

# Welcome to Stoke!

On behalf of Stoke Village Fund (SVF) we'd like to offer you a warm welcome to the village - we hope you will be very happy here!

## History of the Group:

Originally formed in 1941 when Stoke and St Mary Bourne (next village along) were given a target of raising £1,750 for Warships Week. Stoke which then had a population of 164 residents contributed £1,001. Following 'Wings for Victory Week' in 1943 the Stoke Village Fund was official founded on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1943. A public meeting decided to invest money raised after 'Wings for Victory Week', to be used for the benefit of the people in the village.

Since then, the Stoke Village Fund has continued to organise local events for the villagers.

## Who we are and what's on offer:

We have a newly formed committee and look forward to planning garden picnics, outings, skittles, and quiz nights. We also host an annual litter pick and are introducing in 2023 a maintenance day for all locals to take part (including the children!). An annual AGM is held in the spring of each year, this year, as well as hosting the AGM, we also held a social event straight after the meeting in the White Hart Pub which is run by Brain Haigh to spend some time meeting and greeting Stoke residents.

If you have had a chance to wander across the bridge by the Playground, you will notice the Telephone box, this is filled with adult and children's books to borrow, and we will happily take donations to keep the content fresh.

We ensure the interest of Stoke residents are represented on the Parish Council and other relevant groups, for example the upkeep of the playground, and amenity areas.

We have a Facebook page - 'Stoke Village Fund Community Group' which is a great source of information and communication source between residents.



### Stoke Village Fund Community Group

Private group · 189 members

Soon we will be connected to the St Mary Bourne Parish Council/Community Hub Website where you will be able to find more information about the Village and Fund. However, if you do not have access to a computer, we post regularly in the Parish Hill & Valley Magazine which is delivered to your door, and we will also endeavour to post a leaflet through your door advertising any planned events.

St Mary Bourne arrange an annual 'Welcome Drinks' for all new Bourne Valley residents to ensure you are included and if you would like to be added to our distribution list, please send us a email to: [svfcommunitygroup@aol.com](mailto:svfcommunitygroup@aol.com) with your contact details and we will add to our secure mailing list.

Many Thanks on behalf of the SVF Community Group

Tanya Mew - Chairperson