



Stonehaugh News

Supported by Wark Parish Council and Stonehaugh Village Greens

Vol 3 Issue 2

March 2009

25p

Its Been Chilly!

The average temperature so far for February has been only 0.7C. The coldest night was Saturday 8th February when the temperature fell to minus 8.5C. The highest daytime temperature was on Thursday 12th when the temperature 'soared' to 13C at one point.

We are well used to severe frosts at Stonehaugh but the difference this year is the consistently low temperatures, having barely risen above freezing point for many weeks.

Spreading the Word

The newsletter can now be sent by email in glorious PDF, so if you would like a copy in this way or have friends or relatives who would like to keep up to date with what's going on in our village then just forward their email address and it will be sent it off to them free of charge. The newsletter can then be printed off or saved.

It will of course take a while to download unless you have Broad-band.

New Stonehaugh Website

Jayne is building a New Stonehaugh Website, and would welcome ideas, suggestions and contributions. The website will contain back-copies in PDF of all the Stonehaugh Newsletters.

We'll let you know, in the Stonehaugh Newsletter of course, as soon as the website is up and running.



*New Community Hall
Stonehaugh*

*Read about progress of the
Community Hall on page 4*

March 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1 St. David's Day
2	3	4	5 SAS Meeting	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Parish Council Meeting	17 St. Patricks Day	18	19 Greens Meeting	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Summer Time Begins	29
30	31					

Forthcoming events in March

1st March — St David's Day, Patron Saint of Wales

5th March — Allotment Society Meeting 8pm in the Social Club

16th March - Parish Council Meeting 7pm Wark Town Hall

17th March — St. Patrick's Day, Patron Saint of Ireland

19th March — Greens Meeting 8 pm in the Social Club. Discuss and start planning for this year's Easter Events.

21st March — Spring Equinox

28th March — Clocks go forward

What's What and Who's Who

Following a request to explain what the various amenity groups in Stonehaugh actually do, here we go!

The Village Greens

The Greens is for the benefit of all residents of the village. Every resident living in the village is automatically a member and is encouraged to attend all meetings.

Meetings are held each month at 8 pm. on the 3rd Thursday. All members of the association are welcome to speak at meetings. Meetings provide the opportunity for members (residents of the village) to raise any issues or make suggestions concerning general village matters, and amenity areas. The Greens is your Residents Association.

A Parish Councillor will be present at most meetings and is able to take any concerns or suggestions to the Parish Council on your behalf. The repairs to the back lanes are one example of what can be achieved by group co-operation and participation.

The Greens' main objective is to develop, manage and utilize the play and amenity areas in Stonehaugh Village for the use of local children, residents and visitors to the area.

The village Greens no longer looks after the several 'Village Greens'. This has become the responsibility of Wark Parish Council, but does look after the play area and sports field.

Additionally the Village Greens Association organises a year round programme of social village events and recreational activities. These currently include Valentines Night, Easter Activities, Summer Fun Day/Fair, Halloween, Bonfire Night, and the Village Christmas Party.

Most of these events and activities are self financing, but some may be specifically for fundraising to cover the costs of maintaining the playground and any other small scale projects the village needs.

The Leek/Gardening Club

The annual gardening and leek show is organised by the leek club and takes place every September. Cash prizes for the leeks are substantial and so throughout the year funds are raised with Easter Bingo, Christmas Bottle Bingo and a monthly numbers draw.

The Stonehaugh Allotment society (SAS)

The Stonehaugh Allotment Society was formed in late 2007. A group of residents wanted to cultivate and improve the area of Amenity Land to the South of the village which has been a dumping ground for garden waste and a site for burning household and garden rubbish for decades.

There were initial concerns that hens and other livestock would be kept here and that the area would become an unsightly hotchpotch of rickety, coloured sheds and fencing as is the case in some town allotments across the country. However under the watchful eye of Wark Parish Council, and the intentions of the future allotment holders to create an area with pleasing visual impact and ecological usefulness, many of these fears have been allayed.

The SAS hold open meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30 for 8 pm. All members of the community are welcome to attend, whether you wish to hold an allotment or are just interested in developments.

Any questions? Contact Gary Mayhew (Chairman), Ant Wright (Secretary), or just attend one of the meetings.

Stonehaugh Community Hall Trust (SCHT)

It was realised many years ago that a new building was desperately needed for the Social Club, but in order to raise public funding and grants the building must serve the whole community and so the Stonehaugh Community Hall Trust was formed.

The Social Club gifted the land it owned to the Community Hall Trust to enable the building of the New Hall, with the understanding that the Social Club would be accommodated in the New Hall.

Stonehaugh Community Hall - The Current Situation

At the time, the land transfer was not formalised and since the Community Hall became a Charitable Trust last year issues have arisen between the Community Hall Trustees, acting on advice given by their solicitor and following Charity Commission Rules/Guidelines, and the Social Club Committee, also under the advice of their solicitor, as to the type of contract which can be awarded to the Social Club in a Charity Property.

The Community Hall Trustees are all members of the Social Club, but are also aware of the huge responsibility, as Charitable Trustees, towards the Community Hall and its Charitable status. Both parties are anxious for the same outcome, i.e. for the Social Club to run the bar in the New Community Hall, but are at present awaiting developments from the legal experts.

Is Stonehaugh a Village of two halves?

On Monday 2nd February, following the dreaded snow, Ryan [Gibson] was travelling back to Stonehaugh following a visit to his doctor in Bellingham. Despite his best efforts he was unable to avoid temporarily losing control of his car near the Blackaburn Road. Whilst it was a relatively minor incident he was unable to extricate himself from his predicament. Following a short wait along came Carol and Robin [Bell]. They immediately stopped and after some not inconsiderable effort managed to pull Ryan's car back onto the road. Having suffered only some minor superficial damage Ryan was able to continue safely on his journey home.

On Wednesday morning I, rather foolishly, managed to "ground" my car on some compacted snow and ice on the "Bullring". I was attempting to free my car when I was heartened to see a Forestry Van approaching from the direction of Kern Green, my joy soon turned to dismay as the driver just glared at me whilst negotiating his vehicle around my disabled car and proceeded to carry on his way without even bothering to enquire if I needed any help! My shock at this total disregard for my predicament was overcome by gratitude at the appearance of another Good Samaritan in the person of Nick (Tasker) who, after quickly assessing the situation, got a shovel from his car and proceeded to remove the compacted snow from under my vehicle. Whilst Nick was engaged in this quite arduous task another Forestry employee, of the same family as the first, drove slowly past and again offered no assistance or even bothered to enquire if help was needed. After some considerable physical effort on his part, Nick managed to free my car and I was able to continue on my journey.

The Samaritans, Carol, Robin and Nick, are worthy of the highest praise for their kind efforts on those days. The others, not named to prevent their blushes, should follow their example and be more like Samaritans and not Sociopaths.

I think this illustrates perfectly some of what is wrong this Village. If more people worked together for the common good then I am sure the Village would be able to overcome its present difficulties and move forward to a brighter future.

Hopefully you will be able to include this article in the next issue of Stonehaugh News as I feel that both the bouquets and brickbats should be made public.

Kind regards. Allan Gibson

Another Good Samaritan Story

Following on from Allan's experiences on Monday the 2nd February, I would like to thank the three men in The Blue Van (from Stonehaugh Garage) who stopped, reversed despite the treacherous conditions, and came to help me on my way after I was stuck at the bottom of an incline, with wheels spinning, unable to proceed on my journey.

Carol Madsen

Improvements for the Back Lanes

The 10 tons of hoggin finally arrived for the south back lane, fortunately just before the snow did. Thomas and Maureen, Annette and Ant, Ian, Nick and Robin all deserve a huge thank you from everyone for spending most of their Saturday filling in the deep potholes and making the back lane safer. Hopefully the snow and frosts won't have caused too much damage over the last couple of weeks, but there is sufficient material left for any remedial work which might be needed when the thaw finally arrives.

Delivery of another load has been arranged by the Parish Council, for the north back lane, where the state of repair is even worse. Jimmy Potts has kindly volunteered to liaise and supervise delivery. When the time comes he will undoubtedly need help in carrying out this heavy work.

A Misunderstanding Regarding Skips and Bins!

At no time, has it ever been stated or suggested in the Newsletter that residents should put their rubbish in the wheelie bins/skips sited at the far end of the village.

These wheelie bins are for the occupants of the chalets and campsite and are not for permanent residents to fill up with their own excess rubbish.

Any excess rubbish should be disposed of at the Waste Reception Centre in Hexham.

St Valentine's Night



Many thanks to Brenda, Carolyn and The Greens for all their hard work in organising the St Valentine's Night Family event. The club was decorated in a St. Valentine Theme. Prize Bingo followed by a superb buffet supper was enjoyed by those who were able to attend.

Animal Collectives

Who spotted the *deliberate* mistake in the last newsletter?

Was it a herd of Herdwick Sheep which wandered into Stonehaugh, or was it flock of Herdwick Sheep?

It stirred all sorts of interesting questions. If a shepherd was herding sheep why aren't they a herd? If they are a flock surely it would be more logical to say a shepflocker was flocking sheep!

Most mammals live in herds; cattle, goats, horses, buffalo, etc. except sheep, (and camels) who live in a flock like birds, but what do birds have in common with sheep or camels?

However according to Wikipedia a group of sheep can correctly be called a drove, a mob, a flock or a herd!

Here are some more questions to ponder.

If people from Poland are called Poles, why aren't people from Holland called Holes?

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow

that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?

Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist but a person who drives a racing car not called a racist?

Junior Joke of the Month

Q. 'what kind of car does Mickey Mouse's wife drive'?

A. 'A Minnie Van'

Thanks to Rachel Mallaburn



Jimmy Potts 11th March
Maureen Hogg 16th March
Pat Potts 18th March
Richard Murray 22nd
March

What's Happening at Wark Town Hall

- March 2nd -History group
March 3rd - Wark School Bingo
March 4th - W.I.
March 10th- St. Michael's church Bingo
March 13th- Country & Western Duo
(Highlights)
March 16th - Parish Council
March 21st - Sports club Ceilidh
March 25th -Book group
April 1st - W.I.
April 4th - Murder mystery evening.

Coffee Morning
Wark Town Hall
Every Friday
10 am to 12 Noon
Coffee or Tea
With
Biscuits or Cake
£1

COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

Our Community Police Officer, **PC Stuart Kilby**, will be available at the **Town Hall** between **10.00 am and 12.00 pm** on the following dates:

- Friday 27th February 2009**
Friday 13th March 2009
Friday 20th March 2009
Friday 3rd April
Friday 24th April

Take the opportunity of raising any matters with our local policeman and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea with biscuits or cake for just £1 in support of the Town Hall renovations.

Best Wishes
to
David Bell
for a
Speedy Recovery
poorly in hospital!

Passing Places
on The Ward Lane
Following their recent repair and safe improvements please, use the passing places! Look ahead, pull in and give way ! Avoid the risk of sinking into a ditch or even a collision!

The World's Easiest Quiz.

Contributed by Jan Mallaburn

(Passing requires 4 correct answers)

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years' War last?
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3) From which animal do we get cat gut?
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made from?
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal?
- 7) What was King George VI's first name?
- 8) What colour is a purple finch?
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
- 10) What is the colour of the black box on commercial aircraft?

Remember, you need 4 correct answers to pass.

Check your answers below .

ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years War last? **116 years**
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats? **Ecuador**
- 3) From which animal do we get cat gut? **Sheep and Horses**
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
November
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made from? **Squirrel fur**
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal?
Dogs
- 7) What was King George VI's first name? **Albert**
- 8) What colour is a purple finch? **Crimson**
- 9) Where are Chinese gooseberries from? **New Zealand**
- 10) What is the colour of the black box on commercial aircraft?
Orange (of course)

What do you mean, you failed? Me, too.

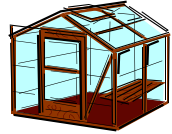
(And if you try to tell me you passed, you lie!)

Pass this on to some brilliant friends, so they may feel useless too!



March in the Garden

RHS Gardening Advice



Kitchen Garden

- Chit early and main crop potatoes.
- Sow vegetable crops, parsley and other herbs
- Sweet peppers, tomatoes and cucumbers can be planted in frost free greenhouse
- Plant shallots and onions. Raise leeks
- Protect fruit blossom from frost with protective fleece
- Feed and mulch around fruit trees and bushes

Flower Garden

- Sow sweet pea seeds directly into the ground
- Plant summer flowering bulbs
- Divide hellebores after flowering
- Divide hostas before they come into leaf
- Sow summer bedding plants under glass
- Work from a plank of wood rather than treading on wet soil
- Improve drainage of heavy soil by working in coarse gravel and organic matter

Trees, shrubs and hedge

- Finish planting bare-root deciduous hedging plants and trees, stake at time of planting
- This is the best month for planting roses in heavy soils
- Feed shrubs and hedges with granular feed such as Growmore, and roses with a granular rose fertiliser when they come into growth
- Prune late summer flowering shrubs, willow etc. but delay pruning spring flowering shrubs until after flowering.

Lawns

- Apply spring/summer lawn fertiliser.
- Start feeding fish and divide bog and marginal plants

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Or just pop a note through my door for
inclusion in the newsletter

Useful Contact Numbers

Wark Parish Councillors

Anne Hutchinson Tel: 230680
Carol Madsen Tel: 230074

Greens Secretary

Brenda Murray: Tel 230447

Social Club Secretary

Albert Alderson Tel: 230125

Gardening/Leek Club Secretary

Carolyn Murray Tel: 230473

Stonehaugh Allotment Society

Gary Mayhew :

Stonehaugh Post Office

Hours: Monday and Thursday 9 till 3
Anne Bulman : 230624

**Members of the public are invited
to report problems with the
following:-**

Potholes

Tel: 0808 10008910

Streetlight Failures

Tel: 0800 085 0029

With individual lamp number.

Other Problems log on to :

<http://www.fixmystreet.com>

Advertisements and Announcements

These are all free in the Stonehaugh Newsletter for residents. It only takes an email or note through the door to share your news and events with friends and neighbours. Several people have also taken up the opportunity to successfully sell or dispose of unwanted items.

Business adverts are also welcome for a small fee to help cover publication costs. If you wish to advertise your goods or services, or know of anyone who might, please tell them about the Stonehaugh Newsletter.

Circulation is increasing and it was surprising to hear that people who have never lived in Stonehaugh enjoy reading about the village!

Thanks to the those who have sent contributions to the newsletter in recent months. Everything is welcome, however small, and is always a moral booster and an incentive to continue! If there isn't room in the current month they will be kept in reserve for when a filler is needed!