

Stowe Nine Churches Village Newsletter

Winter/Spring
2024

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY			
Date and time	Organisation	Location	Event
Tuesday 13th Feb 7.30 pm	Stowe Nine Churches WI	Old School Rooms	Monthly meeting
Monday 19 th Feb 7.30pm	Stowe Nine Churches Gardening Club	Old School Rooms	AGM All Welcome
Tuesday 12 th March 7.30pm	Stowe Nine Churches WI	Old School Rooms	AGM
Monday 18th March 8.00pm	Stowe Nine Churches Parish Council	Old School Rooms	Parish Council Meeting
Saturday 6 th April 10.00am	Wildlife Project	St Michael's Church	Working Party
Tuesday 9 th April 7.30pm	Stowe Nine Churches WI	Old School Rooms	Monthly meeting

Stowe Nine Churches WI -Events and Activities

Stowe Nine Churches celebrates its 90th birthday later this year and has a varied and interesting programme for this important year with a mixture of speakers, outside visits and craft workshops. We have already had an interesting speaker on Canine Behaviour and Training and in February we will be learning about the history of Canal Art. Further details of the programme going forward can be found below.

WI Programme 2024

January 9th	Dave the Dog	David Stevens
February 13th	Canal Art	Kay Andrews
March 12th	Annual General Meeting	
April 9th	TBA	
May 14th	Eco Printing – The Magic - The Alchemy	Fiona Balding
June 11th	The Life and Times of Agatha Christie	Steve Dimmer
July 9th	Quilling Workshop	Deborah Burrow
August 13th	Annual Summer Outing	
September 10th	Flowers on the Farm	Pink Welly Posies
October 8th	Mata Hari – Spy or Scapegoat	Philomena Liggins
November 12th	You be the Judge	Chris Tickle
December 10th	Christmas Activities	

If you are interested in coming along to see what the WI is all about then please contact either Lou Stockwin on 07825 513349 or Audrey Mason on 01327 341146. Attendance for 3 months is free of charge and the annual subscription is only £24.40 – less than 50p per week!

We meet in the schoolrooms in Church Stowe on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.

CHURCH SERVICES IN STOWE NINE CHURCHES
FEBRUARY TO APRIL 2024

FEBRUARY

Sunday 4th	10.00 am	Holy Communion at Church Stowe
Saturday 10th	2.00pm	<i>Messy Church at the Church Rooms, Nether Heyford</i>
Sunday 11th	10.00am	Benefice Holy Communion Service at Church Stowe
Wednesday 14th	7.30pm	Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday (with Imposition of Ashes) at Heyford Church
Sunday 18th	6.00pm	Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
Sunday 25th	10.00am	Family Service at Upper Stowe

MARCH

Sunday 3rd	10.00am	Holy Communion at Church Stowe
Sunday 10th	10.00am	Family Service for Mothering Sunday at Upper Stowe
Sunday 17th	6.00pm	Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
Saturday 23rd	2.00pm	<i>Messy Church for Easter at Flore Church</i>
Sunday 24th	10.00am	<i>United Service for Palm Sunday at Flore Church</i>
Monday 25th	7.30pm	Holy Communion for Holy Week at Upper Stowe
Wednesday 27th	7.30pm	Night Prayer at Church Stowe
Sunday 31st	9.00am	Holy Communion for Easter Sunday at Church Stowe

APRIL

Saturday 14th	10.00am	Holy Communion at Church Stowe
Sunday 21st	6.00pm	Evening Service at Upper Stowe
Sunday 28th	10.00am	Family Service at Upper Stowe

Stowe Nine Churches Garden Club

The Club will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Monday 19th February at 7.30pm in the Old School Rooms.

All Welcome



Volunteers Needed!

Please can you spare a few hours occasionally to help keep the grass cut in the churchyard of St Michael's Church in Church Stowe?

Members of the PCC are compiling a rota of villagers willing to help them in the hope that 'many hands make light work'.

If you would like to be included, please can you contact Steve Henley 07725705919 or Angela Brodie 01327 340478 so arrangements can be made.



Parish Council update

Village Handyman

The Village Handyman worked in the parish over last summer renovating the bus shelter, clearing weeds from the roads. Repainting two of the village entrance signs and clearing branches away so the signs could be seen.

Councillors felt that the costs had been reasonable and so agreed to continue for this year.

Planning

The Parish Council continues to have concerns regarding the lack of consistency in the way in which planning control is exercised in the area and how the enforcement of conditions is carried out.

Following a formal complaint to West Northamptonshire Council, the Clerk and Chair met recently with team leader for Planning Enforcement. We were reassured that, going forward, things would improve both in terms of action and communication.

The Enforcement Team are happy to be contacted by residents with concerns about planning at Michelle.Jarvis@westnorthants.gov.uk

Stowe Hill – the new application for an additional 5 pitches has been validated but there is no committee date as yet.

Old Dairy Farm – the appeal against the enforcement notice has been heard and a subsequent application has been submitted.

St Alnoths Barn – there is a planning application currently under consideration, which will be heard by the Planning Committee in due course.

30 MPH Speed Limit

The Parish Council's application to the Road Safety Review Group for a limit in Upper Stowe has now been actioned and the signs are in place.

Village Improvements

The Parish Council has installed planters under each of the three main village signs which were planted for last spring, summer and autumn. The bulbs should be re-appearing soon to welcome the better weather!!

New Website

The Parish Council has a new website and the Councillors will have dedicated e-mail addresses once they are set up and running smoothly.

You can find the website at www.stoweninechurches-pc.gov.uk

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!

The Parish Council still has vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you are interested in what happens in your community, and have lived here for 12 months or more, please contact the Parish Clerk, Linda Carter, or the Chairman, Sharon Henley, for more information.

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

If you would be happy to receive future copies of the village newsletter by e-mail, please contact the Parish Clerk – Linda Carter- to be added to the mailing list <mailto:clerkstowe9churches@gmail.com>



St Michael's Churchyard wildlife project

Saturday 6th April - working party

10.00 – 11.30am with Coffee at 11.00am

There will be plenty to do including -tidying graves, splitting and moving snowdrops, clearing the path to the side of the church and strimming.

All are welcome – please bring some tools or just pop in for coffee and a chat and enjoy the fabulous view.

Further info: Jo 07749 822016 🐸 🌱 🦉

Jan jan.greenjade@gmail.com

If you love helping wildlife, why not consider joining our small team to help us to encourage more wildlife to visit and thrive in our churchyard. It could be as little as 1 hour a fortnight at a time to suit you- just get in contact one of us!

The Butterflies of Stowe Nine Churches

Both our beautiful churchyards have been rewilded over the last 6-9 years and now support a healthy and diverse range of wildlife. As butterflies are a good indicator of the health of a wildlife area, we do a number of butterfly surveys throughout spring and summer in the different areas within the two churchyards.

Over the five years the surveys have been undertaken a total of 20 species of butterflies have been recorded between the two churchyards. Particular highlights in 2023 were the return of the Small Copper to St Michael's (first sighting in the churchyard since 2019) and the first sighting of a Brown Argus in St James'. Disappointingly, there were no sightings of the ringlet which had been present in all previous years in St Michael's.



Very encouragingly, but maybe not surprisingly given the concentration of nectar rich plants, over half of all butterflies recorded in the two churchyards are seen in the meadow areas.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about the work to re-wild the churchyards or the butterfly surveys please contact Jan (jan.greenjade@gmail.com) ; Jo (jodickson60@gmail.com); or John (john.stanley@agrii.co.uk).