

Brought to you by  
Stonehouse Town Council

# stonehouse news



ISSUE 47 AUTUMN 2021

Coronavirus  
**HELPLINE**  
01453  
822070

**SHOP**  
STONEHOUSE

## Gold for In Bloom

Community and school news,  
volunteers needed for local groups

**Goodwill Fest**  
Successful Walkfest  
& Big Green Week

**Town Council Survey** (pg 14)  
Remembrance Services



# welcome

The town has been busy... With a successful Walkfest, SCCAF have been raising local awareness around how we can contribute positively to the environment as part of Big Green Week. Goodwill Fest is going ahead on the 4th December and will be an 'outdoor only event' with more street entertainment, stalls and a procession. Look out for the Shop Stonehouse Goodwill Fest Bags! Local groups are on the look out for volunteers, so if you can spare a few hours they would really appreciate it and Remembrance Services (but no parade) are also planned. Please support your community safely and send us your news for Issue 48.

The Stonehouse News Team



**STONEHOUSE**  
**TOWN COUNCIL**

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

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

The team will be out and about in the town over the winter months – planting bulbs and seasonal bedding to keep the town looking colourful. They will also be cracking on with plans for next year. Stop and say hello when you see them and if you'd like to become a SIB volunteer, chat to the team or get in touch via the town council – all welcome!

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic meant that the judges weren't able to visit in person this summer but SIB volunteers were determined to prepare the town as normal, and a 30-page portfolio covering all the group's activities over the past 18 months was prepared and sent in for assessment.

This included detailed photographic evidence of all the work done by Stonehouse Town Council and a report documenting the Old Chapel Garden Project, which began in January 2019 and officially opened at a ceremony on September 18th.



Stonehouse in Bloom Chair Pam Swain said the strength of community spirit in Stonehouse was a key element in winning the award and the whole town should be proud of this wonderful achievement. "This has been a real team effort and shows what can be accomplished in difficult times when people work together towards a common goal," she said. "We are immensely grateful to Stonehouse Town Council for its continued support and to all the many community groups, businesses, and individual residents in Stonehouse who have supported our efforts – especially those who volunteer their time to help us with watering, litter picking, and keeping the displays looking their very best. We look forward to next year when we hope to be able to welcome the judges in person once again."

## Gold again for Stonehouse in Bloom



Stonehouse in Bloom has been awarded a Gold by the Heart of England in Bloom judges this year, who also rated the newly completed Old Chapel Garden 'Outstanding' in the separate 'It's Your Neighbourhood' Competition.



## Celebrating The Willow's 100th Birthday

A rousing rendition of Happy Birthday to the Stonehouse Willow kicked off celebrations in the town on the 3rd October.

The Willow was pollarded by Bartlett Tree Experts and children were given a cutting, pot and some compost to grow it on at home. They also received a party bag which contained eco-friendly gifts and a slice of a specially-made Birthday cake.

Visitors were entertained by two jugglers riding unicycles and music provided by a local ukele band with refreshments served by Stonehouse in Bloom volunteers. There were also stalls where visitors could learn about the work of the local Gardening Club, Women's Institute and the Stonehouse Community Climate Action Forum. Stonehouse History Group provided a display telling the story of the Willow, from when it was planted to the current day. Descendants of the Town Councillor responsible for the planting of the willow a century ago, also came along.

A 'living forest' was also on display, of 25 new trees that will be planted by the Town Council at various locations around the town. An Atlas Cedar was planted on The Green in front of The Globe pub by John Parker from the Arboricultural Association, who also led a 'tree walk' around the town.

## Mayor's Column



It's certainly been a very busy three months with In Bloom winning a national award, the official opening of the Old Chapel Garden, the Willow Tree Birthday event and consultations on youth provision and the future of the former SHIP Inn site.

You will see that we are looking for your views about how the Town Council communicates with residents currently and how you would like to receive news about what is going on in the town in future (see pg 14).

We are still living with Covid, and have decided to scale back this year's Goodwill celebration with a shorter event on Saturday 4th December. We hope that our more 'outdoor' event will be well supported by local residents, with more family entertainment. It will start at 2pm with the lights being switched on by Father Christmas at 5pm. Stonehouse Rotary and the Town Council are working together to plan routes for the Christmas Float around Stonehouse on 9th and 10th December. Please look out for more details nearer the time.

While Full Town Council meetings are still being held at Park Junior School, our Business and Environment Committee meetings are now held in the Library, and residents are welcome to come along, ask questions and listen to debates. The meeting timetable is on our website. We have welcomed some external members of the public to our working groups and thank them for their involvement. If you are interested in finding out more, see our website [stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk/how-it-works/](http://stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk/how-it-works/) and get in touch. We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and we look forward to seeing you at Goodwill.

Kind regards,

**Cllr Gary Powell**  
Mayor of Stonehouse

The Stonehouse Community Arboretum Management Plan is a document that sets out the Council's ambitious plans to increase and diversify the town's tree stock. It also shows how the town will look after the trees we already have in the town, and at Doverow Wood have matured. The plan is available to view at [stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk/our-projects/stonehouse-community-arboretum/](http://stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk/our-projects/stonehouse-community-arboretum/)





# Supporting the community

## Home-Start volunteers needed



Do you have 2/3 hours a week spare and would like to help support families experiencing a difficult time in their lives? For further information please see our website: [homestartsd.org/](http://homestartsd.org/) volunteering or email [enquiries@homestartsd.org](mailto:enquiries@homestartsd.org) or call 01453 297470.

Our new antenatal and postnatal groups, as well as our perinatal drop in groups have also restarted. For further information please see our website: [homestartsd.org](http://homestartsd.org) or email: [groups@homestartsd.org](mailto:groups@homestartsd.org) or call 01453 821085.



## Supporting our Community

After a busy Summer the volunteer team at APT are now getting ready for Christmas!



August saw us providing children's picnic bags each week with different activities. These included, craft sessions; a nature walk, our usual town trail and a pebble painting session. On August 14th we held our annual Family Fun Day on the Three Greens in the Park Estate. In September we were able to organise a coach trip to Barry Island again, with 51 local residents joining us for an amazing day by the sea and the feeling from everyone was 'we should do it again next year'!



We also provided an activity stall at the 'Willow Tree' Birthday Party on the Town Green. We organised the children's picnic/craft bags again for the October half term and will look to do the same during the Christmas holidays. The team hope to be able to join in with the town's Goodwill Fest and provide a stall of Christmas goodies and children's activities.

APT continues to provide food supplies for the Community on a Monday and a Thursday, and we are still open for the MD Building Company display on Tuesday mornings. We also have an advisor from GL Communities visit us on a Tuesday morning who supports clients with financial advice. Contact APT on 01453 822705 to make an appointment. Although other support organisations are not back in the office yet, we can still contact them for you and put you in touch with the support you require.

can be a great and safe option for someone who misses having other people in their home.

The Householder benefits from low-level support and company at home, whilst the Homesharer is offered not just a place to live, but a real home.

Ann, one of our Householder, says: "I was always on edge before getting my Homesharer. I'm feeling much more secure and comfortable since my Homesharer has moved in". She is now on her second Homesharer, Sophie, and is enjoying not just her company, but also that of her dog, Prince! This is often an extra benefit for Householders who are fond of pets, but can no longer look after them.

Although traditionally the model matches older people with students, in Gloucestershire we're much more diverse! We've arranged several matches where the Homesharers are more mature people, who are themselves looking for affordable accommodation and companionship. In fact, our oldest Homesharer is 76 and he is loving it!



For more information please contact Ramona Amuza, Homeshare Manager, on 07760 419260 or email [homeshare@ageukgloucestershire.org](mailto:homeshare@ageukgloucestershire.org) or go to [ageuk.org.uk/gloucestershire/our-services/homesharing](http://ageuk.org.uk/gloucestershire/our-services/homesharing)

## Smart Meters

**citizens advice**

Smart Meters are being talked about a great deal these days and many people are having telephone calls to encourage them to have one in place of their old meters.

If you would like to know more about Smart Meters and the in-home display unit and find out what assistance they might be - perhaps as a way to help monitor your use of electricity and gas and possibly save you some money - then contact Citizens Advice on Freephone 0800 800 0510/ 0800 800 0511.

As well as providing smart meter information, we can also discuss any other energy questions or concerns you may have. Please note that eligibility of Smart Meters may vary and savings require consumer action.

## We've moved!

It has been a busy time of lifting and moving, but we have finally moved offices. We now have extra space, meaning both Erica and Abbie have separate offices for supporting clients. We also have our main meeting/training/support room, as well as another support/craft room downstairs. This means we have more space to offer support on site and to develop our volunteer training.



Our new address is The Cygnet, Bonds Mill, Stonehouse, GL10 3RF and a lovely family of Swans were there today to welcome us to our new home! A huge thank you to MBE for putting in all our cabling for us. As always your support is greatly appreciated. General enquiries: [info@sunflowerssuicidesupport.org.uk](mailto:info@sunflowerssuicidesupport.org.uk) Main Office: 01453 826990 Office Mobile: 07542 527888 [sunflowerssuicidesupport.org.uk](http://sunflowerssuicidesupport.org.uk)



Homeshare Gloucestershire is part of Age UK Gloucestershire.

Homeshare brings together older people who have spare rooms, with people who need affordable accommodation and who are happy to chat and lend a hand. Homeshare





## Supporting adults with learning disabilities



Hft is a national charity that creatively supports adults with learning disabilities, across England and Wales, to live the best life possible. We support over 2,200 people with learning disabilities and have particular experience in supporting people with autism, and challenging behaviour, and employ over 3,100

staff. Our services range from residential care to supporting people to live in their own homes – from a few hours a week to 24 hours a day. We also help people with learning disabilities to take part in daily activities, make friends and develop relationships, and to find work. Our Ryeford Court service also provides support for people with learning disabilities who have developed dementia.

Our person-centred approach supports people to take control of their lives. We work closely with the people we support, their families and carers, and health professionals to deliver services that are personalised to individual needs. Our support workers empower the people we support to make their own choices about how they live, using our innovative Fusion model of support to keep people at the centre of everything we do.

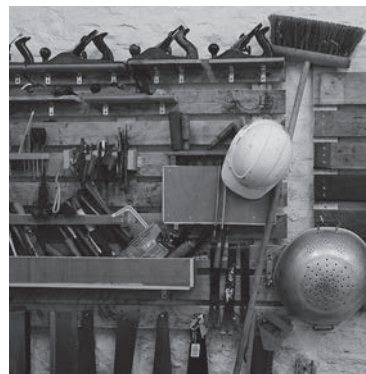
We are currently recruiting for staff within the Stonehouse community. Please find out more at [hft.org.uk](http://hft.org.uk) or call 01453 820940.

## Community Advice, Links & Mental Health Support Service (CALMHS)



We're here to support people who are experiencing moderate to severe Mental Ill Health. The service can be tailored to help support you to build on your strengths and to make a positive change. You can achieve this through; one-to-one support from a Bridge Builder worker, to identify what will help, and how to access it. You will have an individual plan, and the Bridge Builder will work with you for up to six months (this can be extended on an individual basis). The plan concentrates on your strengths and explores a range of options and opportunities to support your recovery and social inclusion. This may include support to access or re-engage in volunteering, further education, faith, cultural and social groups, sport and leisure activities as well as groups in your local community linked to your hobbies and interests. We can work flexibly with you including evenings and weekends. We are lucky enough to have our own Wellbeing garden as well as Men's Shed for more information visit our website [independencetrust.co.uk](http://independencetrust.co.uk)

For information about this and our other services (Community Autism Support & Advice (CASA), Peer Training, Community Wellbeing Service – Stroud and Berkeley Vale) within Independence Trust, please visit our website [independencetrust.co.uk](http://independencetrust.co.uk) or call 0345 8638323.



## The Fig Tree opens

The Fig Tree opened mid July on the High Street to offer a range of activities for the town. Regular sessions include Goldfish Parent and Toddlers, Family Craft sessions, a New Babies group and Saturday morning session for Dads and Children, as well as Meeting Space - for those for whom English is not their first language. Through the school holidays we had Story Dens running too.

New in September we have added Front Room, which gives the opportunity to meet other people whilst sharing your interests - so bring along you drawing, painting, knitting, mending... or just come along for a drink and chat. Replenish, a new evening session starts soon, aims to encourage and support our wonderful nurses. There's a group for those with dementia and their carers in the early planning stages.

All our sessions are free. There are significant costs to cover rent etc., so we sell greetings cards to enable us to do this. All profits from card sales fund our community space activities.

We have a fantastic team of volunteers leading activities and selling cards who make all this possible. We are passionate about making our town a safe and happy place; where we support one another; where we all feel accepted and know we belong; where we and our children can thrive. The name 'Fig Tree' was chosen because in the Bible fig trees are a sign of plenty and fruitfulness - what we hope to be in this community.

More sessions will be added in time, so follow us on Facebook or via our website [stonehousetfigtree.org](http://stonehousetfigtree.org). Thank you for your support and we hope to see you at The Fig Tree.

## Stonehouse Rotary Community Grant Awards

Deadline 10th November 2021

SMALL GRANTS. BIG DIFFERENCE



A small grant can make all the difference! We have been greatly encouraged by the way that small injections of cash can make a real and lasting difference to the running of community organisations.

Go to [bit.ly/3C1kHCr](https://bit.ly/3C1kHCr) for more information and to apply. Closing Date for Applications is 10th November 2021.

## Faith groups

### St Cyr's in partnership with Churches Together



We are pleased to be a part of the wonderful community here in Stonehouse, and contributing to the many events taking place, including the forthcoming Service of Remembrance in November.

Advent & Christmas is a season of joy and hope, and in partnership with other local churches we look forward to sharing this special time with you. In addition to the services listed below we are participating in the 'Sheep Trail - Knitvity' throughout December.

#### Christmas Services:

Friday 17th December 7pm - Carol Singing (Great Oldbury)  
Saturday 18th December 11am - Carol Singing with Churches Together (Cenotaph, Stonehouse) 4pm - Modern Carol Service (Standish Church)

Sunday 19th December 4pm - Traditional Carol Service by candlelight (Haresfield Church or Haresfield School)

Monday 20th December 7pm - Blue Christmas Service of Remembrance in conjunction with local funeral directors (St Cyr's Church Stonehouse)

Christmas Eve 2pm - Crib and Carol Service (St Cyr's Church, Stonehouse) 6pm - Christingle 11pm - Midnight Mass (Eastington Church)

Christmas Day 9.30am - Communion Service (Standish Church)

Please follow our Facebook pages for more information as it becomes available.



Bethel Church Stonehouse

Bethel Church have been running an Alpha Course which ends on the 2nd November. We continue to host Phonics Groups for children and have a Coffee Morning on the 2nd Thursday of month. Our Men's Breakfast is the 3rd Friday of the month at Highfields along with an Open Prayer Meeting at church. We shall be joining Churches Together for Christmas Carols in Oldbury Estate on the 17th December and Stonehouse on the 18th December (on The Green). Bethel's Christmas Carols will be in church on 19th December with Afternoon Tea beforehand starting at 4pm. Everyone's welcome so please come and join us.

Our Sunday Service is at 10.30am and everyone is very welcome. We also operate a Sunday School. We are planning lots of exciting things for 2022, including a Youth Group, Ladies Group.

For up-to-date information please go to our Facebook page: Bethel Church Stonehouse





# Community news & groups

## Stonehouse WI

The Coronavirus did knock our plans off course for 18 months, but we are pleased to say that we are back and are meeting as normal for the rest of the year and beyond!

We warmly welcome you to join us at our meetings (first time will be free), on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in The Community Centre, Stonehouse. On top of hearing some really interesting speakers and having the opportunity to take part in events and workshops, the membership covers lots of benefits and the very best one is that you will make friends you don't even know yet.

Stonehouse WI was formed in 1968 and consists of a very friendly bunch of ladies who enjoy a lively and varied programme of speakers and activities. We will help you understand the way we work and guide you through the technical jargon and you'll soon find that Jam & Jerusalem are definitely not what we are about!

Here are our plans for the last quarter of 2021:

**17th November** - Our AGM followed by a talk from Chloe Turner from Community Action against single use plastic;

**15th December** - We hold a bring-and-share meal for our Christmas social meeting.



## Remembrance Services



**Thursday 11th November**

Short service of commemoration commencing at 10:45 am on the Memorial Green, and including reading the roll-call of names on the Memorial, with a Two-Minute Silence at 11:00am

**Remembrance Sunday 14th November**

There will NOT BE a marching element, nor a 'march past' again this year due to circumstances beyond our control. Contingents and spectators are requested to form up/gather at 11:50am around the Memorial Green. The service will commence at 12noon. The service will include a One-Minute Silence and the laying of commemoration wreaths at the memorial.

Please be considerate of others, during the on-going pandemic.

## Football Club

Stonehouse Town Football Club have started the new season with four adult teams and five youth teams enjoying a return to normality on the football pitch with games coming thick and fast.

Work is continuing to improve the main ground with additional facilities being installed and completed to make the players and supporters experience more enjoyable.



The youth teams have had an influx of over 30 new players and are now looking for additional coaches to start up additional teams in the u7 and u8 age groups. New players and coaches are always welcome, any parent/carer or local coach interested please email [youthsecretary@stonehousetownfc.co.uk](mailto:youthsecretary@stonehousetownfc.co.uk) for more information. The Youth teams have been lucky enough to get some local businesses to sponsor new kits for the coming season, special thanks to Stonehouse Exhaust & MOT Centre and Stonehouse Holistic. Come down and show your support for local children on a Saturday morning at the Oldends Lane Playing Fields.

Adult teams are now playing some midweek fixtures under floodlights, so please check our website [stonehousetownfc.co.uk](http://stonehousetownfc.co.uk) and social media pages for fixtures and updates. Season tickets are available for all 1st Team home games, we look forward to seeing you at Oldends Lane soon!

### R&B ODJOBS

Indoor/outdoor handyman

Painting, decorating, tiling, kitchen fitting, patios, fencing  
gardening, grass cutting, hedge cutting

**Ring Richard Twinning on**

(01453) 822 503 or 07 968 400 310

email: [Rnb93@btinternet.com](mailto:Rnb93@btinternet.com)

## History Group

**Milestone on Bristol Road**

Last summer the old milestone was moved a short distance to the end of the cul de sac on Bristol Road (closer to its original location). We worked on creating a replica of the 18th century cast iron plate which has been missing for some years. We researched the font and wording to get as close to the original as possible. The new plate was carefully painted in the original colours by Rich White. Fixing the stone was no easy task since the surface of the stone had to be made flat. One of the old bolts was still in place so it had to be removed before the new fixings could be attached. Stonehouse History Group members Rich White and Jim Dickson have done a fine job.

**Calendars and Journals**

Our 2022 calendar is out now, featuring colourised versions of historic photos of Stonehouse. It costs £4 and can be obtained from the Town Council office, the Curiosity Shop in Queen's Road, Whole Hearted in High Street, or by contacting us via our website. Our latest Journal, Issue 9 (April 2021), is available for sale at £6, along with issues of all our past Journals.



**Meetings**

We have resumed our programme of face-to-face meetings at Park Junior School Hall. New members are always welcome or just turn up to any meeting. See our website [stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk](http://stonehousehistorygroup.org.uk) for details.

## Stonehouse Walking Festival



After a successful festival in 2019 and an enforced cancellation due to Covid last year, the second Stonehouse Walking Festival took place from Friday 10th to Sunday 19th September, funded by Gloucestershire County Council's 'Growing Our Communities' fund.

We provided a wide range of walks to suit all abilities (well apart from the super fit fell runner, perhaps), all beginning and ending in Stonehouse. We were able to use the opportunity to show off Stonehouse and all its different facets, with some special interest walks, including history walks, tree walks and an eco-walk. The longer walks showed the surrounding countryside and encompassed Woodchester Mansion, Selsey Common, Eastington and Painswick.

Particularly popular was the launch walk, which included a visit to our own vineyard and an opportunity to sample the wine produced by Woodchester wines.

If you didn't join us this year, look out for the third Stonehouse Walking Festival next year. If you would like to help with the organisation or to lead a walk, please get in touch via the Town Council or email Carol on [councillorkambites@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:councillorkambites@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk).





# Canal news

**Ocean Railway Bridge update & towpath closure**  
The work to replace the railway bridge at Ocean (near Stonehouse Court Hotel) will take place between 25-30 December by Network Rail on behalf of Cotswold Canals Connected. The current bridge with its narrow opening will be replaced with a new, wider bridge that will be large enough for boats to pass under – an essential part of the plan to make Stonehouse a canal town once again. For safety reasons the canal towpath from Ocean swing bridge to Bonds Mill will be closed from the 18th October - end of March 2022; there will be signs showing an alternative route. As it won't be possible to view the bridge being installed we will ensure regular photos and drone footage is taken and posted on the Cotswold Canals Connected website and social media pages. We appreciate that some of the work will be noisy and we'd like to thank the local community for their patience.

**A38 Roundabout award success**  
The new A38/A419 roundabout at Whitminster has won two prestigious awards at the Institute of Civil Engineers' South West Civil Engineering Awards. The innovative project, which restored a lost section of canal through the centre of the busy roundabout, includes two new bridges, a canal channel and a towpath under the bridge.

Would you like to volunteer with us? There are opportunities for everyone, including home-based work. For more information go to [cotswoldcanalsconnected.org](http://cotswoldcanalsconnected.org), Facebook, Instagram & Twitter.



## Boatmobility

We've had a smashing summer – really busy with lots of different groups. We were part of the SDC Family Fun Days, having a barbeque and taking families out for short trips in the Katakana or the Wheelyboat from Stonehouse Court. We have been working with Creative Sustainability and Cotswold Canals Connected on several projects to bring the canal to different groups. Our youngest guest has been four months old – one of the Mother and Baby group, have started meeting new mums in Stonehouse, just for coffee, chat and a boat trip. Young people from a Deaf Club were brave enough to have their first new outing in the strong drizzle. We have a number of young people with Autistic Spectrum issues and learning difficulties and from various support groups and clubs from all over the area, some as far as Malvern, who come to enjoy our lovely canal in Stonehouse.

If you haven't yet had the opportunity to get out on a boat with us, you would be most welcome. We do not charge and we have had some generous local donations. The Calor Gas Community Fund has contributed towards our new batteries. We currently need to replace many of our buoyancy aids and life jackets, as we've been going for 6 years and these items are time limited. We do need to fundraise and we have important plans for the future.

We have reinstated our regular Wednesday trips at 11am as well as our Monday trips at 11am and 1pm. If you are free in the week, we could do with some more strong paddlers who would enjoy taking out our guests. Come on down and join in the fun.

## Repair - Reuse - Recycle

2021 has been an interesting year for Share and Repair. Once the shop re-opened it was clear from the number of donations that people had been having a good clearout during lockdown! Sales helped us get started again until we got our repair operations up and running and we're pleased with the support and positive comments we've been getting from the community. The Town Council has been very helpful to us and we were thrilled to be able to build the three wooden planters, two with built in seats, that are now in place along the High Street. Word is spreading about what we do and we are now getting repairs in from a wide area. We've also been glad to recruit new volunteers who have helped us broaden our skills base. We recently managed to get an electric bike going again. Our new Hire Shop is now up and running and we have a variety of items which you can hire for just £5 per week. If you need a specific item or tool but don't particularly want to buy it, do pop in and see if we have it available for hire or give us a ring on 01453 827860.



# Business Directory



**Battery & strap service**  
Take your watch into the Sue Ryder shop in the High Street - we collect daily, return next day giving a donation to Sue Ryder for every watch.  
Most single battery watches £6.  
Most leather straps £7

**Shorts Boxing Academy**

Every Monday  
6pm-7pm - 11-16 Years  
7pm-8pm - 16+ and Adults

Build Confidence and Self Esteem!!  
Relieves Stress, Depression and Anxiety!!

Stroud News and Journal 2021 Gym of the Year Competition Winners

Douglas Morley Hall  
Elm Road  
Stonehouse  
GL10 2NP

[shortsboxingacademy@gmail.com](mailto:shortsboxingacademy@gmail.com)  
Join our facebook group: Shorts Boxing Academy  
07786 450 423

**SARTORIUS**

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**We're hiring at Sartorius, Sperry Way, Stonehouse**  
We are looking for reliable, hardworking and hands on **Production Assemblers** to work within small teams in our hygienic manufacturing department in Stonehouse, Gloucestershire. No experience is necessary, full training will be given.

**Permanent & Temporary roles available:**

- 40 hours per week
- Mon to Thurs 7:55am to 16:55pm, Fridays 7:55am to 13:55pm
- Great rates of pay (above minimum wage)
- Weekly pay
- Increased employer pension contributions
- Overtime available
- Onsite parking

Please call 01453 853582 or email [HR-Stonehouse@sartorius.com](mailto:HR-Stonehouse@sartorius.com) for more information

Interested? Learn more about Sartorius as an employer at [sartorius.com/career](http://sartorius.com/career)

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**Michael Gamble Funeral Directors**

Proudly serving the local community since 2008

Michael Gamble Funeral Directors are here to support and guide you.  
We offer a friendly, professional service to families.

**Stonehouse**  
**01453 802 685**  
50 High Street  
GL10 2NA

Call us for immediate support, advice or to arrange a home visit or to find out more about our prepaid funeral plans.  
We are here to help 24 hours a day.

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BASED IN STONEHOUSE • OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK • NVQ QUALIFIED • INSURED • GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE

**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 Every other week on a Thursday 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

Logos for various partner organizations including Stroud District Council, Stroud Youth WYE, and others.

Please support over 200 local businesses #shoplocal





# Education in Stonehouse

## Settling in at Stonehouse Park Infants



The children at Stonehouse Park Infants school have settled back extremely well after the Summer holidays. They are loving being in their new classes and we are enjoying having them back in school. We've been spending lots of time getting to know each other, as this year we have reorganised the classes. This means that the children have needed time to play together and find out who everyone is. We've been doing lots of creative activities, lots of active learning and have loved spending time in Forest school.

The best part about the start of the year is that there are no more bubbles! So, children from different classes and year groups have been able to gather together for play times, assemblies and, most importantly, lunchtimes. We've really enjoyed being able to get together as a whole school community- something we really missed last year! On the last week of term, we have the life bus coming to visit, where all the children will get to participate in an interactive experience, where they learn all about themselves and their bodies. It should be lots of fun!

Additionally, at the end of term some classes are performing their class assembly to their parents, to show off and demonstrate all they have achieved and learnt this term. We also have a Halloween Non-Uniform day on the last day of term (21st October), where children are invited to dress up in their own clothes or their spooky Halloween costumes.

## New Y3 Pupils at Park Junior School

Both pupils and teachers at Park Junior School are delighted that after eighteen months of Covid related restrictions, education is beginning to return to all its exciting and varied normality.

Every class has been on a trip to Redwood, something that could not have happened during the worst days of the pandemic. Redwood offers many outdoors opportunities and, whatever the weather, all the children enjoyed developing their abilities to read a map, take part in outdoor explorations and roast delicious marshmallows!

Some of those most inspired by the return to class are the school's newest members: Year 3 children from the Skylarks and Nightingales classes and six of them told me enthusiastically about the start of their education at the Junior School. All spoke of their sadness at leaving the infant school behind but their eyes lit up with enthusiasm as they described the more "grown-up" activities they are enjoying.

They love the navy-blue hoodies the school has adopted for PE and are proud of using pens instead of pencils now for writing.



They like the regular opportunities to use computers to develop their learning and told me there is definitely more work to do! However, that does not seem to be intimidating them: every one of them is enjoying learning about the Stone-age in history and I heard the outlines of some very imaginative stories set in space. They are enjoying the challenge of maths, love earning Dojo points in class and are certainly inspired to read more by the Accelerated Reader programme which aims to match books to child at the right reading level and involves lots of fun quizzes.

The children also like being trusted to take part in elections for Eco Councillors, Sports Councillors and School Councillors. They certainly approved of the formality of the voting slips and ballot-boxes and I could imagine the buzz of excitement on the Friday morning when the councillors were declared! I'm looking forward in the future to meeting more of the enthusiastic learners at Park Juniors! Hilary Heggie - School Governor

## It's all happening at Maidenhill...

Maidenhill School is buzzing with activity and excitement. Not all schools are fortunate enough to have a rugby session delivered by a professional Rugby Union Club - Maidenhill got lucky! Recently, Gloucester Rugby conducted a session for Year 7 to 11 girls, which proved to be extremely popular - so much so, that negotiations are currently under way for a further 5 week block of girls' after school rugby!

On the 14th October, the famous author and award winning filmmaker, Matt Dickinson, visited the school to talk to Year 8 and Year 10 students about his action packed life of adventure and discovery.

Year 7 students are looking forward to being wowed by 'The Magician's Elephant', performed by The Royal Shakespeare Company, in Stratford-Upon-Avon in November.

In both November and December, it is intercommunity girls' Netball and boys' Basketball matches for Years 7, 8 and 9 that take centre stage.

Year 11 students also have a number of post 16 events lined up in anticipation of their future careers, with Mock Interviews on Friday 8th October and Year 11 Post 16 Evening on Wednesday 10th November.

On Thursday, 18th November, a visit to the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham has been scheduled to see the legendary 'Blood Brothers'.



In anticipation of Book Week 2022, Year 9 and Year 11 students are looking forward to a talk by Tanya Landman, famous children and young adults' author, on Monday, 28th February. In the meantime, the focus is still very much on literacy for all and we're reading as much as we can!

And it's a wrap with Christmas Jumper Day on the 17th December, before breaking up for the Christmas holidays.

## Tim Peake sends a message to Hopelands

Strange things have been happening at Hopelands... an alien invasion and a class transformed into superheroes! To top it off, astronaut legend Tim Peake himself sent a personal message to the school. Year 2 have been learning about space and they held a Space Day. They were shocked to arrive and see a spaceship had crash landed onto the playground. Following the trail of green



slime, they were thrilled to discover that their classroom had been transformed into outer space. They had great fun learning how the astronauts survived on board the International Space Station, designing astronaut suits, creating rockets, and even filling out application forms to become astronauts themselves. Year 1 had a Superhero Day where they celebrated their favourite superheroes through stories and roleplay. This involved dressing up, cape designs along with fascinating discussions on who their real-life superheroes are.

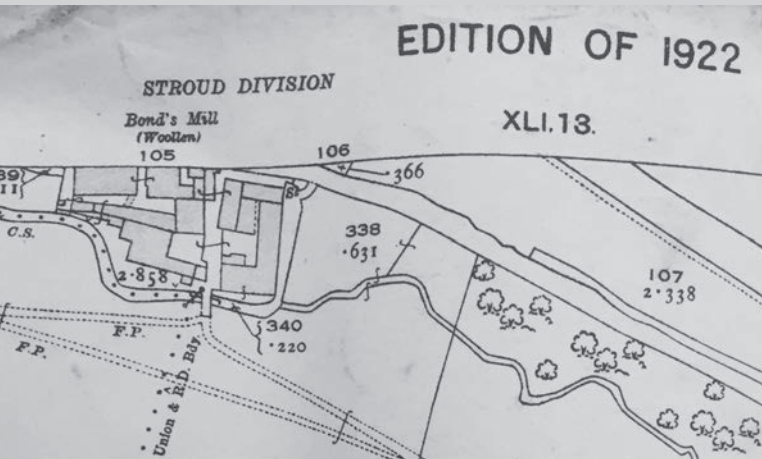
The Reception children have settled in beautifully and it is fantastic to see them play with their 'buddies'. This is a Hopelands tradition where they each have a buddy from Year 6. The older children see this as a privilege, and they treat the role with great pride. The buddies make sure they know where everything is and help them around school. They often form great friendships which is lovely to see. Rehearsals are underway for the Harvest Festival and the Christmas Service, and a highlight of the year is the nativity performance. We are delighted to be performing this, once again, for the Stonehouse Pensioners group on the 24th November. We have several sporting fixtures lined up and a whole school fun run. There is a trip to 'We the Curious', and we finish the term watching Tweedy at the Everyman.

To see more of our activities please visit our Facebook page and read our weekly newsletters at [hopelands.org.uk/news-calendar/newsletters](https://hopelands.org.uk/news-calendar/newsletters). If you wish to find out more about the school, please call 01453 822164 or email [scompton@hopelands.org.uk](mailto:scompton@hopelands.org.uk)





## Public Rights of Way (PROW) Working Group



The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 introduced a cut-off date for adding historic paths to the Definitive Map (of footpaths). Routes which existed before 1949 and aren't recorded on the Definitive Map by 1st January 2026 may be lost forever.

The Stonehouse PROW Group is now reviewing all public footpaths in Stonehouse to determine what needs to be recorded on the Gloucestershire County Council Definitive Map. This involves examining old maps, talking to people in Stonehouse (including the History Group) and looking at old photographs.

In addition, paths that have been used for many years (typically 20 years or more) that are not official Public Rights of Way may be added to the Definitive Map.

One area we have been looking at is Doverow Hill where a number of tracks were closed off last year. We have researched the Definitive Map Modification process and received some advice from the Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Highways Records department and the Ramblers Association.

We met with the GCC Public Rights of Way Officer and the landowners of Far Westrip Farm to discuss improvements to places on the existing public footpaths (MST41 & MST64) which get very muddy in wet weather. The landowner has improved one area and is planning work to another.

We are looking for any old maps and old photographs people may have of footpaths and stiles around Stonehouse. In particular, we are interested in any further information on a path that crossed over a bridge (which is thought to have been demolished in the 1950s or 1960s) over the River Frome stream which flows around the bottom of the Bonds Mill Estate and which allowed access from Bonds Mill across a field to Beards Mill.

Please contact Rachel Russell, Deputy Clerk on [deputyclerk@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk) or 01453 822070 if you would like to help with this work.

## Improving the way we share news - SURVEY

Stonehouse Town Council wants to improve the way it shares news with the local community. Please help us, by filling and returning the survey below to us by post, or scan and email to [comms@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:comms@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk):

1) How do you currently find out about what is going on in Stonehouse? Please tick all that apply.

- ☐ Social Media
- ☐ Websites
- ☐ Stonehouse News
- ☐ Town Council Noticeboards (Town Green, Meadow Rd, Bridgend)
- ☐ Noticeboards in the Co-Op, Community Centre, APT etc.
- ☐ Paper or Email Newsletters from Local Groups/Organisations
- ☐ Stroud News & Journal
- ☐ Word of Mouth
- ☐ Other

2) Do you feel that you are able to keep up-to-date with what is going on?

Yes ☐ Mostly ☐ Rarely ☐ No ☐ If no, what are the barriers?

3) Which areas of town life are you interested in?

Please tick all that apply

- ☐ Town Council News
- ☐ District/County Council News
- ☐ Local Clubs, Groups and Organisations
- ☐ Schools
- ☐ Youth Groups
- ☐ Health Campaigns
- ☐ Churches
- ☐ Crime Reports
- ☐ Town Council Meetings

4) How would you like to receive town news in future? Please tick all that apply

- ☐ Social Media
- ☐ Website
- ☐ Stonehouse News (online or paper versions)
- ☐ Digital Noticeboards (various locations around the town)
- ☐ Hand-delivered Posters/Flyers
- ☐ Other

A few optional questions about you so that we know whether we have covered a cross section of the community.

5) How old are you?

11-18 ☐ 19-30 ☐ 31-50 ☐ 51-70 ☐ Over 80 ☐

Prefer not to say ☐

6) Your postcode



## Stonehouse Community Climate Action Forum

We are a group of residents and Town Councillors whose aim is to help the Council and the community to reduce their carbon footprint and contribute positively to the environment.

We initiated the campaign to reduce engine idling, which pollutes the local environment as well as contributing to global warming. You may have seen our banners around town. More recently we have had a number of information stalls.

Nailsworth Climate Action Network held a 'Retrofit Fair' at Stroud Sub Rooms in early September, and the Stonehouse Community Climate Action Forum was represented by case studies of homes in our town which have been retrofitted to lower their carbon footprint and reduce their energy bills - both very topical at the time of writing! The event - which showcased a wide range of sustainability strategies - was very successful, and our exhibits generated a lot of interest and positive comments.

We have also held two stalls in Stonehouse, one during Great Big Green Week (pictured) and one at the Tree Day, with a wide variety of information about how we can all improve our local environment as well as reducing our carbon footprint.



We always welcome new members, so if you would like to join us, do make contact either via the Town Council or email [councillorkambites@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:councillorkambites@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk). If you are interested in any aspect of 'greening' your home or local environment contact SCCAF and we'll try to direct you to the information and advice you need.

With the vitally important Climate Summit, COP26, about to begin in Glasgow, there has never been a more important time to do our bit for the environment and to pressure Government, Councils and businesses to do theirs.

## Bus service disruption

Most people are aware of the local, regional and national difficulties with the cancellation of bus services due to a shortage of drivers. The Town Council is listening to concerns raised by people who are frustrated at being late for school, work and appointments. The Town Council's Transport & Highways Working Group met recently with County Councillor Nick Housden and the

## Goodwill Fest

Saturday 4th December 2-5pm



Following on from last year's disappointment at having to cancel our traditional Christmas Goodwill Fest, the Town Council wanted to create an event that was both entertaining but also safe. So, we decided that this year's event would be outdoors, with lots more family entertainment. We have got circus skills performers, a ukulele band and we hope to have news soon of more musicians. There will still be the usual stalls and Father Christmas will be handing out gifts to children in a slightly different way.

If you would like to book a stall or a pitch, please contact the Town Council on 822070 or email: [customerservices@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk)

The procession will start from the Town Hall at approximately 4.45pm where you can follow Father Christmas up the High Street to the light switch on at the main Town Green at 5pm. You are welcome to dress up for the parade, maybe wearing festive hats and decorating bicycles, pushchairs, prams and scooters!

After last year's successful Christmas Float Procession around the town by Rotary and the Town Council, we are now in the process of planning two separate nights (9th and 10th December) where we hope to cover a wider area. It was so lovely last year so see so many happy faces with lots of children dressing up. This time, we are able to take cash donations which will be distributed by Rotary to local charities.

## Shop Stonehouse



Please support your local shops and services in the run up to Christmas and beyond. Look out for special Shop Stonehouse Goodwill Fest 'Bags for Life'! Go to

[shopstonehouse.co.uk](http://shopstonehouse.co.uk), where you can find more information about shops and services in the town and surrounding business parks within the Parish.



# stonehouse town council information

## Contact us

Stonehouse Town Council  
Town Hall  
1 Queens Road  
Stonehouse  
GL10 2QA  
T: 01453 822070

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

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

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

Opening hours (subject to change due to Covid-19)  
We are fully open to the public now between 9:30am - 3:30pm  
on every weekday except Wednesday.  
Check our website for up-to-date information.

## Forthcoming meetings

### FULL TOWN COUNCIL

8th November  
6th December

### BUSINESS COMMITTEE

1st November  
29th November

### ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

22nd November  
13th December

Full Town Council meetings will continue to take place at Park Junior School but Business and Environment Committee meetings are now being held in the new Library.

To attend a meeting, email the Town Clerk at [townclerk@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk) or phone 01453 822070 no later than 6pm on the day of the meeting.

Agendas and Minutes are published on the Council's website [stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk](http://stonehousetowncouncil.gov.uk)

## Your Councillors

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

<b>Stonehouse Ward</b>	
Rachel Armstrong	07443 470054
Leigh Binns	07794 205085
Chris Brine	01453 825917
John Callinan	01453 825547
Mike Davis	01453 350689
Mick Gibbons	01453 824332
Neil Gibbs	01453 828430
Carol Kambites (Vice Chair)	01453 827929
Kev Parsons	07723 307165
Gary Powell (Chair)	01453 826527
Val Randell	07964 852707
Pam Swain	01453 822998
Keith Terry	07743 470094
David Thorpe	01453 821387

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

### 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>	
Nick Housden	07754 466939
<a href="mailto:cllr.nicholas.housden@stroud.gov.uk">cllr.nicholas.housden@stroud.gov.uk</a>	
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)

Nick Housden	07754 466939
<a href="mailto:nicholas.housden@gloucestershire.gov.uk">nicholas.housden@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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