

# Stoke Climsland Parish

Annual Meeting May 2023

Reports







# Stoke Climsland Parish Council

## Report to the Annual Parish Meeting May 2023

The civic year 2022-2023 has been a busy one for the Parish Council.

Starting with the Platinum Jubilee, four days of celebration, much enjoyed by all. This was facilitated by the Council, who hired the marquee, staged the Carnival and purchased the commemorative medallions presented to all primary age children. The organisations within the parish staged their own highly successful events within that general framework.

During the year since we have planted a Landmark Tree. This seedling of the Darley Oak, was planted by the Chair, Bonny Lightfoot, aided by the young people in attendance at the ceremony,

A successful application to the Lottery "Awards for All" programme for £10,000 of grant funding enabled us to install an Outdoor Gym on the green at no cost to the Parish. This equipment, which is fun to use, gives older youngsters and adults the chance to play and keep fit.

A further successful bid to Community Levelling Up, has brought almost £55,000 of Government funding to run a Carbon Zero Homes Project.

Please contact the Parish Council for help and advice if you feel that a programme of insulation, ventilation and heating would make your home warmer and cheaper to run. The project will start in the near future.

We hope to continue our programme of work to make Stoke Climsland Parish the best place to live in Cornwall with our investigation of ways to mitigate the parking problems that occur twice a day in the village, providing EV Charging points where people can charge electric cars in our car parks, and refurbishment and improvement of the Play Areas.

We welcome your thoughts, suggestions and criticism and there are many ways to let us know how you feel:

Parish Surgery on the first Wednesday of every month in the Old School, where you can also ask for advice and signposting to help generally.

A public session early on the agenda of every Parish Council meeting where you can speak. You can also write or email the Clerk, who will make sure your concerns are raised.

Your Council, as a consultee, visit the site of each planning application before settling its opinion on whether to support or recommend refusal

Responds to other consultations such as the recent proposal to increase/impose parking charges on CC car parks

Reports items of concern such as Highways issues and planning enforcement to CC

You can contact us and see more about our work at

[Parishclerkscpc@gmail.com](mailto:Parishclerkscpc@gmail.com) Facebook Stoke Climslandpc and the website [www.stokeclimslandparishcouncil.org](http://www.stokeclimslandparishcouncil.org)

Report from the Stoke Climsland Bridge Club  
for the  
Annual Parish Meeting on 31 May 2023

The Bridge Club continues to meet on Friday evenings as it has done for more than thirty years. We have now returned to our pre-covid routine in that we have continued to meet every Friday apart from the times when the hall is required by SCATS for the panto in February and on the Friday before the annual village show in August when the show committee needs to set up the various displays for the show.

Brian Lupton  
Chairman, SC Bridge Club

**Parish Hall Update**

Your Parish Hall Trustees report on the ongoing progress towards a full refurbishment of the community venue as we reach a critic stage entering into 2023. Spurred on by the ever looming planning permission expiry deadline of this coming October, we collectively within the partnership of the Parish Hall CIO, The Duchy of Cornwall (still in name our landlords) and The Prince's Foundation (lead body of the '7 for 70' Project), continue to develop the staged approach towards its eventual delivery.

Following on from last year 'reset' by the PF, this has lead to securing professional services of contracted fundraisers to develop a fundraising strategy and endorse a 'case for support' appeal campaign document, as well as advise and guide us through the maze of grant funding opportunities that arise. Currently two such major funding bids – Cornwall Council / Central Government Good Growth ' Levelling Up' Fund and the Platinum Jubilee Village Hall Fund were both at the stage 2 process, with the former now subject to resubmission due to over subscription of the scheme. We keep all fingers crossed for a successful award.

Further bespoke grant funding applications are being explored now in the greater knowledge of associated costs following an up to date conditional survey and building contractor latest estimate costs which reflect a 30% inflation hike in the UK construction sector, for which we acknowledge with realism and factor in a further phase of the project development.

General support for the overall project and that of the Parish Hall in its continuing role model as the 'go-to' low cost, self-service, DIY community venue, remains positive and has been further endorsed this year with the formation of a 'Friends of SCPH' group, who will lead on core fundraising for both ongoing hall maintenance as well as to look to create reserves for new equipment as the Hall refurbishment building programme phases commence. The first of the summer events are a fun General Knowledge Quiz & Meal on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, followed by an evening with the 'Mets' and Meal on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July, both 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

We continue to work with fellow groups, organisations and venues throughout the Parish and representation through the Community Facility Group, as well as keeping the general public informed of the key project progress through regular updates in the OSN as well as hosting drop-in sessions throughout the year, in thanks for the widespread and ongoing support for our Community Parish Hall.

Martin Howlett  
(Chairman)

## Luckett Village Association Report

The LVA has been relatively quiet over the last 12 months. Sadly we lost our Chairman of many years Andrew Williams in the Autumn. After nearly 3 years in the planning the Gigabit Voucher scheme has finally come to fruition and ultrafast Broadband (Fibre to the premises FTTP) has been delivered to the residents of Luckett, Broadgate, Mugford, Upper, Middle and Lower Hampt and Bridge Farm and Bridge Farm Cottage.

The AGM was held on 12th May. The treasurer Deb Glasborow stood down after more than 20 years in post. The new committee consists of Geoff Holden Chair, Richard Davies Secretary, Andrew Keirl Treasurer, with Lee Cammerer and Steve Langsford as committee members.

Richard Davies  
Sec LVA

### **Stoke Climsland PO & Stores Parish Report Financial year 2022/23.**

It is difficult to highlight how well the Post Office & Village Store is performing as a Business. In relation to pre Covid trading, turnover remains 30 % higher than in previous years but well off the highs seen in 21/22 as those dependent on us during lockdown have returned to the supermarkets.

This Financial year saw the final effects of the last Covid restrictions, the war in Ukraine stimulating the beginnings of a cost-of-living crisis resulting in the doubling of utility bills and also interest rates rising. Add to all this the closure of our long- standing Wholesaler in Launceston resulting in us having to deal with five suppliers instead of one, compounded the issues.

If things could not get worse the Royal Mail Strikes added to a dramatic reduction in footfall to the Post Office Counter and subsequent revenue earned. Strikes around Christmas time significantly impacted what would have been a very strong trading year. However due to good support from the local community trading was only about 10% lower in 22/23 which still remains significantly higher than in pre Covid periods. Operating profits remain good due to significant cost savings made in the Retail business. However, we go into the year ahead with less of a clear picture as to our future performance. Sadly, we now employ one less member of Staff. However, this has had the positive effect of allowing us to re distribute hours to help the other members cope with the rising cost of living. At the same time, Post Office Ltd has also said to all branches that no additional money is available to help with increased manpower and energy cost meaning that the Retail Store has to subsidise the Post Office Counter if it is to remain open.

Rising energy, labour costs and a reduction in retail wholesaler choice (Government allowing supermarkets to buy Wholesalers such as Bookers and Nisa) has decreased our ability to offer the variety of goods at competitive prices. Our location in a grade 2 listed building also brings increased maintenance costs.

On the positive side we continue to be strongly supported by the college, school, community and local businesses. Without these we simply would not exist. How we get the bulk of our business will continue to evolve with time, previously strong areas of revenue such as newspapers are reducing in popularity but new opportunities are opening. We continue to see strong demand for call and collect services as well as home deliveries. The Post Office counter is now very popular for Banking services as more local Branches close. We do however remain deeply concerned about the viability of Royal Mail and their continual attempts to compete directly against Post Office counters for the services we offer on their behalf.

The reality is that we have a successful business at the centre of an amazing Parish but the harsh facts are that increasingly all of the profits made are being consumed by rising costs despite great community support and tight financial management.

Sue & David Watts  
Stoke Climsland PO & Stores

## Stoke Climsland Show Report

After a gap of 2 years, the Village Show was held on August 13th 2022. Any doubts as to the support we would receive from the village after this enforced absence was immediately dispelled. The Show was a triumph, the blue and white marquee dominated a packed Village Green. There were over 1200 exhibit entries in the marquee, the Parish Hall had been converted into an art gallery and the Old School was busy serving lunches for the judges and afternoon tea.

The cost of running the Show increased as we were forced to find a new marquee supplier owing to our previous supplier going bust. This resulted in an increased cost of approximately £1,000. The two Jumble Sales held in October 2022 and March 2023 raised an astonishing £750.00 and £1,000 respectively and we were able to make donations to the Ukrainian Refugee Appeal and to the Syrian/Turkey earthquake appeal. It was also good to learn that St Lukes Hospice raised over £300.00 from the sale of unsold Jumble donated in 2022.

We have another Jumble Sale planned for June 24th at The Old School along with a plant sale. Again, we hope to be in a position to make a donation to a local charity.

The next Village Show will be held on August 12th and plans are well under way for this event.

We continue to try and find ways of fund raising and an event is being planned for later this year.

Derek Ross

**The Recycling for Charity** project has been saving valuable waste from being incinerated since 2019 and has raised over **£10,000** for our main charity Kicks Count who aim to reduce UK stillbirths.

We raise money on items dictated by certain manufacturers, (Colgate, KP, McVites, Cathedral Cheese, Pringles, Proctor & Gamble...more), who sponsor programmes through TERRACYCLE who process the items to be made into garden furniture...

We also make money on Ink jet cartridges and that one item supports our project and pays for printing and parcel tape and a flat tyre on our project trailer.

We also collect, old phones, cameras, kindles, gadgets, stamps, CD's and Printer ink Toners, for East Cornwall Search & Rescue Team, Hill Pony Resources, and Animal FREE Research.

Items can be dropped off at the Old School car park "RECYCLING SHED" where we have labelled bins to separate the items.

Most people want to recycle and we're helping them recycle more.

To find out more....

See our Recycling Guide on our web page at [www.south-hill.co.uk/charity-recycling](http://www.south-hill.co.uk/charity-recycling) and start recycling more.

Thank you. Ali Humphreys 07305 044 049

Lockett Social Club  
Annual Report for PC 2023

The Social Club having recently been refurbished and decorated has enjoyed a wide range of activities and held many successful events during the past 12 months. The highlights being supporting the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations last June, Skittles evening and the King's Coronation Celebrations at Byenleigh at the being of this month. When over 80 villagers and members attended the Tea Party. Other well supported events include 2 Craft Fayres, a Christmas Party, Burns Night and various talks on sailing, Ukraine and a Taste & talk on Spirits & Liqueurs. Together with several Bingo, Beetle Drive nights and a Movie night the Club has been open most weekends. Now with a big TV screen installed members have been watching Live International Rugby as well the Eurovision Song Contest.

We have 2 successful snooker teams being in the Launceston & District and Liskeard Leagues. Picking up some nice silverware this past season.

On Monday evenings the Club is now used for Pilates sessions. For only a small fee Lockett villagers can now partake in this gentle exercise without having to travel far.

On Tuesday's Maxine runs a Doey Club whereby people make all sorts of different crafts. As part of the Community the Club is also available for private Birthday and Anniversary Parties and well as a Meeting venue.

Future events coming up include the now Annual Stuckett Darts Challenge matches (with Stoke Sports & Social Club), the Skittles Evening and a Music in the Barn at Deer Park Farm (Sat. 5<sup>th</sup> August).

The Club will also be doing 2 outside bars for private events during the Summer.

New members always welcome. Also lookout for our new improved facebook page [The-Lockett-Social-Club](#)

*Geoff Howlett (Honorary Secretary).*

#### STOKE CLIMSLAND COMMUNITY PROJECT

##### THE OLD SCHOOL

May 2023

The Old School has had a busy year, enjoying regular activities starting again as confidence still builds following lock-down.

Especially valued by us are the Friday Lunches, and these are gradually being added to now by occasional talks or classes. They were part of the Keep Warm initiative begun during the winter, with exercise classes also on offer. It seems distant now, but there was a really cold spell and we were grateful for help from the Parish Council to make sure that we could offer a 'Warm Place'.

New activities include the 'Repair Shop' which is bringing lots of people new friends and fun!

And new activities for children and young people are getting off the ground as we speak, thanks to new Trustee Lisa Eastell.

Our marvellous manageress Edah Joll was away ill for several months and we are eternally grateful to the brilliant hard-working volunteers who stood in for her, organising delicious food at so very many public and private events !

We enjoyed the Coronation along with everyone else - the Village Market, Breakfasts, and full sized screening viewing of the event were our contribution. Like the Jubilee and funeral, there's nothing quite like seeing those grand processions of costumes, uniforms, horses and carriages 'close to'. We were grateful again to the Parish Clerk and Council for the programme which involved everyone.

This year's work has included replacement of a roof valley, new French drains around the north end, heater refurbishment, and external repainting is next on the programme. Meanwhile, we're pulling together a plan to reduce heating costs and use of energy. And now with spring we seem to have more birds than ever nesting around the buildings.

The Old School News has been produced for another year by the team of Gill Hiscott and Hilary Scott. A massive Thankyou to them and to the volunteers who deliver it throughout the parish, and advertisers who make it break even (just). Now we're hunting for a new editor, so please come forward ! and meanwhile thankyou to Deri who has put in a few months as editor again recently. If I've forgotten anything, my apologies!  
Caroline Vulliamy

#### EAST CORNWALL MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION Ltd

May 2023

Just a brief update from us!

This spring we had the pleasure of taking refurbishment of the two tiny Miners Cottages on Luckett Hill a stage further. This was thanks to a local and experienced lime plasterer coming forward. Tim Harding.

Working with John Rowe, joiner, we have now completed a number of tasks.

The two tiny cottages on the side of the mine site housed 14 or more people, as did many others locally. In fact many must have made temporary housing for themselves, since 125 people lived between there and the village, and another 120 or so in the village. More came daily to work on the mine and the noise of the 25 head of stamps was indescribable.

These cottages are to be an educational resource, for very small school and other groups to learn about the hard conditions as well as the amazing skill of Cornish Miners.

Work started this year by stopping small leaks through the roof – a temporary ridge, and pointing around the chimneys.

A bat survey was carried out by a licensed bat worker, checking every crevice with an endoscope before plastering began. The dubbing out coat was followed by two more.

Lintels in the lower cottage were made of larch, evidently a feature of the late 1700's, and these were carefully replaced like-for-like. Joists went back in their slots, and then recycled floorboards completed the restored floor.

That will give us access to the next job !

The ECMHA is raising funds by starting its programme of talks again, with some guided walks – so look out for them and please join in.

The first two talks were on the current mineral investigations at Kelly Bray, and on the Wheal Martyn China Clay Museum, with a guided walk to follow.

Look out for the next ones!

#### STOKE CLIMSLAND PARISH ARCHIVE

May 2023

Just a few words from us, to say that the archive is going strong.

Amongst other recent donations, the collection of videos of parish events by Jean Scholar is going to give us lots of work!

In keeping with our activities through lockdown, we're offering a display this evening – copies of the Annual Parish Meetings (minutes).

There's just one for every decade here, but you can see the lot if you drop in to the Archive.

We have a regular succession of visitors, often seeking their family's history locally, and we love to meet them.

Our regular volunteers Chris and Anne meet on a Wednesday for some filing, indexing, etc – and you are welcome to join us!

And you never know what you're going to come across of special interest to you !

## **SCATS 2022-2023 REPORT TO PARISH AGM 31<sup>st</sup> MAY 2023**

The last SCATS AGM was on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2022, and held in conjunction with our annual Barbecue, it proved a popular event!

After cancelling our Pantomime due to Covid concerns again in January 2022, we were thrilled to perform 'The Sword in the Stone' to full houses almost every performance in Feb 2023. Many of our young - and not so young - talented cast members from previous productions were keen to be involved again, which was and is great news for SCATS looking to the future.

I think it would be fair to say that the Pantomime 2023 production was a resounding success, and the SCATS Writing Team are currently scribbling away at the Panto 2024 masterpiece!

We are still hopeful, moving forward, of putting on Productions in addition to the annual Pantomime ourselves, and participation in three Poetry events over the past year have proved popular with audiences as well as SCATS members. We anticipate putting on more performances in a similar vein in the future, as well as other exciting projects in the pipeline!

SCATS are always happy to welcome new Members and we encourage anyone with an interest in Onstage, Backstage, Tech or Front of House to contact us for more information via email, phone, or just accost any of our Committee Members when you see us for a conversation!

As an amateur theatrical company, we rely on our Members and our audiences, so we thank the Parishioners of Stoke Climsland and beyond for their ongoing support!

Lyn Crawley, SCATS Chair 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023