South Stoke Parish Newsletter

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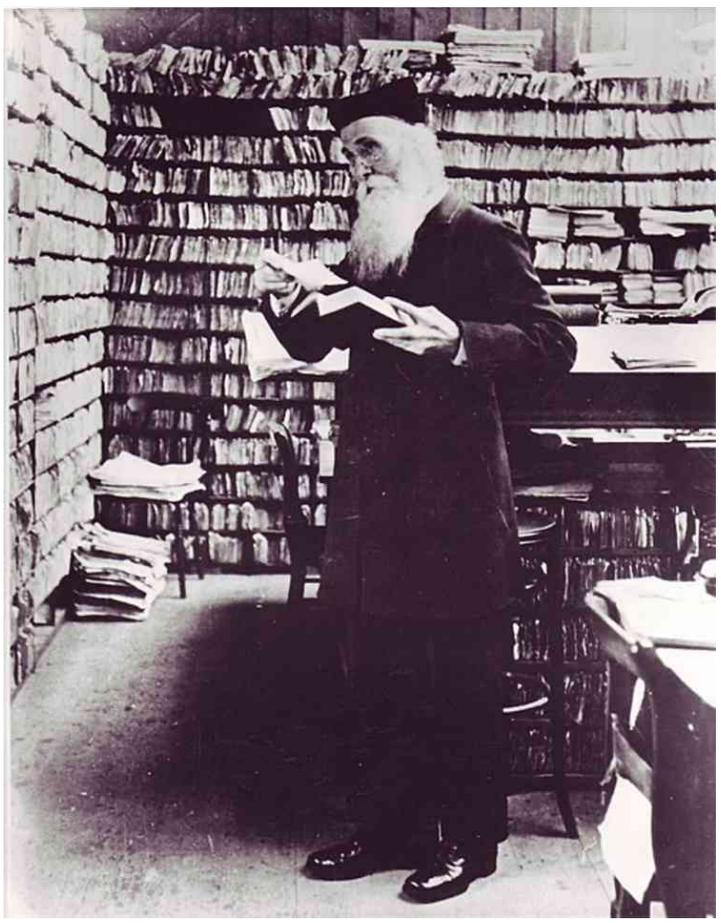
South Stoke Historical Society

No longer just my study…. it's a Scriptorium!

I really liked this word. Dictionary definition says it's a writing room in medieval European monasteries for the copying and illuminating manuscripts by scribes. Well quite. Yes, we were introduced to this word among others like etymology, philology, lexicon…..in Simon Wenham's talk to the Historical Society entitled **Living the Lexicon:**

James Murray and the Creation of the Oxford English Dictionary a whirlwind tour of the remarkable career of the principal founder of that August and world-wide iconic publication.

Murray started life in 1837 in relatively humble Scottish surroundings but quickly proved himself to be of a scholarly bent, joining and participating in learned societies including the Philology Society, concerned with the structure and origins of language.



Here he met Francis Furnival and together they progressively worked on various dictionary contracts with the University engaging sub editors. By 1884 in 5 years they had reached A-Ant and so laboriously the dictionary crept on. Volume 3 was dedicated to Queen Victoria adding to Murray's reputation leading to a knighthood in 1908. The Dictionary now renowned OED eventually became a work of 12 volumes with 2000 new words being added every month.

What was amazing to the goodly sized audience was just how many words there are in the language we take for granted and use (well not all 12 volumes) every day. As usual refreshments were enjoyed over chats and socialising on a cold evening with thanks to Pat, Marge, Ann and Linda as ever.

Michael Saunders

South Stoke Historical Society

All Change - A New Editor

After a little over four years of compiling the South Stoke Newsletter, I have found myself struggling to find the time to pull the publication together. Work commitments and my daughters' sporting commitments have meant that over the past 12 months, I've been unable to produce a monthly newsletter and have had to switch to quarterly.

This will be my final edition, however fear not… we have a new editor to take on the role. Or should I say an old editor. I'm not referring to age, but instead to a returning Editor. Back in the early 2000s Geoff Ward started the South Stoke Newsletter, which has over time been affectionately known as "The Firelighter". Geoff passed on the reigns to Bryan Urbick (a past chair of the Parish Council) followed by James Hood before I took over the publication in October 2021.

We have had many fantastic contributions over that time from village organisations, such as the Historical Society, 100-400 Club and The Wildlife Group, as well as hearing about people's wonderful achievements in the South Stoke Superstars.

The Newsletter is a excellent way to communicate what's going on in the village, reaches every household in the village and we also get to hear what our councillors, parish, local and county are up to.

I will helping Geoff with the transition and look forward to seeing where our newsletter goes from here.

Please support him as best you can by providing great quality articles as well as relevant photos to accompany them.

Phil Wortley

Outgoing Editor

Restaurant Review

Perch & Pike

First time for me in the newly configured dining room and our table for 8 was plenty spacious for us for the evening. Next, the menu, which was really interesting. Very good indeed for a big night and a full dining room.

We kicked off with an amuse bouche, which was a tiny shot of the most delicious hot mushroom veloute. Big tick. Next off the block we started with a couple of portions of Lobster and Wild Mushroom bisque, another couple of potted crabs with brown crab butter crumpets, some pan seared pigeon breasts with leg boudin and miso celeriac purée, plus the last option of grilled halloumi, BBQ figs and minted Greek yogurt with a pomegranate dressing. All went down so well, everyone was so effusive, beautifully cooked pigeon and the soup was just deeply gorgeous. I had two spoonfuls of the bisque across the table.

Then the main courses…

We were briefed that the lamb rump was finished but they had added a duck breast instead, plus a steak. I had the venison with a mini hunter's pie and roasted Jerusalem artichoke. It was so good! My venison was just slightly over, but that didn't matter as it was like butter on the knife. I love Jerusalem artichoke, unusual and wonderful flavour but star on the plate was the hunters pie which was so tasty, amazing. Everyone loved their plates, John Dory, ugly fish but beautiful to eat and apparently it was just that. Duck was chosen as well and beautifully cooked, medium rare, another big tick. Finally the steaks which were pronounced perfect.

Pretty full myself by this stage but a couple of the chaps had the tarts and extra spoons were provided. Beautiful crisp pastry but consensus was that lemon tart was not quite set and could have had a stronger hit of citrus and the gingerbread again held back on the ginger. Patisserie was always my black spot when I was under the pump at cook school, so am always impressed by scratch tarts and forgive any tiny flaws especially at the end of such a delicious dinner. Priced so well for a NYE.

Service was great, lovely attentive attitude from the entire team. Richard and Camille have spoilt us and I can't wait for our next visit.

We love our pub and if we have the benefit of a wonderful restaurant well what a bonus. Word will spread quickly and once more The P and P will not only be our village pub but a destination venue as well.

Vanessa Guiver



The Great British Spring Clean – Taking part in a litter pick

Spring has finally arrived! And with it comes a burst of new life into our green spaces. So, what better time to help give nature a fresh start by taking part in The Great British Spring Clean, the UK's biggest mass-action environmental campaign, running from 3rd to 29th March 2026. You can pledge to pick up however many bags you choose from Friday 13th February.

Why Litter Picking Matters

Giving our shared spaces a little TLC helps wildlife, keeps our communities clean, and brings neighbours together. And while it can be tempting to think "a little bit of rubbish won't hurt", small pieces quickly add up.



Litter can harm mammals like hedgehogs and birds like swans, who are frequently injured after getting caught up in waste. A short hour spent litter picking makes an immediate and satisfying difference, and if you don't have much time on your hands as the months get busier, it's one of the simplest actions we can take.



Hedgehog - © Stephen Powels

Tips for Safe and Wildlife-Friendly Litter Picking

- Complete a risk assessment before you start.
- Wear gloves and sturdy shoes.
- Use a picker if you have one.
- Avoid disturbing piles of leaves or logs.
- Keep dogs close by, especially near roads or thick scrub.
- Report instances of danger, such as fly-tipping.
- Don't forget to sort and separate what you've collected for recycling.
- Tie bags securely and dispose of them appropriately.
- Wash your hands after you've finished.

Planning a litter pick? Here's how your local council can help:

1. Oxford City Council
   Register your litter pick with OxClean to receive equipment. Email streetscene@odsgroup.co.uk quoting 'OxClean', and include the date of your litter pick, the location where filled bags will be left, and the collection time.
2. Cherwell District Council
   Supports community litter picks and can loan the necessary equipment to residents and groups.
3. South Oxfordshire District Council
   Provides litter-picking equipment (including pickers, hi-vis vests, branded bags, and hoops) and can collect litter if pre-booked.
4. Vale of White Horse District Council
   Loans equipment to individuals and groups. Simply contact the waste team at waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk.
5. West Oxfordshire District Council
   Supports local litter picks and offers an information pack outlining available support, including equipment loans and collection arrangements.

Wildlife Friendly Gardening Jobs for March

Meanwhile, there are plenty of jobs to be getting on with in your own patch. And while it may be the month of the 'Big Spring Clean', when it comes to our gardens at this time of year, less is often more. Resist the urge to tidy (leave that energy for the litter pick!) and instead sit back and let nature run its course.

1. Leave some areas undisturbed

Sometimes what really matters is what you *don't* do. Leave dead leaves, log piles, and dead flowers where they are. These provide vital shelter and resources for hedgehogs, insects, and small mammals, and are crucial habitats as wildlife becomes active in early spring.

2. Feed the birds

Providing food for birds is a great help, but make sure all bird feeders are cleaned weekly to prevent the spread of disease. If you won't have the time or energy to thoroughly clean feeders weekly using disinfectant, then it's better to grow native plants

with berries and seeds, such as Elder trees, Hawthorn, and fruit trees, all of which provide natural bird feed.

If you think you have spotted a diseased or injured bird in your garden (obvious wounds or bleeding, swellings or crusty growths on the skin, heavy breathing), **do not** touch them or pick them up. Instead, report any sick birds you see to Garden Wildlife Health. Dead wild birds should be reported to DEFRA using the online reporting system.

3. Grow food for bees and butterflies

Sow native wildflower seeds in trays or modules now to grow plants for your own mini meadow later in the year.

4. Keep an eye out for emerging wildlife

As slumbering hedgehogs begin to wake, you can support them by providing suitable food (meaty cat food) and water (not milk) in shallow dishes. Avoid disturbing wild corners and log piles where a hedgehog may be hibernating and create gaps under fences to encourage safe movement in and out of your garden.



Hedgehog highway, Rhiannon Young

Check out the guidance on our website for more details: https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/guidance/helping-nature-on-your-patch

Wild Oxfordshire

400 Club



No article regarding the 400 Club in this edition of the Newsletter should start with anything other than a few words about Robert Small.

Robert was a founding trustee and keen supporter of the Club. In fact, in the late noughties, he organised and ran similar, village fundraising clubs on his own. £10 bought you a number in 10 draws over the year. He wore out a lot of shoe leather walking round the village, knocking on doors and persuading villagers to part with their tenners.

When the Amenities Charity was looking to fundraise in 2012, he suggested another 200 Club. I volunteered to help and, with some emailing, cajoling and publicity, we were ready for the first draw of the new South Stoke 200 Club in May 2013. That first draw had 90 numbers and three prizes: £45, £30 and £15.

Robert's tireless and enthusiastic involvement over the past 13 years has seen the club grow to its current form: a 400 Club with 460 live numbers offering five prizes ranging from £46 up to £138. In that time the Club has paid out over £38,000 in prize money and raised, including Gift Aid, over £47,000 for the South Stoke Village Hall & Recreation Ground Charity, something of which I know Robert was particularly proud.

His quiet commitment to all things South Stoke will always be remembered.

****

The October draw (which was actually the 150th) took place at the autumn edition of the South Stoke Shop Quiz. Thanks to Shop Board Chair Mick Woodall for drawing the numbers and rewarding the following prize winners:

First Prize	£ 133	Mark Taylor
Second Prize	£ 111	Lesley Wale
Third Prize	£ 89	Paul Massey-Thompson
Fourth Prize	£ 66	Alan Butterworth
Fifth Prize	£ 44	Ruth Mitchell

November saw the draw return to the Perch & Pike for the first time since April. Robert Small wrote: "Well, what an evening the 21st November turned out to be. An absolutely heaving pub for the first night re-opening with new landlord Richard Keep at the helm (see pic). Our 151st draw of the 400 club, with numbers (at a record 447) creeping up towards 500, just a perfect pitch for us. Roll on when we reach the magic 500."
Richard's opening night prize winners were:

First Prize	£ 134	Penny Cooper
Second Prize	£ 112	Lynn Jenkins
Third Prize	£ 89	Steve Barratt
Fourth Prize	£ 67	Barbara Lambert
Fifth Prize	£ 45	Elisa Beamson

December's draw was held, as has become the seasonal tradition, at the Village Christmas Cracker on Friday 12th. Opening the second half as usual, thanks are due to Delphie and Florence for participating in the festive fun and financing the following with funds:

First Prize	£ 134	Sam Holt
Second Prize	£ 112	Nicola Astles-Jones
Third Prize	£ 89	Lucy Phipps

Fourth Prize	£ 67	Jenny Mansfield
Fifth Prize	£ 45	Pete Scholey



The first draw of 2026, and sadly Robert's last, returned to the Perch & Pike on Friday 16th where bar manager Jacob Wych was on hand (see pic) to do the honours. In a packed and noisy bar, he pulled the following numbers from the bucket.

First Prize	£ 135	Sally Horton
Second Prize	£ 113	Amanda Smithdale
Third Prize	£ 90	Zoe Willans
Fourth Prize	£ 68	Ali Brazenor
Fifth Prize	£ 45	Chris Bertrand

The February draw was held in the Perch and Pike on Friday 13th and we were delighted to welcome Robert Small's sister Sue and her husband Rod (see pic) to do the draw for us. After a few words from me in memory of Robert, Sue drew the five balls from the bucket and Rod announced the names of the winners. Those prize winners were:

First Prize	£ 138	Philippa Gould
Second Prize	£ 115	Fiona Linton
Third Prize	£ 92	Alan Harrison
Fourth Prize	£ 69	Dirk Atkinson
Fifth Prize	£ 46	Nikki Cheetham

The March draw will be on Friday 20th at 7.30 in the Perch & Pike.

Remember, just £2 per number per month is great 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 here: https://www.southstoke.org.uk/village-hall-and-recreation-ground/amenities-charity/south-stoke-400-club

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.



Fun fact: At the time of writing the current 460 numbers are held by 198** different members. That's an average of 2.3 numbers per member, so……

Special request to those supporters with one number.
How about investing £4 per month instead of £2 and, for a very modest outlay, almost doubling your chances of winning one of the generous prizes now available? Just let me know.

****or could you be our 200th member?**

Mark Taylor - 400 Club Trustee - 400Club@southstoke.org.uk

south stoke wildlife & conservation group

SSWCG Round up of 2025!-*A year of wildlife wins - highlights from the last 12 months*



Ahead of finalising our 2026 projects and events schedule, we wanted to share some of the wonderful wildlife and conservation highlights from 2025 across the parish - with thanks to everyone who took part and supported our efforts.

Wildlife highlights

It's been a particularly exciting year for wildlife recording, with some real stand-out moments:

- **Unusual species spotted**, including a fascinating range of bees, moths and other invertebrates, with notable finds (eg Red Bartsia Bee near the Bogey Hole) by local recorders including John Lindley and Paul Jenkins
- **Bird surveys and transects** recorded an impressive **88 species**, among them golden plover, snipe, treecreepers, white-fronted goose, Little Owl and marsh harriers. Lapwing murmurations were a particular highlight. Massive thanks to Paul Rainsden and Simon Booker for doing a monthly transect every month of 2025
- A **record number of pyramidal orchids** were counted at WHQ; a fantastic indicator of habitat quality

Community projects/events

A huge thank you to everyone who supported and took part in our projects this year. Highlights include:

- **WHQ**: regular scything and maintenance, hedge laying, the addition of a new bench, and a brilliant celebration of the site and its volunteers – with thanks to volunteers, Wallingford Green Gym, Maggie Filipover-Rivers and many others.
- **Pond on The Park**: we formally took on responsibility under the auspices of the Parish Council, produced a written management plan, started stocking the pond and planting the area around it
- **Swift boxes**: another ten boxes installed, thanks to Paul
- **Dutch-Elm disease resistant trees planted**: a monitoring project for the future! Propogation of disease-resistant elms underway for planting next season
- **Wildlife walks and events**: ever popular dragonfly and butterfly walks, a dawn chorus walk (a real treat for early risers!), pond dipping, a new moth trapping event and an expert-led Bat walk and talk. Not to forget the SSWCG pub quiz!
- **Glow-worm survey**: now in its fifth year. Glow worm numbers were down and patterns appear to be changing - possibly the glow worms are emerging earlier which raises interesting questions about the potential impact of climate change
- **Water testing**: we initiated a regular testing programme at 10 sites around the Parish to assess water quality. We've garnered lots of interesting results and will be publishing an interim report soon!
- **Hedge and tree planting**: we added around **230 metres of new hedge**, plus replacements along Icknield Road. Thanks to Guy Hildred and Wallingford Green Gym. Thanks also to Goring Cubs with



whom we sowed lots of wild hedge plant seeds - they'll be tended carefully and will become part of a hedge somewhere in time! We're also looking forward to the arrival 420 new trees in late February courtesy of the Woodland trust

- **Wildlife talks**: Rhiannon Young (Wild Oxfordshire) on '*gardening for wildlife*', and Simon Booker on wildlife photography

Looking ahead

We're in the final stages of planning another full programme for 2026.

You can find out what's going on and sign up on our website and we'll post updates on Facebook and in our e-Newsletter.

Coming up soon; we're delighted that John Lindley will be presenting at the TVERC conference in Cholsey in March - we'd love to see you there!

Thank you again to everyone who has contributed time, skills and enthusiasm over the past year.

With best wishes

Tats Hawker

Goring Repair Cafe & Book Exchange

Repair Café:
Bring up to two broken items for free repair between 10am and 12 noon (the event closes at 12.30pm). Fifteen or more skilled local repairers, each with their own specialist workstation, will try to fix anything you can carry in. Our repairers successfully restore up to 70% of items to full working order, and many others are partially repaired, depending on whether spare parts are required.

The following Repair Café will be on 6 June, so don't miss this opportunity on 14 March.

Book Exchange:
Running at the same time on the stage and in the Bellême Room. Bring books of any type between 9.30am and 10am, ready to exchange once doors open at 10am. See the FAQs on the website for more details about the Book Exchange.

Both free events are organised by local charity GGEO (Goring Gap Environmental Organisation) to help reduce waste, lower carbon emissions and encourage reuse and recycling. Voluntary donations are welcome to help cover hall hire and other costs.

Refreshments, including delicious homemade cakes, will be available throughout.

For details, visit:
www.goringrepaircafe.info

Withymead Nature Reserve

Launching our 'Buy a Board' Appeal

'The love of nature is a part of every soul;
The love of nature is a song,
A soul that sings in every heart,
A heart that sings the song of all.'

From 'Nature' by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)



Image credit | Phil Rooney

A warm welcome to 2026 and fundraising news

I am delighted to share some positive news with you all. We have reached a major milestone in our fundraising efforts for our bridge and boardwalk upgrade: we have rounded it up and can announce that we have hit 50% of our fundraising campaign!

We are incredibly grateful to South Oxfordshire District Council's Capital Grant Scheme, the Nineveh Charitable Trust, Greenham Trust and Goring Parish Council for providing significant grants toward the £115,000 we need to complete the project. We have also received some amazing individual donations towards the project.

As we began our 'Withymead on Tour' coffee shop events, you may have noticed that we also launched our 'Buy a Board' appeal. We were thrilled to be featured on BBCs Berkshire and Oxfordshire radio, and online (see here) and in several other media outlets such as the Henley Standard. This weekend you'll also see our appeal in the Goring Gap News.

The 'Buy a Board' appeal gives you an opportunity to become part of Withymead's legacy.

How does it work?

We've crunched some numbers and roughly 340 actual boards are needed excluding the bridge, which works out at approximately £158 per board. However, there's no set donation amount; instead, you are encouraged to give what you can. All donors who 'Buy a Board' can choose to be recognised by name on a wooden board located within the reserve as well as with an inscription on the reserve's website virtual donor wall, giving public recognition of your contribution to creating a pathway for everyone.

How can I contribute?

- Decide how much you would you like to donate (we anticipate the average donation to be £75: you are welcome to donate more or less)
- Compose your inscription of up to 100 characters including spaces
- 'Buy your board' by donating via The Good Exchange
- Let us know by emailing us here with your name(s) and inscription

If you'd like your name(s) and inscription to be anonymous to the public, that's absolutely fine too!

Want to be involved in another way?

Perhaps you might like to run a fundraising event in aid of our campaign, like hosting a coffee morning or a wine and cheese evening. Or perhaps you are someone who likes a challenge and would like to raise money at the same time. For example, by running a half\full marathon, or undertaking a swimathon. Office-based? Have an office 'Make it Wild for Withymead' day with themed bakes and quizzes – we can give a 'Lunch and Learn Talk' too. Get in touch and we'll support you to make it happen.

Every pound raised will help us meet our target and unlock our eligibility to apply for grant funding from the bigger trusts and foundations.

Spring is just around the corner, despite these recent cold, wintery months. We look forward to opening the reserve to visitors once more, and welcoming you back to this special place by the Thames.

Best wishes

Phil Rooney

"Phase 1 of the project made a huge difference in 2025. We welcomed many happy individuals and groups for whom Withymead was previously off-limits. The evidence for Phase 2 is clear: completing a fully accessible route around the reserve will transform the experience of all our visitors - particularly those with mobility issues or with young children."

Jenny Hedge, Chair and Trustee

'Withymead on Tour' Coffee Shop

Saturday Morning Community Coffee Shop, Woodcote

Saturday 28 March 2026, 10am - 12.30pm

A welcome return to Woodcote Community Centre, for our last 'Withymead on Tour' coffee shop. It's next to the library, on the Reading Road, postcode RG8 0QY. Coming from further afield? Parking is close by in the village hall car park.

Join us for some very good cake and company

Donations

We remain hugely grateful to all who support us with their time, energy, kind words, commitment and financial donations. All donations are very gratefully received.

info@withymead.org
www.withymead.org
01491 872265

Oxford Congestion Charge

and how to avoid paying it



Oxford introduced a congestion charge on 29th October 2025 of £5 per day for cars without a permit. The charge applies to cars driving through any of the 6 charging locations listed below. One payment of £5 will cover unlimited journeys through all 6 points for the whole day.

Congestion charge locations with charging days and times

Location	Charging days	Charging times
Hythe Bridge Street	Monday to Sunday	7am - 7pm
St Cross Road	Monday to Sunday	7am - 7pm
St Clements Street	Monday to Sunday	7am - 7pm
Thames Street	Monday to Sunday	7am - 7pm
Marston Ferry Road	Monday to Saturday	7am - 9am and 3pm - 6pm
Hollow Way	Monday to Saturday	7am - 9am and 3pm - 6pm

The good news is that, as Oxfordshire residents, we are entitled to 25 free day passes per year (from midnight to midnight).

To apply for your free permit, go to **www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/congestioncharge**

The website also has general information about the congestion charge locations and the scheme, a map of the congestion charge locations and details of exemptions, including frequent hospital patients and blue badge holders.

Tina Haslam

Warmingham

www.warmingham.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Having celebrated successive record breaking years in ***2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023,*** and ***2024,*** to date, we've done it again in ***2025!*** Please join us to realise your property aspirations!

Warmingham & Co – Your leading independent property consultancy....

Having been established for over 40 years, we don't rest on our laurels; Leading by the front, achieving the very best for our clients. For almost a 10th consecutive year, to date, 2025 has seen Warmingham & Co, out-sell and out-let all of our competitors within our area of coverage*, as recorded by Rightmove. Accordingly, you can be assured of a professional and thorough approach from our highly qualified and experienced, personable staff, who both understand the current marketplace, and yield extensive local knowledge. Offering our clients the most effective, cohesive and progressive marketing package tailor-made to their own individual requirements, locally, nationally, and internationally, 7 days a week, we are here to make your next move both seamless, and the right one for you.

*OX10 0, OX10 6, OX10 9, OX11 0, OX11 9, OX49 5, RG18 0, RG18 9, RG20 6, RG20 7, RG20 8, RG4 7, RG4 9, RG7 5, RG7 6, RG8 0, RG8 7, RG8 8, RG8 9, RG9 4, RG9 5, RG9 6.

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Exciting & New


Sue Warmingham

G.O.S.S.I.P.

A few years ago, there used to be a Ladies night in the Perch & Pike once a month (also known as GOSSIP - Girls of South Stoke in the Pub!).. Now the pub has reopened, we thought it would be a good time to restart it. The Ladies nights will take place once a month on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 7:30pm onwards.

The first Ladies nights took place on Thursday 15th January and Thursday 19th February. There were around 20 ladies at each evening - some new to the village and some who've lived in South Stoke for a long time. It's a great opportunity to meet new people and catch up with old friends. Everyone is welcome, old and young - and everyone in the middle too.

The next Ladies evening will be on Thursday 19th March from 7:30 onwards. Just turn up and stay as long as you like for a drink, a chat and maybe even some Gossip!

Hope to see you in the P&P

If you'll like any more information, please email me at haslamt@outlook.com

Tina Haslam & Friends of the Perch & Pike

South Stoke Community Shop

South Stoke Shop needs a volunteer/potential Board member to take responsibility for IT (both hardware and software) and the monitoring of contracts and invoices for Phone, Broadband, Electricity, Water and Insurance.

This is not a time-consuming role, maybe a couple of hours per month. However, you would preferably be based in South Stoke, maybe retired or working from home.

If you would like to offer your help, please contact Sue Sarjent – secretary@southstokeshop.co.uk.

Sue Sarjent





Goring Chamber Choir

Goring Chamber Choir Celebrates 75th Anniversary with Ambitious Baroque Programme

Goring Chamber Choir will mark its 75th anniversary with an exceptional concert at Douai Abbey on Saturday 16th May at 7:30pm, centered on the Magnificat – Mary's own song of joy and thanksgiving.

"Just as the Magnificat is Mary's song of celebration, this concert is our magnificat – our song of gratitude for 75 years of singing together," says musical director Frances Brewitt-Taylor.

The choir tackles Bach's magnificent and powerful *Magnificat* – a major undertaking last performed by the ensemble in 1995. With its highly demanding chorus parts and exquisite orchestral scoring, Bach's masterwork captures everything from explosive joy to tender beauty in Mary's famous canticle.

The celebration continues with the Durante *Magnificat* (formerly attributed to Pergolesi), sharing Bach's joyful atmosphere, and Mozart's charming offertory motet *Alma Dei creatoris*. Taking advantage of Douai Abbey's magnificent acoustic, the choir will also perform six contrasting unaccompanied motets by Bruckner, Britten, Timothy Blinko, Frank Ferko, John Tavener, and Pierre Villette – each exploring different aspects of Mary's life in an ecstatic range of sound worlds.

"This will be an evening of great vitality, joyfulness and variety," says Brewitt-Taylor. The choir will be accompanied by Oxford's professional baroque orchestra Charivari Agréable, directed by Kah-Ming Ng, and joined by four highly accomplished young soloists.

Musical Director: Frances Brewitt-Taylor
Orchestra: Charivari Agréable
Soloists: Anaïs Manz, Richard Decker, William Searle, Jan-Magnar Gard

Where: Douai Abbey, Woolhampton RG7 5TQ
When: Saturday 16th May 2026 at 7:30pm

Tickets: £20. Under-18s free. Available from tickets@goringchamberchoir.org.uk, Inspiration (Goring), Garlands Organic (Pangbourne), from any choir member, or on the door.

http://www.goringchamberchoir.org.uk/

South Stoke Primary School

We are celebrated an action-packed Autumn & Winter term at South Stoke School. The children started the school year brimming with enthusiasm for learning and have finished this term having mastered new skills, achieved new goals and had a lot of fun along the way.

Since September, our topic has been 'There's no place like home'. We spent a lot of time learning about our local area and the wider country we live in. Both classes used books written by local authors including Phillip Pullman, C.S. Lewis and Lewis Carroll. The trip to the Story Museum really helped bring these stories to life. The children's enthusiasm and improvement in writing across the term has greatly increased and they are producing some wonderful pieces of narrative and information writing. The last part to our topic has seen the school use 'Wizard of Oz' as a stimulus which has included lots of great drama and the older children focusing their geography skills on North America. We are looking forward to starting a new topic after Christmas on 'Lights, Camera, Action'.

At South Stoke School we are lucky to have a very active Parents Association, that raises valuable funds to support our learning in school with school trips, workshops and clubs. In October the Butterflies class participated in an interesting trip to Oxford, taking in the sights and sounds of the city and coming up with lots of ideas for their English work in school. The children were inquisitive and curious about the places we visited, clocked up an impressive step count and loved the train ride too.

In November, the whole school enjoyed a trip to The Story Museum in Oxford. The trip was designed to reinforce the children's learning from their English lessons, encourage their imagination to flourish and reinforce their love for books and reading. The children had a wonderful experience, with a dragon-themed workshop and a tour of the museum. The love of reading continues in school and we are very grateful to Janet, who comes in and listens to the children read each week. We would welcome any member of the village who would like to volunteer to come in and listen to the children read.

Getting into the spirit of Christmas, the whole school joined the annual trip to the pantomime – this year it was an hilarious and entertaining performance of Dick Whittington at the Oxford Playhouse.

The children have enjoyed taking part in activities in the local community. In November we were very grateful to the South Stoke history society for creating the wonderful Remembrance Day display for us at the front of the playground, which listed the eleven soldiers who were pupils of South Stoke School and went to fight in World War One.

Before Christmas the pupils performed a selection of Christmas songs for members of the village in the church. We are very grateful to our governors and volunteers from the village who worked very hard to tidy and smarten up our playground in time for our open day.

As the term draws to a close the children have been diligently learning lines and rehearsing for the wonderful nativity performance in the village hall, followed by a Christmas lunch party, with delicious food supplied by the Perch and Pike.

Naomi Broadfoot








A B

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum tells the story of the county's military heritage through 50 objects in new exhibition

- **New exhibition displays 50 key objects which tell the story of the county's military heritage**
- **Objects on display illustrate Oxfordshire stories from the Napoleonic Wars to the Second World War**
- **Insights into wartime life in the county, and the history of the two county regiments, The Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars**
- **Alongside the exhibition, the museum will be offering 50 Objects outreach talks, bringing their collections to you**

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, the county's military history museum based in Woodstock, will open a brand-new exhibition entitled *Oxfordshire's Military Heritage in 50 Objects* from 21 March to 30 April 2026.

The collection of objects going into the exhibition combine highlights from the museum's permanent displays from the past 10 years with recently donated items on show for the first time. Museum Director, Ursula Corcoran, said;

"*50 Objects* brings many objects out of the archive and into the public gaze for the first time. We hope visitors will be inspired by the county's military heritage and even think of the family stories and treasures they hold themselves".

The objects have been selected from the 14,500 items preserved in the collection of SOFO Museum to give a glimpse into the story of Oxfordshire's military heritage. These objects tell the stories of residents of the county and the soldiers of Oxfordshire's regiments who have been impacted by, and influenced, conflict across the centuries.

Oxfordshire's military story stretches back nearly 2000 years, from the earliest named soldier in the county, Lucius Valerius Geminus, a veteran of the Second Augustan Legion who was buried at Alcester in 79AD. The county's regiments played roles in shaping the most significant conflicts of the last 200 years, from Waterloo to pivotal battles of the First and Second World Wars.

Throughout history, Oxfordshire soldiers have led the charge, at the forefront of world-changing events. A 19th century shako cap and Waterloo Medal highlight the 52nd (Oxfordshire) Regiment of Foot's role in Napoleon's defeat at the battle and encounter with his Imperial Guard.

A signed sketch and set of binoculars are used to illustrate their descendants' famous role during D-Day, 1944. 2nd Battalion Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry were some of the first British troops to land in Normandy, leading the capture of two vital bridges over the Orne River and Caen canal in the early hours of the morning. The sketch of a Horsa glider, signed by the men who took part in the capture of what would become known as Pegasus Bridge, includes a note from one of the glider pilots, SSgt Wallwork, who wrote;

'On 5-6th June '44 I carried the best troops (Ox & Bucks & Engineers) in both Airborne Divisions (but don't tell t'others).'

The exhibition will include a collection of objects first uncovered by a French farmer in 2013, alongside the remains of an unidentified officer. Scraps of a uniform, badges, buttons, a pocket watch and trench whistle provided some clues which helped museum volunteers narrow down his identity to one of a small number of candidates, including Osmond Bartle Wordsworth, a collateral descendant of the famous poet, William Wordsworth. However, it was a chance encounter with a visitor to the museum, who knew another descendant that enabled DNA testing, through the Ministry of Defence, Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC), which finally confirmed his identity.

In 2022, 9 years from when he was discovered, and 105 years since he fell during the Battle of Arras, his grave was rededicated in his name, no longer an unknown casualty of war. Ingram Murray, one of the volunteers involved with the research that helped identify Lt. Wordsworth, explains;

"After prolonged research with another volunteer using a wide range of sources, we successfully established that the remains were of Lieutenant Osmond Wordsworth, who had transferred to the Machine Gun Corps before being killed in action".

One of the most recently donated objects that will go on display for the first time at the museum is incredibly local – a set of beautifully decorated blackout curtains that came from a house on Park Street, Woodstock, just doors down from the museum.

Discovered while clearing a loft, the curtains had belonged to Joan Mary Shelmadine, one of the founders of the Samson press, which operated out of Woodstock from 1937. Dated 1941, the curtains had been used throughout the Second World War, then remained in the house in Woodstock ever since.

Alongside its many volunteers that have contributed to and made this exhibition possible, the museum would like to thank the Greening Lambourne Trust for supporting the development of this new exhibition and outreach programme.

Style Acre

Pathways of Possibility (POP) sensory sessions - open to all
Our new (POP) project starts in March and will offer monthly sensory sessions, focussing on communication, sensations, connecting with others and the world around us.POP meet ups are free to attend and will take place at alternating venues, with some sessions in Didcot and some in Witney. If you have any questions or would like to attend, please get in touch with Anita at apowell@styleacre.org.uk.

We are grateful to the Connected Communities Fund for helping to fund these sessions.

Wallingford Museum

Wallingford Museum opens from Tuesday March 3rd 2026. Please look at the website for opening times. https://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

We look forward to another fabulous event with the return of the Saxons to the museum!

'Meet the Anglo-Saxons!" An event for all the family. This is a drop in event running from 11am to 4pm. Saturday 11th April 2026. Please note that normal museum admission fee applies, adults £6 and accompanied children free.

Come and discover more about the day to day lives of the people who lived and worked within the Anglo-Saxon burh of Wallingford. Weaving to writing, wheels to warfare, how would you manage without electricity, plastic materials or modern transport?

The museum offers three intriguing and different exhibitions this year, something for all of the family.

'Through Wallingford's Workhouse Door

Explore, Experience, Endure'

This exhibition offers families, especially for those children learning about the Victorians, to discover history on their door step!

Visitor's are invited to cross the threshold of the Workhouse and discover what life was really like for the men, women, and children who passed through its doors – not by choice, but through necessity.

'Agatha Christie's Wallingford'

Wallingford Museum will mark the 50th anniversary year of Dame Agatha Christie's death at Winterbrook House, with a special exhibition highlighting aspects of life in Wallingford during her later life.

The final exhibition is 'Digging for Wallingford - Archaeology at Work' - discover more

about the work of the TWHAS archaeologists.

The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS)

March 11 (Weds) - Andy Hood: "On-going excavations at Winterbrook and New Barn Farm by Foundations Archaeology, with an update on the Cholsey Roman villa report"

https://www.twhas.org.uk/meetings-programme.html for the 2026 talks programme.

Sue Wright

Wallingford Museum

What Else Is On?

As spring settles into the Thames Valley, there's plenty happening in and around South Stoke to tempt you outdoors, support local makers, and enjoy the best of village and neighbouring-village life. Here's a round-up of events and activities running aver the next few weeks.



🐑 Lambing Days at Oppos Farm

A much-loved seasonal favourite, Oppos Farm's Lambing Days offer a chance to meet newborn lambs, learn about the lambing process, and enjoy a real working farm up close. It's a perfect family outing and a lovely way to welcome spring. Dates vary depending on the flock, so keep an eye on local notices for confirmed weekends.



🌼 South Stoke May Fayre

The village is already looking ahead to the much-loved South Stoke May Fayre, taking place this year on Monday 4 May. While full details are still to be announced, the Fayre is very much in motion. Expect the usual mix of stalls, music, food & drink and family-friendly fun that make this one of the highlights of the village calendar. More information will be shared as the day approaches.

🥕 Wallingford Local Producers' Market (Saturdays)

Every Saturday morning, Wallingford hosts its Local Producers' Market, a bustling hub of fresh produce, artisan foods, handmade crafts, and friendly faces. Whether you're stocking up for the week or browsing for something special, it's a great way to support local growers and makers.

🎨 Indoor Artisan Market in Goring (19th April 8am-2pm)

Just a short stroll across the fields or a quick hop by car, Goring's indoor Artisan Market brings together talented local creators offering jewellery, textiles, artwork, homewares, and seasonal gifts. It's an ideal stop for unique finds and a relaxed weekend browse.

🌷 Spring Events Across South Oxfordshire

If you would like to keep abreast of what's going on in the local area, here are two useful web links, detailing local events:

https://southernoxfordshire.com/whats-on/

https://visitwallingford.uk/things-to-do

For those who prefer something a little less organised, spring is a wonderful time to enjoy the countryside around South Stoke. Bluebells begin to appear in local woodlands from mid-April, making places like Hartslock and Checkendon Woods perfect for a gentle wander. The Thames Path is especially lovely at this time of year, with new greenery and plenty of birdlife along the river. Quiet-lane cycling, evening sunset walks, and simply exploring the village's blossoming gardens all make for easy, spontaneous outings as the days grow longer.

The Thames Ring 250 Ultra Marathon, which takes place from 22nd April to 26th April will be passing through the village. Make sure you cheer on the runners who have just 4 days and 4 hours (100 hours) to complete the 250 mile ultra marathon.

The Goring 10k

Every year runners from across the area race the 10km route from the Goring Fire Station, up past the pig farm, down to Hildreds pick your own farm before coming through the village and heading off to the prairie. One final hill climb back past the pig farm brings them back into Goring to the finish at the primary school. The race will be on Sunday 8th March, so make sure you give all the runners a good cheer as they pass.

Update From SODC

Dear Goring and South Stoke parish councillors and residents,

Please see below my latest set of updates.
Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

1. SODC Budget Update

SODC has been busy with its budget preperations for 26/27 financial year. Under the Government's Fair Funding Review, the council is assessed as having a lower level of funding need than in previous years, which would normally result in a reduction in income. However, it is currently protected by the government 'funding floor', meaning transitional protection is applied so that core funding (government grant and council tax) does not fall below 2025/26 levels in the short term. This protection, alongside strong investment income, allows the council to set a balanced budget for now. Looking ahead, the position becomes more challenging: the funding floor is temporary, and the Medium-Term Financial Plan shows that once this protection ends the council becomes increasingly reliant on reserves from 2028/29 onwards.

For the upcoming FY it is fair to say that SODC is in an enviable position, with no proposed cuts. Councillors will consider a number of revenue and capital growth bids as part of upcoming sctutiy, cabinet and full council meetings.

2. Joint Local Plan Update

A procedural meeting will be held on **Thursday 12th February 2026 in Meeting Room 1 of Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon, OX14 3JE commencing at noon**. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the way forward for the Examination in light of recent announcements surrounding the Duty to Co-operate. The Inspectors have provided a Note and Agenda for the meeting (**ID14**). Participation will be limited to the Inspectors and the Councils although interested parties are welcome to attend and observe should they wish to do so. The room will be limited in capacity, however it is intended that the meeting will be live streamed and these details will be released closer to the date on this Examination webpage.

3. Government proposed changes to planning processes

The Government is seeking views on proposals for a revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other changes to the planning system.

SODC will be running an event for Town and Parish Councils on **Tuesday 3 March, 6:00pm – 7:30pm at Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot, OX11 7NE**

In addition to an introduction about current planning reforms, JLP and an update about our new planning IT system, there will be workshop sessions based around the following topic areas:

- Commenting on planning applications
- Enforcement
- Biodiversity
- General planning queries / questions

4. SODC is officially Disability Confident!

Following an independent assessment and validation process with the Department for Work and Pensions, we are delighted to confirm that the councils have achieved the Level 3 Disability Confident Leader status! The Level 3 status is the highest available within the scheme, reflecting the councils' continued commitment to equality and our inclusive values.

This achievement also reflects the huge efforts of the People and Culture Team and SMT, who were praised by the external validator for their enthusiasm, commitment and high level of expertise. We've updated our website and letter headings to reflect this achievement.

5. Consultation: Private estate management arrangements

The UK Government consultation published on **18 December 2025** seeks views on how to reduce the prevalence of private estate management arrangements on housing estates in England, where communal infrastructure (like roads, green spaces and drainage) is maintained privately rather than being adopted by public authorities, leading to unfair charges and limited homeowner protections. It proposes measures to increase public adoption of estate amenities, introduce common standards, consider mandatory adoption for some infrastructure, remove financial incentives for non-adoption, and improve transparency and data on estate management arrangements, while inviting evidence on impacts for homeowners, developers, local authorities and management companies; the consultation is **open until 11:59 pm on 12 March 2026**.

Residents affected by private estate management charges are strongly encouraged to respond to this consultation, as it is a key opportunity to share real-world experiences and help shape reforms that could improve long-term protections for homeowners.

6. South Oxfordshire District Council withdraws from X over safeguarding concerns

SODC has decided to remove its profile from the social media platform X following recent incidents involving the platform's integrated AI tool, Grok, which has been used to generate and share harmful content considered unacceptable and inconsistent with the council's values. The council had already significantly reduced its use of X due to its declining effectiveness in engaging local communities, but safeguarding concerns, particularly for women and children, prompted a complete withdrawal. Residents will continue to receive council updates through alternative channels including Facebook, Instagram, Threads, BlueSky, Nextdoor and WhatsApp, as well as via the council's website, email newsletters and local press and broadcast media, while SODC continues to

Update From SODC (continued...)

explore new and emerging ways to communicate important service information.

7. Statement by SODC on Fair Treatment and Community Cohesion

We condemn all intimidation, violence or harassment of minority groups in South Oxfordshire. We continue to stand in solidarity with everyone who has made South Oxfordshire their home. Misinformation and the fear, suspicion, and intolerance that it generates must be challenged. We are a cohesive and welcoming district, and we will use all our influence and power to challenge any attempts to intimidate any minority group in our district.

Building healthy, safe, and resilient communities are key priorities for our area. We will stand up to intolerant attitudes and behaviours - to stop their deeply harmful impact. Fair treatment is embedded in the design and delivery of our services. This is reflected in how we allocate social housing, support residents facing financial difficulties, include and enable people with disabilities, work to ensure the safety of everyone, value and support our LGBTQ+ community, and ensure that people of migrant background are treated equitably and with respect. We do this not only because we have a legal duty, but because we recognise our moral responsibility to treat all residents fairly.

Working closely with our partners, from our work as part of the Community Safety Partnership to address crime and protect vulnerable people, to our proactive role in the Oxfordshire Migration Partnership, we continue to mitigate the impact of increasing hostility toward individuals and families who are simply trying to live their lives. The statement follows the passing of the 'Fair treatment and cohesion' motion at Council on Thursday 23 October.

Cllr Maggie Filipova-Rivers, Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council said:

"These are difficult times for many. When the cost of living is rising, access to basic services feels harder, and politics seems broken, it becomes easy to look for someone to blame. But punching down at vulnerable communities will not fix any of this.

"Let us recognise that we're actually on the same team. It will take all of us to ensure we have services and a district that works for everyone. One that supports opportunity, dignity and fairness for every person who calls this place home. This is the South Oxfordshire I believe in, the Britain that I love.

"As this council's first leader of migrant background, I know firsthand the damaging impact that misinformation and intolerance have on individuals and communities, and it must stop. Each and every one of us who has made South Oxfordshire our home is welcome here and valued. We cannot, and must not, allow bad-faith actors to divide us."

8. Waste and Recycling Guides

New easy-to-read guides are available to help residents with waste and recycling, including bin usage, missed collections, and waste reduction. Paper copies will be provided to new homes. Guides are available for houses with wheelie bins and flats/communal bins.

9. Town and Parish Council Support

South Oxfordshire District Council is highlighting the growing role of town and parish councils in local climate and nature action, pointing to tools such as a free carbon-emissions calculator, thermal-imaging camera loans, grant funding for community projects, and guidance on improving energy efficiency and managing green spaces. The council notes that many local bodies are already reducing their own emissions, preparing for extreme weather, and developing neighbourhood and nature-recovery plans, reflecting a wider shift toward community-led responses to environmental challenges.

See new resource pages

10. Energy Saving Measures

Updated energy saving leaflets provide guidance on insulation, air source heat pumps, and funding options including the Warm Homes Grant. For more information please visit our website.

11. Pollutant levels fall by half at a site previously identified as having air quality issues

Air quality has improved significantly at several former pollution hotspots in South Oxfordshire, with nitrogen dioxide levels **falling by around 54% in Watlington** and **31% in Henley** since they were first identified as problem areas, and **Wallingford** already seeing its Air Quality Management Area revoked in December 2024. Monitoring over the past five years shows steady reductions in traffic-related pollution across all three locations, meaning Henley and Watlington have now also met national air quality targets and will have their AQMAs removed in line with government guidance. The improvements reflect cleaner vehicle technologies and more electric cars on the road, and the council will continue to keep a close eye on air quality while encouraging walking, cycling, public transport and low-emission vehicles.

Air quality throughout the districts will continue to be monitored by the council's Environmental Protection Team through the existing diffusion tubes and analysers and the results will be available on the Oxfordshire-wide air quality website oxonair.uk

12. Election Timetable Clarification

South Oxfordshire District Council elections **are not** affected by the election postponements set out in the Written Ministerial Statement, and will still take place in 2027, in line with the normal elections timetable.

The 2027 elections will be for the new shadow authority, which will operate alongside the existing district and county councils during the one year transition period. **In 2028**, once the new unitary authority (or authorities) formally goes live, the current district and county councils will be dissolved.

Update From SODC (continued...)

13. Recent Casework

Date	Description	Action Taken	Response	Status
08/12/2025	Flooding South Stoke (Facebook)	OCC contacted, SODC contacted	Meeting with SODC drainage engineers 20th Jan. The meeting has result in various activities. The flooding by the junction has been helped by drain clearance, but more needs to be done to restore a functional drainage in the village	Ongoing
03/12/2025	Concerns about Booking System raised by several residents	Asked for an FAQ to be produced, pushed for a review after Redbridge reopening	FAQ produced, review will take place. SODC will monitor fly tipping rates	Resolved
22/01/26	Dog Fouling Problem, Goring	Requested info from Cab member	Information on penalties sent to resident	Resolved
17/01/26	Street Cleaning– Iknield Road	Requested info from officer and cab member	Street Cleaning form sent to resident	Resolved
06/01/26	Conflicting social housing advice, Goring	Requested clarification and support from housing team		Ongoing
10/01/26	Additional Funding for Goring Library	Support with request	In proposed Budget, pending approval on 10th Feb	Ongoing
22/01/26	Additional funding for Goring Toilets	Support with request	In proposed budget, pending approval 12th Feb	Ongoing
06/01/26	Enforcement Issues arising from Whitehills G&T site	Correspondence with residents and officers	In discussion with SODC officers to clarify the function to T&P and see if it can be reviewed following NPPF changes on intentional unauthorised developments	Ongoing
23/01/26	Councillor Grant Final list of eligible apps	Chased grants officers with the final list of apps so that I can approve	Waiting to hear back	Ongoing
19/01/26	Noise Complaint from building works on a weekend, Goring	Checked planning approval, and encouraged resident to make a complaint via EH	Information sent to residents	Resolved
14/01/26	Complaint about SOHA	Asked officers to check if SODC can help residents	Advice Sent to resident	Resolved
13/01/26	SS Burial Ground Planning App	Supported applicants with an extension to address EA objections	Extension granted	Resolved
13/01/26	Goring Nature Trails	Supported PC with request	Walkaround being organised SODC active communities	Ongoing
05/01/26	Travel Hospital for disabled residents	Signposting to support		Resolved
06/01/26	Election Clarification	Several residents reached out to request clarification, Info provided, added to socials and DC update	No change to SO election timetable, the next local elections will take place in 2027 as per the normal schedule	Resolved



Maggie Filipova-Rivers
Oxfordshire County Councillor

St Andrews Church Services



Diary Dates

14th March	Goring Repair Cafe
4th April	Chat & Share at the Village Hall
4th May	South Stoke May Fayre

March Services

by Jill Kirby, Benefice Administrator

All are welcome to St Andrew's. The church is open every day from 9am till 5pm.

A place to draw breath and touch base with all that is bigger than us and all that has gone before us and all that will come after…

We welcome everyone to our services. Coffee and biscuits are served afterwards.

1st Sunday of the month, 11.15am Family service

2nd Sunday of the month, 11.15am BCP Holy Communion service

3rd Sunday of the month, 11:15am Good News Service

Monday 16th March - PCC Meeting

Wednesday 25th March - Coffee Morning at 10:30 am

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

The Benefice Office or the Vicar, Ben 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

The Shop at South Stoke hours

Monday	09:00 - 16:00
Tuesday	09:00 - 16:00
Wednesday	09:00 - 16:00
Thursday	09:00 - 16:00
Friday	09:00 - 16:00
Saturday	10:00 - 12:00
Sunday	10:00 - 12:00

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.

Please bear with us as we change editor, but get your submissions in as soon as they are available.

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.