



NEWSLETTER

Jan to Mar 26



It was lovely to see residents and veterans at the Remembrance Service at the Churchyard Extension. Thank you to **Reverend Jane Foster-Smith** for conducting the service, beautifully accompanied on the bugle by **Tracey Robson**. Refreshments were enjoyed after the service in the village hall.

Coucillors would like to thank the members of the Knit and Natter group for creating and brilliantly executing the Remembrance Day decoration that was placed over the village sign.



From your editor

Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy 2026!

Thanks you for the bumper contributions to this 1st edition of 2026. The newsletter really matters. The schedule of deadlines for 2026 is:

- April - June: 21st February
- July - Sept: 21st May
- Oct - Dec: 21st Aug

Thank you. *Muriel* Email: sturtonbystow.editor@gmail.com



Sturton and Stow motorsports club

2025 has really been a fantastic year for our club. Having had a full season of meetings which include two national qualifying rounds followed by the **Fastest man on Grass** weekend and to end the season the 4th round of the UK Championship and all without cancellations because of the weather.

We would all like to congratulate our club chairman **Jamie** for seeing us through this year along with **Terry Williams** as vice chairman. Also a further **congratulations to Jamie** for taking the UKAC men's class 8 championship for the 4th year on the trot.

2025 has seen a lot of hard work gone into the club by many people who are all volunteers and do it for the love of the sport of Autotgrass. These people are track and ground maintenance, marshals, scrutineers, signing on staff and not forgetting our excellent medical team who are there every race day to keep us safe along with everyone else helping to make these meetings possible.

Again, we would all like to send a big thank you to our very long standing secretary **Sandy Williams** who dedicates so

much of her personal time to the club. We again have a full season coming in 2026 and we are proud to have been given another UKAC round so it's a lot more of the same hard work for the members and helpers in 2026.



This year we have seen more of the 10 year old junior racers coming into the sport and many more planned for 2026 boosting the future up and coming drivers.

We would still like to speak to past members and hear their stories of the club and hopefully see some of you at our meetings at Caenby corner.

Anyone wanting any information can call John Hornby on 07450971834 for a chat.



The **Sturton and District Men in Sheds** has gone from strength to strength in 2025. Attending events across the surrounding area they have shared the benefits the group brings in the community. Their

chairman and some of the members are seen here at a Well-being event in Saxilby.

Parish Councillors wish to thank the group members who skillfully provided the office with a handmade sign on the Old School Room where Councillors meet every month.



Sturton by Stow village hall

It was lovely to see so many people attending the Christmas market in December.

Many thanks to the Sturton Swans WI for doing such an amazing job in the kitchen cooking the bacon rolls, tea and coffee. Also to the village hall volunteers that helped to decorate the hall and put the tables out for the market, we appreciate all of the support, thank you.

A new kitchen is planned for early 2026.

John and Ali have worked so hard to complete the paperwork for the grant.

We're hoping there isn't too much disruption for regular bookings.

The committee are looking for a new hairdresser/barber for Saturday's to cover approximately 6 months maternity leave, starting in January.

Contact Gail Adams 07718 903114 if you're interested please.



We had a wonderful Christmas Party for our December meeting with a very competitive Christmas Quiz. At the January meeting we will be discussing the Resolution shortlist of five campaigns. These will be voted on later in the year. The campaigns are:

- Accessible Public Toilet Facilities to Promote Dignity, Health, and Social Inclusion
- Action on Women's Homelessness
- Nearer to Nature
- Love Your Vulva - Self-checking is your Best Defence against Vulva Cancer
- Every Child Needs a Friend
- The overall chosen campaign will be debated and discussed by the government.

The February meeting will feature Monica Marsh reciting comedic and dramatic Monologues.

The Free Spring Extravaganza will be held to celebrate 60 years of the W.I. being in Sturton by Stow. There will be craft stalls, competitions, guessing the weight of the cake, the eggs in a jar and, 'Is it Wine or Water'. Cake stalls, an Easter tombola and a Bran tub. Refreshments will be available plus a raffle. We would welcome former WI members who have pictures and memories to join us. The date is 21st March 2026 held in the Village hall at Sturton by Stow from 14.00 - 16.00.

Sturton Swans meet every second Tuesday in Sturton village hall. Non-members are welcome to listen to our speakers for just £3. We have a coffee morning on the first Friday every month at the Cross Keys in Stow. 10.00 to 12.00

Lyndy Fillingham, Media Officer

Community Speed Watch

As we move from winter into spring the Community Speed Watch group are continuing to run Speed Watch sessions on all four roads in to (and out of) Sturton and also on Cowdale in Bransby. We are now able to do sessions earlier and later than during the winter so you might see our signage and see us in our hi-viz jackets at any time during daylight hours.

Any vehicles recorded at 35 mph or above will be reported to the **Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership** and the registered owner can expect to receive a letter from the LRSP. Speed Watch is not about enforcement however – it is about education – and we hope that by continuing to run these sessions we can encourage drivers to slow down as they go through our villages.

During 2025 we ran **41 one-hour sessions** and detected 509 vehicles travelling at 35 mph or above (approximately 4.4%). Unfortunately we had to cancel a further 17 sessions due to bad weather or lack of volunteers so we could always do with more people!

Currently there are 12 of us in the group but if we had a few more people we could put on more sessions and the spread the load a bit. If you have an hour or two to spare each month and are interested in joining the Speed Watch group, or would just like to know more about Speed Watch in general, please email the local coordinator: cswsturtonbystow@gmail.com. You will be made welcome!



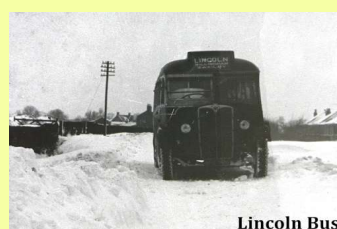
Sturton Indoor Bowls Club

We finished off our bowling this year with our Christmas Potluck Party in the Village Hall. We've had a very enjoyable year with some excellent bowling (Winners of most games over the year were Bob Stacey and Carol Moore.). Trophies were presented at our Christmas Dinner held at the Gainsborough Golf club. The atmosphere was excellent and the food was also brilliant as usual. I would like to thank all our members for turning two hours every week into a most enjoyable and sociable occasion.



Sturton and Stow History Society

Sturton-by-Stow in the winter of 1946/47. Countrywide there was heavy and prolonged



snowfall, lasting 55 consecutive days, and between snow showers it became bitterly cold, -21o C was recorded, causing the river Thames to freeze. Frozen snow, in places was up to a metre deep, with 7 metre snowdrifts. Transport systems experienced chaos, energy supplies were paralyzed leading to rationing, factories closed, hardship required military aid and international help to distribute food and fuel. A rapid thaw in March brought about widespread flooding, particularly along the Thames basin.

Photograph courtesy Sturton & Stow History Society's David Lucas collection.

Knit and Natter group

Our knitting and crochet needles have been busy over the last



few weeks! The Sturton Knit and Natter group celebrated Hallowe'en with a spooktacular postbox topper at the end of October and created a drift of poppies around the village sign to mark Remembrance Sunday. Snow came early to Sturton this year with our Christmas festive scene as Santa and his reindeer gather on the postbox before they

fly off to Lapland!

If you'd like to join us we'd love to meet you as we're a very friendly group. We meet every Thursday at 11am upstairs at the Tillbridge Tastery. You don't need to be an expert knitter to join in, some of just come for the natter!

We were delighted to have **Michael, Chairman of Bransby Horses**, switch on the lights and help us welcome the festive season. A huge thank you to the wonderful school choir, and to the Parish Councillors and volunteers for installing and removing the tree. Your hard work and community spirit are truly appreciated.

We would also like to express our appreciation and thank the Tillbridge Tastery for the festive refreshments - mulled wine, mince pies and yummy doughnuts - a perfect treat that brought neighbours together around the tree as we enjoyed the choir's Christmas songs.



Grant funding scheme for Property Flood Resilience

Earlier this year, Lincolnshire County Council launched a new **Property Flood Resilience (PFR)** grant scheme, offering **up to £5,000** to help homeowners protect their homes from future flooding. Key Details:

- **Invitation Only:** Eligible properties that previously suffered internal flooding have been contacted in Phases 1 & 2. Phase 3 will include homes affected between October 2023 and January 2024 (including Storms Babet & Henk). Properties that claimed under the Defra scheme are not eligible.
- **First-Come, First-Served:** Apply promptly once invited.
- **Funding:** Up to £2,500 upfront following approval, if the costs exceed this amount the remaining balance (up to an additional £2,500) will be paid upon completion.
- **No Mandatory Survey:** A professional flood risk assessment is recommended but not required.

If your home flooded and you haven't received an invitation, email PropertyFloodResilience@lincolnshire.gov.uk to confirm eligibility and request an application form.

Flooding and Drainage Meeting – Public Summary

Representatives from **Sturton by Stow and Stow Parish Councils** met with Lincolnshire County Council (Highways and Flood & Water teams) and the County Councillor on 3rd December 2025 to discuss recent flooding in the villages and how future risks can be reduced.

The meeting focused on how local drainage coped during recent extreme weather, including the January 2025 floods, and what actions different organisations can and cannot take.

Key Points from the meeting

- Flooding in the village is caused by multiple factors; extreme rainfall, saturated ground, limited capacity in drainage systems, blocked/damaged pipes, and watercourses that are not being maintained.
- Highways are responsible for draining roads, not private land.
- Anglian Water manages surface water and sewerage systems.
- Landowners are responsible for maintaining watercourses (ditches, drains, streams) next to or running through their land – known as riparian responsibility.
- Drainage systems are not designed for extreme weather events, and adding more gullies alone will not solve the problem.
- Flooding and more intensive downpours are becoming more frequent due to climate change and managing risk will require a shared approach between agencies, landowners, and residents.

What Is Being Done

- LCC confirmed that highway drainage is being maintained and monitored.

- Damaged pipework from historic utility works has already been replaced in some areas.
- LCC Flood & Water and Highways teams work closely with Anglian Water, Internal Drainage Boards and the Environment Agency.
- A public multi-agency meeting is supported, where residents can hear directly from the organisations involved.
- LCC has provided an article explaining how Fix My Street reports help prioritise works.

What Residents Can Do

- Report flooding, blocked drains and gullies using Fix My Street – multiple reports and photos help prioritise action.
- Check whether you have riparian responsibility for nearby ditches or drains and ensure they are maintained. The general rule is, if the deeds do not state that you are not responsible then by default you are under common law. Those who are tenants of housing or lease holders of land, it is recommended that you clarify with you home/landowner who is responsible for carrying out riparian responsibilities.
- Consider property-level flood protection, such as flood gates or air-brick covers.
- Check eligibility if your property suffered from internal flooding from Storm Babet or Henk for available funding (see above).
- Be mindful that increasing hard surfaces (e.g. block-paved driveways) can worsen flooding.
- Use the village Community Emergency Plan, including sand bins and local support, during severe weather.

A message from LCC Highways

**TIRED OF
POTHOLES
FLY-TIPPING
LOOSE PAVING**

**DOG POOP VANDALISM
BROKEN STREET LIGHTING?**

**REPORT THEM TO
THE COUNCIL WITH**

FixMyStreet

IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT

FixMyStreet.com

All 'Fix my street reports' submitted by members of the public, will be transferred into a Confirm enquiry which provides valuable data and audit-able information, as well as providing safeguards for timescales replies and updates to the sender.

- Using Confirm provides us with a centralised knowledge base of real-time insights into how assets behave and affect each other, helping us to make proactive, informed decisions for the long-term benefit of our service delivery model.
- It allows our management team to see our demand from differing work streams and is also used in calculating our resourcing picture required in weather events or intense periods of demand.
- The data captured will be used, as part of a wider scoring criteria, to inform our future plans for investments for projects such as resurfacing, drainage upgrades and replacements as well as many other things.

The Parish Councils will continue working with LCC and partner agencies to seek practical solutions and keep residents informed.

COMMUNITY CAFE

Join us for a warm welcome, where you can enjoy a comforting cup of tea, and connect meaningfully with others in a relaxed and friendly setting for free.

Mondays 11am to 2pm. Every week until 31st March 2026

Well-being walk starts at 11, the Café opens at 12 noon

Sturton by Stow Village Hall
High Street
Sturton by Stow
LN11 2AX



The **Parish Council** and the **Sturton by Stow Village Hall Committee** have stepped in to provide funding and support, ensuring that the **Well-being Walks** and **Community Café** can continue as a much-needed meeting place for village residents.

From *Monday 5 January 2026*, the Well-being Walks will resume at

11.00am, meeting outside the Village Hall, followed by the weekly Community Café from 12 noon to 2.00pm. These activities will be supported by volunteers and will run until the end of March 2026.



Dear Residents of **Sturton by Stow** and **Bransby**,

2025 has been an especially busy and challenging year for your volunteer Parish Council, starting as it did with relentless rain and severe flooding, which sadly made its way into several properties. We are still facing the aftermath, with some residents only now (1st. December 2025) getting to the point of being restored into their homes, and us pressing for effective action from the various authorities concerned. Our open public meeting with Anglian Water does seem to have driven several areas of improvement, and Council meetings with Highways and the Flood Prevention Forum are expected to give us further successes in reducing the impact on the village, and those who travel through it. Your Councillors have engaged in walkabouts of our whole parish, identifying any areas of concern; the Council has also installed more sandbags, bins, so that in any future times of crisis, residents have the materials available to protect their homes. Any residents or landowners with ditches, dykes and culverts next to their properties are reminded of their riparian responsibilities to keep them clear, thus enabling surface water to find a way out of the village. Our meetings are very often complicated by the attention which needs to be given to planning applications, and any residents thinking of new buildings or alterations are implored to think of the land drainage implications, as well as the "look" of Sturton.

The Council has been saddened by the resignation of Cllr. Dennis Taylor, who has served us for so long- his massive historical and detailed knowledge of the local area and people has been of immense value to us. We wish him a happy "retirement", since stalwarts such as Dennis never really retire! We were fortunate to welcome Anthony Capuano, a retired GP, onto the Council, who has brought fresh energy into our efforts to serve our community. We still need more volunteers to bring us up to full strength!

The West Lindsey precept which funds our works in the village is informed by a budget drawn up by the Council, and we have worked hard to keep our cost increases down for the coming year to no more than inflation. We continuously look for value



for money in all of the contracts that we place on your behalf (grass cutting, tree management, playpark maintenance etc.), even reducing costs with two-year contracts where possible. This then enables us to better fund the village groups which apply to us for support grants. You may not be aware that the litter-picking and small maintenance jobs quietly carried out throughout the year are performed by part-time employees of the Parish Council- our thanks to them as always.

I would urge all residents to help us where you can, by using the FixMyStreet app to report infrastructure issues around the village. This makes authorities such as Anglian Water,

Highways, and West Lindsey aware; the more reports there are, the greater likelihood there is of early attention. This also applies to the sad occasions of antisocial behaviour we sometimes see. The more times this is reported to the police, the more chance there will be of something being done by their stretched resources.

The village Speedwatch group does so much to try and prevent vehicles speeding through our village, stirring volunteer work! Do offer your services to help them if you can.

Stacey Hoyland is our hard-working Parish Clerk, and our only full-time employee; especial thanks for her hard work on keeping on top of the detail in everything, particularly in the keeping of our financial records- governed by ever-increasing regulation!

We are working on a new development to encourage residents and visitors alike to use the footpaths in the countryside around the village, with leaflets and signposts to make them more of a feature. The launch of the scheme is aimed at next Spring.

With thanks to all of my fellow Councillors for all of their time and effort over the last year,

Martin Cook
Chair, Sturton By Stow Parish Council

Dates for the Diary

Indoor Bowls Club, Village Hall
Mondays 7pm - 9pm

Community Cafe (Warm Space) Village Hall
Mondays 12 noon - 2pm

Well-being walks from the Village Hall
Mondays 11am - 12 noon

Bumpcamp, Village Hall
Tuesdays 2 - 2:45pm (term time only).
Facebook & Instagram @bumpcamp

Line Dancing, Village Hall
1st 3rd and 4th Tuesdays 7pm - 9pm
Beginners. Weds 7pm - 8:30pm

W.I. Village Hall
7pm - 9pm every 2nd Tuesday of the month

Art Group, Village Hall
Wednesdays 10am - 1pm

Judo, Village Hall
Mondays 5 - 6pm
Thurs 5:30 - 6:30 and 6:30 - 7:30 Primary/Junior;
Thurs 7:30 - 8:30 Seniors

Pilates, Village Hall
Tuesdays 10 am - 12 noon

Zumba, Village Hall
Fridays 7pm to 8pm

Market and Coffee Morning, Village Hall
1st Saturdays of the month, from 10am - 11:30