

CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND ORGANISATIONS IN STOKE FLEMING

In addition to organisations giving individual reports at the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 15th May 2019, information has been 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 LIBRARY
STOKE FLEMING SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB
STOKE FLEMING PARISH CHURCH
STOKE FLEMING VILLAGE HALL
STOKE FLEMING WEDNESDAY LADIES CLUB
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

AFFILIATED TO B.E., B.D., M.D.L.

This last year has been quite an interesting and exciting year for Stoke Fleming Bowling Club as we gained promotion into the 1st Division of the Mid Devon League and have been busy planning for our Centenary Year this forthcoming season.

The Club, which was founded in 1919, with play taking place on the Rectory lawn until 1927 when the club moved to its current location in School Road.

Being a small club with no financial support beyond the annual fees paid by the members, it has struggled over recent years, as the costs involved in running and maintaining the club have risen.

In fact, if it were not for the voluntary work carried out by the members in looking after the green, clubhouse and surrounds the club would have folded many years ago.

To put the club on a sounder footing the committee this year have been busy trying to secure sponsorship linked to its Centenary Celebrations. This has in the main been reasonably successful and has allowed the club to replace some of its old but essential machinery for the green, as well as undertake long overdue repairs and updating of the clubhouse.

Our season begins at the end of April each year and runs to mid-September when we traditionally play the finals of our internal club competitions. Play is continuous, weather permitting, throughout the season when members and visitors are welcome to come along and try their hand.

Although traditionally thought to be an old man's game, it is a sport that can be enjoyed by young and old alike.

STOKE FLEMING CHARITABLE LADIES

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

Three fundraising events each year are held in the Village Hall - Spring, Summer and Christmas - with the charity or cause to support being decided by members prior to each event.

The group raised £1,005 in 2018, giving a total of £2,350 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 and Devon Air Ambulance night landing site in Stoke Fleming.

Members have decided to fundraise for our local young people in 2019. Our Spring Fair on 6th April will be in aid of Dartmouth Scout Group, followed by the Dartmouth Guides and Brownies as beneficiaries of the Summer Fair on 6th July and either Stoke Fleming Youth Club or Dartmouth Sea Cadets of the Christmas Fair on 23rd November.

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

STOKE FLEMING COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Full report attached to Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

STOKE FLEMING CRAFT CLUB

The Craft Club was founded in October 2010 by 4 friends. It exists to promote a variety of needlecraft, knitting 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 23. 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 also time for that important cup of tea!

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 2018 the tree was decorated with many and various items all crafted by members to show their different skills. The Club also holds a special fund raised in December each year and a donation is then sent to a charity selected by the Club. In 2018 this was sent to Devon Air Ambulance.

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. 2018 was the 142nd 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 now includes models from recycled materials, photography classes including 'selfies' and current homecraft classes including new recipes as well as the traditional favourites. In 2018 we were delighted to receive sponsorship from The Stoke Lodge Hotel for our programme of traditional sports. A great deal of fun was had and all participants were rewarded with a sticker in addition to the winners receiving due credit.

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 2018 we were blessed with a fantastic sunny day which was most welcome after the deluge of the day before when all the setting up was happening! 125 competitors amassed a total of 637 entries between them which was an excellent turn out given the long hot, dry summer we had all enjoyed which had made for a difficult growing season. 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 look forward to seeing your efforts at our 2019 Show, so look out for a schedule from late June. We have been busy giving the schedule a bit of an overhaul so see what you can enter from the 160 classes available. 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 LIBRARY

Libraries Unlimited has now passed their third birthday.

We have recently lost our Chief Executive Ciara Eastell who was in office for ten years. She will be replaced by Alex Kittow who joins us on 3/6/2019.

The Friends of Stoke Fleming Library hold a coffee morning every Tuesday from 1030-1145 in the Hall Foyer. Everyone is welcome!

Wi-Fi is available free of charge, as well as 2 public PCs.

The new printer also does photocopying A4 in B&W and colour.

Free digital magazines can be downloaded at home using rb digital.

Our new library computer system Sparks is bedding down now.

We had approximately two dozen local children take part in last year's Summer Reading Challenge – Mischief Makers. We ran this in conjunction with Dartmouth Library, generating a competition between all the local primary schools, to find out which school could raise the highest number of finishers. This proved extremely popular! This Summer's Reading Challenge theme is Space Chase which I'm sure will be well supported.

We look forward to welcoming new members to the library – the more the merrier!

Sue Taylor, First Assistant, Stoke Fleming Library.

STOKE FLEMING SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

Stoke Fleming Short Mat Bowls Club (The Smugglers) has been meeting twice a week on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday evenings since Stoke Fleming Village Hall opened in 2001.

The Club is a member of the South Hams League and plays against other teams in the area at their home venues. Likewise, we welcome visiting teams to the Village Hall. The South Hams Knock-Out Cup Final and presentation of trophies is held in the Hall at the end of the season in late March.

Besides playing at competition level we also hold friendly matches against other clubs throughout the year. Within our own club highlights are to play for the John Lewis Cup in a Drawn Triples Competition and in a Pairs Competition for the Morris Tankard.

Members and their friends enjoy a social occasion in the summer and, later in the year, an annual dinner, usually at Stoke Lodge Hotel.

Besides playing bowls we participate in decorating a tree for the St Peter's Church Christmas Tree Festival along with other organisations and businesses around the village. The monies raised are donated to local well-deserving charities.

The Club meets on Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm and on Thursdays at 7.00pm.

Members pay £3 per session (which includes tea and biscuits) and visitors may play free on three occasions before having to decide whether or not to join the club. There is also an annual subscription of £15. New members of all ages are welcomed and first-time players are encouraged; basic tuition is available. Bowls are available for use – all that is required is a pair of flat-soled shoes.

For further information please contact Jill Fell (01803 771137), Pat Walters (01803 770474) or John Goddard (01803 770794).

STOKE FLEMING PARISH CHURCH

Full report attached to Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

STOKE FLEMING VILLAGE HALL

The Village hall continues to be the venue for many activities that take place in our village. These include Medau, Pilates, Yoga, Short mat bowls, Craft club, Friends of Stoke Fleming Library, Hort and Sport, Mothers Union, Parish Council meetings, Start Bay Performers, Table tennis, Wednesday Ladies, Stoke Fleming Charitable ladies, Inn Theatre, Gong Bath, Stretch classes and various meetings of Dartmouth U3A. In addition, it is used for family parties, wedding receptions and commercial sales.

As you can see it is a popular building to hire and that is because it is pleasant and well equipped.

The trustees are aware of the duty that they have to keep it like this and so each year make sure that the rent that is charged will cover the cost of keeping it in good order while not making it too expensive to hire. Quite a balancing act.

To help in this job we now have a maintenance committee who make sure that the building and equipment stay in good order. With the hall now being nearly 20 years old, there is a lot to keep an eye on and they have drawn up 5-year plan highlighting things that may need attention or replacing.

We welcomed 3 new trustees this year to help in the task. It's always good to have new blood in any organisation.

Trevor Mason, who has been a trustee since the hall was built, retired this year. He had been treasurer for many years which is by far the most arduous job, but he has left us with a healthy bank balance, accompanied of course with warnings about keeping it that way! We thanked Trevor for all the hard work that he had done over the years. People were not queuing up to take on the job but Michael Barlow agreed to become treasurer and Trevor has been showing him the ropes.

The success of the Hall lies with people continuing to hire it and we hope that the Village continue to support us. Use it or lose it.

STOKE FLEMING WEDNESDAY LADIES

Wednesday Ladies meets every second Wednesday in the month in the Ron Harris Room at 2.30. There we welcome speakers who give talks on various interesting subjects and to end the afternoon we have a convivial tea with lots of chatter.

Each month we meet in somebody's home for a coffee morning. Everyone enjoys these social gatherings and gives us time to catch up with each other's views and news. The money we collect from the refreshments and a raffle all help to boost our funds.

We also try to organise an outing once a year for members and friends.

Members participate in the dressing of a Christmas Tree for the St. Peter's Church Festival, and we always end the year with a Christmas Lunch at a local hotel.

Our aim is to be a friendly club where everyone participates and is welcomed wholeheartedly.

For further information please:

Jill Fell. 01803 771137

Barbara Goddard. 01803 770794

STOKE FLEMING YOUTH CLUB

We have re-opened the Youth Club this year after a period of closure. A small but committed group of up to 10 young people attend every week and take part in a range of structured activities.

The club continues to be run by volunteers and parents, and current fundraising activities are focused on renovating the bathrooms and paying for professional youth work support in order to build some sustainability into the club.

We are now registered as a charity which allows for fundraising to continue more easily. Building ownership is being secured through the generous work of Beers LLP.

Fundraising efforts will continue throughout the summer as we hope to open again after the school holidays with a professional youth worker supporting the club.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

2018 saw the 12th Annual Christmas Tree Festival take place in St. Peters Church over the weekend of 7th-9th December. Once again this was a celebration of our whole community as trees were sponsored by local clubs, organisations and businesses. Not only that, but local businesses also incorporated their own Christmas themed events for that weekend to make things extra special. We are always delighted to see how imaginatively the trees are decorated and are never disappointed. Themes for 2018 ranged from 'Alice in Wonderland' to 'Family Summer Holidays by the Sea' to more traditional ideas like 'Christmas Gingerbread Men' and 'The Holly Bears the Crown'.

Each year we try to introduce something different for visitors to enjoy. For 2018 it was the cleverly painted backdrop of the Bethlehem sky for the Nativity figures. Thank you to Mike Browne for all his efforts with this.

In addition to introducing new elements to the Festival it is very important that we stay true to the core values of involving the community, raising funds for a different charity each year and also raising funds for the Church. To this end Devon Air Ambulance was nominated to be the charity this time. This coincided with their fundraising appeal for lights on the Playing Field to enable them to operate a night landing site there if required. Fortunately, just a few days before the Festival we heard the good news that the funds had been secured for the Night Landing site and therefore funds raised during the Festival were able to go towards their general running costs. Due to the donations received from our many visitors and the sale of refreshments we were delighted that we were able to donate £725.00 for this charity, whilst keeping a similar amount for the Church.

Every year visitors are amazed at the number of organisations that exist within Stoke Fleming and marvel at our lovely Church, complete with the Prayer Tree where visitors can add their own prayers. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Gardentime for their assistance and for supplying such uniformly shaped good quality trees year after year. We could not stage this event without the support we receive not just from the organisations but from the whole team that work hard to set the event up, decorate the Church, serve refreshments, steward and then make the Church ready again for Christmas services. This event really demonstrates the 'ripple' effect that happens when everyone works together. Do come along

and join in the 13th Christmas Tree Festival in 2019 when the dates will be 13th - 15th December.

DARTMOUTH ACADEMY

Full report attached to Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

DARTMOUTH CLUB DE PETANQUE

As we enter our 31st year, the Dartmouth Club de Petanque is as strong and well attended as ever, with some new members joining us during recent months.

Last summer saw the reintroduction of club competitions for a variety of trophies, these were organised and run by Martyn Dowding with assistance from some of the club members, and we hope to repeat these competitions this year.

As we tend to be a social club, an informal afternoon match was recently arranged with the Short Mat Bowling Club in the village hall, with a summer return when they will come and play us at Petanque, and hopefully give us a chance to take some revenge!

The club meets on Wednesday and Sunday mornings at 10.30a.m., more or less regardless of the weather, and anyone wishing to try the game will be very welcome and there is equipment available to borrow free of charge.

Barry Coe
Club Captain

DART VALLEY U3A

The Dart Valley U3A is based in Dartmouth and most of the groups and the monthly members' meeting take place around Dartmouth. However, you very kindly allow us to hire the Village Hall for the following groups to meet up.

Mahjong - 1st and 3rd Friday of the month in the morning.
Singing for Pleasure - Tuesday afternoons.
Archery takes place on Tuesday mornings on the sports field.

In addition, we have hired the hall for the U3A quiz in the past and more recently, the Ron Harris room was hired for 10 sessions for an Alzheimer's group. We hope we may be able to continue with these arrangements and Suzie Dodsworth, who sits on the U3A committee, will be our representative for information between the two committees.

FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S CHURCH

At the AGM in April 2018 our Treasurer, Rick Kemp, explained that though FoSP was authorised by HMRC to collect Gift Aid, it was not currently registered with the Charity Commission. At the AGM in 2017 it had been suggested by member Graham Fice that full registration should be investigated, and while it was discovered that this was a fairly straightforward on-line process, it did mean that our Constitution had to be reviewed in order to meet the Charity Commission standard format. The reviewed Constitution was circulated with the 2018 AGM Calling Notice and was adopted at the meeting. It was also confirmed at the AGM that the Friends had taken the necessary steps to meet the requirements of the Data Protection Act for their members.

2018 is the first year since our inception that we have not been involved in a major ongoing project. The military maxim 'Time spent in reconnaissance is never wasted' has applied: Committee members have greatly appreciated having a period in which to take stock and

assess our role and modus operandi. Possible projects include further conservation work on the windows, churchyard paths, and replacing the tower flagpole; they will be discussed at our AGM, this year in the church at 11 a.m. on 4th May.

It is a huge benefit that we are being supported by the regular donations of our loyal members, and a great pleasure to know that in turn we are supporting the village by helping to maintain the quality of its church.

Rosemary Shiffner, Chairman

MEDAU MOVEMENT

Our group makes full use of the wonderful facilities in the village hall - we really appreciate the space, the airiness and the smooth floor, which is ideal for moving and dancing in bare feet.

The storage space under the stage is very useful for our equipment. We meet every Tuesday at 10 a.m. for an hour of movement to music, followed by an optional half hour or so of exercises on mats. We have had short breaks at Christmas and Easter, and a longer break in the summer. In September and March, we also had full days of Medau with teachers from all over Devon and further afield

In total during the year, we have had about 17 members, but of course, not everyone can come every week and we have had an average of 8 - 10 participants each week. New members to this friendly Tuesday group are always welcome and the first taster class is free.

Medau is suitable for all ages and abilities - I myself started when I was about 20 years old with Moyra Hopley, and still love it all these years after! We exercise to a variety of recorded music, part of the time using small pieces of small hand held equipment to influence and extend the movement - e.g. clubs, balls, hoops, scarves, beanbags etc.

Participants are encouraged to become members of the Medau Society, which also entitles them to a free class each term.

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

MOTHERS' UNION

We began the year with the AGM followed by Holy Communion in January. In February we all enjoyed our Annual lunch at Stoke Lodge Hotel. This year we joined up with the Senior Citizens. In March Jenny Harris brought her flowers and did some lovely arrangements for us. April brought a lady from the Children's Hospice who gave a very interesting talk. In May John Vinton from Buckfastleigh came to talk about Refugees and Asylum Seekers. Jonathon Oliverio came in June and told us all about 10 years of Youth Genesis work. In July we had a members afternoon in St. Peters. We did not meet in August. The wave of prayer was in September which was held in Church after the service. Peter Barker also spoke to us in September about Iran. Some members attended a Deanery meeting at Dodbrooke called 'In Mary Sumner's Footsteps' in October. Our Vicar spoke to us in November about the trip to the Holy Land that included a number of people from the Benefice. December was carols and tea in St. Peters. Another full and interesting year.

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 usually 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 is usually around 50% of the membership. Various talks were given during 2018, both by outside speakers and our own members. A few examples are:

'The Colour of Birds'

'Newcomen Dartmouth'

'Exeter Ship Canal'

'Tales from a Carrier Bag'

'Various talks by Members' etc

We arrange an annual outing to a place of interest within roughly a 30-mile radius. In spring 2018 we went, mostly accompanied by our wives/partners, to Sharpham Vineyard. There we enjoyed cheese and wine tasting, as well as having a superb lunch together.

Instead of the Autumn Dinner, a Ladies Lunch was held when partners and guests were invited to the morning talk and lunch, again at the Stoke Lodge Hotel. This was considered a great success and will be repeated this year.

The Club ended 2018 with 30 members and new members have joined in 2019.

Members are mainly from Stoke Fleming and Strete with others from Dartmouth and surrounding villages.

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:

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Secretary: Graham Lewis at grahamglewis@hotmail.com 712248

Chairman: John Hosea at hoseakathyjohn@btinternet.com 770461

Treasurer: Graham Tweed at tweed833@btinternet.com Tel 770730

Website: www.stokeflemingprobus.wixsite.com/stokeflemingprobus

START BAY PERFORMERS

Since the last Parish Council report we have had one production which we performed in the Village Hall in November 2018 and are rehearsing for another which will be performed in July. This one will take place in Strete Village Hall as well as in Stoke Fleming.

Our November production was "Whodunnit" by Anthony Shaffer. As the name suggests it was murder mystery comedy. It required lots of bookcases for people to hide behind (beautifully made by Mike Roope) lots of "blood", lots of props lent to us by "Junk and Disorderly" and a drunken butler, who did it!

For the first time we had a matinee performance, with afternoon tea, for those who preferred not to come out in the evening. This will be something that we shall probably repeat.

We are always pleased to welcome new members either to act or work behind the scenes. A production is more than the people you see on the stage. We meet most Mondays in The Ron Harris Room at 7.00pm and further details can be obtained on 01803 770656.

Compiled May 2019
Judy Talbot
Parish Clerk
Stoke Fleming Parish Council