



STOW BUGLE

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF STOW PARISH

WELCOME to the second edition of our newsletter and thank you for your feedback on the first. One of the things people asked about was how they might become more involved. Please read the article on page 2 about **Volunteers**. If you feel you may be able to help with some of the things we have identified please get in touch. If there is something else that you think we ought to be doing, please let us know.

We have included more information below about **Neighbourhood Planning** as we are getting near to the time when you will have your opportunity to have your say on the draft Plan.

On Page 3 we have also got a piece from the Trustees of the **Stow Recreation Fund** on the progress they have made on allocating funds to the projects people identified.

We have included on page 4 another view from the walkabouts. Do you have a favourite view you would like to share?

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Did you come along to our stand at the Sturton Village Hall event on 19th January, "What's going on?" If you did, you will have seen our draft Vision and Objectives. Both they and the draft Neighbourhood Profile, based on all the information gathered during the walkabouts, are now available to view online at www.sturtonandstowplan.co.uk along with maps and photographs. If you have any comments, please let us know via the website for the Plan.

In January we started to do what is called a Green Space Assessment, which is a way of identifying and protecting relatively small local green spaces that have an importance to the community. Their significance may be their beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity, richness of wildlife or another reason the site is significant to the local community. The areas in Stow Parish

we identified are: the village green area (the land on Church Road where the Whipping Post is, plus the grassed areas at the crossroads); the playpark; the Parish Field on Fleets Lane and a couple of privately owned spaces where we are negotiating with the landowners. Being designated as a Green Space in the local Plan gives a measure of protection similar to the Green Belt status. We will also have a Green Space Infrastructure Policy, which does not carry the same weight, but does afford some protection for walkways, hedges and verges for example. A lot of work is being done to complete the draft Plan and this should be available in summer for you to make your comments. Keep an eye out for events when hard copies will be available for people to see, and check the website for the documents that will be available to view online.



Yes, we are asking for some Volunteers!

We would like to encourage the setting up of Community Groups for:

- The Playground – We really want to involve parents of the children who might use the play park. There are a number of things we need and want to do: keeping an eye on maintenance and safety; fundraising for equipment and activities or helping with grant applications; organising play sessions/games for the kids.
- Keeping trees on Parish land in good condition – making an inventory, monitoring, highlighting work that needs to be done, whether there are any trees where we should consider applying for a Tree Preservation Order, and maybe assisting with small scale work.
- Litter picking – Stow Fun Raisers organise a twice-yearly litter pick that makes a real difference and the next one will be in April. How can we get more people involved? From the school questionnaire we know that children in particular hate litter, can we involve them in a group to both tidy up more regularly and campaign against littering?
- IT, PR and communications for these Community Groups and for the Parish Council including possibly doing the newsletter.
- Walks and Footpaths – we want to put together information for people on the lovely walks that we have in the area. Do you have a favourite walk? Do you know the local public footpaths, bridleways and green lanes? Could you help in putting together leaflets for residents and visitors? Would you be willing to keep an eye on the upkeep of public footpaths and, as necessary, liaise with the County Council Rights of Way Officer?

If you would like to lead or participate in any of these groups, or if you think we should have any others, please contact Norman Read on 01427 787082 or send a txt to 07528 444691

STOW COMMUNITY FACEBOOK PAGE

We hope that Stow Community Facebook Page, will become a group that all the Facebook user residents of Stow will join, contribute to, and use. It will advertise all Stow Fun Raiser community events, and also people are encouraged to post for example, about lost/ found pets, any other events in the village, the annual parish meeting, the post office opening hours, any planned road works they become aware of, the site of dangerous potholes, Cross Keys events, parish council notices, local election details, which bin is to

be emptied this week, contacts for the Parish News articles, etc.

It IS NOT A SELLING SITE, but can be used e.g. to offer help with shopping in times of bad weather, ask for recommendations for local tradesmen, or share other useful information - maybe if you are going to have a party that will involve setting off fireworks and would like to give pet owning villagers some notice, or you hear that a sporting event is passing through the village. Please join the group and invite other Stow residents and friends to join too.

STOW RECREATION FUND

After the public meeting on 6th August 2019, when all Stow Parish residents were invited to attend and discuss possible projects for the benefit of the village that could be funded by the Stow Recreation Fund, the trustees (Clare Ella, Andrew Fenn, Doug Garner, Nigel Gray, Charles Hewitt and John Martinson) have been working hard to progress the approved projects.

1. Defibrillator – a community defibrillator will be installed on the rear wall of the Cross Keys by early March. Everyone in the village is encouraged to make themselves familiar with its location once installed. A training session will be held early in March. If you would like to attend a session, please email or phone the contact details below, by Wed. 3rd March.

2. Flashing Speed signs on entering the village on Ingham Road and Sturton Road - discussions are still taking place with Lincolnshire Highways and the Lincoln Road Safety Partnership, as to the possible locations and specifications of the signs themselves.

3. Electronic winding system for the village clock in the Church tower – the Diocese has approved the granting of a faculty to allow the work to take place, and at the end of the consultation period – hopefully early March – the preferred suppliers, Time Assured, will start the preliminary work and the mechanical winding system will be replaced by an accurate electronic system by the summer.

4. New signs at the entrance to the village on Ingham Road, Normanby Road, Stow Park Road and Sturton Road - having considered all the feedback received on the proposed designs that were on display in the church throughout December into January, it is planned to commission colour powder coated galvanised steel signs, which will show a more detailed and accurate silhouette of the church, with larger lettering for STOW than the previous design, and with a wheat sheaf and horse and plough in relief either side of the church, to reflect the agricultural history of the village. The trustees wish to have signs that are unique, a reflection of the village, support a local craftsman, and come within

our budget. We hope that the residents will support this decision.

5. New bench seats at the Fleets/Ingham Road junction and on Stow Park Road going out of the village past the cemetery and a wheelchair-friendly picnic bench in the playpark- we are awaiting a meeting with LCC highways and the Parish Council to confirm the exact location of the benches and to gain the necessary permissions. They will be made of recycled plastic, which is more vandal-proof, and more comfortable, than more traditional materials, and they are also sourced from a local supplier.

6. Play park equipment - a donation is to be made to the Parish Council towards purchasing an inclusive piece of play equipment.

We hope that you appreciate all the hard work that is going into trying to improve the village's facilities. If you have any comments, then please contact us via email at StowRecreationFund@outlook.com, or on 07805 057583.

Clare Ella, Secretary Stow Recreation Fund

Future Communications

It's not best environmental practice to be sending out a paper newsletter – but it is necessary to get the ball rolling. We would like to offer electronic communications (your copy of the newsletter, announcements etc.) from us in future. That way more than one person at each physical address can receive them directly, and it would lead to less use of paper. We would appreciate help in setting this up. If you have the skills and time to help us, please contact Norman Read on 01427 787082 or text to 07528 444691.

Message for all dog owners and walkers

We have some lovely walks in the area for you and your dogs, but please remember to clean up after your dog and place the bag in the appropriate bin or take it home. Please do not leave bags on the hedges or at the side of the path

Did you know? On the south side of St Edith's there is a lovely picnic area, with seats, for visitors to enjoy. Here is a view of St Edith's from the road:



What's happening?

Litter Pick 2pm Sunday 19th April

Organised by Stow Fun Raisers. Contact Clare on 07805057583 for more details or if you would like to help. If you are not able to pick litter, cakes are always welcome for the refreshments afterwards.

1pm 7th June Annual Bike Ride and BBQ

Possible Jazz Night late June.

See their Facebook page or visit the blog at:

www.stowfunraisers.wordpress.com

Sturton and Stow Agricultural and Horticultural Show AGM.

7.30pm Thursday 26th March

The Old Schoolroom, Sturton.

All welcome. Come along and have your say about the annual Show (3rd October).

www.sturtonandstowshow.wordpress.com

Open Churches 16th and 17th May

St Mary's: 10-5pm each day.

Celebrate the life of Thomas Beckett, see the 12th century fresco, enjoy dramatic performances throughout the weekend culminating in a play on Sunday at 4pm Free. Visit: www.stowminster.co.uk

www.explorechurches.org/church/st-mary-stow

St Edith's: open both days

Stalls and refreshments on Saturday 10-3pm

Visit: www.explorechurches.org/church/st-edith-coates-stow

Sturton and Stow History Society

Meets every at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday each month in Sturton Village Hall. Dates for Spring are:

April 15th - Pete Skipworth - 'Tennyson and his life in the Lincolnshire Wolds'

May 20th - Mark Gamble - 'Miss Scarlet loves Colonel Mustard' - The unlikely tale of Nurse Beatrice May Spurr and Major James Lloyd Murphy (a very local story)

June 17th - John Colewill - 'Waro Long Road' - The story of taking a steam lorry around Australia

July 14th - **Day trip:** Shuttleworth Collection, nr Biggleswade.

Visit the website: www.sshs.btck.co.uk

Meetings of Stow Parish Council are at 7pm in the Vestry, St Mary's and the next is on **16th March**.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** is for all residents and is at **7pm Monday 11th May** tbc Please check on the noticeboard or online.

You can contact the Council:

Email stowparishclerk@gmail.com

Tel. 01522 704687

Or for information visit:

www.parisheslincolnshire.gov.uk/stow

Useful contacts:

If you find a problem with a **public right of way**, you can contact the: Countryside Service, Lancaster House, 36 Orchard Street Lincoln LN1 1XX

T: [01522 782 070](tel:01522782070)

countryside_access@lincolnshire.gov.uk or complete the form for reporting a problem on the County Council website

Citizen's Advice Lindsey

Offer drop in sessions at their office in Gainsborough. All up to date drop in session times can be found on their website:

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/lindsey or you can call Adviceline on 0300 3309 034.