

NORTH STONEHAM COMMUNITY GROUP



<https://nscommunity.co.uk>

Welcome!

Welcome to the Spring edition of the NSCG Newsletter. We hope you had a pleasant winter, despite the lack of any meaningful snow (apart from at the Christmas event of course!)

The new year brings with it some personnel changes. Adie Smith has decided to step down as a Trustee and we sincerely thank him for his contributions over the last couple of years. Adie will continue as a key volunteer helping us from time to time.

We'd like to welcome a new Trustee to the team, Paula Butcher. Paula worked closely with us during our Christmas event and wanted to get involved more. We can't wait to work with her!

In this edition, you'll find lots of information regarding our upcoming events. We'd like to draw particular attention towards our AGM, which coincides with our Easter event on 30th March. This is a perfect opportunity for you to come along, meet us and have your say. See you there!

Find us Online and Don't Forget to Follow



[HTTPS://NSCOMMUNITY.CO.UK/](https://nscommunity.co.uk)



[FACEBOOK.COM/NSCOMMGROUP](https://www.facebook.com/nscommgroup)



[@NORTHSTONEHAMCG](https://www.instagram.com/northstonehamcg)

We would love to hear from you, share your feedback at <https://nscommunity.co.uk/contact/>



2023, A Year that Was...

We hope you had just as much fun attending our events as we did planning them for the community! In 2023, we ran an Easter event, King's Coronation event, Halloween event, Remembrance event and our incredibly successful Christmas event. We also held a sunflower growing competition, ran craft sessions, launched our Community Fridge, held jumble sales and even provided free cooking lessons!



We would love to hear from you, share your feedback at <https://nscommunity.co.uk/contact/>



<https://nscommunity.co.uk>

The NSCG Annual General Meeting

As a constituted community group, we hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) each year. This year this will be part of our Easter event on Saturday 30th March at the YMCA. Throughout the day the community will have an opportunity to find out about our work and talk to us. Then, from 2-3pm you can grab a free drink and take part in a conversation.

There are things we have to do at the AGM:

- Share our annual report for 2023. This newsletter is effectively it!
- Feedback on 2023
- Our priorities for 2024 (in this newsletter and on our website)
- Share our 2023 accounts
- Share our constitution.



Scan the QR code to read these documents on our website

But we mainly want your feedback and suggestions. The planned summer festival, community fridge, litter picks and jumble sales have all been in response to things you have raised. Come and tell us what you want for our community. Join the conversation.

The NSCG BINGO

All the numbers are connected with NSCG events and initiatives. Can you match the number to the event/activity?

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----|-----|------|
| HOW MANY TRUSTEES CAN WE HAVE | TRUSTEE MEETINGS PER YEAR | PEOPLE AT OUR 2023 COMMUNITY CAROLS | PEOPLE AT CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON | PEOPLE WHO ATTENDED OUR 2023 EASTER EGG HUNT | 16 | 53 | 1.9K |
| HOURS GIVEN BY TRUSTEES & VOLUNTEERS IN 2023 | PEOPLE AT THE CORONATION LITTER PICK | JUMBLE SALES/COMMUNITY EXCHANGE EVENTS IN 2023 | THE COST OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE | THE COST OF FEEDING PEOPLE FOR FREE AT CHRISTMAS | 3 | 7 | 4 |
| THE COST OF THE FREE HALLOWEEN SUPPER TRAIL | GIANT SQUID IN FOOD SAVED FROM WASTE BY THE COMMUNITY FRIDGE | THE COST OF OUR INSURANCE | THE COST OF PRINTING 3 NEWSLETTERS | TREE DECORATIONS DELIVERED TO HOMES AT CHRISTMAS | 250 | 160 | 11 |
| NUMBER OF TRUSTEES NEEDED FOR A MEETING TO BE QUORATE | COMMUNITY FRIDGE CHECKS PER WEEK | COMMUNITY FRIDGE RESTOCKS PER ? | THE COST OF THE CHRISTMAS STAGE | THE COST OF THE FIRST AID TRAINING | 342 | 5 | 700 |
| | | | | | 965 | 12 | 150 |
| | | | | | 500 | 260 | 5K+ |
| | | | | | | 668 | 372 |



MEET THE NSCG TRUSTEES

Sammy Jordan is your current NSCG Chair of Trustees. You might notice that Sammy likes dots. Her nickname is Dotty Sammy because she likes to join dots, making connections between people and ideas. She's also known for a few dotty ideas herself! Sammy loves people and community. Her day job is working for a national charity, Hope Together and she's also on the team at St Nic's Church. Sammy is a Christian but would say that she's a person of faith and not religious and it's all about relationships not rules. Sammy is married to Shaun and has two children. When she's not working, doing NSCG or church stuff you'll find her in her garden, dancing at the YMCA or watching a box set...with a cup of tea and dark chocolate biscuits!



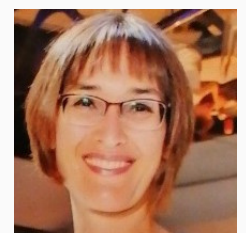
Gaz Richardson is the Secretary of NSCG. He moved here with his family in late 2019. His day job is as an Air Traffic Controller, but he also dabbles in a few other bits and pieces such as being a Parish Councillor, volunteering within the community and baking cakes! Gaz and his family can often be found walking with their 2 dogs, one of which is called Hooch and is the size of a small horse!

I'm Tracey Jones and with my two cats Tinto & Tabitha, we've been living on North Stoneham Park since September 2020. In addition to being Vice-Chair for the NSCG, I also set up the North Stoneham craft group. I'm a Senior Managing Consultant for a large Tech company based in Hursley, so I try to spend my limited non-working time as far away from computers as I possibly can. I'm the Community Fridge project lead for NSCG and I'm incredibly proud of how the community has embraced the community fridge and what we have achieved in such a short period of time. Working on this project has really opened my eyes to just how much of a problem we have in the UK with surplus food. When I'm not crafting or doing things with NSCG, I can be found in my kitchen as I'm a keen cook and amateur baker and I even have a cake decorating qualification!



Hello, I am Agnes. I was born in Scotland. I joined the armed forces and trained as a communications centre operator for Royal Signals. I served in Singapore where I met and married my husband and had two sons. On returning to U.K. I trained as a chef /manager for pubs/restaurants. I owned and ran my restaurant as a chef/proprietor in Shropshire. I studied and trained at Staffordshire University, qualified as a Mental Health nurse, and worked in community, hospitals and forensic units. I retired to Crete in Greece, and worked as, a caretaker/ gardener/ holiday rep., for private villa rentals. I moved back to the U.K. to North Stoneham, volunteered during the pandemic, arranging pick-up and delivery of medical prescriptions, now trustee/treasurer with N.S.C.G. and studying to update my qualifications in Mental health/therapy.

Lois is a civil servant from South London who moved to North Stoneham Park in September 2020. She enjoys meeting people and getting to know them, as well as supporting adults studying for a CIPD professional qualification in Human Resources in her spare time. Additionally, she is a lead volunteer advocate for the Royal Osteoporosis Society helping to champion the voice of younger people living with Osteoporosis.



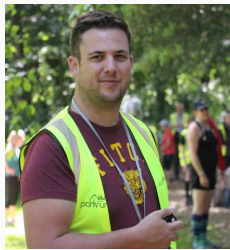


MEET THE NSCG TRUSTEES



I'm Matthew and I have lived on North Stoneham Park with my 3 children since March 2019. I want North Stoneham to be a supportive community where people look out for each other and that's why I'm part of NSCG. Professionally my background is in IT but disability awareness and inclusion, especially for children with neurological disabilities, is my passion and primary focus. You're likely to have met me (often with my children in tow) restocking the community fridge, running the jumble sales/exchange events or maybe even from one of the many times I have pulled my BBQ out onto the street to throw some burgers on for community events, trails, street parties or basically any other excuse I can think of!

I am Paula, mum of three older children and I have a partner. I love helping other people and like doing things for the community. I'm also an animal lover. I started as just a stallholder at one of the Christmas light switch-on events and I haven't looked back



Alex is a marketing and commercial director, supporting small businesses on the south coast, having moved from Poole to North Stoneham Park in March 2023 with his wife and two children and Winston the Schnoodle. When not juggling life with two under 5's - Alex enjoys BBQ'ing and enjoying food with friends and family or giving in to his inner thrill seeker with regular theme park trips (for the kids of course).

Hi. I'm Kathy. I have lived on North Stoneham Park for four years. I am retired. In my spare time I love walking especially along the coast. I love meeting and talking to people and have made lots of lovely friends working with the community group.



Sian 42.9 -Wife and full time carer, Mum and home educator. A human being (just). Love to be positive and spread happy vibes. Passionate about a community garden. Happy to chat and swap some life stories!



Clive has lived at North Stoneham Park since 2020. A 'wordsmith' by trade. he dabbles in all things digital marketing. In addition to his love for his family, friends and his kitchen, Clive is also passionate about community building and cohesion which led him to serve as an NSCG trustee. You might often see him on the north end of Highwood Avenue staring at the planes taking off from / landing at Southampton Airport.



<https://nscommunity.co.uk>

What's in Store for 2024

In 2024 NSCG will deliver what have become our key annual events but, in response to your feedback, we are also hoping to add some new ones.

March sees the return of our annual Easter egg hunt. Collect your activity sheet from the YMCA between 10 am and 2pm then solve the password using the clues around the park before claiming your chocolate prize. At the YMCA you will find free crafts, refreshments, and a design an Easter egg competition. New this year is an Easter Bake Off. With cake and small bakes categories for different ages, entries need to be at the YMCA by 12 noon with the name of the baker, contact details and ingredients listed.

You have been asking for a Stoneham Festival and we hope to bring you one during the summer this year! There will be lots of food, activities for children, our summer trails, a uniform exchange, and lots more! Keep a look out on our Facebook page for more details.

This year we have plans for a series of 'Time to Talk' café spaces, where people can come together to chat about wellbeing. Each café will have a slightly different focus and offer free refreshments. Look out for the dates in the termly newsletters which come through your door!

Thank you to everyone who supported our jumble sale in January and for all your positive feedback. The good news is that the jumbles will be back! They are an important part of what NSCG is about as they promote sustainability, encouraging people to 'exchange' things they don't need for things they do!

One of the other projects we hope to launch is a community gardening initiative. In the long term we hope to create a community garden and different 'spaces' around the estate; but we will begin with smaller activities. Look out for information on our Facebook page.

In the autumn we have our annual Halloween Supper Trail in partnership with St Nic's Church, an opportunity to mark Remembrance together as a community, not forgetting our Christmas lights switch on and carols around the tree.

None of this would be possible without your help. In 2023 we worked hard to include more of you in our events and we've been delighted how many of you have responded. We are your community group and want to do things with you rather than for you. We are always looking for more volunteers, if you would like to help with anything you've read about please email nscgvolunteers@gmail.com we'd love to have you as part of the NSCG family.

We would love to hear from you, share your feedback at <https://nscommunity.co.uk/contact/>

EASTER



EGG HUNT

MARCH 30
11-3PM

AGM 2-3PM

FREE

ACTIVITIES
BAKE OFF
COMPETITION
REFRESHMENTS

YMCA EASTLEIGH, WHIELDON WAY
NORTH STONEHAM PARK



YMCA



EASTLEIGH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Sustainable Stoneham Community Fridge

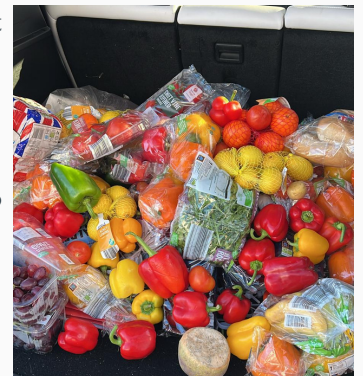
As we approach the first anniversary of the launch of our community fridge it's a great time to reflect on what we have achieved. We originally set out with a goal of saving two tonnes of surplus food in our first year, and we achieved that within the first five months of opening the fridge. In 2023 the fridge saved and redistributed 6.4 tonnes of surplus food to more than 4500 members of the Eastleigh community, with a whopping 1.5 tonnes redistributed in December alone.



You may have seen in November 2023 King Charles launched his Coronation Food Project with an aim to bridge the gap between food waste and food need across all four nations of the United Kingdom, helping people and helping the planet. It was great to see that the King has caught up with us here at Sustainable Stoneham and encouraging us all to become #FoodWasteWarriors. Find out more about the Coronation Food Project here: <https://www.royal.uk/coronation-food-project>

If you like what we do with the Community fridge and would like to get involved, please reach out to us at sustainablestoneham@gmail.com. We are always looking for volunteers to help with regular collections as our goal for 2024 is to do collections 7 days per week, but we can't do that without more people to give up around 90 mins of their time to do a collection. It would also be really helpful if you followed us on social media and shared our posts.

We are on Facebook as "Sustainable Stoneham Community Fridge" and on Instagram as [@sustainable_stoneham](https://www.instagram.com/sustainable_stoneham)



Feed a Family on a budget



We are continuing to run our popular "Feed a Family on a budget" session throughout 2024 in partnership with the Asda Foundation. On Sunday 11th February we made some delicious Pizzas from scratch using household staples. Our plan for 2024 is to hold another five cookery workshops throughout the year. Information about our next sessions will be on our social media pages - we are aiming to hold one in April, June and August.



To book onto the sessions or to find out more information please follow our "Sustainable Stoneham Community Fridge" page on Facebook or [@sustainable_stoneham](https://www.instagram.com/sustainable_stoneham) on Instagram.



The Parish of
North Stoneham
& Bassett

FREE

Welcome!

St Nic's Community Cafe Church

YMCA North Stoneham Park 4-5.30pm

17th March, 21st April, 19th May,

16th June, 21st July



CRAFT CAKE LEGO GAMES ACTIVITIES FUN

shared-space

St Nicolas, Stoneham Lane

Tuesdays term time

10 - 12 noon

Join us in the Living Room





<https://nscommunity.co.uk>

Is NSCG a Charity?

North Stoneham Community Group was set up in March 2021 to put on community events and initiatives for the local community. A community group has a constitution which sets out how it operates and makes decisions but is not a charity. Community groups are only allowed to have an annual budget of £5,000. As the activities of NSCG have grown so has our budget. It now costs over £12,000 per year to run all our events and initiatives, including the community fridge and newsletters. All of NSCG funding comes from grants and donations e.g. the jumble sales. This means that NSCG is in the process of becoming a charity. It's a complicated process but we hope to have news to share with you before the end of the summer.

Help Fund Your Community Events By Donating to NSCG

An easy way to donate to NSCG and fund local community events is through an app called, 'Easy Fundraising'. Scan the QR code below and register to support NSCG. Download the app on your phone and Easyfundraising will donate a percentage of what you spend online at many of your favourite sites.

easyfundraising

Help us raise free funds

every time you shop online

You shop +7,000 brands donate For free



Shop at over 8000 places online including Amazon, EBay, Aldi, Asda, Sainsburys and others and donate to NSCG at the same time. Scan the QR code to get started.

We would love to hear from you, share your feedback at <https://nscommunity.co.uk/contact/>



FREE EXCHANGE EVENTS AND 50P AN ITEM JUMBLE 28TH APRIL 2024



With the increasing popularity of the North Stoneham Park Community jumble sales, we have decided to add an extra one this year with the longer term plan of running four a year in the future. Jumbles are not only a great way for you to grab a bargain as everything is only 50p per item, but also a valuable fundraising opportunity for the North Stoneham Community Group that put on all the wonderful events across our community throughout the year and also run the sustainable Stoneham community fridge. Did you know the annual budget for NSCG is over £10,000?



**PLEASE CONTACT US ON [NSPJUMBLE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:nspjumble@gmail.com)
TO ARRANGE DROP OFF OR COLLECTION FOR
DONATIONS ANYTIME, OR TO DISCUSS ANYTHING
JUMBLE OR EXCHANGE RELATED.**

The next Jumble is on the 28th April so please do come along for a rummage. Remember that we couldn't put on these sales without your generous donations of items to sell, we accept almost anything, clothes, bedding, shoes, toys, baby items, home décor, bric-a-brac, etc. If you have anything to donate, or would like to volunteer your time with us on the day, or for any other questions please email nspjumble@gmail.com



TIME TO GET OUR HANDS DIRTY

The cogs are moving, opportunities appearing and funding via grants looking hopeful. It is time for us to get together and get our hands dirty. Let's have a chat and see what ideas we can put together. Let's get plotting and potting

COME SAY HELLO

TUESDAY 12th March

2pm - 4pm

SATURDAY 30th March

11am - 3pm

WE'LL BE AT THE YMCA

CURRY AND QUIZ

Friday
March 22nd | **7PM**

Stoneham Park Academy

Hosted by Friends of Stoneham Park Academy

F.o.S.P.A.

NORTH STONEHAM COMMUNITY GROUP
 Presents

Stoneham Summer Festival

A FREE FAMILY EVENT

SATURDAY 17TH AUGUST
12PM - 4PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
WWW.NSCOMMUNITYGROUP.COM/SUMMER



**FRIENDS OF NIGHTINGALE
 UPCOMING EVENTS**

Nightingales Magic Show
With the incredible

Amigo's Magic

Wednesday the 17th of April
4pm-5pm & 5:30-6:30

International Magician of the World Famous Magic Circle will be appearing and disappearing from our School!
 Doors Open at 15 mins early - 60 Minutes of Magic, Mayhem and Comedy
 Great Entertainment for all the kids with a FREE Bunny Copter
 Tickets only £5

Bingo BOOGIE
 WITH A MUSICAL TWIST

WHO NEEDS DULL NUMBERS WHEN YOU CAN HAVE THE ULTIMATE SING-ALONG BINGO CRAZE! GET READY TO BUST A MOVE AND BELT OUT YOUR FAVOURITE CHEESY TUNES.

JOIN THE GAME AT 8 PM, AND LET THE NIGHTINGALE PRIMARY SCHOOL'S SUPERSTAR DUO, MR. HOOTON AND MR. SNAPE TAKE YOU ON A MUSICAL RIDE, WITH PRIZES TO BE WON!

THEN CONTINUE THE PARTY AND SHAKE IT ON THE DANCE FLOOR! ONLY £15 PER PERSON - BINGO JUST GOT A WHOLE LOT FUNKIER

FRIDAY MAY 10TH
7:30-11PM

FLEMING PARK BOWLING CLUB
EASTLEIGH

PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY INDIVIDUALS OVER THE AGE OF 18 WILL BE PERMITTED AT THE VENUE. KINDLY REFRAIN FROM BRINGING ALCOHOL, AS WE HAVE AN ONSITE BAR WHERE YOU CAN PURCHASE DRINKS. T&CS APPLY

Inflate-a-fete

Nightingale Primary School, Eastleigh
Saturday the 8th of June, 11am-4pm

Get ready for an array of stalls, refreshments, and live demos featuring Matt Fiddes martial arts, Endeavour Twirl team, and more!
 Plus there's a colossal inflatable obstacle course waiting to be conquered!

Admission to the fete is free, however, taking part in the obstacle course incurs a fee.
 Just £10 for 5 hours!

INFLATEPLANET

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM OUR WEBSITE AT FRIENDSOFNIGHTINGALE.CO.UK OR HOP ON OVER TO OUR FACEBOOK PAGE, "FRIENDS OF NIGHTINGALE PRIMARY SCHOOL" FOR EVENT UPDATES!

Should you have inquiries about our events or wish to reserve a stall at our Inflate-a-fete, please do not hesitate to contact us at NightingalePTA@outlook.com.



YMCA 'MATTERS'

Hello, Derren Storey your YMCA Community Manager here. As we settle into the new year there are a few things I'd love us to have a natter about:

Together WE Make a Difference

Firstly, a big thank you for your continued support of your community centre. It's very much appreciated and wonderful to watch it grow in both content and custom. I want you to know that by supporting your community centre you make a difference.

The YMCA is a charity. This means that any profits we make go into the running of our centres for public benefit, or into other charitable purposes. You might not know that one of these charitable purposes is housing centres, and I recently had the opportunity to visit one. These housing centres host young people who, for many reasons, have fallen on bad times and simply need a bit of extra help and support. They need someone who is there for them, to guide them back onto a positive path. That's what the YMCA centres do and to see their work first-hand and hear their success stories; how they nurture the young people's sense of self-worth and belief in themselves is nothing short of amazing.

So what I'd really like you to hear is that whether you just use the YMCA café, or come in for kids activities, to drop a child in the nursery or indeed all the above, the income you bring to the YMCA makes a difference as it helps to drive incredible initiatives like the young peoples' centre and so helps children, young people and families lead healthier, happier lives. So, thanks.

Easter Holiday Kids Activities

The YMCA is a community centre which means we want to also make a difference to our local community. That's why we offer so many activities for children, young people, and families. Our Easter holiday activities are now online on our booking portal: <https://widget.eola.co/3ahxe>. With an Easter kids disco, crafts, Nerf games, crazy creatures session as well as our free toddler & baby group on both Easter holiday Wednesdays, we hope there's something for everyone.

Community Development Fund: Have Your Say

When we began our childrens' activities, we said that certain activities would have a percentage of the profit given to the Community Development Fund and that we would, together, decide what this money is spent on. We estimate that, towards the end of the year this fund will be creeping up towards about £1000. This means that we need your help. We need your ideas and suggestions about what to do with this money. It's a Community Development Fund so you as the community need to have your say. To make this happen we will shortly be sending out a poll on our social media pages, asking you what you would like to fund. So please make sure you vote in the poll and make your choice count. We'll make sure there is information in the café for those of you who do not use social media and we want democracy to speak through the voice of the community.

If you are interested derren.storey@ymca-fg.org would love to hear from you!





Polling Station Update

Speaking of democracy, many of you will be pleased to know that a trudge through the traffic to vote in elections will now be a thing of the past. We have been chosen to host a local polling station and our first one, the local elections, will of course be Thursday May 2nd with the general election also looming on the horizon.

Our Outstanding Nursery

Finally, our Ofsted 'Outstanding' nursery is still accepting places for any of you looking for childcare. Please contact eastleigh@ymca-fg.org to arrange a viewing if this is of interest to you or to any of your friends.

Thank you all and have a wonderful Spring!

If you are interested derren.storey@ymca-fg.org would love to hear from you!



WELLBEING CAFÉ

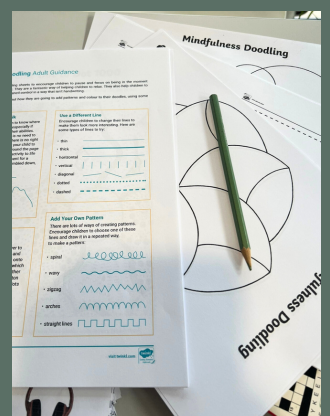
#TIME TO TALK



Rethink
Mental
Illness.

In conjunction with the national Time to Talk Day in February, we hosted our first Wellbeing café. These cafes are new projects we are running throughout 2024 to offer the community a friendly and safe environment to chat with other people, with a tie into some of our other projects such as our Community Gardening projects and national campaigns such as Men's Mental Health Month and National Menopause Day. We're hoping to make these a regular event where anyone can come along for a friendly cuppa and a chat with our wonderful volunteers.

The next Wellbeing Café is planned for Friday 22nd March 2024.





EASTER AT NSP

North Stoneham Easter Egg Hunt

We are looking forward to welcoming the community to our annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday 30th March at YMCA Stoneham. The egg hunt will open at 11am with clue sheets available until 2pm. Prizes will be handed out until 3pm. Our craft activities will run from 12-2pm so we suggest doing the egg hunt first followed by the crafts. Craft resources and free refreshments will be available while stocks last.

As well as an egg hunt there are other FREE activities to fill your day with fun!

Easter Egg Competition

Design an Easter egg and win and prizes. Use the egg template on the next page or download it from our website or Facebook. There are 5 age categories, under 5, 6-9, 10-15 and 16+. All entries must include a name, age and email contact and must be handed in to the YMCA.

The deadline for entries is 1pm on 30th March and there are prizes!!

Easter Bake Off

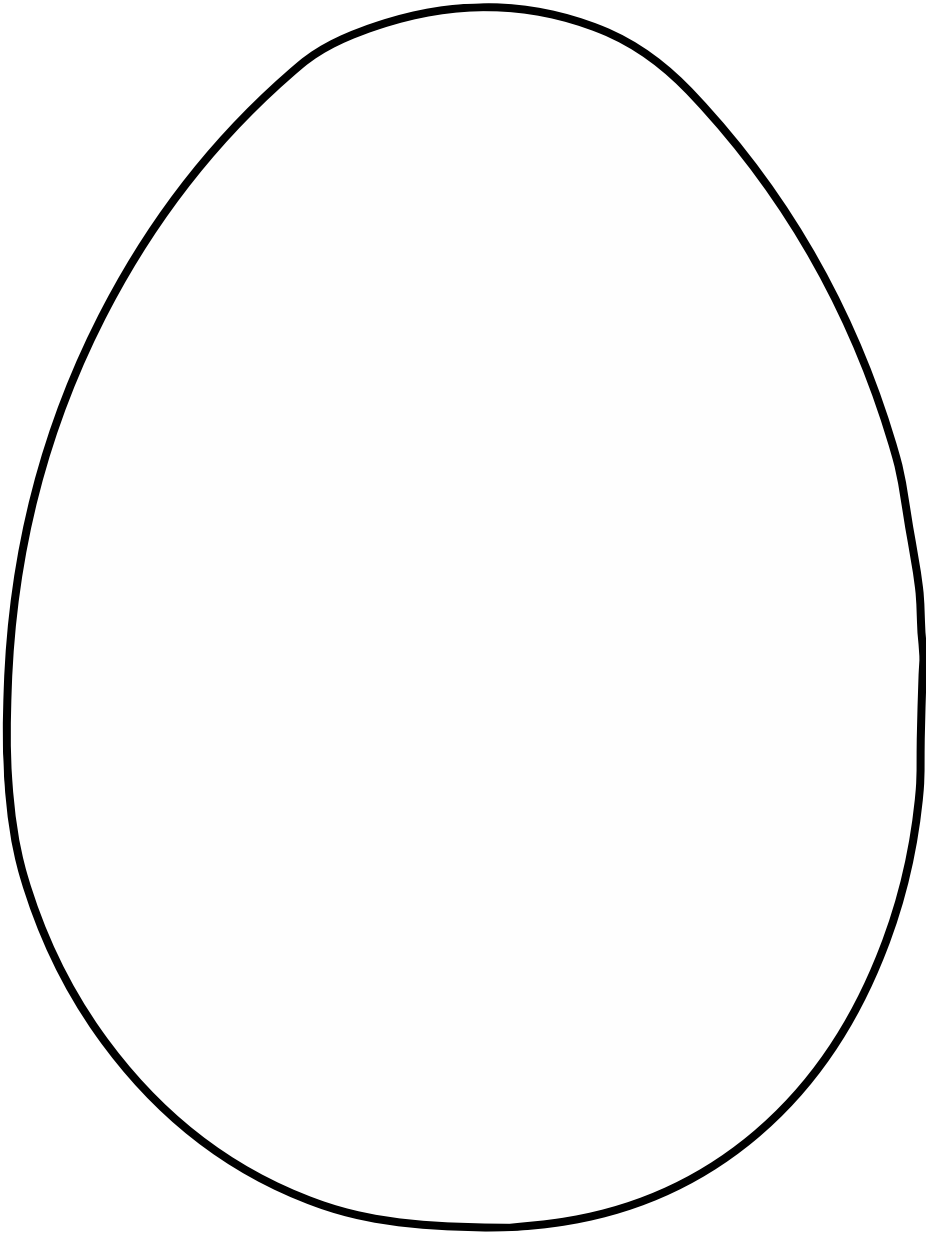
Do you like baking? Great because NSCG love eating and would love you to bake something for our Easter Bake Off. All bakes must register at the YMCA by 12 noon on 30th March to be eligible to be judged by our judges... including Father Christmas!

Winners will be announced at the AGM at 2pm.

Registration will include a list of ingredients and all bakes must be **STRICTLY NO NUTS!** There will be a prize for under 16's and a prize for over 16's. Winners will be announced at the AGM at 2pm.



EASTER EGG DESIGNING COMPETTION



Name: _____

Age: _____

Email address or Telephone Number: _____