

Stoke Fleming Parish Council

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Dear Little Cotton Resident

A Warm Welcome – to Stoke Fleming

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Little Cotton, this growing new development that is on the fringes of Dartmouth but also within Stoke Fleming parish. For many things you may naturally look to the former, but we hope you will also come to know what we have to offer and enjoy the attractions and facilities in our thriving and friendly community.

We are getting ready to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and we hope you will find time to join us. Over the four days from 2nd to 5th June there will be many events and activities, and it will be a first-class opportunity to get a feel for the parish and the folk who live here. The programme is within the enclosed copy of the Stoke Fleming Magazine – a monthly publication that goes to every permanent residence in the parish and where you can find out about the many clubs, societies and other groups that are active within the community.

At the moment the Magazine contains little if any news from Little Cotton, but we would like to change that and encourage you to contribute to its pages. A new parish noticeboard will soon appear near the entrance to Little Cotton. Some areas of it will contain information about the wider parish and the business of the Council, but a part has been reserved for use by Little Cotton residents. Please start using it. The parish website is at www.stokefleming.org. There are a couple of Facebook groups for the parish – the Stoke Fleming Community Forum, set up initially for the pandemic but now serving a wider need and with 571 members <https://www.facebook.com/groups/553276165587518> and Sustainable Stoke Fleming, a community interest group focusing on biodiversity and sustainability, with 68 members. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/878145659437240>. Please join both to keep abreast of what is going on in our vibrant parish. Of course, all of the commercial enterprises in the parish have their own web and Facebook pages.

At the heart of our community are the primary school – the majority of the pupils come from Dartmouth and other surrounding villages rather than from Stoke Fleming itself – the church, post office and shop, the Village Hall where many of the activities take place, not to mention the cricket, bowls and petanque clubs and the recreation field with its excellent children's Play Area. You can wine and dine at the Green Dragon pub, Radius 7 restaurant and Stoke Lodge hotel, and for good and unusual wines there is Michael Sutton's Cellar in the valley at Riversbridge. For many the jewel in our crown is Blackpool Sands and the very popular Venus Café.

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Blackpool Sands

On the back page of the Magazine you will find contact numbers for a dozen or more of the more popular activities, but there are others – various dance classes, pilates, yoga, badminton, short mat bowls and more, as well as small ads for various local businesses that can meet many needs.



The Green Dragon

There is a good sized car park at the Village Hall and other spaces around the pub and opposite the bowls club at the other end of the village. Blackpool Sands has its own private car park. The Parish Council is planning to create another car park with around 35 spaces in the field just behind those opposite the bowls club. The best way of getting to the village and the beaches along Start Bay by car is via the A379 from the top of College Way. Venn Lane is slightly more direct but narrow and in some places steep, with few passing places.

One of the most popular events in the village that has been running for many years is the Stoke Fleming Horticultural and Sports Society Show, known locally as the 'Hort and Sports'. This is a typical, delightfully traditional village event that takes place over the August Bank Holiday weekend. Think biggest marrow, best flower display, homemade cakes and children's egg and spoon races and you are on the right lines!

Also this year as we have mentioned are the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The majority of planned events take place in the centre of the village. From the church bells being rung and the beacon lit on the Thursday to the Hog Roast on Saturday evening and the community picnic on the Sunday in the recreation field, there will be something to suit all tastes and pockets. Do come along and make yourselves known as the new members of the parish!

Stoke Fleming is a great community and we really hope you will enjoy living in the area and making the most of what the parish has to offer. Welcome again!

Very best wishes

Struan Coupar
Chairman