



STOW BUGLE

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF STOW PARISH

Welcome to our Winter 2021 online edition. We hope that you are all keeping safe and well. Please circulate this to anyone you know in the Stow area and, if you know someone who does not have access to a computer, please print them off a copy.

There will be a copy placed on the Stow village noticeboard.

We are hoping to be able to circulate the Bugle and also periodic Stow updates via email as well as publishing it on our Parish website and on the Stow Community and Event page on Facebook. If you did not receive this directly and would like to be on our mailing list, please send your name and email address to Clare on clare_ella@hotmail.com as she has kindly offered to co-ordinate the list for us. Your email address will be kept securely and will not be disclosed to third parties.

PARISH COUNCIL.

The Parish Council website can be found at: <https://stow.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk>

The Council meetings are currently on zoom. The next meeting is scheduled for **11.30am 15th March.**

If you are interested in attending, you will find the link on the agenda, which will be posted on our website, on Facebook and a copy will be on the village noticeboard.

VOLUNTEERS

In our first edition we asked for people to come forward to help in a range of tasks. A number of people have volunteered, but we are still needing people, for instance to help us decide on the improvements to the Playpark. If you can help us decide on the new equipment we need to purchase in the not too distant future, please contact the Clerk to the Council on: stowparishclerk@gmail.com.

If you need help.....

Since our first edition we have had to deal with the Covid pandemic and we were delighted that so many local people came forward to assist fellow residents who needed help. That help is still available, so if there is anyone, who is self isolating and needs help with:

- getting a prescription
- some emergency food shopping
- walking the dog

Please get in touch and we will link you up with a volunteer.

Contact:

- the Stow Community Facebook page
- 01427 788725 or
- Stowvirus@gmail.com

In this edition:

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- The Census
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- Show AGM
- Stow Recreation Fund
- Thank you to those involved with the Christmas tree, Living Advent Calendar and bell ringing
- Neighbourhood Plan Update
- Transport and Covid 19
- Energy wise
- Litter picking
- Contacting the Parish Council
- Dog walkers

CENSUS

We have been asked by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to let people know about the Census.

The Census is taking place this March:

- The census is a survey that happens every 10 years and everyone takes part.
- The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for the Census in England and Wales.
- The census provides a valuable snapshot of our whole society.
- Census day is **Sunday 21 March 2021**
- Completing the Census is a legal requirement

What's new?

- For first time the census will be "digital first"
- ONS want to support and encourage people to complete their census online via a computer or any mobile device.
- For most people, completing a census online is quicker and easier. ONS understand this is not the case for everyone.
- It's not a "digital-only" census - Anyone who would prefer a paper questionnaire can have one.
- A new question to identify veterans has been added for the first time.
- New optional questions for 16+ years olds. Sexual orientation and gender identity.

Timeline

12 February - National campaign begins - TV/Radio/Online

Announce - Address - Act

22 February - ONS will send a postcard to every household informing them the census is coming.

23 February - Census 2021 digital response goes live

1 March - Census telephone help-line and local Census support centres go live

3 March - Every household will receive a pack asking them to take part in the census and telling them how. Delivery will span 10 days.

8 March - Census Field operations begin.

21 March - Census Day

22 March - Reminder letters start

4 May - Census digital response closes

4 May - Last date of paper questionnaire post out

What support is available?

- Paper questionnaires - Requested via telephone helpline
- Local census support centres - Go live 1 Subject to COVID restrictions. Final list of locations to be confirmed
- Telephone help-line - Go live 1 March
- COVID-safe census field team - Go live 8 March
- Your local Census engagement manager
- Accessibility resources. E.g. Large print and support in alternative languages. Limited telephone capture.
- Census online help - Go Live 2 February

Frequently asked questions

Q: Is my personal data secure?

A: Yes

Only anonymous census information is published for 100 years. In fact, it's a crime for personal census information to be shared.

Completing the census will not impact people's benefits claims or immigration status.

Q: Why is the census asking me about my gender identity and sexual orientation?

A: This is to give us more accurate information on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender populations.

This will help organisations combat any inequalities these groups face and show where services are needed.

Q: How will the census field operation be safe during the COVID 19 pandemic?

A: The safety of the public and Census staff is ONS number one priority.

- The Census field staff will be trained in COVID safety
- Will wear PPE when visiting households and will not cross the threshold to enter households.

FAREWELLS

Many villagers came out to pay their respects and bid a socially distanced farewell to two longstanding residents in January. Unable to attend funerals, friends and neighbours showed their support for the families of Paul Wright and Barry Barron by lining the route as their funeral cortèges passed through the village. Paul's funeral took place at Lea crematorium whilst Barry was laid to rest in Stow cemetery. Sincere condolences to both families.

Residents were also very sad to hear of the sudden death of Mike Mott, and our thoughts are with Donna and all the family.



Flowers on Barry's grave

STURTON AND STOW AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We hope to hold our AGM (Covid 19 restrictions permitting) end of April/early May. Watch this space.

www.sturtonandstowshow.com

Update on Stow Recreation Fund projects

The **Electronic winding system for the village clock in the Church tower** and the automatic regulator have been successfully installed and the clock is now keeping perfect time and the village's dedicated clock winders are now having a well-earned rest!

The **New bench seat near Pooh sticks bridge/ Green Lane junction, and a wheelchair-friendly picnic bench in the playpark** have been widely complimented and a team of volunteers is now in place to clean all the village benches on a regular basis.

The designs and locations for the **Decorative Village name signs** are still being worked on, but we will hopefully have some more news soon.

Clare Ella Secretary - Tel 07805 057583 or email StowRecreationFund@outlook.com

THANK YOU

A number of local people combined to make the festive season as bright as it could be:



Choosing the tree

Thank you to Doug Garner and his team for yet again putting up and decorating our village Christmas tree. It looked glorious as usual.

Doug writes: "I collected the Christmas tree from Fillingham Castle farms, having chosen it three months earlier, and with the help of Malcolm Gladwin's trailer and Charlie Marshall with his chain saw and teleporter, it was popped in its socket on the green. After we put the lights on, I think it gave a lovely centrepiece to the village for Christmas even with the dreaded lockdown restrictions. Credit should also go to Norman Read who gave assistance on 12th night to take down the tree and Bob Harrison who removed it to his bonfire heap without anyone seeing him!

What a nice village thing! You can always get help here, it's things like this that make village life so special."



Photo courtesy of Esme Lannigan



Day 10

LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR

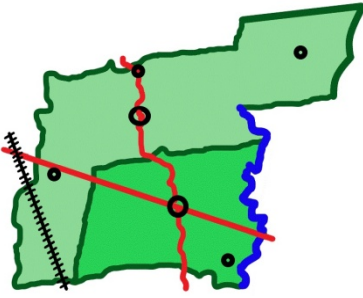
Clare and Hayley would like to say a very big thank you to all of the villagers who took part in the Living Advent Calendar throughout December. It was wonderful to see such a fantastic range of designs – done by all age groups, using many different materials. Every window was admired, and it was great to see them featured on the village Facebook page too so that the less mobile could still appreciate all the work that had gone into them.

...and the family working on Day 22



Thanks also to Chris and Carolyn Turner who organized the socially distanced hand bell ringing on Christmas Eve. Despite very blustery conditions, a number of recognizable carols rang out to entertain those residents within hearing distance – who were also able to see the Crib scene in the window at the Thatched Cottage and Santa on his sleigh, pulled by his reindeer, when looking up above the old School room. Christmas in Stow was not the same this year without the band & carols and mince pies round the village tree – but the community really came together to make it a special one.

Note from the Parish Council: "Thank you to all involved."



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUP – PROGRESS REPORT

We are delighted to report that, despite the many Covid restrictions, we have indeed made progress. The Group has just completed the mandatory public consultation of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan, often referred to as the Section 14 Consultation. We are extremely grateful to every resident, business and organisation that took the time to provide a response by whatever method. It means that we received a better than average response rate. Our task now is to collate, tabulate and to comment on all the observations received. Where appropriate, the Draft Plan will be updated before we submit it to West Lindsey District Council accompanied by the comments (and our responses) contained in a standalone document, both of which will be made available on our website (www.sturtonandstowplan.co.uk) at the same time. West Lindsey DC will engage an independent Planning Inspector to review our work, no doubt changes will be required to reflect the latest state of play of the Planning Regulations, and in due course West Lindsey DC will organise a public referendum as soon as the Covid restrictions permit. Once again thank you for all your contributions.

We have been asked to publicise two county services:

TRANSPORT AND COVID 19 VACCINE

Lincolnshire County Council's Transport helpline provides transport advice, identifies transport options/information and can assist with booking transport available to get to appointments.

The opening times are Monday-Friday: 9am-6pm and Saturday: 9.30am-4pm on 0345 456 4474.

The CallConnect bookable bus service is also available throughout Lincolnshire Monday to Friday 8.30am to 6:30pm, Saturday 9.00am- 5:30pm, call 0345 234 3344 for more

information. If CallConnect is not able to help with your journey, they can direct you to other transport options and information.

Also, the Lincoln area CallConnect bus service is expanding its operating area to include more communities and the Lincolnshire Showground.

Please help spread the word to those who are vulnerable and in need of assistance to receive the Covid 19 vaccination. If you need further information please call the transport helpline or visit <https://lincsbus.info/>

Be Energy Wise and Save Money on your Gas and Electricity

Join a **FREE Virtual Big Energy Saving Network (BESN) Coffee Chat** on: **Tuesday 23rd February - 11.00am to 12.30pm**

BESN delivers an extensive free programme of support to households focused on helping to reduce energy costs on tariffs, switching, and the take up of energy efficiency offers.

Through online coffee chats consumers will receive impartial advice and support:

- on suitable tariffs, the cheapest way to pay bills, and how to reduce the amount of energy they use;
- on how to take control over their tariff and supplier and how to get the best deal to suit them and their needs; they can assist people to switch!
- on available schemes offered by the Government or energy suppliers that could help with their energy costs; sign people up to the Warm Home discount and the priority service register for eligible consumers.

Register now as places are limited. All attendees will receive a winter warmth gift!

LITTER PICKING

Many thanks to all those villagers, who are already doing regular litter picking when out for a walk – it is very much appreciated. If anyone else would like to do some independent litter picking when taking their daily exercise, there are bags as well as some litter pick sticks and hoops for the plastic bags that you can borrow. Contact Anne on: 07836671938.

Getting in touch

If you want to raise an issue with the Parish Council, to volunteer, suggest a topic for the Bugle or nominate a local talent whom you think we should feature, you can do so by contacting the Parish Clerk at:
stowparishclerk@gmail.com
or on 01522 704687

MESSAGE TO DOG WALKERS

There are some lovely walks around the area and they are particularly important to people's health and wellbeing at the moment. They are enjoyed by lots of people. Please remember to clear up after your dog so that everyone can continue to enjoy their walks.