

South Stoke Parish Newsletter

Special Edition

Issue 229 Southstoke.org.uk August 2026

This Masthead image is courtesy of Joanna Holmes. If you would like to see your picture in the South Stoke Newsletter, please send it for consideration to editor@southstoke.org.uk.

This edition is in addition to our normal issues as the Parish Council need to advertise for a replacement Clerk,

Ed

Clerk Wanted

Job Description - Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) - South Stoke Parish Council



South Stoke Parish Council is seeking an organised, conscientious, community-minded individual for the role of Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer.

The successful candidate will provide administrative support to the Parish Council and manage the Council's finances. Previous administrative/finance experience and good IT skills are essential. A recognised qualification or progress towards a qualification in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) would be advantageous. Training, if required, will be given.

The roles of Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer can potentially be split.

The position is 8 hours per week, flexible and home-based and the successful candidate must be available to attend Parish Council meetings on a Monday evening, once a month, in the South Stoke Village Hall.

Salary will be paid in accordance with the National Joint Council (NJC) pay scales at SCP 24–28 dependent upon qualifications and experience.

For more information and a detailed job description please email tina.haslam@southstoke.org.uk

To apply, please send your CV and covering letter to tina.haslam@southstoke.org.uk.

Closing date for applications: 5pm, Monday 24th August.

Cllrs Vanda Scholey & Tina Haslam

Bringing an idea into reality

Our community garden is well worth a visit. Come and see the wildlife pond, the flower and herb beds, and the vegetable gardens that local gardeners have worked hard to plant and maintain. It's a lovely spot to sit quietly for a while, especially when the trains aren't running and all you can hear are birdsong and at times true silence.

If you've been stuck at a screen or inside all day, this is the perfect place to step outside, get some fresh air, and enjoy a bit of peace.

A big thank you to everyone, past and present, who has helped build the garden into what it is today. There's still plenty more planned for the future, so do come along and see it for yourself and enjoy it.

And now our produce stall is open. See images opposite.

Peter McDonald

Brand New Workshops



HELD IN OUR STUDIO
10 HIGH STREET GORING RG8 9AT

- PERENNIAL CONTAINER PLANTING 4TH AUGUST
- CUT FLOWERS 3RD SEPTEMBER
- PLANTS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE 23RD SEPTEMBER
- LASAGNA BULB PLANTING 6TH OCTOBER
- WINTER CONTAINERS 3RD NOVEMBER
- WREATH MAKING 24TH NOVEMBER
- BUILD A TERRARIUM 8TH DECEMBER

CLICK THE LINK IN OUR BIO TO BOOK NOW

@THEGARDENDESIGNSTUDIO10

OR HEAD TO OUR EVENTS PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE GARDENDESIGNCO.CO.UK

CONTACT BEN FOR MORE INFO ADMIN@GARDENDESIGNCO.CO.UK

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Volunteers Needed

South Stoke Open Gardens

Monday 31 August 2026 1 - 5pm

If you are willing to put up advertising posters in the local area, make a cake, serve teas and cake in the hall, sell tickets on the day, help with car parking and signage, give directions to our visitors or set up and decorate the hall, then our Open Gardens Committee would love to hear from you!

Please contact Sue Sarjent: suesarjent@gmail.com and then one of the team will be in touch.

Sue Sarjent





Open Gardens

South Stoke

Come and enjoy some lovely gardens in our pretty Thames-side Village

Bank Holiday Monday

31st August 2026

1.00pm to 5.00pm (last entry 3.30pm)

Tea & Cake in the Village Hall
Visit the Lime Tree Alpacas and the class of 2026,
Bell Tower Tours, Pimms Bar, Plant Sales
Community Gardens

Entry to all gardens: £6 per adult Free for under 16s Tea & Cake £4

Ticket sales on the day at the Recreation Ground,

the Church Lych Gate and the Bridleway from Goring-on-Thames

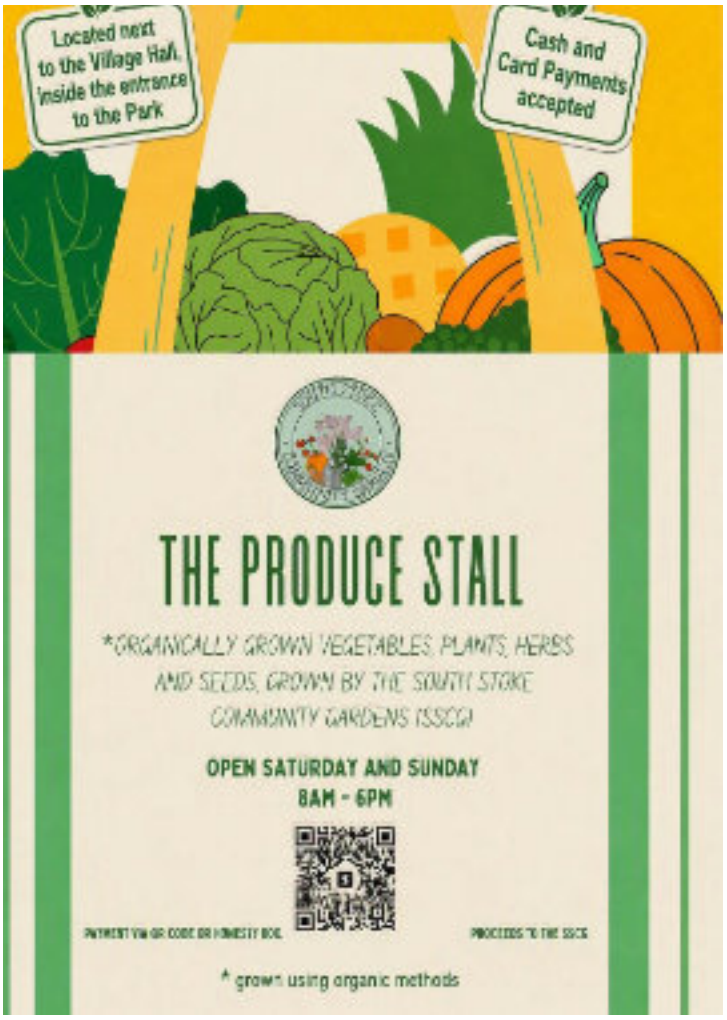
Free car parking at the Recreation Ground RG8 0JT

Disabled Parking outside the Church RG8 0JS

Unfortunately, not all gardens have disabled access.

No dogs (except assistance dogs) allowed in the gardens





South Stoke Community Shop

As I write, the floor screed for the new shop has been laid and is hardening quickly in the warm weather. Next week will be devoted to the internal insulation and the week following that the internal walls will be constructed. Solar panelling and air conditioning follow that and by then we will be onto electrics and internal plumbing.

So, still lots to do but so far so good and pretty much on schedule. We hope to be open early in September.

We are, as you can imagine, eating through money and our fund raising continues apace. If anybody has been intending to make a contribution and hasn't yet got around to it we are more than eager to receive all the help we can.



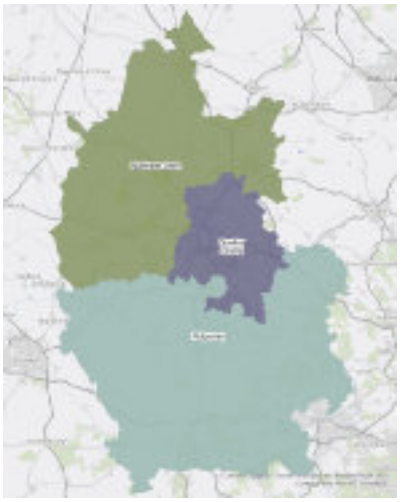
Mick Woodall

Local Government Reorganization Now Confirmed

On 16th July 2026 the Government published its decision about the future of Oxfordshire by announcing the creation of three new unitary councils, to replace Oxfordshire County Council and District Councils. The changes will take effect on 1st April 2028.

The new unitary councils will be:

- Greater Oxford Council – covering Oxford and its immediate surroundings.
- Northern Oxfordshire Council – covering most of the Existing Cherwell and West Oxfordshire districts
- Ridgeway Council – covering most of the existing South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse districts and West Berkshire.



More information, including a map of the new areas, can be found at https://3councils.org/

Elections into the new Councils will be held in May 2027, when new shadow councils will be formed and begin working on the transition. The new councils will take over on 1st April 2028.

We at the South Stoke Parish Council will keep you informed as and when details of any changes to local services and the impact on residents of South Stoke, become known.

Cllr Vanda Scholey

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 September issue is Friday 21st August for publication in early September.

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.