

# LITTLE TO NOWHERE

Stoke Gifford Parish Council **Newsletter**

## A message from the Parish Clerk.....

It is with pleasure that I bring you the latest edition of Little to Nowhere which I trust you find both enjoyable and an informative read.

Since joining the Council in February 2011, I have implemented a number of significant changes which I trust will improve the Council and its long term plan of being at the forefront of the local community and striving towards delivering a quality service to its Parishioners.

The Council have started the process to implement a five year plan and the first priority has been setting aside funding from the current financial year for the resurfacing of the Little Stoke Park Car Park. This work is likely to be undertaken around the Spring 2012.

Our Annual Public meeting will take place on 19th June 2012 and I would welcome residents to come along and have your say on how we can all work together in shaping the community in the future.

In order to improve local publicity I am now in the process of installing a number of new notice boards and have recently launched a new website which I trust you will find useful.

I am grateful to my staffing team who have continued to maintain high standards both in the community hall and in the parks and open spaces managed by the Council. They deserve a huge amount of credit for the hard work undertaken over the past year especially in light of the increasing demands we are all facing at the present time. I would encourage you all to approach them in the community with any issues or concerns you may have.

A team of new Councillors were elected and welcomed into the Council back in May and I have provided their contact details within this publication.

I am grateful to all those residents who have taken the opportunity to liaise with me through emails, telephone calls and in person in the Parish Office and I am thankful for the patience shown to me particularly during the early stages of my employment.

I am very much looking forward to the challenges ahead and ensuring the Council does its best to serve you all in the future.

**Steve Shield**

Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer



## Royal British Legion

**To date your local Royal British Legion in Stoke Gifford has raised a staggering £35,090.04.** More information can be found on page 5

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# The New Stoke Gifford Parish Council Website



<http://www.stokegifford.org.uk>

Take a look at the newly refreshed Stoke Gifford Parish Council website which was re-launched at the end of November 2011. We await your feedback and suggestions by using the 'Contact Us' tab which you can use for all your parish and community enquiries.

We hope you will find this website keeps you up to date with the latest news and provides all the council's achievements, community events and local information you require.

Over the next few months we hope to expand the content once we gauge and monitor what the community requires from this site.

## Better Publicity



A number of new notice boards are being erected across Little Stoke and Stoke Gifford. It is anticipated that further notice boards will also be purchased early in the new financial year to assist in publicity throughout the wider community to include new housing developments. The boards will be used mainly for Council business but anyone wishing to display posters should contact the Parish Office.

## Village Green Telephone Box get a makeover!

Our thanks go to Keith Usher (local painter and decorator) for kindly volunteering to repaint the telephone box by the Village Green in Stoke Gifford.



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## Trust Ground, North Road Improvements



New paving slabs have been recently installed at this location along with improvements to the surface of the mound/slider in the small play area. Grant funding has also recently been provided by the Parish Council for improvements to the existing basketball equipment at the Trust Ground.

## Litter Pickers

Could you spare 1 hour per week by helping our environment with picking up litter voluntarily in the following areas: Stoke Gifford, Little Stoke and Harry Stoke.

If so please contact the Stoke Gifford Parish Council Office on **01454 865202** for further information. All Equipment is provided.

# Meade Park receives new play equipment during the Summer

**Local South Gloucestershire Councillors were successful in obtaining funding towards new play equipment in Meade Park earlier this year.**

The equipment has taken a little longer to be installed as its mainly bespoke especially for Meade Park. I am pleased that adjustments have also now been successfully made to the large slider following some concerns reported to Council by local residents.

Many of you may have read or heard about the damage, graffiti and general anti social behaviour in and around the community that has occurred during the year and the Parish Council and its Partnership agencies including the Police are doing there best to eradicate these problems in the future.

I trust that the young people within the community now have access to a range of play equipment throughout a number of well kept parks in the area. Any further ideas or suggestions would be welcomed by the Clerk for consideration by Council in the future.



# 1st Little Stoke Scout Group

## celebrates 60 years

The 1st Little Stoke Scout Group was formed in 1952 to serve the area covered by the original Parish of Stoke Gifford, which now includes the southern end of Bradley Stoke. In those days Little Stoke existed between Rossall Avenue and Bush Avenue and Stoke Gifford consisted of North Road and Rock Lane. 2012 is our Diamond Jubilee and so we are planning a series of activities to celebrate our 60 years and these will, include a Family Camp at the end of May, our own Olympic Games in July and a meeting of Former Members in the autumn. In addition there will be activities and challenges based on "60". The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have taken part in a competition to design a celebration badge and the winning design will be made up for us all to wear on our uniforms during 2012.

We would like to try and write a history of the Group and are keen to make contact with people who were members in the 50s, 60s and 70s. We know that in the early days, meetings were held in a hut close to the Stoke Gifford Parish Council allotments. In January 1965 Mr J C Warry (Chairman of the Parish Council) performed the official opening of "Brownsea Lodge", the new Headquarters of the Group in Rossall Avenue next to the playing fields. The building was in fact a builder's construction hut acquired from the Berkeley Power Station site. At that time there were two Cub Packs and one Scout Troop.

By the 1970s we had 3 Cub Packs and two Scout Troops and in 1987 we opened our first Beaver Colony. In the mid 1980s the condition of the Headquarters was deteriorating and serious fund raising started to replace the building. By a stroke of good luck, a firm operating on the new Bradley Stoke development offered to demolish the old building and build a new one.

Work started during the summer of 1988 and we were able to move into the present building in January 1989.

The Group now has about 80 children in two Beaver Colonies, a Cub Pack and a Scout Troop.

We have plenty of information on the 80s, 90s and 00s, but it is the early years that we want to find out about. We have been given the Log Book of a trip to the Scout Chalet at Kandersteg in Switzerland taken by a small party of Scouts in a minibus in July 1960. It is a fascinating read and various members of the party have written in the Log Book. It contains photographs, newspaper cuttings and letters concerning the organisation of the trip.



Brian Barton



The party consisted of:

### **Leaders**

Tony Johnson & Graham Newham

### **Senior Scouts**

Brian Barton & Mike Ball

### **Scouts**

Eric Brannigan, Ken Mitchell, John Major, John James, John & Robert Hunt (twins), Peter Ball, and John Whatley.

Where are they now, it would be great to meet them.

If you were a member of the Scout Group in the early years, or know of someone who was, please contact **David Hutton** on **01454 270260** or email at **dandphutton@blueyonder.co.uk**.

Please make contact if you would like to be kept informed of events taking place and particularly the Former Members evening in the autumn, the date of which has yet to be fixed.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Royal British Legion:  
**Stoke Gifford Branch**

Contact Address:  
**255 North Road, Stoke  
Gifford, Bristol, BS34 8PW**  
Tel: **01454 775632**

Email:  
**brian.hewitt@stokegifford.  
plus.net**



**Our branch in Stoke Gifford was founded in 1928, this was at a time when standards were very high and we aim to maintain those standards within our branch. Our Branch covers the whole of the Parish of Stoke Gifford and also Bradley Stoke.**

We have a Branch Legion Standard to remind us of what the Legion means, to honour all those who have made the final sacrifice and those who are suffering from their service to our Country. Our current Standard is fairly new; are old Standard is preserved in a sealed unit inside the Baptist Church on Rock Lane.

Currently we have 43 members, who all work hard for the British Legion. We do not have a Legion Club, so all members join in to support the Poppy Appeal, to promote and help towards our Welfare Assist, to share and encourage comradeship.

We hold monthly meetings, on the 3rd Monday of the Month at The Community Hall, Little Stoke, Bristol, BS34 6HR. If anyone would like to join our Branch, please contact me at the above address or our Branch Members secretary John Moloney on 07808 535591. You can also contact any other Branch Member, and we will be pleased to help you, and explain our activities.

We have a full Management Committee, including a very active Welfare Committee; we have our own Bugler, and also a Standard Bearer, Richard Piper.

The Royal British Legion is the National Custodian of Memorial, which we take care of locally at every opportunity. Annually the

Branch holds a Cenotaph service, always on the nearest Sunday to the 11th November, at The Green, North Road, Stoke Gifford. This service commences at 1025am and lasts for approximately 15 minutes, after which we move to the Baptist Church at the junction of Rock Lane and North Road, all are welcome to attend. Whilst at the Cenotaph a short service is held by our padre (for the last 44 years), Rev. Neil Mobbs, officiates, assisted by the Rev. Simon Jones. Our Branch Bugler, Dr Marcus Norman, plays the "Last Post and Reveille" for the Act of Remembrance, and at which time our Wreaths are laid.



## 101 the new non emergency number



If you want to contact the police when it's less urgent than 999, you can now call using 101.

Part of a national programme to make it easier for you to contact your local police, 101 should be used for non-emergencies such as:

- reporting a crime
- contacting local officers
- getting crime prevention advice
- making us aware of policing issues in your local area
- making an appointment with a police officer
- for any other non-emergency

### Key Facts

- 101 does not replace 999, which will continue to be used for emergencies.
- It replaces the existing 0845 number, although there will be a period when both numbers will be available.
- If you are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired, you can textphone on 18001 101
- Calls to 101 from landlines and mobiles cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day you call or how long your call lasts.
- International callers, those in the UK residing outside of England and Wales and those residing in local force areas currently awaiting access to 101 should call 0845 456 7000 to contact Avon and Somerset Police.

### Remember...

- 999 should be used for an emergency, when a crime is happening, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, someone is injured, being threatened or in danger.

## Recording your property



Create a free private and secure portfolio of all your personal property.

Help protect your property by registering your gadgets with the National UK Property Register Immobilise.

### About the Immobilise system

Immobilise is the world's largest free register of possession ownership details and together with its sister sites the Police's NMPR [www.thenmpr.com](http://www.thenmpr.com) and CheckMEND [www.checkmend.com](http://www.checkmend.com), forms a very effective tool in helping to reduce crime and repatriate recovered personal property to its rightful owners.

Immobilise can be used by members of the public and businesses to register their valued possessions or company assets, and exclusive to Immobilise all account holders registered items and ownership details are viewable on the Police national property database the NMPR [www.thenmpr.com](http://www.thenmpr.com).

This online checking service is used by all UK Police forces to trace owners of lost and stolen property. In addition Immobilise is checked daily by a huge range of recovery agencies and lost property offices including the Transport For London Lost Property Office.

For further information visit <http://www.immobilise.com>

## Maintenance Contract Introduced for BMX Track



A weekly maintenance schedule for the BMX track in Little Stoke Park has been in place since the Summer. P&D Maintenance have been working alongside the Council ground staff to improve the track and surrounding area.

## Do you care about your community?

## Do you want to be heard and get things done?



**Then why not come along to the next Safer Stronger Community Group (SSCG) meeting for your area? SSCGs influence how services are delivered locally, establish longer-term plans to improve areas, help prevent future problems, and deal with current local issues.**

There are 20 Safer Stronger Community Groups across South Gloucestershire for residents to attend and raise local issues that concern them. They can give their views on possible improvements to further strengthen their communities and keep these safe places to live and work.

The meetings are also attended by partner agencies, including South Gloucestershire Council, Avon and Somerset Police, Avon Fire and Rescue Service, NHS South Gloucestershire, Town and Parish Councils and other local organisations. These organisations work together on the issues raised and often involve the community in implementing solutions.

Some of the issues raised and tackled have included creating positive activities for young people, anti-social behaviour, school crossing concerns, speeding and parking. Community grants through the Safer Stronger Communities Initiative Fund have helped support initiatives raised at the meetings, such as Community Speedwatch groups, community garden work, youth engagement activities, park improvements, activities for older people, and equipment for walking buses to schools.

If you would like to find out when your local group is meeting, each group has its own e-group page at <http://groups.southglos.gov.uk> where dates are listed. Here, you will also be able to view your group's annual report, minutes and agendas from past meetings, and find other useful information for your area. You can also become a member of the e-group which will ensure you receive the minutes and agendas directly via email. Alternatively, you can speak to a member of the Safer Stronger Communities Team on 01454 864625, or email directly to [sscg@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:sscg@southglos.gov.uk).

## Meet the Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer



**Steve Shield,  
Parish Clerk & RFO**

After spending 13 years with South Gloucestershire Council working across three departments, I decided to take the opportunity to work in the first tier of local government focussing on one community where I feel I can make a positive difference and am delighted to be here in Stoke Gifford.

I moved home in the summer and now live nearby to the area with my wife Rebecca. We have both taken a vested interest and thoroughly enjoyed attending a number of local community events throughout the year.

Originally from Cambridge I have been fairly well travelled from a young age mainly due to my fathers work but have been settled in the South West for many years. I am a keen sportsman and have enjoyed playing many sports over the years but now tend to watch more these days with my main passion being football.

I have joined up to the Society of Local Clerks and attended the National Conference in Reading back in October. This proved to be a good opportunity to network with other Town and Parish Clerks and share best practice. I am also currently undertaking further studies in this field of work which will add to my existing skills and experience gained over a considerable time in local government.

I was delighted in November to be asked along to the Downend & Bromley Heath Parish Council Away Day to give a talk to the Council on the roles and responsibilities of both Parish Councillors and the Parish

Council itself, especially after such a short time in post in my current role.

It is my intention by utilising some of the new publicity introduced to the area as highlighted earlier in this newsletter; I will do my best to keep you in touch with any day to day developments that affect the local community wherever possible. I always welcome feedback and would be happy to work with residents on any ideas or suggestions presented to me or my fellow Councillors. I will do my best to have a greater presence in the community wherever possible so please come and say hello if you see me around. I have also encouraged my staff where possible to interact with residents over any issues or concerns you may have.

I consider myself to be extremely approachable and committed to serving the local community, and ready for the challenges ahead that Council will be facing over the coming term of office.

**Steve**

## Have you noticed the beautiful mosaic at Patchway Train Station?



Members of the local community have pulled together to produce a

wonderful new mosaic to brighten up the shelter on Platform 1 at Patchway station, thanks to funding from the Association of Community Rail Partnerships.

Work on the Mosaic, co-ordinated by the Severnside Community Rail Partnership, commenced at the Festival of Archaeology held in Little Stoke Park back in July 2011. During the festival local residents of all ages, including some very willing volunteers from the WI had great fun creating the centre piece. During the autumn

members of Patchway Brownies and pupils from Holy Family RC Primary School worked on two further sections which depict some of the destinations you can reach from the station.

The official unveiling of the mosaic will take place on January 11th at 1.15pm. The Friends of Patchway Station group are meeting at 2pm on the same day, at The Community Hall, Little Stoke Lane. For further information please email [severnside@gmail.com](mailto:severnside@gmail.com)

# Stoke Gifford Parish Council Meeting Dates 2012

7.30pm Little Stoke  
Community Hall  
(unless stated)

## FULL COUNCIL

Tuesday 10th January  
Tuesday 14th February  
Tuesday 10th April  
Tuesday 8th May (AGM)  
Tuesday 10th July  
Tuesday 9th October  
Tuesday 13th November

## FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES

Tuesday 13th March  
Tuesday 12th June  
Tuesday 11th September  
Tuesday 11th December

## RECREATION & LEISURE

Tuesday 3rd April  
Tuesday 4th September

## PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday 24th January  
Tuesday 28th February  
Tuesday 27th March  
Tuesday 24th April  
Tuesday 22nd May  
Tuesday 26th June  
Tuesday 24th July  
Tuesday 28th August  
Tuesday 25th September  
Tuesday 23rd October  
Tuesday 27th November

## PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday 19th June  
(Venue to be confirmed)

# Your Parish Councillors



**Jackie Lewis**  
(Chairman)  
jackie.lewis@  
stokegifford.org.uk



**Ernest Brown**  
(Vice Chairman)  
ernie.brown@  
stokegifford.org.uk



**Brian Allinson**  
brian.allinson@  
stokegifford.org.uk



**Diane Bryant**  
diane.bryant@  
stokegifford.org.uk



**Nicholas Bryant**  
nick.bryant@  
stokegifford.org.uk



**Matthew Brown**  
matthew.brown@  
stokegifford.org.uk



**Keith Cranney**  
keith.cranney@  
stokegifford.org.uk



**Matthew De-La Hunty**  
matthew.hunty@  
stokegifford.org.uk



**Karen Falconer**  
karen.falconer@  
stokegifford.org.uk



**Trevor Jones**  
trevor.jones@  
stokegifford.org.uk



**Philip Holland**  
philip.holland@  
stokegifford.org.uk



**David Skeet**  
david.skeet@  
stokegifford.org.uk

Please contact the Stoke Gifford Parish Council office on 01454 865202 if you require any further information on the councillors.

## Little Stoke Park Community Hall Hire

Booking forms / terms of conditions for hall hire can be found on the new Stoke Gifford Parish Council web site. Paper copies can be obtained from the Parish office.

### Occasional Users

Halls	Hourly Rate
<b>Wren</b> (Half Room)	£16.00
<b>Dove</b> (Half Room)	£16.00
<b>Kingfisher</b> (Full Room)	£32.00
<b>Owl</b> (Meeting)	£10.00

### Childrens Parties (3hr bookings)

Halls	Hourly Rate	Bond
<b>Wren</b> (Half Room)	£35.00	£67.00
<b>Dove</b> (Half Room)	£35.00	£67.00
<b>Kingfisher</b> (Full Room)	£64.00	£67.00

An additional hourly charge of £11.12 (half room) and £20.00 (full room) for every additional hour required on top of the basic 3 hour children's party rate.

Concessional rates are available to regular users of the hall and enquiries should be directed to the Parish Clerk.

Stoke Gifford Parish Council, Little Stoke Community Hall, Little Stoke Lane,  
Little Stoke BS34 6HR Tel: 01454 865202  
Email: stoke.gifford@btconnect.com Website: [www.stokegifford.org.uk](http://www.stokegifford.org.uk)