

April 2016

Newsletter



Produced by the Stockton on the Forest Village Hall Management Committee



1940s Event



Set for a wedding



Toddlers
Song Time



Foresters Drama



KMS Brass Band



Wednesday Yoga

It's **YOUR** Village Hall,
how will **YOU** use it?

CARNIVAL?

Do you miss the village carnival? Would you like to see a new whole village summer community event? Then we need you! Paul at the Fox Inn is hoping to arrange a summer BBQ with bouncy castle or something for the kids during the day and maybe a band at the village hall in the evening.

What do you think?
Would you be willing to help organise the event?
We need a subcommittee.
Get in touch if you can help.
Tel: 400747 or email:
sofnews@sky.com

BIG Screen TV?

Did you know.....
The projector and screen in the Long Room at the Village Hall can be used for Freeview TV. Last year we had the Wimbledon finals, this year is the Rio Olympics (August) and Paralympics (September).
What else can we watch together? – Britain's Got Talent Finals, X-Factor, Strictly?
Let us know what you like and we'll see what we can arrange.

In this issue: Around Stockton pages 1-5 (including cut out and keep useful info), Gardening pages 6&7, Kids pages 8-10, Hobbies and Local Interest pages 11-14, Sport page 15 and Our Supporters page 16.

The next issue will be in November. Submissions to sofnews@sky.com by 8th October 2016 please.

Stockton on the Forest Parish Council News

It has been quite quiet at the parish council with only a few new planning applications over the last 6 months and most of the previous applications have been approved.

The **play area** on Stone Riggs has had its annual inspection by RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents). There are one or two minor areas of wear and we will be having them looked at and fixed. We have also had the hedges cut back to keep the play area tidy.



The parish councillors do inspect and litter pick the area on a weekly basis and if you have any comments that you want to make then either see a parish councillor or contact the Parish Clerk.

We are still monitoring and chasing up a couple of areas – The road markings outside school which are dependent on the developers of The Hollies finishing the road junction properly and the addition of a street light. Barr Lane - A64 junction remains as is, but no definite permanent answer.

Ward funding - this is a pot of money provided by City of York Council for projects in our council ward (Strensall ward) and organisations or groups can apply for a grant towards their project. There are application forms to fill and send in. Details can be found on the City of York Council website or contact the Parish Clerk.

Any comments or issues you want to raise about our parish can be made to the Parish Clerk via email:

parishclerk@thebyre.me.uk

or talk to your Parish Councillors.

You are also welcome to attend any Parish Council meeting, usually held on the last Wednesday of the month at the Village Hall in the Long Room from 7.30pm. Agendas are posted on village noticeboards and at

www.stocktonontheforest.org.uk

Holy Trinity Church



It's all go at Holy Trinity Church, we hope you'll be able to join us for the weekly Sunday and Wednesday morning Church services, our social events and fundraising activities.

Upcoming Events:

9th April - Spring Family Activity Morning – Join us between 10am-12noon for crafts and games, along with our regular coffee morning and 100 club draw.

14th May - coffee morning 10am-12noon

11th June - coffee morning 10am-12noon

9th July - Garden Party at Hazel Bush House 12.30pm to include lunch - Tickets £12 (children £6) from Bobby Hughes Tel: 400188. Stalls and games.

13th August – Summer Family Activity Morning with snail racing at Stockton Speedway! 10am-12noon



Planting our Easter Garden at the March Coffee Morning

PLANS FOR CHANGES AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

The PCC of Holy Trinity Stockton is proposing to re-order some of the church. We are wanting a more usable space achieved by the removal of a number of pews at the rear. This will afford us a flexible space for welcoming people into the church, for a small enclosed kitchen and storage area and for various activities which will serve the needs of the community.

At the front of the church, we plan to remove a pew either side of the aisle in order to make the available space more useful for regular worship and for special occasions such as weddings and baptisms.

In the rear space we aim to have padded folding chairs and folding table and a new carpet throughout, all of which we hope will result in a warm, comfortable and welcoming atmosphere.

STOCKTON ON THE FOREST VILLAGE HALL



**Sandy Lane, Stockton-on-the-Forest,
YORK, YO32 9UR**

The village hall, built in 1973, is home to many community groups and hosts events throughout the year but is also available for private hire.

The hall comprises a large multifunction hall with stage, a fully equipped kitchen with serving hatches, three smaller side rooms and disabled access throughout. There is a large, free, onsite car park and easy access to the Coastliner Bus Route.

The hall has a maximum occupancy of 205 people and can comfortably accommodate 150 seated in the main hall with a further 50 in the Long Room. It is the ideal venue for celebration events, wedding receptions, children's parties, conferences, seminars, presentations, demonstrations, exhibitions, training courses, concerts, performances, dancing, shows etc. etc.

We offer very reasonable hire rates (with discounts for village residents) whatever your event, large or small and we have special packages available.

Bookings and information 400409
www.stocktonontheforest.org.uk
www.hallshire.com

Special Village Hall Packages

CHILDREN'S PARTIES

Only £35 for 2 hours
(+ setting up)
(Age restrictions apply)



Celebration Events

2 ½ days for only £350.

Set up one day, hold your special event the next day and then half a day to clear up afterwards.



What's on at the Village Hall

Mondays

Main Hall - vacant

(evenings)

Greenfingers Gardening Club

(1st week of the month 7.15pm)

Contact: Nigel Collinson 423206

Tuesdays

Stockton Foresters Drama Club

(weekly 7.30pm)

Contact Pat Jennings 400327

Senior Citizens

(3rd week of the month 2.00pm)

Contact Ann Steel 400124

Wednesdays

Yoga for the over 50s

(weekly 1.30pm)

Contact Andrea 07986 375098

Women's Institute

(2nd week of the month 7.30pm)

Contact Mary Coulson 422715

Parish Council

(last week of the month)

Contact Fiona Hall – Clerk

Email: parishclerk@thebyre.me.uk

Thursdays

Parent and Toddler Group

(weekly 9.30am – 11.30am, term time only)

Contact Kelly Price 07846 938809

History Group

(every two months 7.30pm)

Contact Joy Moseley 400309

York Electronic Organ Society

(2nd week of the month 7.30pm)

Contact Keith Jackson 01751 431522

Fridays and Saturdays

No regular meetings or events

Sundays

York Pole Dancing Academy

(weekly 6.00pm)

Contact Marisa 0781298932

The **Fox Petanque Club** also meet behind the hall on a Monday and Thursday evenings from 7.00pm Contact Barbara Hardisty 400018

All rooms available for hire at any time if vacant



Your **Local Post Office** is within "Orchard Nurseries" on Hopgrove Lane South.

Opening hours:
Tuesdays and Thursdays
from 9.00am to 1.00pm

Chris will be delighted to serve you with all your post office requirements. Tel: (01904) 421153



Stockton-on-the-Forest Surgery

Opening times:

Monday	8.00am to 12.15pm
Tuesday	2.00pm to 5.45pm
Wed - Friday	8.00am to 12.15pm
Thursday	1.30pm to 4.30pm

Tel: (01904) 724600

36 The Village, Stockton on the Forest,
York, YO32 9UQ

Email: haxbygroup.york@nhs.net
Website: www.haxbygroup.co.uk/york

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3rd, 17th and 31st August

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Stockton Lane – Beansway
10.25am to 10.45am

Stone Riggs
10.55am to 11.45am

School (Term) / Fox Inn (Hols)
11.50am to 12.30pm

Village Hall
12.35pm to 12.45pm

Westfield House
12.50pm to 1.05pm

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Sainsbury's



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Stockton on the Forest Primary School and 1st Stockton

Brownies are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers again. If you have any spare please pass them on. Collection boxes are at Stockton School, the Scout Hut, Holy Trinity Church and Stockton Village Hall. *Thank you.*

Holy Trinity Church

Services:

Wednesdays at 10.00am

(Communion)

Sundays at 10.30am

(1st Sunday – All age worship,
3rd Sunday - Morning Prayer
2nd and 4th Holy Communion)

Church usually open daily 9am-5pm

Rector:

Rev. Nick Bird

Tel: 489349

Associate Priest

Rev. Canon Terry Joyce

Assistant Curate

Rev. Debbie Coyne

Church Business Contact:

Pam Brighton - 400445

At the Scout Hut

Mondays – Beavers

Contact – Kath Shapcott

Tel: 421096

Email: ets86@hotmail.com

Tuesdays – Cubs

Contact – Mark Fuller

Email:

markfuller.softcubs@gmail.com

Wednesdays – Brownies

Contact – Liz Bates

Tel: 400408

Thursdays – Scouts

Contact – Adam Parker

Email: anp5@hotmail.co.uk

General enquiries to Group Scout Leader Kath Shapcott Tel: 421096

Cut out and keep ✂

Stockton and Hopgrove Luncheon Group



Meets at the Golf Club once a month
Good Food, Good Company

We meet once a month at the Forest Park Golf Club. Originally it was the continuation of the 'Good Neighbours' that became no longer necessary but we are trying to carry on by having a nice meal and a happy social afternoon.

It is not just for pensioners, there is no age barrier and you don't have to reside in Stockton or nearby. At present we have a two course meal for £6.50 but for dietary reasons another choice from the menu could be purchased. No need to book just come along.

Wednesday 20th April 2016
Wednesday 25th May 2016
Wednesday 22nd June 2016
Wednesday 27th July 2016

***For more information see Pam Brighton or
Maureen Sutcliffe or tel: 400445***



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theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Stockton on the Forest
Women's Institute

1915 FOR 100 YEARS 2015

It's snowing outside my window as I write this little article about what it is like to belong to our W.I. and I have been reminded that **this year is our 75th**.

Since my last offering we have had Christmas, what a long time ago that seems now. We have completed our games of darts against the rest of our league and came third. We believe we are improving but most of all we enjoy it. Paul at the Fox challenged us to a match and although he gave us a handicap we gave him a bit of a shock beating their team in the first 3 games. On the return match he says "no handicap" – should be interesting!

At the Christmas Fayre at Stockton Hall we had a stall and made over £100.00 and in addition really enjoyed our Christmas dinner at The Golf Club with games of Irish Bingo!!

During the next 6 months our speakers include Matthew Jenkins in April telling us about York in Georgian times and what it was like to shop then (no supermarkets?) This is followed by "My life as a nanny" in May, June brings us "Laughter Lines" (a talk by a cartoonist) and Richard Fowler is coming from Burnholme Fisheries with his slant on what it is like to run a fish shop. From what I have heard he will be showing us how to serve up different types of fish and letting us taste them too! Do you fancy a taster of what goes on in the long room of the village hall on the 2nd Wednesday evening of every month?

If you think you would like to join us whether you are 19, 90 or anywhere in between we would love to welcome you. There is always a cup or tea with either a biscuit or a piece of cake at the end of the meeting when the socialising takes place before we all wend our different ways home.

Jill Hawkins.

Stockton Senior Citizens

We are a young at heart Senior Group, new members are very welcome. We meet every third Tuesday of the month at 2pm in the Long Room at the Village Hall. We usually have a speaker, or a group to entertain us with their singing. Other times we have a quiz, or play beetle – all good fun and before going home we enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with cream scones, cake or biscuits. Once a month we go on a bus outing.

To find out more ring Anne on (01759) 371058

Dean's Garden Centre

Every year Dean's Garden Centre staff nominate a Charity of the Year and in 2015 it was **Candlelighters, Martin House Hospice & Anthony Nolan** that were chosen. The customers and staff at York & Scarborough have raised the wonderful amount of **£22,029.70** including a £2,500 donation from the Partners of the business. The customers and staff have done this by holding various fundraising events throughout the year including a beetle drive, football match and a brass band concert. Kate Goldring, for Candlelighters said "The funds will help Candlelighters continue to support children fighting cancer across Yorkshire and their families. We can't say thank you enough!" Brenda Peel, for Martin House Hospice said "Each year we care for more than 500 local children and their families, at a cost of some £15,000 per day, so this fantastic donation will make a massive difference."

This year's charity is the **British Heart Foundation**. At the time of going to print the total stands at **£2,215**. This is the total of York & Scarborough's fundraising combined. Our April charity prize grid will be for a John Potter large canvas of Staithes. £1 per square, the winner to be drawn on 2nd May. Look out for other fundraising events throughout the year.



The children's **sunflower** growing competition returns this summer. Collect your seeds from Dean's information desk from April onwards. Last year's winner reached 3.37m – how tall can you grow?

Dean's Garden Centre

Your local family-run Garden Centre

**Stockton-on-the-Forest
York
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www.deansgardencentre.co.uk
E-mail: york@deansgardencentre.co.uk

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Also at:
Seamer Road, Scarborough
Tel: 01723 361814



GREENFINGERS

Stockton on the Forest Gardening Club

Meetings are generally held on the first Monday of the Month (except Bank Holidays), in the Long Room of the Village Hall. We usually meet at 19:00 for a 19:30 talk. Annual Membership is only £10 & you will get a membership card which entitles you 10% discount at Deans Garden Centre in Stockton-on-the-Forest & Scarborough as well as at Vertigrow on Malton Road & Rogers in Pickering.

Non-members are very welcome to come and join us, it's only £2 on the door & this includes tea/coffee & biscuits & sometimes cake! If you know of anybody looking to join a local gardening club please point them in our direction.

Calendar for 2016

Monday **4th April** - Annual Plant & Seed Swap as the 2015 event went so well.

Monday **9th May** - Teresa Clements will give a talk on English tulips, which includes a look back at the history of the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society.

Monday **6th June** - Visit & talk at The Poppleton Railway Nursery

Monday **4th July** - Visit & talk at Mires Beck Nursery, North Cave

Monday **25th July** - Visit to Rowela Cottage Skewsby (John Plant) £7 per head payable in advance, thanks.

August NO MEETING - Summer Break

Monday **5th September** - Alistair Taylor (Butterfly Conservation Trust) "Gardening with Nature for Nature"

Monday **3rd October** - Doug Stewart "Why Plants talk to Insects & Why Pumpkins can't fly!"

Monday **7th November** - Martin Fish BBC Radio York & Kitchen Garden Magazine Writer "My life in gardening so far"

Monday **5th December** - 2016 AGM & Christmas Gathering!!!

For more details contact Nigel on tel: 423206

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Stockton on the
Forest and its
community changed
our lives from
Townies to Small
Holders – “ignorance
was bliss”.



In conversation with Maureen Sutcliffe.....

We purchased 73 The Village (Sowrays Trod) in 1974 and moved in with twin girls, a son, a spade, a trowel and a hammer.

Luckily we inherited super neighbours Harold & Kitty Crossley and Bert & Rhoda Scott. They tactfully and kindly educated and influenced us into a new experience.

Starting with hens and eggs and the hatching of goslings we then bought a goat, instead of a dog for Alison. Our first goat purchase was disastrous but Harold to the rescue, he sent us to Vic Chapman, North Lane who supplied us with Mary. She came home to 73 in the car and proceeded to supply gallons of milk and many kids.

Twice daily we walked to the churchyard with 3 goats to graze the graves of weeds and occasionally flowers.

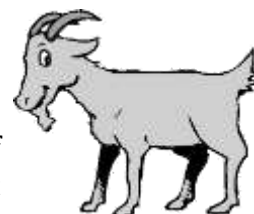
We tried pigs, Martha and Muriel – we couldn't catch them but they tasted great.

The quantity of milk persuaded us to rear calves but we found the livestock market a great stress and we were out of our depth particularly when told we had a bull.

Sheep was our next venture (like goats we thought) we soon learnt they always try to die but we had many years of success and many years of lambing while Kingsmoor went to sleep.

Time has caught up with us, we are unable to catch sheep, lift bales, 25kg feed bags, build barns, mend fences and our hens are dropping off their perches. Our only other livestock are now 4 stick insects.

Stockton has given us a great life, amazing experiences and a lifestyle for all the family, helped by the residents of Stockton. Thank you, we don't intend to move.



Stockton-on-the-Forest TODDLER GROUP

Over Winter our Toddlers have been very busy. We have welcomed a new baby to the group and a couple of other friends who we have loved getting to know. We have had lots of fun playing with our toys and enjoying crafts including our Harvest Festival and Christmas display for Church. We had a very special visit from Father Christmas who brought us all a lovely present and we enjoyed the party food and games at our Christmas party.

This term we have lots planned for Spring too including making Mother's Day cards, Easter crafts and planting some vegetable seeds in our Toddler Garden that we will look after and water until Summer. We are also excited to join the Reception Class for our school visit as part of the Stockton on the Forest Early Years (SOFEY) Partnership in March and an Easter egg hunt in the hall on our last session before the Easter holiday.



We now have spaces available to welcome new children to the group. If you look after a child under the age of 5 (all parents, grandparents, childminders etc are welcome) please contact **Kelly Price on 07846938809** with your contact details. We run on a **Thursday morning 9.30-11.30** and it costs approximately £4 per session. All parents help with the running of the group such as setting up, washing up and tidying away. The children participate in crafts, play time with a variety of large and small toys, gardening and song time at the end of the session. The children also enjoy a healthy snack while our carers have a cup of tea, a biscuit and a chat.



Stockton on the Forest Early Years Partnership

We are a committee comprising Stockton Primary School, Stockton Day Nursery, Stockton Toddler Group and any childminders who wish to get involved. We meet once a term and arrange a social event, held at the school, for children aged 0-5yrs and their carers. These themed events give the children an opportunity to socialise with other children their age and to become familiar with the primary school aiding their transition into Reception Class.

At our spring event in March 30 children and their grownups enjoyed a visit from some animals (care of Riggmoor Reindeer), they had a go at milking the goat (plastic) and had great fun making chocolate Easter nests and Easter bonnets, along with a spring trail.



Our summer event will be in June, details will be posted on the SOFEY page of the village website nearer the time.

Our next project is to create the **SOFEY Allotment**.

If you can spare a few hours to help us clear the site and



construct the veg beds or if you have any plants you would like to donate we'd love to hear from you; contact Carolyn on 400366.



Stockton Primary School News

Here at Stockton on the Forest Primary School we very much live by our motto: **"Happy, healthy, learning for life and caring for all."**

We have four classes at Stockton on the Forest Primary School and so I would like to share some news from each of these classes - *Hilary Seavers*

Pines Class

Our youngest children have created a wonderful display for their Literacy this term, based on *The Adventures of Max and Pinky*, a super book by Maxwell Eaton. This is part of a project called *Talk for Writing*, enabling children to take part in fun activities and imitate the key language needed orally before joining in shared writing.

The children had great fun dressing up in character and as you can see from the photo, completed some lovely colourful pictures about the story.



Willows Class

Willows class have been focusing on the senses. In their art lessons the children closely studied the eyes. They took photos of each other's eyes and then used these photos to sketch, using pastels as the medium. This made a very striking display! They also used their eyes to make observations about the very beautiful winter trees, which we are lucky to have around our playground. Finally the children wrote down their observations and illustrated their work for the display.



Hazel and Oaks Classes

We recently invited the Alive and Kicking Theatre Company, to deliver a three day workshop to our Upper Key Stage Two children. The children gathered in the school hall to meet Luke and Phoebe from the theatre company, who were their guides and helpers on their journey through the story.

This interactive adventure was called "Briacca Crowheart and the Lost Legion" and was set in 112 AD, just as Emperor Hadrian had arrived to build his wall. The 6th Legion had arrived in Britain to conquer the Celts, after the mysterious disappearance of the 9th Legion. Once back in the classrooms the children explored Romano British History, Celtic and Roman Society, myths, religions and storytelling. They completed pieces of persuasive writing in the form of a speech and wrote letters, in character, as Romans.



This workshop provided fantastic opportunities for a range of creative writing, through imaginative role play, which the children thoroughly enjoyed, culminating in super written work which is displayed in school for you to see.

For more information on our school see www.stocktonprimary.co.uk



Angela has been providing bespoke celebration cakes in York since 2008.

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Iced Yorkshire also offers comprehensive cake making courses and sells everything you need to decorate a cake of your own.

New for 2016 - Kids Parties starting from just £150 for 8 children. 2 hours of decorating cupcakes and playing games!

- **Cake-Over New Tricks & Ideas - Demonstration - £10**
13th June 10.30-11.30am
- **Royal Icing - A Perfect Coat - £35**
20th June 6-9pm
- **Sugar Paste – Back to Basics - £35**
23rd June 6-9pm
- **Royal Icing – Just Piping - £35**
27th June 6-9pm

See our website for more details



10% off cakes ordered before May 2016



Unit 26C, The Bull Centre, Stockton, (01904) 400789, www.icedyorkshire.com

Brownies



1ST STOCKTON-ON-THE-FOREST BROWNIES

The autumn term started with an adventure afternoon in Easingwold where we made clay owls, did a nature scavenger hunt, made enormous bubbles and played lots of games. We finished the day by joining other brownies and guides for a sing song around the campfire. The weather was amazingly kind to us and lots of fun was had by all.

Our first few meetings back at the hut were spent completing our First Aid and First Aid advanced badges. We then moved on to learning a few karate moves in sessions paid for with Sainsbury's Active kids vouchers. As always we had a great time learning something new and we are already starting to think about what we would like to do later this year. If you have any spare Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers we would love to have them, please contact one of our leaders to arrange collection.

As Christmas approached our dancing shoes came out again for the Tower Division disco. Since then we have been busy doing lots of different crafts, thinking about different types of music and planning our USA themed thinking day celebrations. At the beginning of March we welcomed Reverend Debbie to one of our meetings. She told us all about the history of Mother's day before helping us make some lovely pop-up Mother's day cards. In return we taught her the 'donut song', we hoped she enjoyed her first ever Brownie meeting!



We have lots more exciting plans for this year. These include; establishing a wildlife hotel in the churchyard and a trip to the Environment Centre (as part of our wildlife explorer badge), a visit to the Holgate Windmill in the summer, and a trip to see 'Gangster Granny' at the theatre in September.

We will have space for some new Brownies in September 2016, so if you have a child who is interested in joining our pack please visit:

http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved/volunteer/register_your_interest.aspx

We can only accept new brownies between the ages of 7 and 10. A waiting list is in operation for girls younger than 7. To put a child's name on the waiting list please contact Liz on 01904 400408.

Liz Bates, Jane Palmer, Kath Brooks and Maggie Wilson

STOCKTON-ON-THE-FOREST SCOUT TROOP

Beaver Scouts are the youngest section of the Scouting family. Their activities are based around making things, outdoor activities, singing, playing games, going out on visits, investigating nature, listening to stories, learning how to be safe and most importantly, making new friends.



If your child would like to become a member of the Scouting movement contact Kath (01904) 421096 or email: ets86@hotmail.com



Beavers 6-8 years old	Mondays from 6-7pm
Cubs 8-10 years old	Tuesdays from 6.45-8.15pm
Scouts 10-14 years old	Thursdays from 7-8.30pm

P.S. The Scout group urgently need a new outdoor storage unit. If you have an old portakabin or large shed you'd like to donate or you know where we can get one very cheaply please get in touch, Thank you.



Blacksmiths Garage is a friendly local business in Stockton on the Forest, selling, servicing and repairing all makes and models.

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The largest visual arts festival in York; **York Open Studios** continues to grow, with over ninety artists taking part in this year's event.

Stockton-on-the-Forest artist, **Julie Lightburn**, is delighted to have been selected to take part again this year. She's a representational artist known for her detailed landscapes, and paintings of rural buildings. She enjoys painting local scenes that provide great inspiration – you won't need an expert to explain the meaning, or an art degree to "understand" her work.



She's had a busy time taking part in several exhibitions during 2015, culminating in a Pop-Up-Gallery in Gillygate at the end of the year. Along with other local artists she took part in our Open Gardens art exhibition at the Village Hall, during which she visited Sue and Jim Boldry's fascinating garden. The resulting painting can be seen at her studio, along with paintings of other local scenes, some of which are available as cards and prints. If you're a regular at the Fox Inn you'll also have seen the changing exhibitions of her work in the dining room.



During the Open Studios there'll be refreshments and homemade cakes to enjoy while you browse, helping Dean's Garden Centre raise money for the **British Heart Foundation** - another good reason to visit her studio at the Bull Centre, next door to the Garden Centre.

Opening times are:

Friday 15th April	6pm to 9pm.
Saturdays 16th and 23rd April	10am – 6pm
Sundays 17th and 24th April	11am – 5pm



www.saa.co.uk/art/lightburn
@JulieLightburn



Did you know that we still have a History Group?

Does the history of your house or the village interest you?

Why not come along to one of our meetings?

This year, our meetings will be on:

Thursday 16th June

Visiting speaker will be Peter Stanhope, talking about "Images of a Disappeared York"

Thursday 22nd September

Bring along your own interesting historical items and listen to our Oral History recordings

Thursday 1st December

AGM and Festive Social Evening

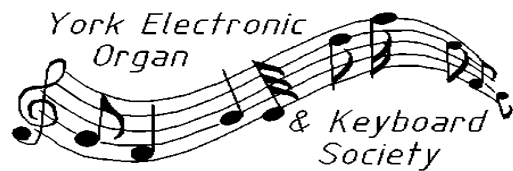
We are also visiting York Theatre Royal on **Wednesday 11th May** to hear about the recent excavations of the theatre by York Archaeological Trust. We will learn of the medieval foundations of St. Leonard's Hospital discovered beneath the Theatre. If you are interested in this event and would like to join us, please contact Joy on (01904) 400309.

We welcome everyone to our meetings, to enjoy the speakers, learn a little more about our village and its heritage. Refreshments are provided. Posters are up on the Village Notice Boards with details of the forthcoming meeting, or visit:

www.stocktonontheforest.org.uk

Unless otherwise specified, meetings take place in the Long Room, Village Hall, Sandy Lane, Stockton on the Forest at 7.30pm.

If you require further information, please contact Joy Moseley on (01904) 400309 or email: jmoseley@f2s.com.



If you have visited us on any 2nd Thursday of every month at the Village Hall you will know that an excellent evening of musical entertainment is provided for your enjoyment. The music is provided by professional artists from all parts of the country and abroad. They use Korg, Yamaha, Orla, Roland, Wersi and other keyboards and organs, all of which are capable of producing the sounds of big and brass bands, small and large orchestras, theatre organs and instrumentalists – you name it. Again this year we have some great artists who are guaranteed to send us home full of the joys of good music. So come along and enjoy an evening out – fish and chips from the van outside if you wish before the show which starts at 7.30pm. There is a £7 charge for visitors, £5 for members. You'll find a warm friendly welcome. For more information contact Keith Jackson tel: (01751) 431522 or Alf Hickling tel: (01904) 760500

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As the plots unravel, the characters reveal the loneliness that they try to conceal:

Pathetic, bombastic, often hilarious, the insight is sharp, their reactions are various.

But we start in a park so all should be well, But quiet park benches can soon become hell:

When each one's seat is by appropriation, It only takes one to cause altercation.

Can Lucy's mothering skills apply To Rose and Terry – or go awry?

Can Harry, seeking marital release, Seduce pretty Paula and picky Bernice?

The waiter waits as Pearce and his wife Embroil Polly and Martin in marital strife.

As for Gosforth and his disorganised fete, There's more chaos here than a brass band that's late

Milly's faulty tea urn, a collapsing tent, A vicar who's far from heaven sent,

Hysterical Stewart's hyperactive cub group, And poor Mrs. Pearce ending up in mud soup.

Alan Ayckbourn has written this sparkling play, Which we're presenting in Stockton in mid-May.

So if you'd like to see how it all pans out, Book with Rob, our friendly ticket tout.

Pat Jennings



The Stockton Foresters are presenting “**Confusions**”

by Alan Ayckbourn in Stockton on the Forest Village Hall on Thursday 19th, Friday 20th and Saturday 21st May at 7.30pm.

Tickets, £7.50, including a light supper, from **Robert Palmer (01904) 400386.**

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THE STOCKTON FORESTERS DRAMA GROUP

Incredibly, the Stockton Foresters first began over seventy five years ago, and we still meet every Tuesday in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. We produce a show - usually, but not always, a play - twice a year, in mid- May and late November.

This May (19th – 21st) we shall be presenting ‘Confusions’ by Alan Ayckbourn. However, our repertoire has included classics, such as Hobson’s choice, Blythe Spirit and When We are Married etc., and we have also tackled plays by Terry Pratchett, Ray Cooney and local playwrights. We occasionally put on a musical or a musical play or a review. Whatever we choose, it’s usually a sell-out. As we also include a light supper in the interval and a running wine & juice bar, we remain unique as a whole entertainment evening.

We welcome new members, whether or not they wish to tread the boards. Indeed, the backstage and behind the scene workers are indispensable and highly valued. Set builders, wardrobe designers, props providers, electricians, media manipulators..... all would find a welcome.

Delightfully, we now have a younger membership, injecting new blood into the group, but we would love to attract more participants of either sex - though preferably more and younger women. Some of our present crew would like to give the boards a rest and direct a play or two. So please, come and join us to get a taste of the fun you could have.

The enthusiasm in the group is catching and we do lead a lively and active social life as well as a make-believe one. The pub calls every Tuesday at 10 o’clock and we have at least two parties or dinners a year besides the after-show knees-ups and occasional group visits to other shows.

Although the coming play has been cast, new members would be most welcome to join us at any time to witness our prat falls as well as the finished performance, and we would really welcome some front of house help at any time. . The feeling of camaraderie is great fun. Come for a taster - you won’t regret it.

Pat Jennings (Tel: 400327)

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Commencing 6th April

For more details contact Paul on 400747

Otter update

In last autumn's edition of the Village Newsletter I described how our pond had been raided, the fish eaten and marginal plants damaged. I described how, through a process of elimination, I concluded that it could only have been otters that had paid us a visit. The response was immediate and surprising. I had eight contacts from villagers who had suffered similar attacks, and had lost both fish and frogs. The attackers had little respect for heron netting, and had caused considerable damage to pond side plants. Some thought we were too far from the rivers Foss and Derwent for otters to travel, whilst others suggested the culprits could be mink. It came as a welcome confirmation, therefore, when Richard Dean invited me down to the Garden Centre to see footage from CCTV cameras, which clearly showed three otters (possibly juveniles) on the lookout for food.



As if this wasn't confirmation enough, Richard went on to show me film from Dick Craven's pond across the road. This showed two otters hunting, one in the pond chasing a luckless fish, and the other on the bank eating its kill.



I have since contacted Yorkshire Wildlife Trust who tell me that otters regularly cross land to search for food in garden ponds, especially in Spring when frogs and toads are spawning. Nationally it would seem that otter populations are on the increase so it follows that they must travel further afield for food. Our local otters know where our ponds are and so we can expect further visits! Before we restock our pond this coming spring, we shall be fitting a strong metal mesh over it. Please keep me informed of any marauding mustelids in your garden.....
email: rhojohn17@yahoo.co.uk

John Hall

Forest Park Golf Club's 2015 Lady Captain and local villager Valerie Crossley chose *Brunswick Organic Nursery & Craft Workshop* (a productive workplace for adults with learning difficulties) as her charity for the year.

The club has raised a fantastic £2700 to go towards a new minibus to replace the one that was stolen.

2016 will be an exciting year. It is our 25th anniversary year from opening; also we are honoured to be hosting an England Ladies Golf Final in August.

The club is open every day and everyone is welcome. For a game of golf, practice balls on the driving range, or for food and a drink. See our flyer in the newsletter.



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Just a few notes from **the Fox Inn 5's and 3's Dominoes Team.**

Up to the time of going to print the team, after a slow start, have progressed to 2nd in the league with 3 games remaining.

Tony Kerrison and Barry Sellers, last season's York Champions have reached the last eight of this year's competition.

At this stage they are the only Division 2 players remaining in the competition.

The team would like to express their thanks to Landlord Paul Worthington for the excellent hospitality he puts on for both teams which has not gone unnoticed by the opposition teams.



Darts at the Fox Inn

Mixed teams play every Thursday, meeting around 8pm with games starting at 9pm. We have one team in Division 5 of the **York Open**

Darts League and we're looking to set up a second team so if you fancy giving it a go pop along and see us.



Members of the **WI Darts Team** meet at the Fox Inn on Tuesdays for practise and matches.

Pictured;
Ann Procter, Jill Hawkins, Barbara Hardisty and Val Burgess (not present)
Debbie Joyce and Sandra Wood.



Stockton & Hopgrove Cricket Club



Players needed urgently

With the new season starting on the **23rd April** we are on the lookout for some new players. Having gone down to one team half way through last season we still have struggled for players.

If anybody is interested please contact **Rich Kerrison (01904) 400451/ 07986619125** even if you have never played before or played just a few games everybody is welcome. Games are on Saturday afternoons and Wednesday evenings.



Another summer season is upon us and as always new members are very welcome for a social evening of Pétanque any Monday or Thursday evening from 7pm onwards behind the Village Hall.

Regular melées are arranged throughout the summer where up to 50 players will enjoy a day of pétanque (5 games), a lunch and prizes all for £3.50. Games start at 10.30am, so turn up and register before that and enjoy a day in the fresh air.

Dates for the melées (all Wednesdays) are;
April 13th, May 18th, June 15th, August 10th and
September 21st

For more information contact **Barbara Hardisty (01904) 400018** or **Robert Palmer (01904) 400386**



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