remaining £1.2 million needed to complete the canal project, and is looking for more volunteers.

A wharf at the Ship Inn site will mean that canal users will be encouraged to stop and visit the businesses in our award-winning town in bloom, rather than remaining oblivious and passing us by on their way to Stroud or Saul.

### ShIPS website launched

ShIPS new website at [shipsgroup.co.uk](http://shipsgroup.co.uk) pulls together all the group's research and insights gathered over the last two years. It will be updated as news comes in, so it's a good way to keep up to date with what's going on. To contribute your ideas or to come onboard with ShIPS, contact [info@shipsgroup.co.uk](mailto:info@shipsgroup.co.uk)

## The Royal British Legion

This year marks the 100th year that this country has gathered at The Cenotaph, in London's Whitehall, to commemorate and pay homage to our War Dead. Ceremonies have taken place annually at Memorials, places of worship, and many other places across the country.

Due to the current restrictions a decision had to be made whether, or not, any form of parade could take place. We were unable to have the presence of Cadet Forces, but I'm sure they would have marked the occasion in an alternative way. The event itself followed Government guidelines, and was focused more on the two-minute's silence and the laying of wreaths. With some minor changes to how the event was going to run, Remembrance Sunday (8th November) 2020 happened. Stonehouse did not fail to mark the occasion.

It was a shortened ceremony, with prayers and blessings given by the Reverend Dave Bishop on behalf of Churches Together

in Stonehouse. The Exhortation and Kohima Epitaph was read by Col Wes Thomas (Retired), whom is our Branch President. We were very fortunate to have Siobhan Baillie MP present, alongside the Chairman of Stroud District Council, Gary Powell, Stonehouse Mayor, Neil Gibbs and Ward Councillors Mattie Ross and Chris Brine. Also present was the Headmaster of Wycliffe College, Nick Gregory and Officer I/c Wycliffe Combined Cadet Force, (Major) Matt Archer.

The Royal British Legion (RBL) is extremely grateful to all those that gave their free time, support, and best wishes to the commemorative event. Of those, the Branch would like to thank Deacon Sue Peat and the Reverend Dave Bishop for conducting the Service, and for it's 'Live Stream' to St Cyr's Church, to Rosie Taylor for the Last Post and Reveille. My personal Thanks to The Salvation Army, Stroud (under the Guidance of Teresa Conway) for the provision of their sound system. We should not forget the general public, whom in good number put up with the weather to stand with us, in silence. THANK YOU.



The Stonehouse Branch of The RBL is actively recruiting members that have served, together with their spouses/partners and family members 18years+ (and would welcome youth affiliation too). Although no Face to Face meeting are currently allowed due to Covid-19 restrictions and the vulnerability of many of our older members, the branch would normally meet once every two months, for approximately one hour. We would like to encourage veterans currently not within a branch, to consider joining us. Membership is an online process, [RBL.membership.org](http://RBL.membership.org) with our Branch number of BR3078 For further information, contact: David Thorpe MCPara Branch Secretary, Stonehouse Branch 07411268017 email: [stonehouse.secretary@rbl.community](mailto:stonehouse.secretary@rbl.community)

## Community Litter Picks

Although the May litter pick was cancelled the stalwart team of community litter pickers are now back looking after our town and trying to keep it a litter free zone. It has been sad not to be able to meet up afterwards for tea, cake and a chat but it is wonderful to still have so many local people, including families, willing to attend these bimonthly picks. We were delighted to welcome three new residents on our last pick, and are always glad to see new faces. Look out for Litter Pick dates for 2021 in due course.





## Autumn colour in the new Stonehouse Library

This season you will find the library a glow with colourful books and stories that will keep you warm and cosy as the nights draw in.

Since August Stonehouse Library has been welcoming customers in to the newly refurbished space. We have had over 850 customers, 1700+ books loaned and lots of new joiners. We have been inundated with positive feedback about the new library and our completely new stock... *"We have missed the library, and coming back to this new one is a bonus"*  
*"Oh wow, this is lovely."*  
*"It's brilliant to have a new High Street presence; this will help revive the High Street."*  
*"The stock all looks new, I'm so excited."*  
*"I didn't even know there was a library in Stonehouse before, this is a much better place for it."*  
*"I came into the library to find out how you could possibly support our families Home Edding, amazed to find out I can order LSE home education boxes. Amazing service"*  
*"It looks great, love that you've kept some of the original features"*  
*"Feels like Stonehouse isn't forgotten anymore"*  
*"It all looks so clean and new, much easier to get to now"*



Normal opening times (outside of lockdown) are Monday 10 - 1, Wednesday 11 - 1 & 2 - 5, Thursday 2 - 5 and Friday 10 - 1 and our new telephone number is 01452 583737.

Standard track and trace and social distance measures will be in place. There is a customer PC available but booking ahead is advisable. Staff are on hand to give you a warm welcome. We look forward to seeing you on in our High Street Library soon.

## Stroudwater Station

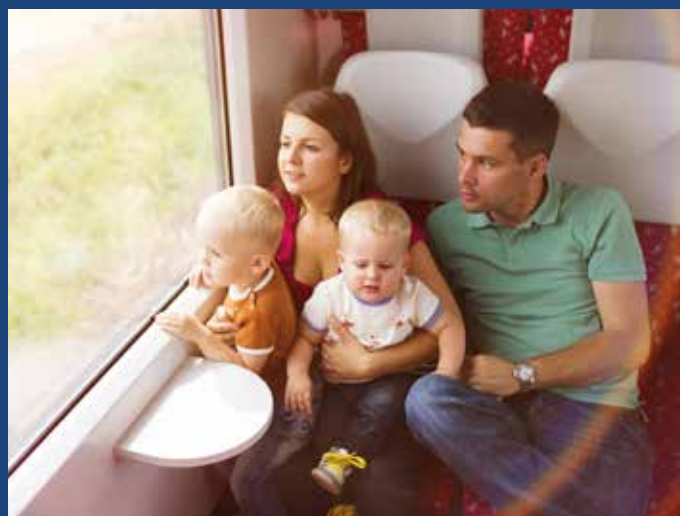
A railway station in Stonehouse with a direct link to Bristol - is it a pipe dream or can it be reality?

The station would provide a much-needed direct public transport link to Bristol from the Stonehouse and the Stroud Valleys for work, education and leisure. By providing a convenient alternative to the private car, it would ease traffic congestion and the associated air pollution as well as enabling people who don't have access to a car to reach the regional capital. It really would be a win, win!

The campaign to open Stroudwater Station on the site of the old Bristol Road Station continues, building on work that has been done over many years. Recently, we have had some good publicity, with coverage by local papers, on-line sources, radio and, most recently, television, with BBC's Points West broadcasting from the station site.

We have support from our MP, Siobhan Baillie, Stroud District Council, eight local parishes, local businesses such as Stonehouse Court Hotel and Ecotricity, and over 1000 people who have signed our petition. The Department of Transport's 'Restoring our Railways Fund' identified our bid as having potential and are helping us develop the project. At the time of writing, we are about to have a meeting with Network Rail to get advice on our next steps.

We still have to convince Gloucestershire County Council, so if you haven't already done so, please sign the petition via the link below. With increased awareness of the climate emergency and the need for sustainable transport, now is the time we can make it happen.



Sign the petition here

<https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?id=68>



## Climate, trees and green spaces in Stonehouse

The Stonehouse Community Climate Action Forum (SCCAF) has gone from strength to strength and is now a group of more than a dozen residents and Councillors, supported by Town Council staff. We meet regularly to discuss a wide range of climate-related issues and all of our recent and planned activities are recorded on the Climate Action Plan, which can be found on the Town Council website under the 'Our Projects' tab. One of the initiatives developed by the SCCAF was the biodiversity areas at Oldends Lane, Laburnum Walk and Meadow Road. These were well-received by residents and wildlife alike and have just received their final cut of the season, although some sections will be retained as winter habitat. Similar areas will be marked out and signposted next spring and hopefully will be even more successful.

The biodiversity work in Stonehouse was also recently mentioned on BBC Radio Gloucestershire, when SCCAF Chair Councillor John Parker was interviewed about the work which is going on with trees and green spaces in the town. If you would be interested to join the group or learn more about their work then please contact the Town Council.

The Stonehouse Community Arboretum project is progressing well and has received lots of interest. Fifteen trees of a variety of species were planted around the town by the Council in the 2019/20 tree planting season, and around thirty are set to be planted in the next few months, almost all of which will be paid for by external funding grants. Some of these will be planted in the grounds of Park Junior School which won a prize of funding from the Tree Council.

The Stonehouse Tree & Woodland Strategy is also in production and will be going out to consultation in early 2021. One of the key aims of the Stonehouse Community Arboretum is to bring

together residents, businesses, the Council and all interested parties in the town, and anyone keen to find out more should get in contact with the Council.

If you are interested in the trees of our area then you might also like to take a look at Councillor Parker's recent presentation for the Stonehouse History Group, entitled 'The history and importance of trees in Stonehouse', which is available on YouTube. This event was hosted by the Arboricultural Association, who you might have seen around the town recently as they have been using some of the trees around Stonehouse for training purposes.

The COVID-19 crisis has proven more than ever the importance of well-maintained and accessible public green space, and the Town Council is committed to ensuring all of our community will continue to benefit from these important areas.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

DON'T LOSE IT



## Looking ahead to the 2021 elections

Following the postponement of the 2020 Elections due to Covid-19 we would like to provide you with a brief update as we start to look ahead to Thursday 6th May 2021.

Planning is already underway and we would like to reassure you that our highest priority is the safety of our staff and our electorate. We are currently undertaking initial work with regard to all aspects of our Polling Stations.

## An opportunity to get involved

In anticipation of a possible shortfall in our usual Polling Station staffing levels, coupled with the need to be able to offer short notice cover for last minute cases of self-isolation we would very much like to add new staff to our Team.

If you think you would enjoy the experience of being right at the heart of the democratic process and would like to find out more about the role and rates of pay, please get in touch direct via email: [elections@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:elections@stroud.gov.uk)

All applicants must be over 18, not a member of a political party, eligible to work in the UK and available for the whole day and evening of Thursday 6th May 2021.







# STONEHOUSE THANK YOU RAINBOW September 2020

Join the community thank you to NHS and other  
frontline workers during the Coronavirus crisis

Stonehouse was awash with rainbows in September as residents and businesses showed their appreciation for NHS staff and other key workers during the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Town Council encouraged residents, businesses, schools, churches and community groups to join in creating a continuous chain of rainbow colours throughout the town.

Town Mayor, Councillor Neil Gibbs, said: "With lots of our traditional events being cancelled this year including Stonehouse in Bloom and Christmas Goodwill, we wanted to create a simple initiative that everyone could join in with while, at the same time, showing our appreciation, as a community, to all frontline staff who have worked so tirelessly throughout the last 6 months. "The High Street looked very cheerful and there were lots of colourful paper chains, flowers, bunting and flags in homes too."

## The Library

"The High Street looked very cheerful and there were lots of colourful paper chains, flowers, bunting and flags in homes too."



## A419 'Improvements' update

As the traffic returns to more normal numbers, many of you will have noticed the changes that have recently been made to the A419 from Horsetrough roundabout to the M5. These changes were made by GCC Highways with the aim of reducing the journey time to and from the M5 by less than 1 minute, twice a day, in the rush hours. The cost of this change was justified over a 60 year period!

Stonehouse Town Council and residents raised concerns during the consultations carried out in 2017 that the alterations to the Horsetrough roundabout, the siting of pedestrian crossings at Bonds Mill and Great Oldbury, the removal of the cycle crossing at Downton lights and the merging of traffic post roundabout and traffic lights would cause accidents, increase of speed and noise and would overall be detrimental to Stonehouse.

Some of you will have noted that the arrows onto the Horsetrough roundabout now show two lanes going straight on. GCC Highways says that this is now recommended, as continental drivers may see a right arrow and navigate the roundabout the wrong way! As it stands, there have been many cases of near misses as traffic tries to negotiate the narrowing of egress off the roundabout.

In August, a cycle and pedestrian protest and fact finding was held on the stretch of road between Horsetrough and Bonds Mill. The attendees used the road and the cycle path to negotiate this small stretch of road. Please see some of the comments received.

"Horsetrough Roundabout feeder road is so dangerous for cyclists coming from Ebley/Stonehouse. Near misses even in a visible group. Not practical to use all the pedestrian road crossings - No space on islands and would take ages!"  
"The cycle path from Horsetrough Roundabout to Bonds Mill has 7 road crossings over 1/2 Mile. Provision for a cycle lane on the road could possibly be safer"  
"Feeder lane on the Horsetrough Roundabout is madness. Hostile for any cyclists cycling towards Upper Mills Estate. At the very least the lane should be 20 mph. No provision for cyclists or pedestrians at all. Madness."  
"Ridiculous scheme- really dangerous for bikes- traffic is far in excess of 40 mph which is far too fast in a home area. We live here."

# Resident's Letter

NEW

from Marcus Dixon



A complaint has been made about the validity of the Safety Report commissioned by GCC, and has been supported by Stonehouse Town Council, Stroud Valleys Cycle Campaign and the local Stroud Active group.

A meeting was organised In October by Lesley Williams between Gloucestershire Highways, Stonehouse Town Council and local protesters. This meeting was held to discuss the new proposal for the Horsetrough Roundabout and the issues at Downton Lights junction. Gloucestershire Highways have agreed to consider further design improvements.

If you would like to comment on this development, please could you write to Gloucestershire Highways - [majorprojects@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:majorprojects@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

Or if the Downton Lights Junction noise and accidents are of concern, please make the Town Council aware.

Marcus Dixon

Please Note: Views and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of Stonehouse Town Council



# stonehouse town council information

## Contact us

Stonehouse Town Council  
Town Hall  
High Street  
Stonehouse  
GL10 2NG  
T: 01453 822070

**Coronavirus  
HELPLINE**  
**01453 822070**  
**9:30am-3:30pm Mon-Fri**

Town Clerk: Carlos Novoth  
E: [townclerk@stonehousetowncouncil.com](mailto:townclerk@stonehousetowncouncil.com)  
Deputy Clerk: Rachel Russell  
E: [deputyclerk@stonehousetowncouncil.com](mailto:deputyclerk@stonehousetowncouncil.com)  
Customer Services:  
E: [customerservices@stonehousetowncouncil.com](mailto:customerservices@stonehousetowncouncil.com)  
Facilities & Communications Co-ordinator: Jayne Bailey  
E: [comms@stonehousetowncouncil.com](mailto:comms@stonehousetowncouncil.com)

Visit [stonehousetowncouncil.com](http://stonehousetowncouncil.com)  
Facebook - Stonehouse Town Council  
Twitter @StonehouseTC

**Opening hours (subject to change due to Covid-19)**  
At time of going to press please only contact the Council Office  
via phone/email Mon-Fri (except Wed) 9:30-3:30.  
Check our website for up-to-date information.

## Forthcoming meetings

**FULL TOWN COUNCIL** - 16th November  
**BUSINESS COMMITTEE** - 30th November  
**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** - 7th December  
**FULL TOWN COUNCIL** - 14th December

Council committee meetings will continue to be held virtually until further notice. To attend a meeting, email the Town Clerk at [townclerk@stonehousetowncouncil.com](mailto:townclerk@stonehousetowncouncil.com) or phone 01453 822070 no later than 6pm on the day of the meeting. Agendas and Minutes are published on the council's website [www.stonehousetowncouncil.com](http://www.stonehousetowncouncil.com)

### **NOTICE OF VACANCY IN OFFICE OF COUNCILLOR TOWN OF STONEHOUSE - NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**

Pursuant to Section 87(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, following a resignation by Town Councillor Mrs Julia Gwen Atkinson from the above named Parish/Town Council, a vacancy now exists in the office of Councillor for the Stonehouse Town Council in the ward of Stonehouse. In accordance with Section 89(3) of the Local Government Act 1972, where vacancies occur within six months before the day on which the councillor whose office is vacant would regularly have been retired, an election shall not be held under Section 89(1) of the above Act, and the vacancy will be filled at the next ordinary election of councillors on Thursday 6 May 2021 (the Coronavirus Act 2020 postponed the elections due to be held on Thursday 7 May 2020). The Council may choose to fill the vacancies by co-option for the period until that election. For further information, please contact the parish clerk.

**Dated 18 November 2020.**

**Signed Carlos Novoth - Clerk to the Parish Council of Stonehouse**

## Your Councillors

### Town Councillors - [stonehousetowncouncil.com](http://stonehousetowncouncil.com)

#### Stonehouse Ward

Leigh Binns	07794 205085
Deborah Curtis	01453 825965
Michael Davis	01453 350689
Neil Gibbs (Chair)	01453 828430
Tim Jackson	01453 827058
Carol Kambites (Vice Chair)	01453 827929
John Parker	07971 797782
Kevin Parsons	07723 307165
Sally Pickering	01453 824654
Jennie Smith	07557 963491
Pam Swain	01453 822998
David Thorpe	01453 821387
Theresa Watt	01453 821428

Town Councillors can be contacted via email using Councillor then their surname eg. [councillorgibbs@stonehousetowncouncil.com](mailto:councillorgibbs@stonehousetowncouncil.com)

### District Councillors - [stroud.gov.uk](http://stroud.gov.uk)

Chris Brine	01453 825917
<a href="mailto:cllr.chris.brine@stroud.gov.uk">cllr.chris.brine@stroud.gov.uk</a>	
Gary Powell	01453 826527
<a href="mailto:cllr.gary.powell@stroud.gov.uk">cllr.gary.powell@stroud.gov.uk</a>	
Mrs. Mattie Ross	01453 826587
<a href="mailto:cllr.mattie.ross@stroud.gov.uk">cllr.mattie.ross@stroud.gov.uk</a>	

### County Councillor - [gloucestershire.gov.uk](http://gloucestershire.gov.uk)

Lesley Williams	01453 791277
<a href="mailto:lesley.williams@gloucestershire.gov.uk">lesley.williams@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a>	

### Member of Parliament - [parliament.uk](http://parliament.uk)

Siobhan Baillie	020 7219 3000
<a href="mailto:siobhan.baillie.mp@parliament.uk">siobhan.baillie.mp@parliament.uk</a>	

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