

CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND ORGANISATIONS IN STOKE FLEMING

Please see the below information received from the following clubs, societies and organisations which are available to parishioners.

ORGANISATION **STOKE FLEMING BOWLING CLUB**
STOKE FLEMING CHARITABLE LADIES
STOKE FLEMING COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
STOKE FLEMING CRAFT CLUB
STOKE FLEMING HORTICULTURAL AND SPORTS SOCIETY
STOKE FLEMING SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB
STOKE FLEMING PARISH CHURCH
STOKE FLEMING VILLAGE HALL
STOKE FLEMING YOUTH CLUB
CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
DARTMOUTH ACADEMY
DARTMOUTH CLUB DE PETANQUE
DART VALLEY U3A
FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S CHURCH
MEDAU MOVEMENT
MOTHERS' UNION
PROBUS
START BAY PERFORMERS

STOKE FLEMING BOWLING CLUB

What a season, what a year – a phrase used many times, but for the Bowlers at Stoke Fleming Bowling Club it was truly a remarkable year.

Celebrating 100 years since the Club was initially formed, 2020 was always going to be Special, but what occurred was way beyond what the club could have expected.

From an initial appeal to both the local community and businesses alike there were a range of very generous donations that allowed the Club to re-furbish much of its clubhouse as well as purchase well overdue and much needed equipment, for which the club is truly grateful.

On top of this the club's regular team sponsor, Radius 7, in addition to his regular sponsorship supplied all new playing strips for the players.

Having only been promoted the previous season into the 1st Division of the Mid Devon League, the club's main playing ambition was to retain their place in the league, a position that they felt was well within their ability.

In the end, not only did they maintain their position, but the club went on to win the league, being crowned champions on the final days play – a tremendous achievement.

It is without doubt however that the highlight of the year was the Centenary Game against a very impressive Bowls England team, who agreed to visit the club early in the season.

To see the villagers not only competing against but defeating a plethora of current and ex-international players was one that I think will live in the memories of all those who attended.

Obviously as I write this short report, we are currently in the lockdown period of the Corona virus pandemic and no bowls has as yet been possible, with all league fixtures cancelled and no real idea as to when, or indeed if we will be able to play at all this year.

We do however remain hopeful that the village will once again soon echo to the click of bowl on bowl as the villagers return to their chosen sport.

Tony Andrew

Chair

SFBC

STOKE FLEMING CHARITABLE LADIES

Stoke Fleming Charitable Ladies normally meet at 2.30pm on the 1st Wednesday of each month (except January and August) to organise local fundraising events and to socialise. These meetings

have obviously been cancelled for the time being due to the COVID-19 pandemic but will resume as soon as we are allowed to meet again.

In 2019, the group held their usual three fundraising events each year in the Village Hall - Spring, Summer and Christmas - with the charity or cause to support being decided by members prior to each event.

These events were again very successful and resulted in the group being able to donate a total of £850. £3,200 has now been donated since forming in June 2016 to help a number of charities and causes. These include Children's Hospice South West, Rowcroft Hospice, Dartmouth Caring, Friends of Stoke Fleming Primary School, Devon Air Ambulance night landing site in Stoke Fleming and, in 2019, the 1st Dartmouth Scout Group, Dartmouth Guides, Brownies & Rainbows, and the Dashing Devon Dukes children's ukulele band.

In 2020, our Spring Fair on 4th April was to be in aid of Stoke Fleming Youth Club, followed by Sailability as beneficiaries of the Summer Fair on 4th July and Freewheelers at the Christmas Fair on 21st November. Sadly, the Spring Fair had to be cancelled due to the pandemic but our members look forward to being able to raise more money for deserving groups as soon as possible.

New members from Stoke Fleming and surrounding areas are most welcome to join the group when meetings begin again. Contact Sue Tweed (Secretary) on 01803 770730 or email tweed833@btinternet.com for more information.

STOKE FLEMING COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Full report attached

STOKE FLEMING CRAFT CLUB

The Craft Club was founded in October 2010 by 4 friends. It exists to promote a variety of needlecraft, knitting, patchwork, crochet and other skills amongst members, and to provide a social afternoon for like-minded people in the parish.

Meetings are held in the Village Hall on the first Friday of the month, except August. The membership fee is still £5 annually, plus £1 for each meeting attended during the year. Current membership stands at 21. Meetings are held from 2 -4pm to work on personal projects, to share in a special project afternoon or occasionally to have a demonstration, followed by some 'hands-on'. There is always time to share as well in that important cup of tea. In 2019 members enjoyed demonstrations on paper folding given by one of the members and a special Christmas Flower Arranging afternoon given by Jenny Harris. The annual Bring and Share Birthday party was held in October.

The Club also looks out into the community, running a Handicraft Materials Stall at Stoke Fleming Show, the proceeds going to the Show funds, and taking part in the Christmas Tree Festival. Club members work together making items to decorate a tree. In 2019 the tree had a purple theme and was decorated with angels dressed by members. In December each year a small fundraise is held at the monthly meeting and a donation is then sent to a charity selected by the Club. In 2019 this was sent to Rowcroft Hospice.

STOKE FLEMING HORTICULTURAL AND SPORTS SOCIETY

The Society is the longest established club or society in the village having been founded in 1875. We are now more commonly known as the 'Hort & Sport' and are, of course, most well-known for the Annual Show held on August Bank Holiday Monday. 2019 was the 143rd Annual Show and we are justly proud of our longevity. That said, we are indeed moving with the times and try to reflect this in the annual schedule which was given a thorough overhaul in 2019. Think focaccia bread and models from recycled items as well as some of the traditional favourites. The Stoke Lodge Hotel now sponsor our programme of traditional sports ensuring a great deal of fun is had by all and all participants are rewarded with a sticker in addition to the winners receiving due credit. We are very grateful for this support and it's always good to see the Community working together.

Fund raising events are held throughout the year which include a fun quiz evening in January or February, a Plant Sale and Coffee Morning held in early May and then an Autumn Coffee Morning held in October.

Show Day itself is a real mix of modern and traditional both inside the marquee and hall and outside. In 2019 we were blessed with another fantastic sunny day which saw us introduce a new look to the field layout to make the sports programme much more of an integral part of the afternoon. An idea deemed a real winner! We love to see novice growers and crafters not only winning prizes but silverware too. If you want to discover the joy of 'knowing your onions' or take those first steps towards a new hobby why not start now? We very much hope to be able to hold our 2020 Show, so look out for a schedule from late June. There is a glittering array of silverware to be awarded and lots of fun to be had whether you take part or just come to enjoy the afternoon. We look forward to seeing you on Show Day or at any of our events.

For further information please contact the Show Secretary, Mrs Shirley Ruddlesden, on 01803 770468 or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/StokeFlemingHortandSport

STOKE FLEMING SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

Stoke Fleming Short Mat Bowls Club ('The Smugglers') enjoyed its first session in March 2001 at the Village Hall with twenty-one people joining at the time. Two mats and all the basic equipment, including several sets of bowls, had been purchased by the Hall from a setting-up grant; the Club subsequently bought a third mat.

The Club was granted league status in 2002. Over the years the Club has had its highs and lows playing in Divisions 2 and 3. This season – 2019/2020 – our team topped Division 3 and hopefully a promotion in Division 2 will be forthcoming in September. This all depends on our being able to resume play after the lockdown due to the Coronavirus.

The Club meets twice weekly at the Village Hall: on Tuesday afternoons 2.30 – 4.30 and Thursday evenings 7.00 – 9.00 p.m.

Members pay £3 (which includes tea and biscuits) per playing session and visitors may play free on three occasions before having to decide whether or not to join.

There is also an annual subscription of £15. New members of all ages would be made very welcome, first-time players are encouraged, and basic tuition is available. All equipment is available on free loan in the first instant.

For any further information please contact: Pat Walters - 770 474; Jill Fell - 771 137
John Goddard - 770 794

STOKE FLEMING PARISH CHURCH

Dear Friends,

I am writing on behalf of the Churchwarden and the Parochial Church Council of St Peter's. Thank you for asking us to send in this report.

There are some good encouragements to share with you from the life of St Peter's.

- Sunday worship brings a strong sense of the Lord's presence and real joy. (This is mentioned by visitors and regulars alike.)
- The continuing success of *Open the Book*, especially in the way it has led to the team being invited to lead the annual School Christingle in church and this year to lead the School Harvest as well.
- The Benefice Lent Course (*Finding a Voice*), led by Peter Barker, was really valuable for the rather few who came.
- The church does a lot (as the Annual Report bears witness). Non churchgoers are drawn into church for Remembrance and the Christmas Tree Festival in particular, and the presence of visitors is encouraging.

- But we also aim to be an outward facing church, giving generously and financially to various charities, but also generously in terms of time and energy to many different local groups, societies and charities.

And of course, we also face some serious challenges:

- Firstly, declining numbers, not because new faces aren't replacing those no longer with us, but more because insufficient are in church (or at the Lent Course, or whatever) every week. As your vicar I would really love to see you all at 5th Sunday United Benefice Services, wherever in the Benefice they are held. (These are always advertised well in advance.)
- Reaching children, youth people and young (under 50!) adults. Your thoughts and ideas, as always, gratefully and graciously received.

Our 2019 Annual Report will be produced and distributed once we are out of lockdown - we are thrilled that many in the village commented so positively on last year's report.

STOKE FLEMING VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall has continued to be a community meeting place with a huge variety of bookings. The newest regular booking was the Community Lunch which was held once a month. The food is always delicious home cooked fare and it's a great place for meeting old friends and making new ones. This is Michael Barlow's first year of being the hall treasurer and he has continued in keeping our finances in good order.

Bob Parnell retired from being the hall manager in August and this post has proved to be very difficult to fill. Opening and closing duties were taken on by various trustees and the maintenance committee kept an eye on the hall fabric. In December Bob said he was willing to return until a new manager could be found and we were all very grateful to him.

Our maintenance committee work hard at identifying and fixing the faults that arise in the hall and are keeping it up to the high standard that people now expect. We're very grateful for their hard work.

We are very conscious of the fact that some equipment in the hall is wearing out and that some of the facilities need to be updated. With this in mind we were very happy that The Volunteer Concert Band offered to perform in the hall. The concert raised over £700 for us and it was decided to renew the carpeting in the Ron Harris Room and corridor. We would also like to buy a new projector and sound system and so further fundraisers will be planned.

We are also planning new signage which will help to inform everyone about activities in the hall. We also have a Facebook page where information on facilities and booking can be found.

Of course, all of this stopped in March with the onset of Covid 19. We have been unable to hold our AGM, but all the trustees and officers are continuing as before until such time that we can hold it. The building is inspected by Bob twice a week and the fire alarm system is checked regularly. Our gardeners are continuing to keep the grounds in good shape.

STOKE FLEMING YOUTH CLUB

The Youth Club has been closed for a year following difficulties with maintaining a volunteer staff team and a significant flood causing serious damage to the building.

Following some generous donations from the local community we have managed to repair the flood damage and it is now possible to open the club. To resolve the difficulties with staffing we have worked with Youth Genesis, a local youth work charity to set up a model for running the club with a paid youth worker leading each session with volunteer support.

Over time we hope to be able to rent the building to generate the revenue to continue this arrangement- and in order to do this, significant further work will need to be done. We have identified fundraising targets which will be achieved over the next 3 years to make the club self-sustaining. The Parish Council have been generous in their time offered to identify possible sources of funding from District and Devon-wide funds.

Our plan to open the club in partnership with Youth Genesis in September is currently on hold (due to corona related restrictions) as it will require some set up time and recruitment of volunteers. However, as soon as it is possible to open we plan to do so.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Another glittering and glorious Festival, with 27 village trees! Each tree has its own theme, plus there is a Prayer tree near the lectern which starts the Festival pretty bare apart from lights, and ends three days later covered in coloured Christmas-tree card shapes (quite a lot of cutting out needed beforehand!) each containing a prayer written by visitors to the Festival. They are not removed until after Christmas when they are taken down, placed on the altar and blessed.

Our Charity Tree this year, for *Cued Speech*, was covered with lots of cut-out hands (the 'oddity' was one large foot!). *Cued Speech* is a method of teaching deaf babies and their families to indicate sounds as well as symbols as they learn to communicate; Kathy Kenny, from *Cued Speech*, gave an excellent overview of how the system works in her brief address at the short 'Cheerful Carols' Service which ended the Festival.

After seven years of a very happy partnership leading the Festival with Shirley Ruddlesden, Rokie Shiffner is now somewhat sadly stepping back. The best thing to report about this is that Caroline Martin is to take Rokie's place, and we all three are absolutely delighted about it!

DARTMOUTH ACADEMY

Full report attached

DARTMOUTH CLUB DE PETANQUE

Like many other Clubs our year has been cut short by the 'Lockdown' - up until that point we had had an enjoyable season.

As in previous years, we liaised with the Hort and Sport to open the Petanque facilities on the day of the Show, to allow all comers to sample the game and meet club members.

In September, we hosted a return social match with Stoke Fleming Short Mat Bowls Club, so they could sample the game of Petanque. Despite a showery start, the weather improved and we all had a pleasant morning.

We have welcomed a few new members this year, and the Club remains as strong as ever, but unfortunately, due to present circumstances, we have yet to hold our competitions.

When life returns to normal we will continue to meet at 10.30a.m. on Wednesdays and Sundays, members also having free use of the terrain during non-club days. Anyone wishing to try the game when we are able to play again, will be most welcome.

Barry Coe
Club Captain

DART VALLEY U3A

U3A stands for the University of the Third Age. We are a self-help organisation of people in the Dart Valley area, including, of course Stoke Fleming, and we provide educational, creative and leisure opportunities in a friendly environment. We aim to meet the needs of those who are no longer in full time employment.

We hold regular monthly general meetings, together with over thirty active groups plus some additional trips and activities requested and organised by members.

University is a bit of a misnomer, we do have specialist groups such as Geology, Architecture and Classical History but most are in the creative and leisure categories including singing for Pleasure, iPads for Beginners, Art, Digipix, Archery, Sports Morning and Zumba. Members, by sharing their knowledge, skills and experience, learn from each other. The U3A approach to learning is learning for pleasure and there are no accreditation or examination.

Our monthly meetings are held on the morning of the second Thursday of every month (not August) at the Flavel in Dartmouth. Talks are varied and interesting and with a cup of coffee provide an opportunity to catch up and enjoy a diverting couple of hours.

Typical talks have included:

Shepherdess and Surfers - Lesley Prior

The Age of the Pyramids of Egypt - Giza Plateau

Charles Babbage and Ada Byron - Lucy Simister

“What Do You Know About Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre?” - Robert Brooke

In the Footsteps of Ian Fleming’s Diamond Smugglers - Derek Stonley

One important aspect of our philosophy is that we draw upon the knowledge, experience and skills of our own members to organise and provide interest groups that meet regularly, often in each other’s homes or in venues like Stoke Fleming Village Hall.

Groups include: **Archery**, Book Groups, Bridge, Classical History, Cryptic Crosswords, **Digital Photography**, Easy walking, French Conversation, Geology, German Conversation, History of Art, Italian, iPad for Beginners, **iPad Grads**, Knitting, Let’s Play Cards, **MahJong**, Medau, Music, Patchwork/ Quilting, Play Reading, Pub Lunches ‘A’, ‘B’ and ‘C’, Scrabble, **Singing for Pleasure**, Spanish Conversation, Sports Morning, Scottish Dancing, Sunday Lunch Group, Walking, Wine Tasting Groups, Writers, Yoga, Zumba. (Red groups meet here in Stoke Fleming).

If there is an activity which someone thinks is missing from our list they usually get asked to start a group for it! The teachers learn and the learners teach.

We are an independent body and a registered charity. We subscribe to the umbrella national organisation ‘The U3A Trust represents over 1000 U3As in the UK at national and international level. Currently we have 425 members and our subscription is £10 per month, £1 for most general meetings to cover tea and coffee, and groups cover their own costs.

Obviously during Coronavirus lockdown most of the groups are not meeting face-to-face, however many are managing to keep in contact via Zoom, FaceTime or Skype as well as other electronic means.

Suzie Dodsworth, Dart Valley U3A Membership Secretary, suziedwong@gmail.com

Peter Avis, Dart Valley U3A Secretary and Group Co-ordinator, peteravis1@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S CHURCH

At the AGM on 4th May it was agreed that the primary aim of the *Friends* in 2019 would be to continue to raise funds for the repair and maintenance of the stained-glass windows.

In March we held a very entertaining *Race Meeting*, enlivened by the scurrilous comments made by ‘Guest Star John McCririck’ about each horse’s name and breeding. Stoke Lodge provided an excellent meal, and everyone laughed a lot and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

In December we showed a *Singalong* version of the film ‘Grease’ – huge fun but more complicated and costly to put on than we had thought. Luckily far more people turned up on the night than expected, and thanks to including a very generous donation from Becky’s Christmas Raffle at the Post Office we turned a healthy profit. Even more to the point, it was another very entertaining night, with sweet corn and hot dogs, lots of different ages singing away together, nostalgia for some. Jenny Farmer, dressed as schoolgirl Sandy, won the best-dressed prize. The *Friends’* tree at the *Christmas Tree Festival* followed the theme with the title ‘Grease’ – with all the decorations harking back to the 1950s.

In 2019 the *Friends* agreed to pay for the ‘stitching’ of a crack in the tower parapet and the removal and making good of the flagpole, and also the replacement of the vestry window and repair to the organ window and two other windows. The work is still outstanding, but the funds reserved. St. Peter’s Quinquennial Report is due in 2020; it seems that work on part of the roof may be identified as another area for *Friends’* support.

MEDAU MOVEMENT

Our class continues to meet in the Village Hall at 10 a.m. each Tuesday for an hour of movement and dance to a wide variety of recorded music. This is followed by an optional half hour or so of exercises on mats.

For part of the class, we use small pieces of equipment such as clubs, balls & hoops which influence and extend our movements. Medau gives us a sense of well-being (we always feel better at the end of the class than we did at the beginning) and improves our fitness and co-ordination.

We have short breaks for Christmas and Easter, and a longer one in the summer (more or less coinciding with the school holidays).

Of course, we are having a much longer break now because of the Covid 19 virus. We usually have two full days of Medau each year with teachers from all over Devon. Our September Day went ahead, but of course our March Day had to be cancelled.

When we start again, please come along if you would like to give Medau a try. The first taster class is free. No special clothes are necessary - just something comfortable you can move in and bare feet are best (or soft shoes).

Please give me a ring or email if you have any queries.

Judith Guard, Tel: 01548 853615 Email: andrewguard@mail.com.

MOTHERS' UNION

The year began with our AGM and Holy Communion. Jenny Harris enchanted us with a flower demonstration. We enjoyed talks from *Dartmouth Caring*, MU in Tanzania and Melanesia, *Mercy Ships*, and our Exeter President, Nickie, on '*Listen, Observe, Act – in step with God*'. We also celebrated *Lady* and *Mary Sumner Days*. Sadly, some members have moved away.

PROBUS

Who we are

Probus is an organisation with a simple aim: To enable people who are retired, semi-retired or coming up to retirement to get together regularly on an informal basis. Age or profession is not a deciding factor for membership. Members tend to have a background in national and local business (including farming), the arts and a wide variety of professional activities in the private and public sectors. We are non-political and a not-for-profit club. Probus, an abbreviation of 'professional and business', is an international organisation. However, each local club has considerable autonomy and independence.

Our keynote is friendliness and new members are made very welcome.

What we do

We meet twice a month. On the second Wednesday we meet for coffee, followed by a talk and lunch (which members pay for). On the fourth Wednesday we meet for coffee and then a talk. In both cases we have guest speakers who present on a wide range of interesting and informative subjects, often with an amusing slant! This is followed by a lively discussion on points of interest to the members. Our meetings are held at the Stoke Lodge Hotel in the village. Attendance at meetings usually attracts a majority of members.

Various talks were given during 2019, both by outside speakers and our own members.

A few examples are:

'Blood Bikes'

'From here to Fraternity'

'Matt's point – Fact or Fiction'

'Greenway – World War 2'

'An Interpreter's Life'

'The Clown Prince of Denmark'

We arrange an annual outing to a place of interest within roughly a 30-mile radius. In spring 2019 we went, mostly accompanied by wives/partners, to Dartington Hall. There we enjoyed a talk on the Estate's history, as well as having a superb lunch together. This was followed by a leisurely stroll around the grounds.

As in the previous year we held a Ladies Lunch when partners and guests were invited to the morning talk and lunch, again at the Stoke Lodge Hotel. The excellent talk was on 'Agatha Christie and her Poisons'! The day was considered a great success and will be repeated this year (viruses willing).

The Club ended 2019 with an increased membership of 33. Members are mainly from Stoke Fleming and Strete with others from Dartmouth and surrounding villages. Obviously with the current Covid-19 situation, this year's meetings program has been suspended and it is unclear when it will resume. Members are however still maintaining contact and giving assistance where they can.

We are looking to expand and welcome new members. The present annual subscription is £20.

Present officers

The following may be contacted for further details:

Secretary : Graham Lewis at grahamglewis@hotmail.com 712248

Chairman : John Hosea at hoseakathyjohn@btinternet.com 770461

Treasurer : Graham Tweed at tweed833@btinternet.com 770730

Website: www.stokeflemingprobus.wixsite.com/stokeflemingprobus

START BAY PERFORMERS

This has been a frustrating year for us as the play we planned to be put on at Strete Village Hall in July had to be cancelled due to illness. Not deterred we had a rest during the summer and took up rehearsing it in September. Again illness struck and this time we abandoned it and looked at other plays we could perform.

We had lots of entertaining evenings reading through several, new members joined and we finally decided on one. The cast was picked, the date was set, and Covid 19 struck!

In spite of all this we had fun at rehearsals and learning lines is good for the brain so it wasn't time wasted.

Compiled May 2020

Judy Talbot

Parish Clerk

Stoke Fleming Parish Council