South Stoke Parish Newsletter

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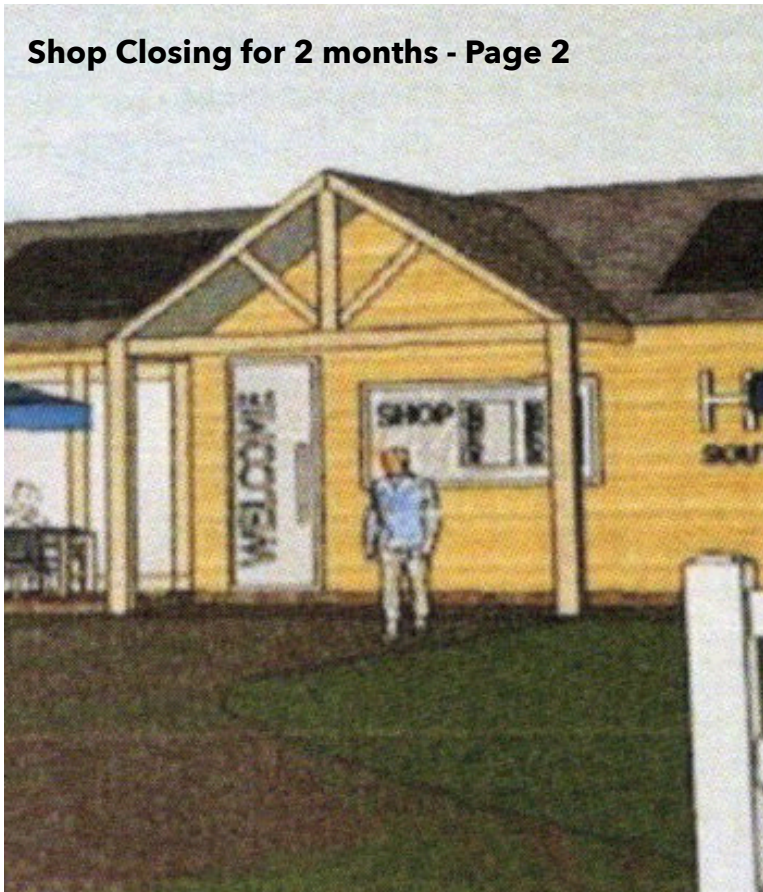
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Shop News

The new shop is finally on the horizon and its new position will mean we all get a great view of the rec and all of its facilities. Imagine, coffee and cake while the kids and adults make the most of what South Stoke has to offer.

While we build, a lot of stock and back office equipment and files etc will need to be off site for the build so if anyone happens to have any spare garage or loft space to store things it will make the transition so much easier. Dates and duration to be confirmed but thought it's worth putting out there.

The new shop will include a small cafe area so we will be looking for extra volunteers…please contact Sam if you can spare any time, it's a great way to become involved in the village, good fun and very rewarding. But if front of house isn't for you there are always plenty of back office tasks that we would appreciate help with.

Some of you may have heard that Evri have removed their service and equipment from Tesco's in Goring….good news for us as they have agreed to reinstate their service in the coming months in our little shop. Watch this space.

Sam Holt

STOP PRESS

Our original plan was to operate from a temporary shop at the other end of the car park while the new shop premises are being constructed.

We have now made the very difficult decision not to do this, as providing temporary power to another unit is proving very problematic and, as it is on the recreation ground, too much of a health and safety risk. It would also limit car parking space for recreation ground users, which we are keen to avoid.

We will therefore be closing the shop on 1st May for a couple of months to allow us all to focus fully on the new premises and get the new shop and café open as soon as possible.

We do appreciate that, for some of our customers, not having a nearby shop will be a problem. Therefore, we will, of course, be happy to help with getting shopping – please give Sam a call on 07757 780582 and she can help.

It is also an opportunity to give our wonderful volunteers a small break, although we would like to call on them (and the village) to help get the new premises ready and open as quickly as we can.

Please get in touch if you are able to help - this could be practical help (decorating, furniture assembling etc), or do you perhaps have space in your garage or shed to store surplus stock during the project?

We'd like to thank everyone for their continued support and look forward to a grand opening this summer.

Sam and the Shop Management Team

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01491 – 872420 info@goringhardware.com
12 Red Cross Road RG8 9HG, next to the surgery

South Stoke School Parents Association

The Parents Association have been funding various things recently including lego and sports clubs as well as buying some new footballs in anticipation for the upcoming world cup and play bricks that the school council requested.

Some of you will also have seen some of our parenting community trying to spruce up the school playground before the May Fayre. It has been lovely to see so many residents walking past while the sunshine has been out. Feel free to say hello over the coming weeks.

Upcoming May Day

We have been overwhelmed by the support from the Village for the upcoming event on the 4th May. The School Parents Association will be having a stall selling Raffle Tickets as well as a Teddy Bear Tombola and a Bottle Tombola. The school will also be having a stall there and the teachers would love for people to stop by to find out about the village school.

Raffle

We have some exciting raffle prizes on offer including a Lego set, hampers, Gift vouchers for amazing days outs and much more. The Perch and Pike have also kindly donated to the raffle and have been supporting the event. Raffle Tickets can be brought on the day but also at the Village Community Shop. We look forward to seeing you there!

Bottle Tombola request

Traditionally the villagers of South Stoke generously donate bottles to support South Stoke school's fundraising efforts as they host the bottle tombola stall at the village May Farye. This year the PTA are raising money for the new outdoor classroom and learning area as well as supporting the school during the National year of Reading. This year the PTA will be collecting bottles on Saturday 2nd May 2026. If you are not going to be in then please feel free to leave your bottles outside your door or you can drop off in the porch area of The Ryepeck, The Street, South Stoke- near the pub and opposite the post box.

If you are unable to drop anything off please call 07305536410 to arrange a collection or email Southstokeschoolpa@gmail.com. We will be more than happy to help.

We thank you in advance for any help you are able to give and the kindness the village shows each year. It really makes a difference to the school community.

Clothing Donation update

Thank you to those who donated clothes to the school drop off in April. We raised £128 for the children! We will be holding another clothing recycling drop off in the autumn term and will keep you updated when a date is arranged.

National Year of Reading

Watch this space - The School Parents Association are planning to support the school's initiatives for the National Year of Reading.

Friend of South Stoke School?

Would you like to become a "Friend of South Stoke School"? Are you passionate about the village school, children and young people and the community? If yes, then please consider becoming a "Friend of South Stoke School." You will be kept informed about school activities, school news as well as being able to engage in fundraising activities and school events.

Joining is a great way to make new friends, get to know the school environment and make a real difference to our School community. You would be able to get involved in the Parents Association events too. There isn't a set expectation of the level of involvement to register as a friend, but any amount of time that you can give really helps! Members don't have to be physically located near the School to be involved and can be someone who grew up in the village and have fond memories of the school.

If you would like to join, please see us at the May Farye or alternatively please get in touch via email fosouthstokeschool@gmail.com or contact us on Facebook.

Amy Snell

South Stoke Amenities Charity

The Charity has been busy with various activities on the Rec this spring. In response to interest from various villagers, we have had a Pickleball Court painted onto the existing hardstanding where the Basketball hoops are located. We've also bought a net, a set of paddles and some balls. It was our intention to house these in a lockable cabinet by the shop, but the temporary closure of the shop means that we are now looking for a storage solution until the new shop opens.

We have also ordered new bins to replace the rusted 3-bay bin near the entrance to the playground and the two broken stand-alone bins. The replacements will be installed over the next few weeks.

Visitors to the Rec might have noticed that we're currently experiencing a lot of damage from Rabbits and Moles. Our mowing contractor is filling in holes and flattening mole hills as part of our regular maintenance program, and we anticipate that the amount of damage will reduce as we move towards summer.

Away from the rec, the area surrounding the phone box, where we have recently installed a defibrillator, is currently somewhat overgrown by weeds. We will be having a concrete base installed around the box over the coming weeks - this will ensure easy access to the box, and make maintenance easier.

John Lindley

Ladies Evening in the Perch & Pike

The monthly ladies evening in the Perch and Pike (also known as GOSSIP - Girls of South Stoke in the Pub) restarted in January. If you're new to the village or have lived in South Stoke for many years, all are welcome. We've had lots of positive feedback and plan to run these get togethers monthly on the 3rd Thursday of the month. If you haven't been able to make it so far, please pop down to the next ladies evening on Thursday 21st May from 7:30 onwards for a chat, a drink and maybe even some gossip! Hope to see you there.

Tina Haslam and Friends of the Perch & Pike

Fitness in South Stoke

There are many classes currently being held in the village hall. They include Pilates, Keep Fit, Zumba and Aerobics. Elsewhere in the village yoga classes are available and soon to be Pickleball on the Rec.

I am responsible for Zumba and Aerobics. On a Tuesday evening at 6 and Saturday morning at 8 I run hour long Zumba sessions and on a Wednesday morning at 10 an Aerobics session, also of 1 hour.

All my classes are an open invitation- please just turn up. I charge £10 per hour per person and all are welcome.

My number is 07968 774024 and my email is salwoodall@hotmail.co.uk.

Sally Woodall



South Stoke WI

We met in the Village Hall on Tuesday 14th April. Our President welcomed members to the meeting. We celebrated three birthdays this month. Sarah Thompson, Marge Charman, and Caroline Shelford.

The President updated members on news from County and forthcoming events. She then welcomed our speaker, Alastair Lack who had worked with the BBC World Service for over 30 years. It was a trip down memory lane as he showed photos and reminded us of world events we have lived through, like the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1987, the realase of Nelson Mandela in 1990.

He said how the World Service was broadcast, listened to and respected by almost the whole world. A couple of notable exceptions were China and North Korea. He was a most interesting speaker. In his retirement Alastair is now an official Oxford guide.

We then enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea, provided by Ann Powell and Sue Sarjent.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday 12th May, when we will be voting on this year's Resolutions. The votes will go forward to our Annual Meeting in June. If you would like to join us for a couple of hours in a friendly atmosphere and enjoy our afternoon tea, visitors are always welcome.

Contact either Rita Mann 01491 872208 or Eve Thynne 01491 875346

South Stoke Historical Society

On Monday the 1st June at 7.30pm in the Village Hall our speaker is Dick Richards. He will be telling us about the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC).

Founded in 1915 by Sir Fabian Ware, CWGC began its work to record the names, dates, and locations of the fallen in the most difficult and dangerous circumstances, determined that instead of mass graves, each individual would be commemorated by name.

Design of the cemeteries involved famous horticulturists, writers and architects such as Gertrude Jekyll, Rudyard Kipling and Edwin Lutyens.

South Stoke has one grave near The Street with a "War Graves" headstone and of the 15 Great War dead on the South Stoke War Memorial two are buried in Iraq whilst the others lost their lives in Europe. Come and listen to the amazing work done by the Commission. All are welcome. Guests £5 including refreshments.

Linda Gatto

Open Garden in Early June

Ditton Cottage's garden will be open to the public on Sunday 7th June between 1 and 5 o'clock. We will charge £5 as an entry price in cash only.We will match everyone's fee and the money will go to the Air Ambulance.



The garden has steps and can be hazardous to those unsteady on their feet. Please take note of this.

This is a garden that has evolved over 40 years from a waste land. Come and enjoy the experience.

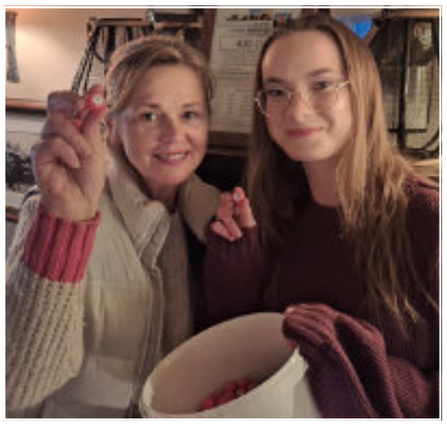
Linda Gatto

PS If anyone wants to open their garden too just let me know.

400 Club

13 years and counting – lucky for some

The April draw of the 400 Club was held on Friday 17th in the Perch and Pike, but before we get to the winners this month, a quick bit of admin.



You probably don't know, but it is a legal requirement under the Gambling Act 2005 that the 400 Club be registered with SODC as a 'small society lottery'. That registration requires annual reporting signed by two officials authorised by the charity benefitting from the 'lottery'. In our case, that's the Amenities Charity and its trustees are delighted to say that Nicola Astles-Jones has agreed to join the team in succession to Robert Small, who, as mentioned in the last Newsletter, was involved from the start.

Thanks to Delphie Larkin-Smith (see pic) for drawing the balls from the bucket and (in partnership with Nicola) enthusiastically giving the April draw…..both barrels 😉.

There were (yet again) a record number of 473 numbers in the draw, April's lucky winners being:

First Prize	£142	Janet Poland
Second Prize	£118	Fiona Brown
Third Prize	£ 95	Lynn Jenkins
Fourth Prize	£ 71	Sally Horton
Fifth Prize	£ 47	David Shaw



www.giveasyoulive.com/join/southstokehallandrec

Remember, just £2 per number per month is terrific value, given the size and distribution of the prizes now on offer. Information is available from South Stoke Community Shop, from the Perch & Pike, from the trustees at the email address below, or online by scanning the QR code.

The money raised supports the activities of the village Amenities Charity in maintaining and enhancing the Village Hall and the Recreation Ground. Your £2 per number is split 50/50 between the prize pot and charity funds. If you haven't joined yet (or would like to add to the numbers you already hold), please do get in touch.

Special request to those supporters with one number.

How about investing £4 per month instead of £2 and, for a very modest outlay, double your chances (almost) of winning one of the generous prizes now available?

Are you new to the village? Would you like to support the Amenities Charity's activities? Doing so is easy. Simply email the address below to register your interest and start the ball rolling.

Date for your diary: The May draw will be on Friday 15th at 8-00pm in the Perch and Pike.

Hope to see you there!

Mark Taylor & Nicola Astles-Jones: 400 Club Trustees - 400Club@southstoke.org.uk

Goring Hardware, A Village Treasure Trove

We are a family-owned business with deep roots in this community. We moved to South Stoke in February 2013, renting in Ferry Lane before buying our home in Chapel Close – the best close in the village! We love our little corner away from the madding crowds, and in 2020 we took the next step and purchased Goring Hardware.

There's something wonderfully refreshing about our shop, and it has earned itself a special place at the heart of the community, a true "village treasure trove".



As a family-run independent business, when you step through the door, you'll be immediately greeted by a friendly, knowledgeable team who genuinely love what they do. And if we don't have what you're after? No problem , we'll order it in for you. There's always someone on hand to point you in the right direction: no chatbots, no call centres, just real, helpful people.

Our shelves tell a story, from the everyday essentials that keep homes and trades running smoothly, to those quirky, hard-to-find items you didn't know you needed until you spotted them. We are continually expanding our range, sourcing products from local, environmentally friendly and sustainable suppliers, because supporting your local community and the planet matters now more than ever.

So next time you reach for your phone to order something online, why not pop into Goring Hardware first?

goringhardware.com Monday–Saturday 9am–5pm | Sunday 10am–1pm

Danusia and Peter

Advertise in Our Newsletter

We are keen to increase the advertising in the Newsletter. Prices start from just £12 per issue for a business card sized advert. Full pages are £75. Contact Neil Proctor on 07711 468893 or email neil.proctor@southstoke.org.uk

Web Site

SOUTH STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Have you checked out the Parish Council web site recently? There is lots of information about South Stoke from its History to events and activities. For instance, the history of South Stoke starts "The village of South Stoke is unusual in that three highways, which have done much to influence its history and people, pass through it. The most obvious is the river Thames, the second is the Ridgeway path, while the third is the Great Western Railway built by Isambard Brunel. These three routes converge as they cross the parish boundaries near Ye Olde Leatherne Bottle public house to the south and at the Moulsford railway bridge, known locally as the Four Arches, to the north."

Fancy a walk?

There are 9 walks described here https://www.southstoke.org.uk/in-and-around-south-stoke/walks or scan the QR code.

Woodcote Volunteers

Drive statistics for 2025

Analysis of all the drives done by Woodcote Volunteers last year shows that our drivers did a total of 633 drives for 80 different local residents, covering a total of 9615 miles. Of these drives, almost two-thirds were for medical purposes. Our Winter Wheels initiative (free drives during December through to February), was even more successful than last year, with 201 drives covering over 3100 miles and saving our clients nearly £1500 in mileage expenses.

However, the statistics show that we had slightly fewer active drivers in 2025 than in 2024, so once again we are appealing for new volunteers to come forward. If you might be interested, we would love to hear from you. Being a volunteer driver is a wonderful opportunity to help others while making new friends. Without our help, many of our local residents would really struggle to get to their hospital and other medical appointments - and we also see ourselves as having an important role in addressing the perennial problem of social isolation in Woodcote and the surrounding villages. Please read our latest Volunteer Story below, or go to our website www.woodcotevolunteers.org.uk to find out more about the role and how to contact us.

Volunteer Story



As part of our occasional series of volunteer stories, this month we have a story from Erica, one of our newest volunteer drivers.

"I'd seen the advert for Woodcote Volunteers in the Correspondent several times, but until recently family commitments had prevented me from signing up. However, once these other commitments eased, I felt ready to put myself forward as a volunteer driver. Having been through the usual induction process (DBS checks etc.), I started driving at the end of 2025. And I'm loving it! I'm doing one or two drives a week, and I've already met many people living in and around Woodcote, both fellow volunteers and service users. The clients are mostly elderly and no longer able to drive for various reasons. They're a joy to talk to, all having led interesting lives, and some with more than nine decades of life experience and wisdom to share. (Not that you would know their age unless they told you that you were driving them to their 90th birthday party!). The clients are without exception very grateful to the volunteers. Until I started volunteering, I'd not realised just how many people are entirely reliant on others to get to shops, the pharmacy, hospital appointments, the optician etc., not to mention community support groups. Were it not for the service Woodcote Volunteers provide, every appointment would be a worry. Importantly for the volunteer, you can do as many or as few drives as you are able. I do one regular drive a week, which suits my routine, but other drivers prefer the flexibility of being able to pick and choose which drives they'll take on. If you're still wondering whether becoming a volunteer driver is for you, I cannot hesitate to recommend it. You'll be joining a lovely group of volunteers, and it's a wonderful way to meet new people and to make new friends within the community".

Tea Parties

Tea Parties for our clients are held at the Community Centre in Woodcote on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month. We provide tea and home-made cakes and there is no charge. The next tea party will be on Wednesday 6th May 2026 at 2.30pm, finishing at 4.00 pm, and will feature another fun quiz. If you need a lift, call our office phone number (see below), giving us plenty of notice.

Finally…

If you need a driver, please give us at least three days' notice as it can be hard to find someone at the last minute – but we will always try!

To book a driver, call 01491 681171 giving as much notice as possible.
To volunteer, email: info@woodcotevolunteers.org.uk

Cholsey Repair Café

Cholsey Repair Café is a voluntary initiative to reduce waste, share repair skills and enhance our village community. We try to prevent useful items being thrown away.

How does it work? You bring a broken or worn item to us and we do our best to help you mend it, or advise what else can be done. You pay for parts and we hope that you will make a donation towards our operating costs

Saturday May 16th will be the date of the next Cholsey Repair Café at the Cholsey Pavilion. Doors will be open from 10.00 until 12.45 and you can bring along all manner of domestic items, including bicycles, for the expert attentions of our volunteer fixers, who will do their best to help you repair them. If the session is busy, you can make the wait more pleasant with a really good cuppa and cake from Cholsey Community Café, right next door. We are one of the longest-running and most respected repair cafes in Berks and Oxon. More detail can be found at www.cholseyrepaircafe.com.

Wallingford Emergency Food Bank

This registered charity was set up by "Churches Together" in the Wallingford area in 2011 when it became clear that some residents were in need. In that first year, they provided food for approximately 400 people. The current annual demand in our area is approximately 6000 people.

The Wallingford Emergency Food Bank relies entirely on unpaid volunteers and donations of food and money from the public, churches and other local organisations. Although they are essentially a Christian run organisation, the Food Bank welcomes volunteers from any faith or none and gives food to anyone in need.

The Food Bank welcomes donations and has collection points in the following places:

- The green food donation box in the porch at St. Andrew's Church, South Stoke; you can drop off your donations here at any time.
- There are donation points in Waitrose in Wallingford and at Woodcote, Benson and Dorchester Co-Op.
- The Food Bank is located at The Ridgeway Church, Wood Street, Wallingford and donations can be left in the basket in the reception area.

If you need a food parcel, are interested in volunteering or want to donate food, further information is available at wallingfordfoodbank.org.uk or on their Facebook page.

The free "BanktheFood" app is quick to download and if you link to Wallingford, you'll be able to immediately see which items are in short supply in our area.

Generous South Stokers have been supporting the Food Bank since it was first established in 2011 and the Manager thanks everyone from the village who has donated.

Lynn Jenkins

Strictly Nature

Local Photographer Simon Booker Chosen for Prestigious Wildlife Event



Local wildlife photographer Simon Booker brought his popular "Strictly Nature" talk to a highly prestigious stage this spring. On Thursday, April 23, Simon spoke at The Base in Greenham as part of a vibrant program of events running in parallel with the world-renowned *Wildlife Photographer of the Year 61* exhibition.

The exhibition, on loan from London's Natural History Museum, features some of the most exceptional nature photography taken from across the globe. Being asked to deliver a talk alongside such an internationally recognized showcase was a fantastic honour and a testament to the engaging quality of Simon's presentations and development of his photography.



This invitation came on the back of a successful Wildlife Photography Masterclass in 2025, and marked a milestone for his speaking tour. To date, Simon has completed over 55 talks, reaching an audience of more than 1,800 people. Most importantly, his efforts—which interweave his stunning wildlife photography with his deeply moving personal journey of stroke recovery—have now generated an incredible £3,800 for the Stroke Association. For those who haven't yet seen it, his "Strictly Nature" presentation is far from a dry slideshow. He brings British wildlife to life with slow-motion videos, stories of animal encounters, and live demonstrations of his endeavours to photograph animals behaving naturally without disturbance.

Simon's main message is simple: you don't have to go far to see something amazing. It's already around you—on local paths, in hedgerows, by the river. You just have to stop and look.

Now you see him

Simon also did a Wildlife Photography Masterclass at Greenham last year for 8 aspiring (& experienced!) photographers. It was during a heatwave and he had scheduled a "hands on" at mid-day.



It was so hot there wasn't a living thing on Greenham Common so Simon took a Wooden Puffin with him and ran through the bushes randomly to see who could get the best "capture".

I wonder who was 'Puffin' the most!

Ed

Goring Village Green Fingers

Calendar May to September 2026

All meetings are on the 1st Wednesday of the month at Storton Lodge, Icknield Road Goring RG8 0DL, 7.30 - 9.30pm. We have a wide range of speakers and have a garden plant/accessories stall, raffle and free refreshments. Visitors are welcome at £5. Full membership for the year May 2026 to April 2027 is £35). Please visit our website villagegreenfingers.uk for more information.

6th May - A talk all about Medlars by Jane Steward

Medlars are an ancient, rarely cultivated fruit in the rose family, closely related to the apple and quince. Jane Steward is a specialist grower and producer of medlar preserves. She is a member of the Guild of Food Writers (with a published book 'Medlars - Growing and Cooking Medlars' - which was shortlisted for Fortnum's food and drink awards). Her article on medlars was published recently in 'The English Garden'. She is also a member of the Garden Media Guild and holds the Plant Heritage National Collection of Medlars.

Jane will bring examples of medlars along with tasting jars of the jelly and chutney and jars to buy, as well as copies of her book.

Competition - 'That's unusual'. Your own interpretation.

Members will also be given geranium plugs to grow on. They will be judged at the meeting in September.

3rd June - A talk about Planting a Small Garden by Timothy Walker

Timothy is well known for his informative and entertaining talks. He has long been associated with the Oxford Botanic Gardens and Harcourt Arboretum, finishing his time there as Director for 12 years. He is now a senior lecturer in Plant Biology at several Oxfordshire colleges. He will tell us how to design and plant a small garden or it could be a corner of a larger garden!

Competition - 'In miniature'. A small arrangement of flowers

1st July - A talk about The Gardens of the Cotswolds by Anna Steven

Anna Steven BA Hons lectures at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. She is a NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies) National Judge, and has won a Chelsea Gold Medal for floral design. She organises tours to visit a variety of gardens, both in the university and further afield.

Competition - 'Summer is 'icumen' in'. A collection of summer veg from your garden.

August - There is no meeting of the club in August.

2nd September - A talk about spring bulbs from January to May by George Lockwood

George Lockwood is a full time organic gardener. He lectures on a wide range of gardening subjects at Capel Manor Teaching College in London and all over the South East. He even gives a talk on perennials found in a royal garden! As we come towards the end of our gardening year George will give us new ideas for our bulb planting to give lots of interest in the spring borders and pots.

Competition - geranium grown from the plugs given out at the May meeting.

GAP Festival

Goring and Streatley GAP Festival: Highlights for June

With the GAP Festival now only weeks away, excitement is building for this ten-day celebration of arts, culture and community running from 12th–21st June. Tickets have been selling strongly since last month's launch, with several events already sold out, so now is a great time to plan your visit and secure your places.

This year's programme is one of the most varied yet, and we're spotlighting a few standout events that offer something special for audiences of all ages and interests.

On 18th June, On a Role presents The Secret Life of Enid Blyton, a compelling one-woman play exploring the surprising life of the much-loved but often controversial children's author. With over 600 million books sold and a new Magic Faraway Tree film on the horizon, Blyton's story continues to fascinate.



Simon Briggs

Fans of Terry Pratchett will enjoy Stephen Briggs in conversation on 15th June. As a long-time collaborator and adaptor of many Discworld novels for the stage, Stephen offers unique insight into Pratchett's creative world and the process of bringing his fantastical stories to life.

On Saturday 20th June, the Festival hosts Discover. Create. Perform.- a joyful day of free, hands-on performing arts activities for all ages. From imaginative Magic and Mime with Craft sessions for children to family-friendly workshops in Singing, Poetry and Percussion, it's a wonderful chance to try something new together. Adults and older children can also dive into open-to-all Ukulele and Dance Fusion sessions. The day ends with a relaxed community performance where everyone is welcome to share what they've learned. All workshops are led by talented performers who create warm, encouraging spaces to experiment and build confidence and thanks to generous sponsorship and grants they are all completely FREE. But places are limited, so early booking is recommended.

Music lovers can look forward to George Montague on 19th June, a dynamic singer-songwriter known for his energetic performances and original songs. He'll be joined by local favourites David Caswell and The Moonseeds, promising a lively and uplifting evening.

The Festival also offers two beautiful early-evening concerts in our local churches, each making the most of their distinctive settings. On 13th June, Queentet bring their fresh and vibrant brass sound to St Mary's Church in Streatley, a wonderful space for their rich, resonant programme. Then on 18th June, Geoff Brown gives a reflective piano recital in St Thomas' Church, Goring, where the acoustics create the perfect backdrop for mesmerising works including compositions by Philip Glass.


Queentet

The full programme and tickets are available at www.thegapfestival.org/events.

The Festival team also welcomes volunteers to help for a few hours during the week – from checking tickets to marshalling or supporting the bar team. To get involved, visit www.thegapfestival.org/get-involved/volunteer or email help@gapfestival.org.



Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

Lee Miller: A Woman at War exhibition to go on display at Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock, this summer.

- Exhibition of war photographs by renowned photojournalist, photographer and surrealist, Lee Miller from 23 May – 13 September 2026.
- Follows a major exhibition of her photographs at London's Tate Gallery.
- Includes photos taken of nurses at Churchill Hospital Oxford, her first wartime assignment for Vogue.
- Alongside many iconic photographs taken in wartime Britain, Miller accompanied US troops into Europe, a correspondent on battles and the liberation of concentration camps.

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, the county's military museum based in Woodstock, opens a new exhibition of Vogue model, surrealist photographer and war correspondent Lee Miller's wartime work in Lee Miller: A Woman at War, from 23 May to 13 September 2026.

During the Second World War Lee worked as a combat photographer with the US Army, creating a unique historical record.

The new exhibition will showcase her experiences of the time, covering her war correspondence work for Vogue from 1942 where she highlighted women's roles in the war effort, as well as the reality of life for women caught up in conflict across Europe. Her first wartime assignment for Vogue captured nurses at work at a then-US Army hospital in Oxford – Headington's Churchill Hospital. A number of these photos will feature in the exhibition, returning to the county in which they were taken, a look back at the earliest days of her war photojournalism.

Miller would become one of the few female photojournalists on the front line covering the Normandy invasion and the liberation of Paris. Her work in the newly-liberated concentration camps of Buchenwald and Dachau was sent to Vogue in 1945, accompanied by the caption 'I IMPLORE YOU TO BELIEVE THIS IS TRUE.'

Her background in surrealism often came to the fore especially with her photographs of the Blitz, and the iconic photograph of her bathing in Hitler's bathtub in Munich on the same day he died was heavy in symbolism, she wrote 'I washed off the dirt of Dachau in his tub'.

Her 60,000+ negatives and documents were discovered in her attic by her son, Antony Penrose, after her death, leading to her recognition as a pivotal 20th-century artist and photographer.

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum is thrilled to be exhibiting her groundbreaking work and are grateful to the Lee Miller Archives and Farleys House & Gallery Ltd for allowing us to bring you this exhibition.

Lee Miller: A Woman at War continues the development of the museum's ongoing work to highlight creative responses to conflict alongside more traditional narratives, examine the role of popular culture in how we see conflict, as well as the role of women as not just witnesses of war but in shaping the course and history of it too.

Alongside the exhibition, the museum will host a 1940s photography 'Pro Am' with Oxford Photographic …continued

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum (Cont)

Society on Sunday 7 June 2026, offering the chance for professional and amateur photographers alike to capture photos inspired by Lee's photojournalism. Living historians in wartime fashions and uniforms will provide models at the museum, around Woodstock, and at Blenheim Palace. Ami Bouhassane, Lee Miller's granddaughter and author of several books on her grandmother's life and work, will also visit the museum for an evening talk at 7pm, 3 September 2026. Check the museum's website for further details and tickets for these events, when available.

Lee Miller: A Woman at War opens on the Cloister Gallery at Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock from 23 May to 13 September 2026. Admission prices apply, please see www.sofo.org.uk for up-to-date admissions and visitor information, including prices, offers and opening times.

Please note: Our free entry offer for Blenheim Annual Pass holders does not include entry to the Lee Miller exhibition, but all other galleries are included.

About Lee Miller Archives

Lee Miller's legacy consists of over 60,000 images & documents. The Lee Miller Archives (LMA) houses a diverse collection of images, all available for supply and reproduction. From Surrealist photography and Vogue fashion editorials to World War II photojournalism and portraits of the some of the most important figures of the 20th Century, explore the online Picture Library. Requests can be made online or contact our expert researchers for assistance in finding an image. The LMA also represent Roland Penrose and other contemporaries as seen below.

www.leemiller.co.uk/



About Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

SOFO is an independent museum first opened during the summer of 2014, tucked away in the beautiful gardens in the grounds of The Oxfordshire Museum and Woodstock Library, and just on the doorstep of Blenheim Palace.

A new take on the classic military museum, SOFO shares stories of heroism, combat and peace from across the globe and throughout time. We also tell stories of how conflict has affected the county and its people, from soldiers serving on the front lines to ordinary people living on the Home Front.

SOFO holds a collection of over 3,500 objects and 7,500 archive items from two county regiments, the Queens Own Oxfordshire Hussars (QOOH) and the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

St Andrews Church Services

All are welcome to St Andrew's. The church is open every day, 10am till 4pm. We welcome everyone to our services. Coffee and biscuits are served afterwards.

3rd May, Sunday, 11.15am Family service

4th May, Monday 12 noon- 4pm May Fair teas and coffees and film shows

10th May, Sunday, 10.50am BCP Holy Communion

17th May, Sunday, 11.15am Good News service

24th May, Sunday, 11.15am Holy Communion service

27th May, Wednesday, 10.30am Coffee morning in St Andrew's

31st May, Sunday, no service at St Andrew's but instead a Benefice service at St Mary's, Streatley at 10.30am - if you would like a lift please contact below.

Mid-week Holy Communion is on Wednesdays at 10.30am in St Thomas'.

The Benefice Office or the Vicar can be contacted, Monday to Thursday mornings, until noon, on (01491) 875651. The website is: www.ThomAndMary.org.uk Emails can be sent to: vicarofgsandss@yahoo.com

Diary Dates

1st May Shop closes for a couple of months

2nd May PA collecting bottles for May Fayre

4th May May Fayre

4th - 10th May Ferry Lane Barn open 11:00 to 18:00 garden arts studio

6th May Goring Green Fingers meet

12th May WI meeting

15th May 400 Club draw in the Pub

16th May Cholsey Repair Café

23rd May Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum Photo exhibition starts

21st May GOSSIP in the pub

1st June Historical Society Meeting

3rd June Goring Green Fingers meet

7th June Ditton Cottage Open Garden

12th - 21st June GAP Festival

May Fayre in The Church

Monday 4th May , Tea/Coffee and Cakes will be served in the Church between 12-4pm.

Also, Join local wildlife photographer Simon Booker for "Wild Connections" - A 20 minute talk featuring wildlife stories, a stunning short film and live demos with Otters, Snipe and more local wildlife. Don't miss it! Starts 2pm in St Andrews Church.

The Next Issue

All contributions welcome. Email **editor@southstoke.org.uk.** Please include a telephone number and an email address if possible. Photos are welcome and encouraged.

Deadline for the June issue is Tuesday 26th May for publication in early June.

Every effort is made to ensure that any information provided is correct. The South Stoke Newsletter, Editor and South Stoke Parish Council do not accept any responsibility for the accuracy of content or the consequences of relying on it. Any views expressed are those of the contributor at the time of submission and do not reflect the opinions of South Stoke Parish Council or the editor.