

The Stalkingham News

The Local Newspaper for the Parishes of Alkington and Ham and Stone.

Issue 100

February 2021

Will this be the last St(one)Alking(ton)(Ham) News?

Does anyone out there want to take over the editorship of the Stalkingham News?

As this is the 100th edition, it means I have been doing this for 25 years now and would like to give it up as it is getting to the stage that I cannot think of anything interesting to write about (which you have probably noticed).

Thanks to all the contributors in the past and also to all the distributors who kindly delivered paper copies to every house in the parishes. In the early days, before I recruited some volunteers, I delivered all of Alkington's myself and my children used to dread the days spent in the car, visiting every corner of the parish. (Alkington is surprisingly large.) I think Penny and David Wride delivered copies to all of Ham and Stone when we started out.

The publication has never involved any money because the sponsor for each edition just paid the printer direct and I would like to thank all the sponsors over the year and especially those individuals who have volunteered to pay the printer if no sponsor could be found, as well as the two Parish Councils who have stepped up as necessary.

During this pandemic we have put the News online and distributed it electronically to as many people as possible but I have been very aware that online publications cannot reach everyone, hence my requests to people to print one off for a neighbour if possible.

One criticism that regularly arose with the paper copy was that they needed to include some colour but that would have made them more costly and probably put sponsors off. However, having gone online, Edition 99 was full of photographs with the unintended consequence that it was too large to download in some cases: I will try to make that edition smaller so that it can be put on the Parish Council websites.

The other problem was drumming up articles from local people to reflect their interests and concerns. Our local historians have done us proud over the years, but a wider range of topics would probably have interested more readers.

Thank you to those who have been kind enough to say they have enjoyed receiving their Stalkingham News over the years and I hope someone can be found to take over the publication.



A sheep floats by

This edition: ©2021, subject to the rights of third parties. Copyright – the Editorial Committee. No unauthorised reproduction (but please feel free to print copies for those without access to the internet). There will not be a future edition of The Stalkingham News unless someone comes forward to take it over. If anyone wants to write something for a possible future edition please send contributions to Susan Angus, Greyhound Cottage, Newport stevemcdon@gmail.com and I will pass them on.





News from Citizens Advice – Help needed with employment problems during Covid pandemic.

Please let anyone with difficulties know that we are able to offer advice by Freephone and email, but sadly as yet, not face to face contact.

Unfortunately, the number of enquiries about Employment problems has soared over the last 10 months. Many people have needed advice on whether they are entitled to furlough pay, how this is calculated, and whether they might be able to claim Universal Credit in addition.

Redundancy is also a big issue and many have concerns about how they will get a redundancy payment if their employer is unable to pay it.

The reason so many people need further help to understand the system is shown in the following example.

Mrs D was managing by having 2 jobs, this meant that in lockdown her income came from a mixture of paid work and furlough payments. It got further confused by a change in the National Minimum Wage during this time which gave her a small increase. She was then offered redundancy from one job, and again it was important to be aware of the calculation of her redundancy pay, and any other payments which she might be due. Finally, she needed to know if she had any entitlement to Universal Credit to boost her income.

Being uncertain of how she would be able to manage and what action she should consider, understandably caused Mrs D great anxiety.

By having these payments calculated and explained to her by our adviser meant that she was able to make informed decisions and became able to cope with her situation.

We also advise on a whole range of other employment issues. The knock-on effects of job loss can cause financial as well as relationship and housing difficulties.

**For help with any of these issues contact Stroud Citizens Advice on
Freephone: 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511 Monday to Friday 10 am to 4 pm.
or Email:**

<https://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk/stroud-cab-email-advice.php>

Are you fed-up doing the same old walks?

Walking in Gloucestershire www.walkinginengland.co.uk/glos is the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details, for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group, all the information is there in one place.

There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Gloucestershire (part of the 'Walking in England' suite of websites - www.walkinginengland.co.uk – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk/glos

email: john@walkinginengland.co.uk

How To Track Old Pensions

As one comes up to retirement and needs to start thinking about what you are going to live on, it is worth going back through your working career to check that you are able to access every fund you have saved into over the years but, with changes of company names, both the companies you worked for and the pension providers involved.

- If you know which company your pension was with, the first step should be to contact it. You may want to contact your old employer for the details.
- If you are still struggling to make progress – perhaps because you cannot find the contact details of an old employer, or you do not know the provider of an old pension – you can contact the government's Pension Tracing Service.
- This is free and searches a database of more than 200,000 workplace and personal schemes to try to find the contact details you need
- You can phone the Pension Tracing Service on 0800 731 0193 or fill in the form online at findpensioncontacts.service.gov.uk

Safe and social roads

#safeandsocialroads
@GlosSSDriving



OPCC
Office of the Police &
Crime Commissioner
for Gloucestershire



Working together for safer roads

Lockdown your phone while driving

It's a fact that driving is one of the most mentally demanding things you can do. Just getting the behind the wheel is a huge responsibility for yourself, your passengers and other road users.

98% of collisions are caused by human error with only **2%** caused by unavoidable issues such as mechanical breakdown.

Research has found that using a mobile phone while driving increases the risk of having an incident by up to four times.

17% of all drivers – and **35%** of under 25 year olds – say they check texts, email or social media while driving with only **15%** of drivers following official Government advice by putting their phone in the glove compartment while driving.

During these times it is even more important than ever to keep our roads safe for all to protect the NHS - lockdown your phone while driving.

Source RoSPA

Police HQ | No1 Waterwells Business Park | Quedgeley | Gloucester | GL2 2AN
www.gloucestershire.police.uk | [Twitter page](#) | [Facebook page](#)



Possible Scam

From PCSO Debbie Collicott, Stroud Police.

There has been a recent letter sent to local residents in the Miserden area encouraging people to sign up to a free app called 'Nextdoor'.

However, the letter writer gives no contact details and the app asks for personal information which we would never encourage members of the public to give out.

Police would recommend being extremely wary of sites requiring you to give out your home address or any other personal details.

Message Sent By

Debbie Collicott (Police, PCSO, Stroud Rural)

What have you achieved during lockdown?

Speaking for myself – very little! Lots of good intentions but little actually achieved.

Apart from the garden looking considerably better than usual, the only thing my husband and I are proud to have done is to have repaired a roof which was leaking like a sieve all over our incoming electricity supply and fusebox, with the majority of the water coming through the light fitting to fill buckets underneath. As the roof is only small and on a single storey area, though with admittedly rather restricted access, we thought that it would be easy for someone to fix, so we tried getting builders to quote but the job was too small and they were very busy. We tried to get general maintenance handymen to quote, but the job was too big and they were very busy.

So eventually, after another flood, we decided we would have to do it ourselves. We hired two trestles to build a scaffold at £4 each for a week and bought three scaffold boards and constructed a safe working platform. We found someone to supply tiles and bought rafters and battens and some roofing felt (though it isn't felt in this day and age), and even some insulation. Removing the old roof took about an hour and revealed that the last people to renovate it made extensive use of cardboard when they ran out of felt, used odd bits of different sized timbers and weren't over generous with the nails either.

My husband with some help from our son rebuilt the roof whilst I acted as 'gofer', site labourer and tea maker. I also provided a lot of advice which was not necessarily accepted. However, over the course of about a week the roof was repaired and the rain no longer comes in at all.



The other thing we tried to do – my husband noticed that he has less than 6 months left on his passport and decided to renew it online. (Don't know where he thinks he's going to!) This involved him having a suitable photo taken, so we selected a piece of wall and took a photo. The comments were that his eyes appeared to be closed (they weren't), and it was too dark. So we turned all the lights (2 ceiling lights, 2 table lights and a standard lamp and he lifted his eyebrows as high as they would go. Still too dark, but by this time we were laughing so much that subsequent attempts had camera shake. We don't have many suitable walls indoors so finally we tried hanging a white towel on the washing line with him sitting in front of it. Still too dark! We have given up for now because he's accepted that he's not going anywhere.

Coronavirus Vaccination Scams

How to protect yourself:

In the UK, coronavirus vaccinations will only be available via the National Health Services of England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. You can be contacted by the NHS, your employer, a local GP surgery or pharmacy, to receive your vaccination. **Remember, the vaccinations are free of charge and you will not be asked for a payment.**

The NHS will never:

- ask for your bank account or card details
- ask for your PIN or banking passwords
- arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- ask for documentation to prove your identity, such as a passport or utility bills

If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent, hang up. If you are suspicious about an email you have received, forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk. Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to the number 7726, which is free of charge.

If you believe you are the victim of a fraud, please report this to Action Fraud as soon as possible by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk.

Another Scam ?

There are many scams being reported via social media and it is difficult to know which are real and which aren't. For example, apparently HSBC keeps trying to contact me despite the fact that I have never had any dealings with them at all; and of course Amazon Prime keeps telling me about my transactions, though I do not use Amazon Prime; HMRC are desperately trying to put a tax rebate into my account (if only!); and creepiest of all, my husband is accumulating vast amounts of bitcoins and only needs to supply his bank details for us to be super rich.

However, one which gave me pause for thought was when the caller's first line is "Can you hear me?" You should not reply "yes" as it is alleged that they record you saying "yes" and can then use that to confirm that you agreed to some con/transaction. Personally I am not convinced that this could work but it has made me think about what I say to cold callers.

Alkington Parish Council

Installation of super-fast broadband

Much of the Parish is now ready to go live with ultrafast broadband with a few areas still being installed.

If you would like to learn more about the benefits of ultrafast broadband, with speeds of 100Mbps and up, Martin Vile is the community executive for Gigaclear. He is working in the community helping potential customers understand all aspects of full fibre, from installation queries, WiFi and Networking and the transition process. For further information contact Martin Vile on 07790 915159 or email martin.vile@gigaclear.com

Parish Council Budget

At the January meeting, councillors discussed the proposed budget for the new financial year and agreed to maintain the precept request from Stroud District Council (the parish council's share of the council tax) at £8,500.

Alkington Lane to be resurfaced

We have been advised that Alkington Lane will be resurfaced. There was a scheduled date towards the end of February, but this has been postponed. Hopefully work will be carried out in the spring.

(Editor's Note: As a former Parish Clerk I can remember that the former chairman and long serving councillor, Bart Shield, who lived in Alkington Lane, commenting that the whole road needed rebuilding as he remembered when concrete was laid on top of the original cart track and this is still the base of the existing road. It would also be wonderful if a pavement could be provided, because, although Berkeley is not far from the A38, it is much too dangerous to walk there from the Newport end, especially as for part of its length the carriageway is narrower than the width of two HGVs.)

Parish council meetings are now taking place remotely using zoom. If you wish to attend an online meeting, contact the clerk for the zoom link and password. The next meeting takes place online on 8 March 2021

www.alkingtonparishcouncil.org.uk



The Newport Towers is now several piles of rubble, but was the remaining south facing brick wall part of the glasshouses shown on old maps of the Towers when it was a private house?



Ham and Stone Parish Council

In 2020 your Parish Council councillors were due to be re-elected to the council. Due to Covid 19 these elections were held back for a year. At the time of writing, we understand the elections will be taking place this coming May. With this in mind I thought I would remind you of who your councillors are at the current time and introduce you to our newest member, Mike Spence.



I have been a resident of Lower Stone since 2003 and have lived in the surrounding areas for many years. I was a school governor for 14 years and currently work as a Teaching Assistant in a primary school. I recently stood down as vice chair of Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby's board of Trustees after 10 years of service and have been involved in the sport for 30 years competing, coaching and facilitating at all levels. Locally, I am interested in inclusion and access to the countryside, the environment and issues that affect our community. I am a keen

handcyclist, gardener, bird watcher and ballroom dancer and, when time allows, I enjoy the tranquillity and quiet of fly fishing.

Phil Case (Vice Chairman)



Phil lives in Ham and helps look after the interests of all residents in our wards.

Sue Dunbabin



I have loved living in Ham since 2007. I thoroughly enjoy my duties as a councillor, and am pleased to be able to help resolve any neighbourhood issues.

Ken Screen



Ken lives in Stone and owns Stone Garage. You can find him there most days and he is happy to help you out with any Parish Council questions you may have.

Ted Stokes



I lived and worked in the West Midlands until I changed job and joined a housing developer in Gloucester in 1985. My family moved to Stone in 1998 and my children attended Stone Primary School where I became a parent governor for a number of years serving on the finance committee and was co-chair of the school PTA. I was elected onto the Parish Council in 2016 and served as a Council representative on the BBC (an 'in joke' for the aptly named Berkeley Burial Committee). I consider it a pleasure and a duty to try to help the local community in any way I can and serving on the Parish Council is a great way I can achieve this. I work for an engineering consultancy in Almondsbury and provide help and support to the Council in all aspects of planning submissions and infrastructure engineering. I'm a keen sports fan and enjoy playing golf and am a member of The Loungers skittles team.

Cherry Miller



I moved to Stone Village in 2003 with my family into the Old Vicarage. I have three grown up children; all of them studied at Katherine, Lady Berkeley School. I am a Clinical Nurse Specialist at the Royal United Hospital in Bath, and have been nursing since 1979, having worked in most hospitals in the area. My husband and I are both active members of All Saints Church, Stone. This includes helping with fund-raising which can be manning the tea tent at village events or helping organise Barn Dances etc. with my friends. We also volunteer in the cutting of the churchyard grass and hedgerows. I enjoy gardening and singing and I am a member of Stone WI. My husband and I enjoy cycling for leisure both locally and on our holidays. I enjoy living in this part of Gloucestershire and like to support the local farm shops and traders at the Stroud market. I have been a Councillor for Stone on the Parish Council of Ham and Stone since 2007.

Gareth Langdon (Chairman)



I have lived in Stone since 1973, and have seen the Parish evolve over the years, not always for the better. We need to ensure as a community we protect the integrity of our villages by balancing the needs of villagers over outside influences wanting to make a profit at our expense. I am currently employed at HMP Eastwood Park. My main interests are watching most forms of sport and for my sins I follow the fortunes of Wolverhampton Wanderers. I am captain of The Loungers skittles team and am also Treasurer of the Berkeley and District Skittles League. I currently sit on two local Church charitable committees and have recently been asked (and accepted) to be secretary of Stone Play Group.



Julie Clements, Parish Clerk

I have lived in Newtown, Berkeley since 2006. My background is Finance within the manufacturing industry. I am the Treasurer for the 1st Sharpness Scout & Guide Hut, and took up the role as Clerk for Ham and Stone Parish Council on 1st January 2021.

My passion is horse riding, and I enjoy hacking around the local area with family and friends. Sadly, the lanes are becoming much busier, so I am involved with the MCTTG (Mid Cotswold Tracks and Trails Group) whose aim is to keep and improve safe off road riding in local areas. The intention is to promote multi user tracks with access for all, to benefit the community in which they live.

You can contact Julie on clerk@hamandstoneparishcouncil.org.uk

We wish Julie well in her new role with us. For all contact information for the councillors please visit <https://www.hamandstoneparishcouncil.org.uk/councillors.html>

With many thanks to Eirian Vaughan-Lewis for her work in the role of Parish Clerk up to the end of 2020.



Dog Walking in Stone

REMEMBER

Stroud District Council deals with bins and waste and recycling collections, fly tipping, abandoned vehicles, anti-social behaviour, local planning and building control, council and housing association accommodation, pollution (including smoke), car parks, council tax, dog wardens, environmental health, leisure centres and parks, licensing and permits amongst other things.

Gloucestershire County Council deals with Highways (Roads, Footpaths, Parking, Rights of Way), Education and Learning, Public and Community Transport, Births, Marriages and Deaths, Libraries, Household Recycling Centres (Pike Quarry and Hempstead), major planning applications amongst other things.

If a **Highways** issue poses an immediate danger to public safety please call 08000 514 514.

Emergency Highways issues include :-

- Objects on the Highways network (e.g fallen tree)
- Faulty temporary or permanent traffic lights (e.g stuck on red)
- Exposed cables
- Multiple street lighting faults
- Flooded roads
- Potholes over 75mm (3 inches) deep

For non-emergency (e.g shallower pothole, streetlight out) please use the "REPORT IT" form of highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Gloucestershire Police DO NOT deal with noise, dog mess, smoke, litter, parking or vandalism. Report such matters to your local council.

Only call 999 when there is a threat to life or a crime is in progress.

Local Organisations

Stone Women's Institute

Jean Hill, President
(01454) 261307
Monthly meetings: 2nd
Thursday at 7.30pm
Stone Village Hall

Woodford Silver Band

Denise Farr
(01454) 260392
Meetings: Friday
Evenings
Stone Village Hall

Playgroup and Toddlers

Jo Thornton
(01454) 260828
stonewithwoodfordpat@googlemail.com

Stone Circle Quilters

Heather Johnson
(01454) 430705
Last Monday of the
month at 7pm
Stone Village Hall

Berkeley Books

The Community Library
(01453) 810520
Click and Collect via
<https://gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries>

Stone Cricket Club

Denis Booth
(01454) 260689
Swanley

Stone-with-Woodford Parish Church

All Saints', Stone
Naomi Sargent
(01454) 260376
Andrew Fryer
(01453) 511361

Stone-with-Woodford School PTA

Lisa Worley
07770 598900

1st Falfield Scouts

Arnold Tucker
(01454) 261824

1st Falfield & Stone

Brownie Pack
Gill Barber
(01454) 413759
brownowl@1fsb.co.uk

Farm Watch

Colin Rea
Manor Farm, Upper Wick
(01453) 511809

Stone Village Hall

Bookings
Arnold Tucker
31 Court Meadow
(01454) 261824
Info.stonevillagehall@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch:

Lower Stone

Judy Clark
Little Paddock
Lower Stone
(01454) 260275

Woodford

Rebecca Thomas
Sunnybank,
Old Bristol Road,
Woodford
07793 219284
r.thomas2005@btinternet.com

Stone

Allan Taylor
15 Court Meadow
Stone
(01454) 260070
allanetay@btinternet.com

Chapel Hill, Newport

Craig Davey
(01453) 511236

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Alkington Parish Council

www.alkingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Chair Richard Coffin,
Wick House, Lower Wick
(01453) 810 460

Councillors

Julie Brindle, Meadowside,
Berkeley Heath,
(01453) 511 884
Lindsey Green, 13 Church
View, Newport
07412 311101
Gordon Rea, Middlewick Farm,
Middle Wick
07903 550603
Marie Wooldridge, Holts Farm,
Stinchcombe
(01453) 542 712
Jas Gangothra, The Myrtles,
Newport
(01453) 511 665
Michala Hyssein, Elmleigh
Woodford,
07830 484 932

Parish Clerk: Anita Sach,
Lower Wick Cottage, Lower
Wick
(01453) 810 560
alkingtonpcclerk@btinternet.com

Water Supply Emergencies

Severn Trent Water
08007076 442

Sewer and Drain Problems

Wessex Water
(01225)526 800
or 0845 600 4600

Electricity Supply Issues

Western Power Distribution
105

Environment Agency Flood Line

0845 988 1188

Police (non-emergency)

PCSO Mike Trebble
101

www.gloucestershire.police.uk

Ham & Stone Parish Council

Stone Ward Councillors:

Chair: Gareth Langdon'
2 Court Meadow, Stone
(01454)260 007
Cherry Miller, The Old
Vicarage, Stone
(01454) 260 277
Ted Stokes, 12 Court Meadow,
Stone
(01454) 261 359

Ken Screen, Westover, Stone
(01454)261 785

Mike Spence, Third Acre
Lower Stone
(01454) 260 341

Ham Ward Councillors:

Vice Chair: Philip Case,
Walnut Cottage, Ham
(01453) 819 221
Sue Dunbabin, Park View
Cottage, Ham
(01453) 810119

Parish Clerk: Julie Clements,
Greenacres, Saniger Lane,
Newtown, GL13 9NF
07968 165 242
clerk@hamandstoneparishcouncil.org.uk

District Councillors

Gordon Craig
(01453) 811 021
cllr.gordon.craig@stroud.gov.uk

Haydn Jones
(01453) 890 888
cllr.haydn.jones@stroud.gov.uk

Lindsey Green
07412 311 101
cllr.lindsey.green@stroud.gov.uk

County Councillor

John Cordwell
(01453) 842 439
john.cordwell@gloucestershire.gov.uk

MP for Stroud

Siobhan Baillie,
siobahn.baillie.mp@parliament.uk

Gloucestershire County Council

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk

Central Switchboard

(01452) 425 000

Council's Complaint Team

(01452) 427 614

Highways Issues

08000 514 514

Adult Helpdesk

(01452) 426 868

Children's Helpdesk

(01452) 426 565

Blue Badge Team

(01242) 532 302

Reporting problems with
potholes, street lighting,
faults, flooding etc

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/reportit

Community Wellbeing Service

Jane Davidson
(01453) 755 711/ 07736 825
808

Jdavidson@independencetrust.co.uk

Stroud District Council

Ebley Mill, Ebley Wharf
Stroud GL5 4UB

www.stroud.gov.uk

Emergencies (24 hour)

(01453) 222 104

General Enquiries

(01453) 766 321

Litter Problems

(01453) 754 424

Dog Fouling

(01453) 754 492

Neighbourhood Warden

Simon Moulding

07896 690139

simon.moulding@stroud.gov.uk

Medical Emergencies

"Out of Hours"

Gloucestershire Practices

0300 421 0220

South Gloucestershire

Practices

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