April 2015

Newsletter

Produced by the Stockton on the Forest Village Hall Management Committee

VILLAGE HALL AGM

Monday 27th April 2015
7.30pm in the Long Room.
Everyone is invited to join the committee to review the year and look at the new improvements to the Village Hall. Hope to see you there.

STOCKTON CINEMA???

Would you like to watch movies or sporting events on a big screen at the village hall? Should we set up a film club?
If you would be interested in getting involved with this project let us know.

The community Ceilidh held on Saturday 14th March was a huge success. Attended by 85 adults and children from Stockton and further afield. Thanks to Brian & Doreen and the Let's Dance Ceilidh Band for a great night.

LEGACY.... In the November newsletter we reported on the legacy kindly given to the village hall on the passing of a local resident; and our plans for spending the money. Well we have been busy over the winter and the **new toilet** between the Long Room and Kitchen has now been installed and is ready for use! Regular hall users will have noticed the new access portal from the rear door enclosing in the area for privacy and added noise reduction.
There is some money left over and so we are now making arrangements to install a **projector and large screen** in the Long Room. We think this will be of huge benefit to regular user groups who have speakers with computer presentations and will also allow us to offer the room for hire to more conferences and training courses.
AND we are also looking into installing a **defibrillator** externally on the village hall that will be registered with Yorkshire Ambulance Service for general community use in emergencies.
We hope you will approve of how we spent the money on your behalf.

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 2015 please.

Stockton on the Forest Parish Council News

The Parish Council has been busy keeping up to date with planning applications and other issues that affect the village.

The biggest issue that has affected the village was the planned closure of **Barr Lane** however the whole thing has now been kicked into the long grass for the time being as the proposals are being reviewed by the Highways Agency. The opposition to the closure has pulled the village together and credit must be given to various people in the village, our ward councillors and MP for their efforts.

Stockton residents protest – Dec 2014

The most recent correspondence to the Parish Council reads;

> "If the residents and parish councillors still wish to meet with the Agency they can contact the Asset Delivery Manager, John Howard, on Tel: 0113 283 6535 or by e-mail to john.howard@highways.gsi.gov.uk."

The playground - We have had the untidy shrubs removed at the top of the play area and it will be sown with grass seed shortly. Could you please keep off this area to let the grass grow. Just enjoy the playground, help keep it tidy and tell us (Parish Council) of any issues.

Other news: The Village Sign on Sandy Lane has been replaced after a traffic accident last summer. We are still liaising with the council to have white & yellow lines painted on the road in front of the school.

The Tour de Yorkshire comes to Stockton May bank holiday weekend – see opposite for details of how it could affect you.

The village website **www.stocktonontheforest.org.uk** - Keep using it! News and events are being added all the time. If you have any suggestions for improvements to the site let us know.

The local elections are on 7th of May 2015 and the parish council is up for re-election. A vote only happens when there are more candidates than seats. Our parish council has 7 seats. If you would like to get involved get in touch.

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

Sat.4th.April - *Easter Activity Day* from 10am, combined with coffee morning. Last year's event was hugely popular with the children. All welcome.

Tues.2nd.June - *St. Crux fund raising day*. If you have any books or bric-a-brac which we can sell please phone John (400182) or Arnie (400364) and we will collect them.

Annual *Hazlebush Garden Party* (Date to be arranged, but likely to be in July)

Fri.16th.Oct.*Grand Quiz Night* with great prizes, raffle and bar.

Fri.13th.Nov. *Murder Mystery Evening*.

Throughout the year coffee mornings will be held on the 2nd. Saturday in each month.

Thank you to everyone who supported our efforts last year in raising almost six thousand pounds for the upkeep of the church.

Tour de Yorkshire

Tour de Yorkshire - A new international cycle race is coming to Yorkshire from 1st – 3rd May 2015 and Stage 2 on Saturday 2nd May 2015 is in York.

There is a speed circuit which touches our parish. It runs up Stockton Lane and on to Holtby Lane and then into Murton. Both the women's and men's races will follow this route for multiple laps. The roads will be closed for most of the day, from 08.00 to 17.00 is proposed, although this will be confirmed closer to the date. Access to the village will be via Barr Lane and Hazelbush Crossroads. Diversions will be posted.

The website for more information and race timings is **www.letour.yorkshire.com**

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 £30 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.

Cut out and keep ✂

What's on at the Village Hall

Mondays

Sequence Dancing
(weekly 7.30pm)
Contact Robert and Susan Taylor 768469

Greenfingers Gardening Club
(1st week of the month 7.15pm)
Contact: Angela Piercy tel: 766999

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:fiona@thebyre.me.uk

Thursdays

Parent and Toddler Group
(weekly 9.30am – 11.30am, term time only)
Contact Jane Ward 401762

History Group
(every two months 7.30pm)
Contact Steve Burton 400066

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

POST OFFICE

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

Haxby Group York

Stockton-on-the-Forest Surgery

Opening times:

Monday 8.00am to 12.15pm
Tuesday 2.00pm to 5.45pm
Wed – Fri 8.00am to 12.15pm

Tel: (01904) 724600

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

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

MOBILE LIBRARY

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Every two weeks on a Wednesday

1st, 15th and 29th April,
13th and 27th May 2015

Hopgrove Lane South
9.55am to 10.25am

Stockton Lane – Beansway
10.35am to 10.55am

Stone Riggs
11.05am to 11.45am

School (Term) / Fox Inn (Hols)
11.50am to 12.35pm

Village Hall
12.40pm to 12.50pm

Westfield House
12.55pm to 1.05pm

Tel: (01904) 552655
Email: mobile@exploreyork.org.uk

Sainsbury's

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
Sundays at 10.30am
(1st Sunday – All age worship,
2nd, 3rd and 4th Holy Communion)

Priest in Charge:
Revd. Nick Bird
Tel: 489349

Associate Priest
Revd. Cannon Terry Joyce
Tel: 400811

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
Tel: 07770 796109

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' whereby we delivered meals to people's homes and did odd jobs and helped in any way we could. This 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 22nd April
Wednesday 27th May
Wednesday 24th June
Wednesday 22nd July
Wednesday 26th August
Wednesday 23rd September

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

Stockton Senior Citizens

Welcome once again to a New Year from the Senior Citizens. We ended last year with a very nice lunch at the White Horse and had nearly a full house from just our members. This year we started the month of January with a social gathering where members enjoyed one or two games and fun, then finished with a good chat over tea and biscuits.

From February we started with a mixture of some very interesting speakers, singers and a couple of very funny ladies we had last year and couldn't stop laughing.

Our outings started in March with a trip to Skipton and throughout the rest of the year we shall be going to a varied amount of places e.g. Lincoln, Chester, Southport, Alnwick Gardens and more!

Why not pop into one of our meetings at the village hall and give us a try, you can then see if you would like to join. The fee is only £10 for the year and for that you get lots of fun and some really good company.

Our next meeting is 21st April where will have a fine group of singers from Haxby entertaining us with songs from the musicals. Starts at 2pm and finishes with tea and biscuits. Hope to see some old and new faces there.

For more information contact Ann Steel on 400124.

Stockton on the Forest Women's Institute

As you can see the W.I. started 100 years ago and to celebrate this fact a flower arrangement is to be placed somewhere in the village. Now where will it be situated? - That is for you to discover! Good hunting!

News from our own W.I. Well I am pleased to tell you that we have improved at darts. We are NOT bottom this year – we are third (I must admit there are only 4 teams in our league!) but it is an improvement on last year!!

In February we were lucky enough to have a talk by Alison Eason who had been at Bishopthorpe Palace when the Queen came to stay in 2005 for the Ascot Races and what a very interesting talk it was too. She also brought with her lots of photographs and believe it or not had one of Timmy Crossley. Valerie was thrilled and is to get a copy.

In the next few months we are having speakers on "Paper Flowers" in April, "From Horbury to Bossall" in May, "I Did it for kicks" in June (competition is a garter so what this is about I have no idea - intriguing!) A talk on York Minster in July and of course our garden party at "Brooklands" in August. You must agree a very varied and interesting programme.

Do come and join us – we meet on the second Wednesday of each month in the long room of the village hall at 7.30pm. You would be most welcome – just turn up or if you would like to know more please contact Barbara Hardisty on 400018 or ask any member of the W.I.

Jill Hawkins

Iced Yorkshire

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Dean's Garden Centre

Every year Dean's Garden Centre staff nominate a Charity of the Year and in 2014 it was Multiple Sclerosis Society and York Blind & Partially Sighted Society that were chosen. The customers and staff at York & Scarborough have raised the wonderful amount of **£25,217.60** 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, 10k run and a brass band concert.

Diane Rowarth from **York Blind & Partially Sighted Society** said "We are absolutely thrilled that Dean's Garden Centre have raised the fantastic amount of **£14,257.97** for York Blind and Partially Sighted Society.

We thank all of the staff, partners and customers for their enthusiasm, hard work and generosity – it takes an enormous amount of consistent effort to raise such a large sum, and we really appreciate what they have done. Their efforts will help us to run our Equipment and Information Centre in Rougier Street, York, a unique service really valued by blind and partially sighted people".

Dean's Garden Centre, York has chosen **Candlelighters & Martin House Hospice** to support in 2015. The monthly prize grid draw is to win a wonderful fruit cake decorated with the logos in icing of our 2 charities of the year on the top. It has been kindly donated by **Iced Yorkshire**. It is £1 to enter the draw (which takes place on Friday 3rd April) and the cake is located on the information desk at our York Garden Centre. Our fundraising total is well over £1000 already this year. Thank you to all our customers who donate money in our wishing well, collecting tins & charity book stall each month.

The Garden Centre at York was opened by Ken and Margaret Dean over 47 years ago, in December 1968, and has continued to grow and prosper ever since. Over the last thirteen years over **£200,000** has been raised for the Dean's Garden Centre staff nominated Charity of the Year, The Partners at Dean's Garden Centre said "We would like to thank our customers and suppliers for their continued support throughout the year and also thanks to all the staff at Dean's Garden Centre, York & Scarborough, who helped to raise this magnificent amount".

Dean's Garden Centre

Your local family-run Garden Centre

Stockton-on-the-Forest
York
Tel: 01904 400141

www.deansgardencentre.co.uk
E-mail: york@deansgardencentre.co.uk

Huge selection of plants including shrubs, trees, roses, perennials, vegetable plants, bedding plants & houseplants

Garden furniture, barbecues, gifts, pots, ornaments, aquatics, fencing, paving… and so much more

Open every day except Easter Sunday

Coffee Shop open daily until 4.30pm

Also at: Seamer Road, Scarborough
Tel: 01723 361814

GREENFINGERS

Stockton on the Forest Gardening Club

'Greenfingers', Stockton on the Forest Gardening Club, meets in the Village Hall at 7.15pm **every first Monday** in the month (apart from January and August). We enjoy a variety of speakers on every horticultural subject from growing cabbages to caring for exotic orchids, from bee keeping to water gardens. The talks are usually accompanied by brilliant slide shows and often the speaker will bring along a selection of plants as well – I have a flourishing magnolia shrub bought some years ago as a cutting for 50p! In addition, we arrange a couple of group visits in the summer to horticultural centres of interest (we once went as far as Highgrove!)

We also mount a Festival of Gardening, in addition to our normal meetings, in July every other year (AND THIS IS ONE OF THOSE!) to which all and sundry are invited to create or enjoy displays and competitions and contribute their own vegetable and floral produce. We even offer an activity room for the children which has proved enormously popular.

The annual subscription for Greenfingers is £10, and £1 per session attended, although anyone may attend individual talks for a charge of £2. Membership includes a monthly newsletter and your membership card entitles you to 10% discount at various garden centres, including Dean's and Castle Howard Plant Centre. We have a very healthy membership, made up of both experienced and novice gardeners, but most of all friendly and helpful folk.

Our April meeting (13th April) will be introduced by Nigel Collinson followed by a plant and seed swap, and the 11th May speaker will be Gill Tomlinson on lavender and dianthus. (Both dates moved on a week because of the bank holidays) Why not pop along to next month's talk for a taster – you may become hooked. If you would like more information, please contact Pat Jennings on 400327.

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Come and have a look around or make an appointment to discuss what you and your garden needs

The Fish Van – a wide selection of quality fresh fish.
Visits Hopgrove every Tuesday at 11am.

Stockton on the Forest Gardening club

S.O.S

As you get older you become more forgetful. Fact! Yesterday I filled a trolley with goods at Sainsbury's only to remember I'd left my purse back home on the kitchen table! Similarly, we older Festival organisers have forgotten who won ***the best garden trophy*** at the last Festival in 2013! Can you help us please? We need to regain it for this year's Festival in July. Thank you.

Pat Jennings
(a geriatric garden lover!) 400327

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Fax: 01904 608458
Email: mail@play-scheme.co.uk

Unit G8, Elvington Industrial Estate
York Road, Elvington
York, YO41 4AR

GREENFINGERS

A Festival of Gardening

Saturday 11th July
2pm - 4pm

The Village Hall
Stockton on the Forest

Displays & Contributions invited of Home-grown Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables; Hedgerow Fruits, Home Produce etc.
Adult Competitions in Flower Arranging, Craftwork, Photography & Cakes.
Children's Competitions in craftwork, photography etc.

plus: Children's **ACTIVITIES**
Decorative & Informative Displays - including from
Dean's and Community Groups.
Plants & Books for Sale and Refreshments.

ADMISSION FREE

Further details from Valerie Crossley (400601) or email: valeriecrossley@hotmail.co.uk
or Pat Jennings (400327) email: j.malcolm123@gmail.com

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Stockton-on-the-Forest TODDLER GROUP

Over Winter our toddlers have been very busy. We have had lots of fun playing with our toys and enjoying crafts such as painting farm animals for our 'Farm' display, making Christmas tree decorations and getting stuck into the playdough. Everyone enjoyed the 'Bonfire Night' themed visit to the Reception Class at Stockton School, where we joined in with all the lovely activities. We had a very special visit from Father Christmas, and played lots of games at our Christmas Party.

We have lots of plans for Spring. Our bulbs are coming up in the garden and we are looking forward to warmer weather when we can plant some vegetable and flower seeds. We plan to make Mother's Day cards and lots of Easter bits and bobs too.

Our Toddler Group is run by parents on Thursday mornings, term time only, 9.30-11.30. We play with a wide variety of large and small toys, enjoy crafts, gardening, dressing up and song time, and eat a healthy snack whilst our carers have a cup of tea and a chat. All parents help with the running of the group, such as setting up, washing up and tidying away, and it costs approx. £4 per week. If you are from the village and would like to join us then please ring Jane Ward on 01904 401762.

STOCKTON ON THE FOREST DAY NURSERY

We are a small friendly Nursery situated in the grounds of Stockton Primary school. Our staff team is highly qualified and enthusiastic in supporting the children to move forward in developing their individual skills.

The Nursery has recently welcomed a new Manager, Andrea Moore who holds a Foundation Degree in Children's Learning and Development and a First Class Hons Degree in Educational Leadership and two new Practitioners Claire Lucas and Amanda Craig who both hold level 3 Childcare qualifications. Stockton Day Nursery implements the Early Years Curriculum - The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The team are continually working towards developing the nursery and have already made fun, bright changes to the internal décor of the Nursery along with exciting changes in new activities designed to help children learn through play. We are very lucky to have an amazing outdoor area to explore and investigate and we are currently adding to the resources in this area.

We have recently celebrated Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year in the Nursery and had lots of fun making heart shaped chocolates and cards, a huge Chinese dragon, Chinese lanterns and enjoyed a Chinese meal. On Shrove Tuesday we had lots of Pancake fun, making and tasting pancakes and holding pancake races. On the 5th March we dressed up as our favourite book character and acted out 'The Gingerbread man' story to celebrate world book day.

On Friday 13th March we had lots of 'red-nose' fun in aid of Comic Relief. On the 26th March we joined in with the SOFEY Partnership Easter fun morning and we look forward to lots of exciting Easter Activities in April. We plan on holding more festive events as the year moves forward all of which will support the children's learning and offer new experiences and provide lots of fun.

The Nursery is open 51 weeks per year, 07.30 – 18.30 daily Monday to Friday. We also offer wrap-around-care for children aged 5 to 11 years who attend Stockton Primary School, all year round - this is called The Wood-Pecker Club.

If you would like any further information about our Nursery please visit our website or contact us via email at stocktondaynursery@live.co.uk or phone us on 01904 400698 and ask for Andrea.

High Quality Day Nursery for children 0-5 years.

Varied sessions and crèche facility.

Breakfast Club, Woodpecker Afterschool Club and Holiday Club for children 5-11 years

Open 51 weeks a year 07.30-18.30

Call Andrea on 400698

stocktondaynursery@live.co.uk

School News

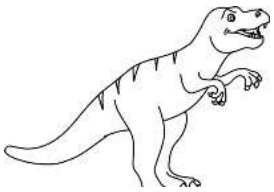
Here at Stockton on the Forest Primary School we very much live by our motto;

"Happy, healthy, learning for life and caring for all."

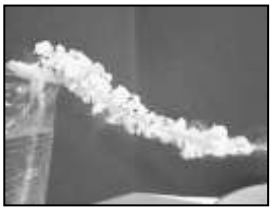
SCIENCE WEEK 2015!

We enjoyed a wonderful week with lots of visitors to our school, who showed us exciting experiments and explained lots of chemistry to us.

Pine Class, our youngest children were very excited as they experimented with different substances to make foaming dinosaurs. They mixed together acid and alkali and watched to see what happened!



Creating crystals was the order of the day for children in **Year Two and Three**. This involved jam jars, paper clips, wool and sodium bicarbonate. The children carefully attached a paper clip to each end of the wool and put into the solution. As the solution is absorbed by the wool, the water evaporates, leaving crystals of sodium bicarbonate.



Mrs Whittaker spent the morning in school showing **Hazel Class** how to make molecular structures, which was great fun. We learnt how to make TNT using carbon, oxygen and hydrogen molecules!

The case of the missing Laptop! **Year Six** children came into school to discover a distraught Mrs Mills, who had lost her Laptop after leaving it for only a few minutes to answer a telephone call. Where was it? Who was involved?

A crumpled note with undecipherable writing was found near the crime scene. Using chromatography the children identified what had been used to write the note. They used observation and ph tests to eliminate various soil samples found on a footprint. A partial print was dusted using cocoa powder and a copy made. Tests were carried out on a white powder – was it soluble? Does it react? Does it melt? Is it acid or alkali?
Four members of the school staff did not have alibis and the race was on to find the culprit!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the week so successful.

Stockton on the Forest Early Years (SOFEY) Partnership is a committee comprising Stockton 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. If you would like to know more pick up a flyer or speak to Carolyn on 400366. For event details see the village website.

The Village Stores

52 The Village, Stockton. Proprietor: Tom Loose

Tel: 400287

Opening Times

Mon-Fri: 7.30am - 5.30pm

Sat: 7.30am – 12.30pm

Sun: 8.00am – 12.30pm

Groceries, household goods, daily newspapers, magazines, cards, fresh bread and cakes, sweets and chocolates.

1ST STOCKTON-ON-THE-FOREST BROWNIES

As usual we have been very busy at Stockton Brownies. We started the autumn term with our **crime prevention badges**. We learnt about how to keep ourselves and our possessions safe and enjoyed a very informative visit from the Police. We made posters to remind us of the things we had learnt and acted out some crime scenes.

As Christmas approached we dug out our dancing shoes. We had three Jazz Dancing lessons paid for by our Sainsbury's vouchers. We really enjoyed learning new moves and finished with a short performance for our parents and carers. We then showed off our dancing skills at the Tower District Christmas disco where we joined lots of other brownies and guides for a fun filled evening of dancing, games and a visit from Father Christmas. We are collecting **Sainsbury's Active Kids** vouchers again so if you have any to spare please contact us to arrange collection.

After Christmas we enrolled five new brownies into our pack and set to work on our **stargazer badges**. We made glow in the dark star charts to show us how to find North, learnt about star constellations and the stories behind their names and made models to show the different phases on the moon. As part of our badge we had a fantastic trip to the new Astrocampus at the University of York where some very knowledgeable astrophysics students showed us some telescopes, took us on a tour of the night sky using their interactive star chart and let us handle real meteorites. All we need now is a clear Wednesday night so we can do some proper stargazing!

In February we always turn our thoughts to other members of the guiding family around the world as part of the annual 'Thinking Day' celebration. Following a pack vote we decided this year we would think about brownies in Hawaii which resulted in a fun filled evening making leis (flower necklaces), limbo dancing and designing (and eating!) fruit salad faces.

We currently have a couple of spaces for girls already over 7. If you have a child who is already 7 who would like to join brownies please visit http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get_involved/volunteer/register_your_interest.aspx

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

The Stockton on the Forest **Cub Pack** meets on a Tuesday evening and is open to both Girls and Boys between the ages of 8 and 10½.

I try to ensure that the pack is run in a light hearted and relaxed way whilst still upholding the values of Scouting. Our Tuesday evening sessions in the Hut are spent developing our scouting skills and playing games whilst many Summer evenings are spent away from the Scout Hut; either in the village, in York or at Snowball plantation. Whether we are inside the Hut or away from it the important thing is that we work towards badges (cub scouts love getting badges) to fill up their uniforms. The pinnacle of success in the world of Cub Scout badges is the Silver Challenge Award; an accolade that I am happy to say has been achieved by 4 cub scouts from Stockton on the Forest this year.

So far this year we have been working on our fitness by running relay races every evening. We have also been concentrating on tying knots, a skill that every Cub Scout should be competent in, and being Artists, producing a huge artistic representation of Roy Lichtenstein's 'WHAAM!'. Activities this spring will include learning how to map read, light a fire, cook a camp meal and erect a tent, skills that I am sure you will agree any young person needs to know.

We are always on the lookout for willing adult volunteers who are able to help with anything from organising events, helping with fundraising or assisting the leaders on Tuesday evening. If you feel that this is for you or if you want to know more about what Cub Scouts can offer your young person, then please contact Mark Fuller at markfuller.sofcubs@gmail.com

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Stockton on the Forest Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are open to both girls and boys between the ages of 6 and 14. If you would like to find out more then give Kath (Group Leader) a call on 421096. See pull out on page 4 for days and times.

Stockton Hall Hospital

Partnerships in Care

Stockton Hall was built in the 18th Century. The main hall which is visible from the road is a brick built 3-storey building with a 5-bay frontage and is grade II listed. It was originally built as a country house, with 23 acres of land.

In the 1960's, it became a school for boys whose backgrounds varied from being in trouble with the law, to coming from homes where they were mistreated, and some were orphans.

Today, Stockton Hall is a highly specialist 112 bedded secure psychiatric hospital, caring for people with mental illness, personality disorders and learning difficulties. The hospital is split into six wards and cares for both ladies and gentlemen. Wherever possible, the hospital and the patients like to be involved in the local community and recently, a coffee morning was held in the main hall on site, and some of the villagers joined the patients for a carol service.

But what is it like to be diagnosed with a mental disorder? One of our patients would like to share his experience so as to help you to understand a little:

"I was seventeen when I got told that I had a mental disorder. My first thoughts were, "why is it me? Am I not normal?" I generally felt confused for some time. I got offered all these different treatments to do and can remember thinking "what's this going to do for me?" I would phone my family to let them know what I was doing, but my own family didn't understand my diagnosis, so this then became a battle of frustrations. They would say "just come home" not knowing once you're sectioned it's not as easy as that. I couldn't fall back on friends because I lost them due to the stigma of mental health.

There were times I would break down on the phone to my girlfriend; she then became the light at the end of the tunnel. Not realising the more I got upset, the more I let her into my head and she started to understand the real John. I slowly started to realise that what the doctors were asking me to do; I was actually doing with her. Through her encouragement I slowly began to trust the staff step by step.

My time at Stockton hall has had its ups and downs. The most positive experience in my time here was being able to feel part of the community when we did the McMillan coffee morning and the Christmas carol service. These events gave me the sense of self-worth and pride. I would say I felt normal again, just simple things like having a laugh and a chat with a sing song made me not feel like I wasn't being judged for once.

I'm now 27 and have a clear insight into my mental disorder. Thank you for letting me share my experience and I hope this gives you a better understanding of mental disorder.

YORK OPEN STUDIOS

Local artist Julie Lightburn has again been selected to take part in this year's York Open studios. Over ninety artists and makers within a ten-mile radius of the city will be taking part this year; representing a wide range of disciplines – including painting, sculpture, textiles, jewellery, photography, wood-carving, and ceramics.

Julie is a representational artist working in acrylics and pastels; noted for her detailed landscapes.

She will be joined in her studio by Hannah Ostapjuk, who paints contemporary fine art oil portraits using traditional techniques.

Well known for her use of chiaroscuro, Hannah excels in capturing likeness and personalities. This promises to be an exciting exhibition with a chance to see work in progress.

As well as original paintings there will be limited edition prints, postcards and artist greetings cards for sale; and homemade cake to enjoy!

Join Julie and Hannah at STUDIO 14, The Bull Centre, Stockton-on-the-Forest (next to Dean's Garden Centre)

Fiona Calder will also be exhibiting in Stockton-on-the-Forest at her Mothers' home; 8 The Hollies', next to the Fox Inn. Her digital canvas prints, giclée prints and cards are inspired by flowers and foliage, created using an interesting mix of traditional drawing and painting techniques alongside contemporary graphic design.

Opening times are **Friday 17th April 6pm to 9pm.**
Saturdays 18th and 25th April 10am – 6pm,
Sundays 19th and 26th April 11am – 5pm

If you would like a preview of the artists work or to find out more about York Open Studios please visit their web sites:

www.yorkopenstudios.co.uk
www.saa.co.uk/art/lightburn
www.hannahostapjuk.org
www.fionacalderflowerartist.co.uk

ALL GONE!!

Following our article last spring, we can now confirm all copies of our Local History book, 'In Days Gone By', have been sold - many thanks to all of you who bought them, for yourselves or friends and relations elsewhere – we know some have travelled quite a distance to previous Village residents.

When we had an initial print run of 500 produced, to be honest, we never thought they would all be snapped up in such a short space of time, a little over 3 years! We regret there will not be a re-print, so, over time, they could well become a collector's item.

However, we do not think our work is done; for instance we are still determined to find our elusive Roman Road.

Our programme for the current year is now confirmed. Our first meeting was March 19th having Mrs. A. Appleton speaking on the 'History of Goodramgate and Kings Square'. We have other speakers booked for 18thJune – Mrs. McKeown 'York Minster Library' and 3rd December – David Williams 'Milestone 2' and are planning to have at least one outside trip, when the weather, hopefully, becomes more clement. Our 17th September meeting will continue to be the popular 'Club Meeting', where recent finds and projects can be updated.

May we remind everybody that you are most welcome to attend our programme, to enjoy the speakers, to learn a little more about our Village and its Heritage and, for a small outlay, enjoy convivial company and refreshments.

We meet in The Long Room in the Village Hall at 7.30pm, on the above dates - meetings being advertised on the Village Notice boards – we do hope you can come along.

For more information please contact Steve Burton on 400066

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York Electronic Organ & Keyboard Society

The YORK ELECTRONIC ORGAN AND KEYBOARD SOCIETY continues to provide excellent evenings of musical entertainment on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7.30 pm at the village hall. A wide variety of music is provided for your enjoyment by professional artists from all parts of the country and abroad. They use Korg, Yamaha, Orla, Roland and other keyboards and organs, all of which are capable of producing the sounds of big and brass bands, small and large orchestras, instrumentalists – you name it. Picking out two special evenings not to be missed - we have a return visit of the German Queen of the organ Claudia Hirschfeld in April and a band party special in June. Claudia is known in many countries throughout the world and comes to us (as a friend) on her UK tour this year; the band comprises keyboards, drums, bass, sax etc. Please note that our May concert has had to be changed to the 3rd Thursday of May (21st). So come along and enjoy at least one of the evenings set up for you. You won't be disappointed. For more information contact Alf Hickling by email: alfyeoaks@mybtinternet.com

Please note also that we are presenting a **VINTAGE SUPPER DANCE** (with live music) on Saturday 18 April, 7.30 to 11.00p.m. Tickets are £10 including pie and peas supper. Proceeds from the raffle will go to Yorkshire Air Ambulance. Tickets from Keith tel: 01751 431522.

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THE STOCKTON FORESTERS

O what a tangled web we weave when first we practise to deceive.
Or is it a web of twisted flax – and economical of facts?
Has Boadicea made a mistake? Is Albert really a lecherous rake?
Is Hilary his mistress then – or not? And is there a hidden infant cot?
Wife Muriel's confused by her mother's belief, and swings between outrage and short-lived relief.
It doesn't help when Ginny appears, an attractive art student in trouble and tears:
If she can find a nude male model, winning the art prize will be a doddle.
And the dozy vicar's no help, Rev. Nookey, for he once painted a nubile cookie.
Wilfred, Albert's loyal old buddy, though himself a little bit fuddy-duddy,
Tackles Boadicea, the mother from hell – But hark!! I hear a cracked church bell!
Ask not for whom the bell tolls, my friends, for you'll only discover how it all ends
If you come and sample our very next play on the 14th, 15h and 16th of May.
Book your tickets, to find what it's all about, from Rob, our friendly ticket tout.

Pat Jennings

The Stockton Foresters are presenting the hilarious farce, 'Pull the Other One' by Norman Robbins on Thursday 14th, Friday 15th and Saturday 16th May, in the Village Hall, Stockton on the Forest at 7.30pm
Tickets £7.50, including a light supper, from **Robert Palmer 01904 400386.**
Wine & Juice Bar.
Unreserved seating

THE STOCKTON FORESTERS DRAMA GROUP

'All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players', said the Bard, so come on fellow actors and join our drama group.

Incredibly, the Stockton Foresters first began over 75 years ago as a morale boosting exercise by the village W.I. during the Second World War. It was so successful that it continued, with a varied repertoire, until the 60s when an influx of new families into the village transformed it into a village group. It's kept up the tradition of a varied repertoire – classics, such as Hobson's Choice, Blythe Spirit etc, but also including modern writers and even some local ones. Whatever we choose it's usually a sell-out and hugely enjoyed by both the viewing public and ourselves.

We have been joined recently by a few younger members, who have breathed new life into the group, **but we need more members, men and women, especially those who fancy a chance to tread the boards**. The enthusiasm of 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 evening at 10 o'clock and we have at least two parties a year as well as the 'after show' knees-ups.

We produce shows twice a year – mid-May and the end of November. Although the coming play – 'Pull the Other One' by Norman Robbins - has been cast, prospective members would be very welcome to join us any Tuesday evening from 7.30pm in the Village Hall to witness our inadvertent prat falls and daft mistakes, as well as the finished performance in May. If you felt like lending a hand back stage or front of house as well that would be a bonus! The feeling of camaraderie is great fun. Come for a taster – you won't regret it.

Or contact **Pat Jennings on 400327** for further details (one of our oldest members – literally – who has now hopped off the boards and happily acts as secretary-cum-bottle washer!)

THE FOX INN

Tel: 400747

Welcoming **Paul,** the new landlord of The Fox.

I took over the pub in October and though new to Stockton on the Forest I'm a York man born and bred.

I'm a chef by trade. I started my career in 1979 in a local hotel as a trainee chef and completed 4 years at college. I worked in a few hotels making my way up to head chef and also spent six years as a cook at York District Hospital. Circumstances changed and I found myself working as a doorman at the new Flying Legends at Clifton Moor, but I was on good terms with the manager and ended up as head chef there. It was then I was recommended for 'Pub Management Training'. Qualification in hand my first pub was the Hare and Hounds at Menston near Ilkley. I spent a couple of years there before moving back to York to take on the Bootham Tavern, the perfect place for me as I'm a big York City fan! From there I moved to the Northern Wall and the Bay Horse in York and then out to Pickering where I spent 6 years at the Black Bull and two years at The Letterboard. I missed York and about 5 years ago moved back to take on the Flag and Whistle and then the Cornerpin before finally moving here last year.

I've got four children and six grandchildren so with work and family I've got a full life. My passion is good food and good company. I'm looking to put down some roots and really make a go of it here in Stockton on the Forest with your help. The Fox is a work in progress you'll have noticed we've spent a lot of time decorating, creating subtle themed areas for the locals including a display of original artwork by Stockton artist Julie Lightburn; and building up the food side of things especially the steaks. I've been concentrating on sourcing local food and we now have a local beer on tap too, Ryedale Pale brewed here in Stockton just off the A64.

I've been surprised just how busy we've been since opening and how welcome my partner and I have been made to feel. I'd particularly like to thank Jill and Denby Hawkins for their support and encouragement.

With the help of my assistant chef, Matt and our bar staff we've catered for a few small functions already including a christening and a funeral. We've reintroduced the quiz night every second Wednesday and the darts team meet on Thursday nights. I'm a fan of live music and would like to invite some local bands to perform if there is the interest but I'm not into big TVs with lots of raucous sports fans. At New Year we held a super family party with disco and fancy dress and I've got plans for another party at Halloween so watch this space. Children and dogs are also welcome as long as they are well behaved.

I've got a friendly, dedicated and enthusiastic team of ten staff covering the bar, kitchen, dining area and front of house.

Please let us know what you want from The Fox, it's your local after all, we're open to any suggestions.

The Fox is open;

Monday to Saturday

12.00 - 2.30pm for lunch

5.00 - 11.00pm (with food from 5.30 - 9.30pm)

On Sundays

12.00 - 4.00pm for proper Sunday lunch.

We have a varied menu with starters, light bites, generous main courses and of course the 'Steak Grill' including fillet, T-bone, rump, sirloin and ribeye from 8oz up to 32oz! Cooked fresh just the way you like it. We offer salads and sandwiches and have a children's menu. Daily specials and puddings are listed on the blackboards. We also offer vegetarian options and if you have any special dietary requirements just let us know and we'll make you something that meets your needs. Or you can just pop in for a drink.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

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Another good season was had by the **Stockton and Hopgrove Cricket Club**! The first team got to two cup finals but unfortunately lost in both.
The second team had a good season but struggled for numbers all year.
The Wednesday night team finished half way in the league and will look for a better finish this season.
The new season starts on 25th April. The first team will be away at Fulfordgate and the second team are at home to Askham Bryan.
Anyone wishing to join us please contact Rich Kerrison on 07986619125

Stockton Fox Petanque Club

A small band of hardy souls had fun throughout the winter on Monday and Thursday evenings braving the elements to battle out a few games of Pétanque under floodlights before re-assembling in the Fox to thaw out. But now, several layers of clothing later, it is time to really enjoy the fantastic facilities available behind the Village Hall. Occasionally you can almost think you are in the south of France and smell the pine trees, the acacia blossom and the septic tanks.

At the time of writing the annual Northern Region Winter League was drawing to its conclusion. This is held on Sundays on a fortnightly basis throughout the winter with 12 rounds utilising most of the Region's terrains (Stockton hosts the first and last round annually). Six players from Stockton have taken part, but most only for a few rounds so are not challenging for the top spot. Angela Fletcher has managed to play in 10 of the 11 rounds so far and lies 3rd, just 4 wins behind the current leader. So there is an outside chance that when you read this Stockton may have a new Winter League champion? If not, Angela will rue that missed Sunday match!

The York and District Summer League starts in early April. Stockton Fox hopes to enter two teams as usual. Last year Fox 1 missed winning the league by one game: we are looking to go one better this season.

Monthly summer Melées begin in April (usually 3rd Wednesday in each month). Two games are arranged before lunch and 3 games in the afternoon. You will find a friendly atmosphere and receive a day's entertainment, all for £3.50, lunch included. Dates for your diaries; Wednesday April 15th, May 20th and June 17th. Why not give one a go.

Any budding new members will be made very welcome; we have spare boules for visitors to use. The main club evenings during the summer are Mondays from 7pm. There are matches taking place on Thursdays, April to August, but usually there are a few members around who are not involved in matches to make up a game of pairs or triples. So if you are interested come along on Monday or Thursday evenings at 7pm and enjoy the country air behind the Village Hall.

Further information from **Barbara Hardisty – 01904 400018**

Forest Park Golf Club

Stockton on the Forest
York, YO32 9UW
(01904) 400425

18 Hole & 9 Hole Golf Course

Outdoor & Covered Driving Range

Bar Meals & Sunday Lunches served lunchtimes

Function Room available

ALL VISITORS AND MEMBERS WELCOME

Forest Park Golf Club is open every day serving a delicious selection of food. Sunday lunch is also popular, booking is advisable.

The clubhouse is available to hire for all your special occasions, including anniversaries & birthdays.

The club has 2 courses - The 9 hole West Course and The 18 hole Old Foss Course to either pay and play on or join the club with golf membership. You can also practice on the driving range.

Everyone is welcome to come to the club
(You do not have to be a member to come to Forest Park Golf Club)

Contact us on 01904 400425,
Email: admin@forestparkgolfclub.co.uk
Or visit our website www.forestparkgolfclub.co.uk

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