



Photograph courtesy of Brenda Langton

STOW BUGLE

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF STOW PARISH

Stow, Normanby by Stow, Coates by Stow, and the surrounding rural area.

Welcome to our Christmas 2022 edition.

Welcome to this edition of the Bugle.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a happy festive season and all the very best for the New Year.

Please circulate the Bugle 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, in St Mary's and on our website.

We try 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 stowvillage@outlook.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.

If you know of someone new who has moved into the Parish (Stow, Normanby, Coates and the surrounding rural area), please let the Parish Clerk know on stowparishclerk@gmail.com and we will arrange to deliver a Welcome Pack to them. Since we introduced the Welcome Pack in March 2021, we have welcomed 30 new households.

The Post Office hub in St Mary's Church is there THREE times a week:

Monday	9.30am - 12.30pm,
Tuesday	1.30pm - 4.30pm,
Thursday	9.30am - 12.30pm.

Please make a note and support your local Post Office service. As well as stamps, posting letters and parcels, withdrawing and depositing money and other Post Office transactions, there is usually a selection of basic groceries, sweets, biscuits, chocolate, crisps, cakes, tea, coffee, sugar, flour, pasta, eggs, jams etc. and a few newspapers.

There is also a selection of second hand books (adults and children) that you can buy - in aid of Church funds.

Ingham Road – temporary road closure
14th – 16th December

From South Drive to a point 300 metres east.
Restrictions to be implemented as and when required.
Signage will indicate more detail.

Parish Council

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

The next **Parish Council meeting**, to which all residents are invited, will be at **7pm on Monday 9th January 2023** in St Mary's. The agenda will be posted on our website, on Facebook and copies will also be on the village noticeboard and in St Mary's near the Post Office.

Being a councillor

Have you ever thought about being a Parish Councillor? The term of office of the present councillors will finish in May 2023. If you think you have something to offer and would like to serve your community, why not think about standing as a councillor at the next elections? For more information contact the Parish Clerk. stowparishclerk@gmail.com.

Clerk vacancy


After 9 years loyal service our Clerk is stepping down and she will be sorely missed. We are therefore looking for a new Clerk. If you might be interested in the role you can obtain details by contacting the Clerk on stowparishclerk@gmail.com.

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WHAT DOES THE PARISH COUNCIL DO?

The Parish Council has responsibility for a wide range of local issues, for example:

- Maintenance of the village playpark, which includes funding an annual health and safety inspection. We have also sought grants to aid in the purchase of new pieces of equipment. The latest addition to the play park is the swing seat from the accessible range purchased with a grant from Stow Recreation Fund.
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- Cataloguing, mapping and registering with the Land Registry all the land that the Parish owns or has responsibility for. Acquisition by the Parish Council goes back a long way and records are not complete. We are grateful to David Justham, who has undertaken a lot of research on this, which is enabling the Clerk to proceed with the application to register our ownership of the play park. We will need to engage a solicitor for some of the other pieces, which are more complicated.
 - Maintenance of Stow cemetery. Charles Hewitt and Paula Justham have kept an eye on this.
 - Maintenance of grass and trees on Parish owned land. We have a contract with a local firm for grass cutting, arrange for a periodic tree survey and engage tree surgeons as necessary.
 - Taking a view on planning applications submitted to West Lindsey District Council and submitting that view to WLDC.
 - The Parish Council joined with Sturton Parish Council to develop the Neighbourhood Plan, which was 'made' by West Lindsey District Council on 4th August. The Plan will help inform any development over the next few years. The plan can be viewed, along with supporting documents, on West Lindsey's website: <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/planning-buildingcontrol/planning/neighbourhood-planning/allneighbourhood-plans-west-lindsey/sturton-stow-stowneighbourhood-plan>

The Council also responded to the consultation on Cottam1 given the direct impact on a number of local residents and on our environment. We will continue to comment in the next stages.

The Council operates on a tight budget, but we try to gauge local needs and work with the District and County Councils to fulfil them as well as seeking grant aid for things such as play park equipment and seats.

We do report faults such as damaged highways signs, drains, street furniture, though villagers may report such things directly. The Council endeavour to work with the Highways department with regard to improvements such as speed management and road safety. There is a useful website, which can also be used by members of the public, for reporting issues to Highways: www.fixmystreet.lnshire.gov.uk. If you report a problem please keep the Parish Council informed.

In order to fund the above activities and any other expenditure, the Council receives what is called a Precept. This is an amount of money included in the Council Tax we all pay. In the present economic climate the Council has taken the view the precept should not be increased this coming year so the Precept for 2022/23 remains at £5000.

In 2019 we introduced the Bugle as a way of communicating with residents about Council business, letting people know of some of the activities and events going on in the area and seeking views. During lockdown we moved the Bugle online and now encourage people to sign up to have the Bugle sent by email although paper copies are available on the village noticeboard by the bus stop and in St Mary's. We also ask if people will print off a copy for neighbours, who do not have access to the internet. Please encourage friends and neighbours to sign up.

The Council has 7 members, one of whom will be elected as Chairman and one as Vice Chairman at the first meeting of the new Council in May 2023. Parish Council meetings are every two months on a Monday evening and held in the vestry at St Mary's. Between meetings members are consulted by email on planning applications and other matters. There are also a number of practical tasks that are undertaken either by individual Councillors, who are all volunteers and not paid, or other local volunteers. Small Councils such as ours are very dependent on volunteers to help maintain the local area and facilities whether it is planting bulbs, picking up litter, painting the gates to the cemetery, picking up fallen branches in the playpark, putting out the green bins in the cemetery, keeping the seats clean, renovating village seats...the list goes on. If you feel you want to do something for the village, but don't think being a councillor is for you, there are plenty of other tasks with which you could help.

Further information about the role of councils can be found at: www.localgov.co.uk/Parish-council-responsibilities/29135 or contact the Clerk for more information about Stow Parish on stowparishclerk@gmail.com

Carols round the Christmas tree

6pm Thursday 22nd December

The annual community singing of carols and Christmas songs around the village Christmas tree at the crossroads is planned for Thursday 22nd December at 6pm.

We aim to sing about 6 or 7 carols - do you have a favourite that you'd like to be included this year? To request a particular carol send an email to stowvillage@outlook.com or comment on the thread on Facebook and we'll include the most popular ones.

As usual warm mince pies and hot drinks will be provided and everyone from the parish and their families and friends are invited to come along and join in. We had a bumper turnout last year - let's see if we can do the same this year! Collection as usual for St Barnabas Hospice.

Details will be posted on the Stow Community Facebook page and at www.stowfunraisers.wordpress.com.

ST MARY'S, STOW

6.00pm 24th December Christmas Eve Carol Service at St Mary's Church, Stow. Following cancellations in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19 let's come together to make this a special carol service for our community as we celebrate the start of Christmas.

WHAT IS YOUR HANDWRITING LIKE?

Could you help with the entries in the Book of Remembrance at St Mary's? Do you have an interest/skills in calligraphy?

They are looking for someone who would be willing to help. If you are interested please contact David Justham on 01427 788725.

Stow Village Living Advent Calendar

December 2022

A big thank you to everyone who has 'volunteered' to take part this year. The list below should help you all plan your walking/ cycling/ driving/ riding routes around the village to view the windows as they are revealed one by one.

For those of you new to the village, or not familiar with the idea - volunteers from 24 houses in Stow will decorate and light up a window in their house in December. One new window is 'opened' each day from 1st to the 24th December and ideally remains decorated until 12th night (6th January). The aim is simply to have fun and create a nice way of bringing the community together by providing a 'trail' for people to walk round the village looking for the latest windows. It isn't a competition – no entry fee and no prizes.

We will put a map of the Living Advent Calendar on the Stow Community Facebook page, on the notice board in the bus shelter, or will email it out to anyone who asks for a copy or pop a copy through the letterbox of anyone who is not 'on the internet' and would still like to follow the trail.

Date	Address where you can find the window
1st Thurs	12 Ingham Road
2	31 Ingham Road (on the left, quite a way down)
3rd Sat	The Cross Keys, Stow Park Road
4	Gothic House, 25 Church Road
5	33 Ingham Road (just past Fleets Road - the veg stall!)
6	5 Church Road
7	4 School Lane
8	Tarn Howes, Ingham Road (near the 30mph sign)
9	10 St Mary's Crescent
10th Sat	9b Ingham Road
11	Highfield Farm, Stow Park Road
12	8 Sturton Road
13	7 Church Road
14	Exchange House, Ingham Road (on the right)
15	8b Sturton Road
16	2 South Drive
17th Sat	Highfield Cottage, Stow Park Road (near Highfield Farm)
18	29 Church Road (down the bottom of the lane)
19	19 Stow Park Road
20	23a Church Road
21	6 Sturton Road
22	The Rectory, Normanby Road
23	Minster View, Church Road
24th Sat	School House, School Lane

USEFUL CONTACTS

Extract from a post on Facebook:

"I wanted to put some resources together that might help people, whether it's to put a meal on the table, someone to talk to about finding financial help, or just someone to talk to if you are struggling with your emotions, or feeling low.

Food banks - Trussell Trust has a Food bank finder if you need it. <https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/> If you are in the fortunate position that you can donate some items - here is a link to find your local Food bank drop off points along with a list of things they're asking for.

<https://www.givefood.org.uk/>

If you need help with finances and don't know where to go - Go to Citizens Advice - <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/> - you can call them, or go online to see what help may be available to you.

There is Turn2Us - a website that will help you discover if you are eligible for any benefits, grants, or financial help immediately - <https://www.turn2us.org.uk/>

And check out Martin Lewis -

<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/.../cost-of-living.../> -

See if there's anything in there that can help if you haven't done so already.

If you are struggling with heating - this map will show you where your local "Warm Space" is -

<https://www.warmwelcome.uk/#find-a-space> where you will be able to sit in warmth without needing to turn your own heating on.

If you need someone to talk to - speak to Samaritans - 116 123 - or you can email them at jo@samaritans.org

If you don't want to talk but still communicate with someone, text Shout on 85258.

Samaritans and Shout are 24/7 services - it doesn't matter when you call or text, you will get a reply.

I know that not everyone is comfortable asking for help, that they might rather live off weetabix for weeks than get that bit of help and support they need. But know that, if this applies to you, you are not alone. This winter, so many will be struggling. Parents feeding children over themselves, putting on an extra blanket rather than the heating, despite the ice on the inside of the window, or drinking a bottle of cheap alcohol to get rid of the thoughts in your head instead of seeking help where it's needed.

No one is going through this alone, if we can reach out to each other, be kind, we will make it through somehow. Just look out for each other, and help your friends, neighbours and loved ones where you can."

JUBILEE WOOD

Sturton by Stow Jubilee Woodland working parties

Are you aware of the Jubilee Woodland on Cowdale Lane? - turn right off Tillbridge Lane towards Bransby and it's on your left! It's currently a little overgrown, and there is lots to do to make it more accessible. The next working party is Sunday December 18th starting at 9am. Due to insurance provisions there is a limit of 12 people. If you'd like more information or want to join in, please contact David Bole on 07484 243355

ST EDITH'S



Our recent Remembrance Service was supported by the 1st Willingham Scout Group, which draws its membership from a wide area, including all the local villages. This short service, outdoors, with a log fire, attracted our congregation and new friends too. With over 45 people attending, of all ages, it was wonderful to witness. A number of people stopped back afterwards, to look around the Church and learn more about its history.

Our next event is on **Tuesday 20 December 2022 at 6.30 p.m.** when again anyone who wishes to come along will be made most welcome. Traditional Carols around an outdoor flickering log fire will take place in the garden area, at the back of the Church. The International Peace Light will be burning there and Mulled Wine and mince pies will be available.

We are asking for tins/packets to be donated on this occasion, as a gesture of goodwill, to be taken the following day to the Salvation Army's food bank. We will endeavour to build up tins donated in the shape of a Christmas tree.

Please wear clothing and footwear appropriate for the weather conditions.

Going forwards into 2023.....

Rev Alan Robson will be joining us on **Sunday 15 January 2023 at 10.30 a.m.** for our Plough Sunday Service. Again all very welcome to attend.

With very best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year.

Robin and Angela Wright

THANK YOU

To Gail Adams for organising the Walking Christmas Market on 27th November, which was enjoyed by many locals and visitors.

Thank you too to Hayley Wallis for hosting the stalls at the Cross Keys and to those who helped with car parking, setting up and so on. It has become a great part of the run up to Christmas.



All welcome.



7.30pm
Sturton Village Hall
Secretary Maria Scott 787062

- 13th December** Christmas Party with De Capo playing
- 2023**
- 10th January** Speaker from Clarins at Le Sanctuaire in Lincoln, and she will be focusing on cleansing the skin which she will demonstrate on a volunteer. She will do a skin pamper and teach us about the History of Clarins.
- 14th February** Lincolnshire's Influential Women Caroline Mogg with an overview of types of roles and enterprises that rural women were engaged in during the 19th Century.

You can contact the Clerk to the Parish Council on: stowparishclerk@gmail.com.