



<https://nscommunity.co.uk>

NORTH STONEHAM COMMUNITY GROUP

Welcome!

As we step into spring, we're looking forward to another season of community events, projects and opportunities to connect. It's been a busy start to the year, with plenty happening behind the scenes to make North Stoneham an even better place to live.

In this edition, you'll find out about recent changes to our Trustee Board, updates on our recent activities, as well as details on what's coming up—including our Easter event.

We're always looking for new faces to join us, whether as volunteers, supporters, or simply as part of the conversation. If you'd like to be more involved, we'd love to hear from you!

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LET'S REFLECT ON 2024...

2024 was a year filled with exciting moments and community achievements. We kicked off with a fantastic Easter event, followed by the much-anticipated launch of our community garden. We had a brilliant time at our brand-new Summer event, despite the weather! Our Halloween celebration was a success and our Remembrance event was a meaningful occasion for everyone. To top it all off, our Christmas event was a huge success and we think it was the most magnificent ever!

We hosted our largest jumble sales yet, organised more family cooking sessions and saved thousands of food items from going to landfill at the Community Fridge. More neighbours joined us at NSP as it continued to grow and take shape. It truly was a year to remember.



Looking ahead to 2025, we're excited to continue building on our strong community spirit and offer even more opportunities for everyone to get involved.

CHANGES TO OUR TRUSTEE TEAM



We'd like to extend a huge thank you to Sammy Jordan, who has stepped down as Chair after three years of dedicated leadership. Sammy has played a vital role in shaping the NSCG, bringing energy, passion and a real commitment to the community. We're incredibly grateful that she's staying on as Vice Chair, continuing to support and guide our work

Stepping into the Chair role is Gaz Richardson, who has been an active part of the group and is ready to lead us into this next chapter. We're excited to see how NSCG continues to grow under his leadership.

There have also been some other role changes within the team and we're pleased to introduce the new Trustee line up:

Chair – Gaz Richardson

Vice Chair – Sammy Jordan

Secretary – Alex Barrett

Vice Secretary – Tracey Jones

Treasurer – Agnes Rock

Trustees – Kirsty Balicao, Kathy Grubb, Paula Butcher, Clive Dlima & Sian Aubry-Waddell

At the same time, we say goodbye to Matthew Nowell and Lois Rock, who have stepped down due to other commitments. We'd like to say a huge thank you to both of them for their hard work, support and contributions to the group over the years. They will be missed!

With this strong and committed team, we're looking forward to another great year of community projects, events and opportunities to make a difference.



EXCITING PLANS FOR 2025

As always, NSCG is committed to bringing the community together through fun events, meaningful projects and opportunities to connect. This year, we'll continue to deliver our much-loved annual events while also strengthening our ongoing community initiatives.

Spring & Summer Events

Easter Event & Egg Hunt – Our annual Easter event is back, and this year it's going to be bigger than ever! Collect your activity sheet from the YMCA, find the letters, crack the password and claim your chocolate prize. At the YMCA, you'll find crafts, free refreshments, games and activities—something for all ages to enjoy!

Stoneham Summer Festival

Our summer festival is returning for its second year! Last year's event was a fantastic success despite the rain forcing us indoors—we're hoping for better weather this time so we can enjoy all the activities outside. Expect live entertainment, children's activities, delicious food, a uniform exchange and much more. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates!

Jumble Sales

Our jumble sales have been a fantastic way to promote sustainability and help families find what they need. We'll be running these again, so start saving your pre-loved items to swap or donate!!

Autumn & Winter Events

Halloween Supper Trail – A fantastic family tradition in partnership with St. Nic's Church, bringing spooky fun and community spirit.

Remembrance – A time for the community to come together and mark this important occasion.

Christmas at North Stoneham – Our Christmas lights switch-on and carols around the tree will be back, bigger and brighter than ever!

Ongoing Community Projects

Community Garden

Our mini community garden is up and running and this year we're focusing on building our team and growing more produce. If you'd like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you!



Sustainable Stoneham Community Fridge

Our community fridge continues to provide a vital service, helping to reduce food waste and support local families. Stocked with surplus food from local businesses and donations from the community, it's open to everyone—no referrals, no questions asked. This year, we're working to increase awareness and grow our volunteer team to keep the fridge stocked and accessible to all. If you'd like to help, whether by volunteering or donating food, get in touch.

Regular Litter Picks

Keeping our community clean and green is important to us all, so we're launching regular litter picking activities across North Stoneham. These sessions will be a great way to meet others, get some fresh air and take pride in our local area. Look out for upcoming dates on our Facebook page.

We still need YOU to become a volunteer

Volunteering is an important part of our community.

Many of our events could not happen without support from volunteers. There are lots of different ways of helping with the community fridge, at our Easter event, newsletter deliveries, jumble sales, the summer festival, Halloween supper trail and Christmas events. We want to make our events bigger and better and as our neighbourhood grows, so does the need for more help. Even an hours help, helps us all. We have social events for volunteers and these have been great fun. If you would like more information please contact Kathy on [07931054414](tel:07931054414) to arrange a coffee and a chat and join the team.



Bring you tomato plants on an **EPIC** scale

In 2025 NS Community Gardening are teaming up with the Sustainable Stoneham cooking sessions to make a....

COLLOSAL amount of Ketchup.

The community will be growing 300 tomato plants ready to harvest and make ketchup together as part of a 'Community Ketchup Cooking Kitchen'. The ketchup will be used for our annual Halloween supper trail.

A BIG ask...

Do you have space at your place, to look after a tomato plant? 1, 2 or more it all helps! Whether it's a fruit or a vegetable all we want you to do is love it and help it grow.

When the time comes to pick your tomatoes, enjoy eating the fruits of your hard work BUT please freeze some for our ketchup. Join in with our ketchup cooking session later this year and learn how to make it taste great as well as be healthy.

Choose how much you want to be involved, do what interests you. We will help and support you all the way. There will be a variety of opportunities for you to help out throughout the year. Every EPIC minute of your time and help is valuable to us.

If you'd like to get involved contact us by email or via our Facebook page(below)



For a little task

Ketchup with all the latest news



Facebook 
North Stoneham
Community Gardening

E-mail
nscgardening@gmail.com

Request to join What's app
group please message with
the word **TOMATO**
07412804246



North Stoneham Community Gardening



Gardening Workshops

📍 YMCA Eastleigh

🕒 From 10:30 am - 12:30



Saturday 25th January 2025

Saturday 22nd February 2025

Saturday 22nd March 2025

Saturday 26th April 2025

Saturday 31st May 2025

Saturday 28th June 2025

Saturday 26th July 2025

Saturday 23rd August 2025

Saturday 27th September 2025

Saturday 25th October 2025



Like 'North Stoneham
Community Gardening'
on Facebook for updates!



Everyone is
welcome,
children must
be supervised

NSCG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025



On Monday, 17th March, we held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) at YMCA Eastleigh, bringing together local residents and volunteers to reflect on the past year and our plans for the future.

The evening began with a review of our achievements in 2024, highlighting the success of key initiatives such as our Easter and Christmas events and Community Fridge initiative. We also shared our plans for 2025, with a focus on gaining feedback on how we can make our events and initiatives better and more sustainable.

A key part of the AGM was hearing directly from residents and supporters. They provided us with valuable feedback and ideas which will help to shape our priorities for the year ahead. We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended, contributed and continues to support the work of the NSCG. If you'd like to get more involved or have ideas for future projects, we'd love to hear from you!

**Local Business?
Local Group?**

**Advertise here
and support North
Stoneham Park**

**Delivered to 1,200
homes, 3 times a year**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT
NSCOMMUNITY.CO.UK/NEWSLETTER-ADVERTISING**



Welcome to the 2024 Summer edition of this issue, we're thrilled to share new Community Garden and our very first Summer event is not to be missed!

At NSCG, we strive to make most of our grants available to the community. Our grants are provided by local councils. However, securing these grants has been challenging, especially those essential for these funds, hosting as many events in difficult.

We also receive generous donations from all of our supporters.

NORTH ST



Stoneham Summer Festival

**A FREE FAMILY EVENT
FUN - GAMES - FOOD - CRAFTS**

**SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY 26TH JULY**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

WWW.NSCOMMUNITY.CO.UK/SUMMER





Community Fridge

As we approach the 2nd Anniversary of the Sustainable Stoneham Community Fridge, it's time to reflect on just what the fridge has achieved in those two years.

When the fridge opened back in April 2023, we had an initial goal of saving five tonnes of surplus food in our first year. You can imagine how surprised we were to have achieved this by August 2023, four months after opening! We went on to save 6.5 tonnes by December that year.

2024 saw us expand our collections to include more days and we became more established in the community. To date, we have saved 13.5 tonnes of surplus food from going to waste.

We have also added to our schedule a regular Eastleigh Basics Bank donation, so not only are we helping our North Stoneham Community to be more sustainable, we are also supporting the wider community within Eastleigh.



We have big plans in 2025 to enable us to save even more surplus food. We're hoping to add a Freezer to run alongside our existing fridge and we have just secured funding from Eastleigh Borough Council and the UKSPF fund to do this.

As the fridge continues to grow and support our community, we need to say a massive thank you to our volunteers that make everything possible. Without their dedication and support, we would not be able to run the fridge. They have spent 1265 hours over the past two years cleaning, checking, driving around collecting food and stocking the fridge. They are all amazing and we would not be here without them.

If you are interested in finding out more about volunteering with the Sustainable Stoneham Community Fridge, email us at SustainableStoneham@gmail.com



Funded by
UK Government



Cookery Workshops

We are busy planning the schedule for our popular cookery sessions and will be releasing the next batch of dates in the coming weeks on our social media channels. In 2024, we made the decision to try and run a session once a month, which we are hoping to continue with in 2025.



So far this year we have run sessions to make chicken curry and one on batch cooking. These sessions are great fun and an opportunity to try new things and learn new skills. For example, we never knew how easy it was to make a dough for pizza with just two ingredients!

Sadly, we have seen an increase in people booking places at these sessions and then forgetting to turn up, meaning that others have missed out and ingredients have been wasted. So this is just a reminder that if you do book onto one of our sessions and then can't make it, please let us know so we can offer the place to someone on our waiting list.

If you have any ideas on what you would like to see us cook or are interested in helping us run these sessions, please get in touch at SustainableStoneham@gmail.com as we are always looking for inspiration.



CHICKEN & VEGETABLE MASALA

SERVES: 4

PREPPING TIME: 20 MIN

COOKING TIME: 30 MIN

DIRECTIONS

1. lightly fry the diced onion and minced garlic until soft
2. add the chicken and cook until browned
3. whilst the chicken is browning bring a pan of water to the boil and add the rice
4. over a medium heat, add the curry paste and stir to coat the chicken
5. add the tinned tomatoes to the chicken and bring to a simmer, simmer for 5 minutes
6. add the coconut milk and bring back to a simmer
7. add the butternut squash, mushrooms and spinach and simmer until the squash is soft
8. drain rice and fluff
9. serve with rice

NOTES

For a vegetarian option substitute the Chicken for Quorn fillers.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 onion (diced)
- 1 tin of chopped tomatoes
- 1/3 jar of your favourite curry paste
- 3 cubes of frozen spinach
- 1/2 bag cook from frozen chicken
- 1/2 tin of coconut milk
- 200g mushrooms
- 2 cloves of garlic
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 360g rice (90g per person)
- 1/2 butternut squash



Funded by
UK Government



NORTH STONEHAM PUBLIC ART JOIN IN!



**HELP MAKE AN ART TRAIL THAT
CELEBRATES LOCAL WILDLIFE
AND COMMUNITY**

ALL WELCOME

FREE FAMILY WORKSHOP

DROP IN AT ANY TIME BETWEEN 3.30 TO 5PM

THURSDAY 17 APRIL

AT YMCA EASTLEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE

GET HANDS ON MAKING THINGS

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED

We'll also be running free creative workshops in April, May and June at YMCA Eastleigh and The Brickworks Museum, Swanwick.

Have a go at making models for metal casting and carving clay sculptures. Come along on the 17th April to find out more!

If you can't make it on the 17th April then scan the QR code or see the website tinyurl.com/NSPublicArt for more information or email us at juneau.projects@gmail.com





YMCA 'MATTERS'

Hello, Derren Storey your YMCA Community Manager here. Spring is here, the sun is shining (occasionally), the socialising is back in full swing and we're really glad to see the back of the Winter!

Now, we're very much looking forward to seeing you all enjoy some alfresco iced lattes and ice creams in the outdoor seating area as that area, along with the community garden, should begin to start blooming for the first time since its creation last year. And we have a lot of other things to look forward to here at YMCA too.



Easter & Summer kids activities

The Easter kids activities are nearly sold out but you may find a few spaces left on laser tag, nerf games, treasure hunt and the craft workshop. As we get near to the end of the Easter break we will release the May and Summer activities programme, you can look forward to discos, crazy creatures, weird science, SEN sensory & activity sessions, free family fun, messy play, biscuits & baskets, multi-crafts and of course laser tag and nerf.

Chatty Café

This wonderful initiative continues. Please encourage anybody who you may know who is socially isolated and really could use a friendly natter with our team (and goodness knows they can natter!) to pop down and sit on our chatty café table, easily recognised by the big yellow tent card stood up on it. We will make them a new friend.

Police Community Drop-ins

The PSCO team are here on the following dates to talk any issues you wish to discuss relating to the policing of the community: May 21st, June 18th and July 16th from 10am – 11.30

Other items of interest for members of our community who may not know what goes on here:

- Baby & Toddler Group – A free play group on Wednesdays from 10am to 12pm
- Short Mat Bowls – Fridays at 2pm to 3.30pm, £5pp this includes a hot drink. Join our super regular friendly bunch.
- Great Strides Running Group – A free running session for all abilities run by our volunteer Mark, a Royal Marines Commando. Monday evenings 6.30pm.
- Over 60's Group – Tuesdays from 2pm, join like minded friends from the community for chats and drinks.
- Forget me-not Café – Last Friday of the month 2-3.30pm, for people living with or who are newly diagnosed with dementia. Join our friends from Rotary and dementia friendly Hampshire who run the session.

Finally, we'd like to thank the North Stoneham Community Group for all their efforts. We, as a community, are very lucky to have some truly giving people living among us who help make this a wonderful place to live and bring up a family. We'd like to thank YOU for your support in using the centre and the café, Spending money with us helps us as a charity support young people and families in need, retain highly skilled staff helping families with SEN children lead happy, healthy lives, help communities in much need of social provision and services and it helps us run the UK's biggest 'Young Carers Festival' at Fairthorne Manor, giving some incredible young people much needed respite from caring for relatives. So, from buying a coffee to having a child attend nursery, to hiring the hall or joining an activity, you help us help others. Thank you.



Clean Bin Busters

Is your bin in need of a clean?
Join our North Stoneham
Estate round now.

No need to be in, just leave
your bin out after your bin
collection.

We offer 4 weekly or 8 weekly
cleans from £5 per bin.



Cleanbinbusters@hotmail.com | www.cleanbinbusters.com

07393937994



Find us on:
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The Parish of
North Stoneham
& Bassett

FREE

Welcome!

St Nic's Community Cafe Church

YMCA North Stoneham Park 4-5.30pm
12 Jan, 16 Feb, 16 March, 20 April, 18 May,
15 June, 20 July



CRAFT CAKE LEGO GAMES ACTIVITIES FUN



NSCG

EASTER AT NSP

North Stoneham Easter Egg Hunt

We're looking forward to welcoming the community to our FREE annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday 19th April at YMCA Eastleigh. The egg hunt will open at 11am, with clue sheets available until 3pm. Prizes will be handed out until 4pm.

We'll have FREE craft activities inside from 12pm, so we suggest doing the egg hunt first followed by the crafts. FREE refreshments will also be available, while stocks last!

Easter Egg Competition

Design an Easter egg and win prizes! You can download a copy of the competition sheet on our website (Scan the QR code on the next page or visit <https://nscommunity.co.uk/Easter>) or pick up a printed copy from the cafe at the YMCA. We'll also have some to complete in the hall on the day. There are 4 age categories, under 5, 6-8, 9-12, over 12. All entries must include a name, age and contact information. Completed entries should be handed in to the cafe at the YMCA. The deadline for entries is 3pm on 19th April.

Other Activities

This year, we're aiming to make the event bigger and better! We will have a number of games and activities for you to take part in, though these will have a small charge of between 50p and £1 a go.

Our Community Fridge and Community Garden teams will also have some FREE activities for you to take part in.

We're also holding a raffle, with many prizes to be won! Tickets can be purchased on the day and we can take both cash and card payments.

Daniela's Ices will also be paying us a visit, so you can enjoy a nice ice cream. Keep those fingers crossed for a lovely sunny spring day!

NORTH STONEHAM **EASTER**

SAT 19TH
APRIL
11AM-4PM

FREE FAMILY FUN

CRAFTS, STALLS
FOOD & MORE



NSCOMMUNITY.CO.UK/EASTER
DOWNLOAD OUR EASTER EGG DRAWING
COMPETITION OR PICK UP A COPY FROM THE YMCA

