

**STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL**  
NIB SPRING PORTFOLIO 2024



**Environment, Education & Conservation**

Northumbria in Bloom has enabled Stanley to create the gift that keeps giving to our community ..... year after year!



Stanley Town Council (STC) commenced their Bloom journey by preparing to enter the Northumbria in Bloom (NIB) competition late in 2018 with the Town Council's small Environmental Team and two Neighbourhood Wardens. STC entered the 2019 NIB competition in the Large Town Category and in the first year with limited resources gained a very respectful SILVER award. With the 2020 competition being cancelled due to the pandemic, STC didn't rest on their laurels! Continuing to engage partners and carry on where they could through 2020 with all of the bloom projects in readiness for the 2021 competition. All of the effort paid off reaching an amazing SILVER GILT in 2021.

In 2022 Stanley maintained the previous year's achievement with a further SILVER GILT award also collecting the accolade of BEST IN CLASS. This demonstrated the pride and commitment of STC, the residents and local business community.

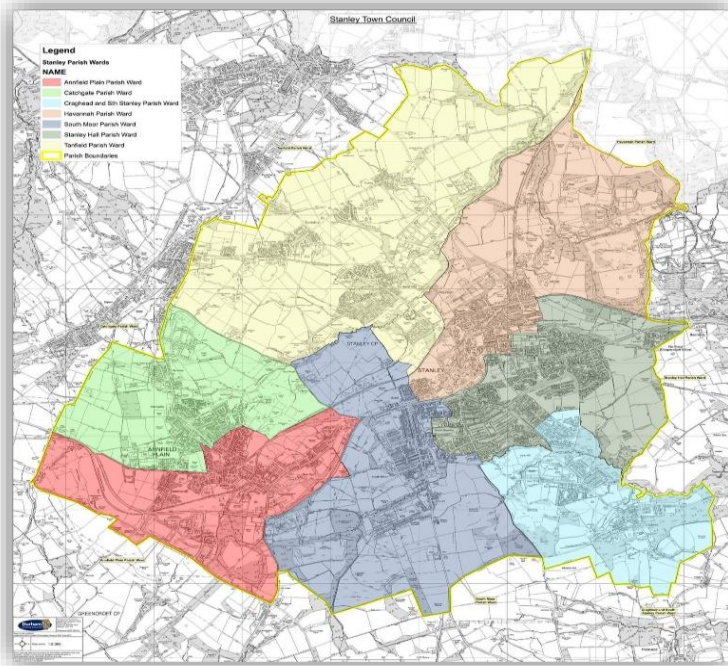
Stanley Town Council were awarded their first GOLD award in 2023 which was a fantastic achievement considering the harsh windy climate in Stanley, even in summer. All STC partners have adapted well to the working with the climate conditions in Stanley. There is definitely a sense of greater pride within the residents, groups and businesses in the area which is a huge credit to them all.

All of the partners following our 2023 GOLD award are all dedicated and eager to continue our achievement for 2024 or dare we say improve on our success. STC will continue to support our partners and will always endeavour to go the extra mile with a hands-on and a warm friendly approach encouraging our partners to stand on their own.

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## Introduction to Stanley



Stanley is a small settlement of ancient origin and was first mentioned in 1211 as 'Stanlegh' being derived from Old English, 'Staenig-leah', meaning stony clearing or stanig and hlaw, taken from stone hill which was historically an Anglo-Saxon settlement.

From around 1650 to 1850, the town slowly grew bigger as coal was found locally. Between 1840 to 1970 there were two dozen mines operating in the town and surrounding villages that made up the area governed by Stanley Town Council.

Stanley is therefore now a former colliery town and civil parish in County Durham, England. It is centered on a hilltop and lies south-west of Gateshead. Stanley stretches into what were formerly neighboring villages and towns, such as Annfield Plain to the West and Beamish to the East. It is one of the largest town councils in the country, covering seven wards.

Much of the land in the town and surrounding villages has at one point been used for industrial purposes or low-cost housing but has proudly kept the green spaces which remain as valuable resources for the communities. The Council has always agreed that all seven wards would be included in NIB to promote continued community pride.

The above map displays the seven wards that make up the STC area.

The registered electoral role stands at 23,937 for 2024.



## Stanley In Bloom.

The beginning:

In 2014 the Town Council introduced Blooming Good Fun a garden competition for all residents which has continued annually ever since. All participants are encouraged not only to showcase their horticultural finesse but also their design skills no matter how large or small their space may be. Anyone can enter it doesn't matter if you are a resident with a yard, window box or beautiful floral garden, a business, Care Home, cafe everyone is welcome. Annually STC send 3 judges out over several days usually during August to judge all the categories. Each year the judges are excited to see the ingenuity and creative talents of all the entrants.

In November a presentation evening is held and all entrants invited. The evening is a great event to get all participants into one room, to chat all things horticultural, watch a video presentation of all their hard work and receive praise for their endeavours and certificates for the category winners and overall winner. The evening is always a huge success with people sharing their gardening stories and horticultural ideas.



It is as a result of this local competition that STC made the huge step into Northumbria in Bloom, harnessing the positive vibes of Blooming Good Fun and rolling them out in the Stanley in Bloom entry.

Stanley in Bloom predominately leads our in-bloom efforts and provides funding where needed. STC works in partnership with other organisations that wish to support us. Our main partner is Durham County Council (DCC). Stanley in Bloom started in 2015 with residents involved in DCC's Stanley Area Action Partnership (SAAP). The residents wanted the two councils to do more to enhance the wider town with improvement on green spaces. STC were happy to work with the community, take the lead and add additional value to services provided by DCC. A grant of £7,000 was obtained to begin the "on the ground improvements" scheme. Stanley In Bloom continues to grow each year with a range of community groups, businesses and individuals contributing both funding along with their own time to help local initiatives.

Stanley has had many different organizations working and volunteering around the Town Council area to bring great improvements to the presentation of the town, and in doing so, improving the quality of life of its residents, visitors, and workers, all who have benefited.

STC initially entered NIB with the help of DCC officers in 2019; STC began to manage their own entries and increased the amount of work and group interaction within the STC community.

The Town Council support residents with their projects and in doing so promoting NIB locally wherever possible. STC provide all funding themselves to support the bulk of Stanley in Bloom and link it each year to a theme.

All of STC's partners are now positively engaging with the NIB competition and are encouraged to enhance their projects with sustainable practices, re-cycling, and environmental issues. Local schools have added re-cycling to their curriculum in partnership with the keep Britain tidy campaign and the big spring clean-up.



The STC Wardens arrange school visits to discuss NIB, Keep Britain tidy, environmental awards, re-cycling, reusing, funding, horticultural issues and answer any questions the children have on the environment. Children look forward to meeting the NIB judges and showing them the many projects, they are involved in which is creating an increased sense of Pride. Some of our partners arrange their own litter picking events in partnership with Stanley Town Council and Durham County Council. Partner litter picking events list: Stanley Action Partnership (AAP), Tanfield Village, Tanfield Railway, Karbon Homes, Sustrans, Wear Rivers Trust, Groundwork UK, Beamish Football Centre and many more. There are also 10 residents who litter pick on a regular basis on their own round the Stanley area.



### **Working in Partnership with the Community**

The partnerships continue to grow and be strong. The commitment and dedication to NIB shows great pride in place and in our partners' efforts. The partners are now working stronger together on the various projects which are bringing the local community even closer. Schools are proudly entering environmental awards with the RHS. Schools now understand it is important that once a project has been completed, it also requires to be maintained for years to come.





STC have now planted up all flower beds that they maintain with shrubs and summer flower herbaceous plants embracing sustainability. The spring and summer bedding has been reduced however some bedding is still used through the beds for added colour as the other plants mature.

The STC apprentice (Ethan) has now completed his horticultural training at Houghall College with flying colours. Pictured below is one of the sustainable planting beds completed by Ethan. The bed was formally all bedding.



**Stanley is developing into a vibrant and attractive place to live, work and visit. Some of the partners involved are listed below 40 plus partners including subgroups of partners included in the listing:**

- Stanley Area Action Partnership
- Stanley Town Council (Neighbourhood Wardens)
- Durham County Council (Neighbourhood wardens)
- Stanley Traders Association
- Keep Britain Tidy Campaign
- Local Primary Schools
- North Durham Academy (NDA)
- Karbon Homes
- Northeast Probation Service
- Youth Offending Team
- Sustrans
- Just For Women Centre
- Local Printing Company
- Love Beamish and Stanley
- Durham Wildlife Trust
- Wear Rivers Trust
- Plastics Working Group
- Groundwork NE
- Derwentside College
- Stanley Travel
- Stanley Pathways Project
- Stanley Neighbourhood Watch Association
- Durham Agency Against Crime HAGGRID Project
- The Louisa Centre Nursery
- Stanley Town Council and Durham County Council Elected Members
- Durham Constabulary (South Moor/Stanley Neighbourhood Policing Teams)
- Durham Constabulary Mini Police
- The Haven Community Centre and South Moor Partnership – Little Angels
- Durham County Council (Civic Pride, Regeneration, Clean & Green)
- Durham County Council Recycling Team.
- Stanley In Bloom Volunteer Partnership
- Local Nurseries and Garden Centres
- Woodshed Workshop
- Tanfield Railway
- Oxhill Nursery School Stanley
- The Forge
- Annfield Plain Cricket Club
- Beamish Football Centre South Stanley
- Leamside Nurseries Leamside (Trade nursery)
- Brandon School (Former Stanley Teacher)





- Craghead Community Allotment Garden Team.
- Durham County Council Countryside Rangers.
- South Stanley Partnership.

Partners are always looking for new ideas and improvements to their sites which STC support. Various funding opportunities and information are researched by STC and directed to our partners. This provides valuable funds and information/details to keep them informed. Support with applications is made available. STC have successfully secured £5000 from the Area Action Partnership (AAP) this year, to support everyone's efforts this year.

### **St Joseph's RC School Stanley**



The school proudly enter various environmental awards, including RHS, Keep Britain Tidy and John Muir. Each year the school apply to the Woodland Trust for donated trees. This year 2023/24 a mixture of 1000 speed plug trees have been delivered direct to the school. DCC (one of our partners), provided suitable planting areas for the trees. St Josephs apply for the trees every year and from 2019 to 2024 have helped plant over 3000 trees.

### **Oxhill Nursery School Stanley**



Oxhill nursery school joined Stanley Town Council in Northumbria in bloom last year after showing interest in the national competition. The head teacher and staff have used the school curriculum to promote horticulture and well being to the pupils at an early age. Last year the judges walked into the school to see how they have developed and were very impressed making the comment you are doing very well to be a possible special entry. The school carry out litter picks and have teaching classes arranged for the wild-flora meadow next to the school. This will identify all wildlife living in the meadow which will be a great learning tool for the school.

Planters and wooden tubs have been recycled from the former offices at Stanley civic hall, giving them a new home at the school. The children maintain the planters as part of Stanley in bloom.

### **South Causey Inn Hotel and Community Garden Stanley**

The hotel is one of STC's specials in the national competition and a premier venue for weddings in this area. The grounds are well planned and developed by Head Gardener Stephen who is dedicated

young gardener. Spring and summer bedding plants adorn the well-maintained lawns. He has now turned his attention to sustainability with the planting of all year-round foliage and colour with shrubs.

The community garden has been refurbished recently transforming it into a major feature not only for the business but the proprietors wish to make the area available to the local community to use. The development of new entrance gates refurbished of course (found in a corner of the hotel grounds), footpaths, a pond and water fall feature, hard stand area for a marquee tent (used for school education trips), poly-tunnel (growing seeds/plants with schools), pergolas and soft landscaping areas. Ornamental bark has been introduced in the shrub areas to reduce maintenance on the sustainable planting.

Staff and volunteers from the hotel carry out weekly litter picking events in the hotel grounds, and outside area. Following direction from the NIB judges in 2023 the pond area is now being developed. The hotel is working with the Woodland Trust in the pond area where 46,000 are being planted over the next year. The North section of the hotel pond area is being planted up by partners and volunteers with Woodland Trust trees supplied by St Joseph's RC School Stanley.

Pictured are staff and children from Croft Community School, volunteers and staff from the Weir Rivers Trust planting fruit trees at the pond. The total trees planted in this section of the pond area are now over 1000.

The pond area will see the construction of walkway footpaths, a raft for nesting birds on the pond and a wildlife survey completed to see what wildlife the hotel attracts.



## **Just For Women Centre Stanley**

The Just for Women Centre in Stanley is very active in the community. The centre is a location for women and men who can access and speak to a counsellor face to face and discuss various issues with a professional. The health and wellbeing garden attached to the centre is a key area for relaxing and having a chat. The staff and clients of the centre all get involved with the garden, planting up spring and summer bedding and enhancing the many pots/planters. The secluded garden with its own

eco-climate provides the perfect growing conditions for the women to enjoy the relaxed surroundings daily.

Sustainable plants/shrubs have now been planted in the garden to reduce bedding costs and display a permanent feature. The ladies lead by Debbie have taken over Stanley police station planting up the two beds at the entrance with sustainable shrubs and herbaceous plants to enhance the once dreary site. There are plans to install an additional sustainable bed at the back of the station and the ladies are researching suitable funding to complete the project. Preparations are underway for Stanley in Bloom 2024.



### **Durham County Council – Leamside Nurseries**

DCC provide much of our spring and summer annual bedding requirements for the STC area each year, where we have built an excellent partnership and all staff work in harmony. The plants are grown at the DCC Morrison Busty Nursery ready for collection and planting by STC environmental caretakers and wardens. Morrison Busty Nursery provides expert advice on plant management to its partners and customers on an annual basis. This is very important due to the varying weather conditions throughout the year in the STC area even in the summer, being on top of a hill. The trade nursery STC previously partnered with New Row Farm, Tow Law unfortunately has closed and gone back to a private dwelling. Fear not STC have developed another partner now drawing on our contacts at Leamside Nurseries at Leamside County Durham. STC having negotiated



some excellent trade discount for all our horticultural requirements going forward. Win Win keep it local!



### **South Moor and Memorial Park**

In 1920 South Moor Colliery presented a park to the village to commemorate the miners and other local inhabitants who died in the 1914-18 World War. The Park today provides tennis courts and a bowling green in addition to play equipment. The whole family can enjoy a walk-in natural woodland through which runs Stanley Burn, crossed in several places by small footbridges and is part of the South Moor Stanley Heritage Trail. Over the past years Groundwork NE along with Wear Rivers Trust and other partners have been working on the burn within the park to improve water quality and reduce the risk of flooding. The project cost was £800,000 with STC contributing £60,000 funding to this invaluable the project to be completed. The project is a huge success and has greatly reduced flooding incidents in and around the park.

Greenland School South Moor carry out regular litter picks of the park to ensure the park is clean and tidy. DCC also organise walking groups using the park on a regular basis as part of their exercise route and litter pick, as they go. Below is one of the many information boards on the trail; this one is in South Moor Park. The flooding on Pine Street South Moor was a serious problem before however a project to install 3 soak-away shrub beds (planted with various hardy perennials) has successfully reduced the flooding considerably. .

A member of the public has designed and painted a fairy trail and she has erected the various fairy designs throughout the park. The 200 trail has been well received by local schools during litter picking events and environmental walks. This type of community engagement attracts people of all ages to the park for all to enjoy.



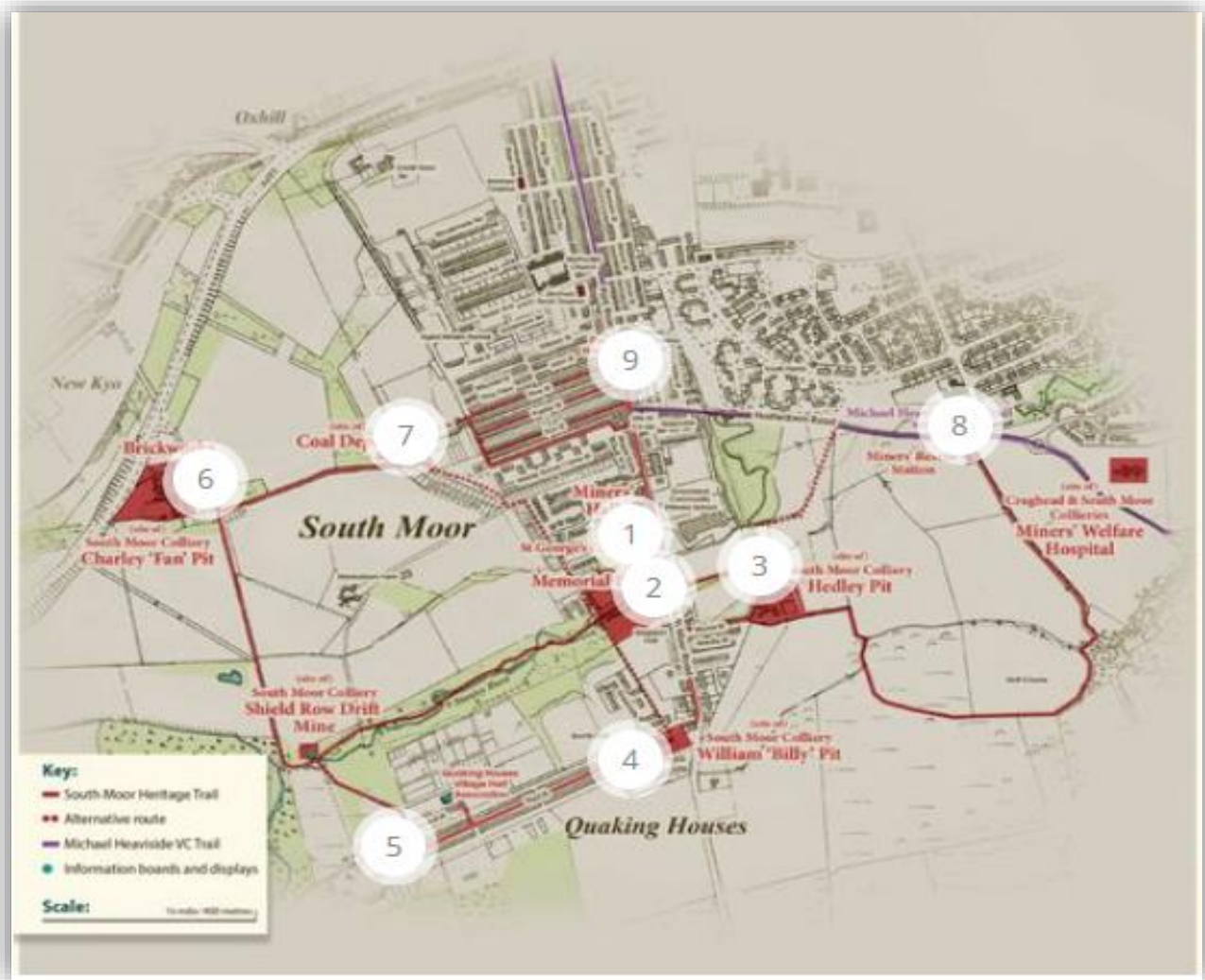
### **South Moor Heritage Trail**

South Moor and Quaking Houses were typical colliery villages that developed before and just after the First World War, around four collieries of William Hedley's South Moor Colliery Company. South Moor Heritage trail is a five-mile circular walk around key eight heritage sites of South Moor and Quaking Houses that existed during or soon after the First World War. Each site is marked by an interpretation board detailing the significance and heritage of the site. Each interpretation board is linked via a QR code to this website providing further interesting information about the history of the site. Rights of way between the eight sites along the trail are marked by 'way markers' to keep you on the right path.

STC are now working with DCC countryside ranger Mr Richie Bell on ensuring the heritage trail is walk able carrying out tree/shrub pruning, grass cutting when required to ensure the trail is safe and pleasant to see.

<http://www.southmoorheritage.org.uk>





## Stanley SUDs+

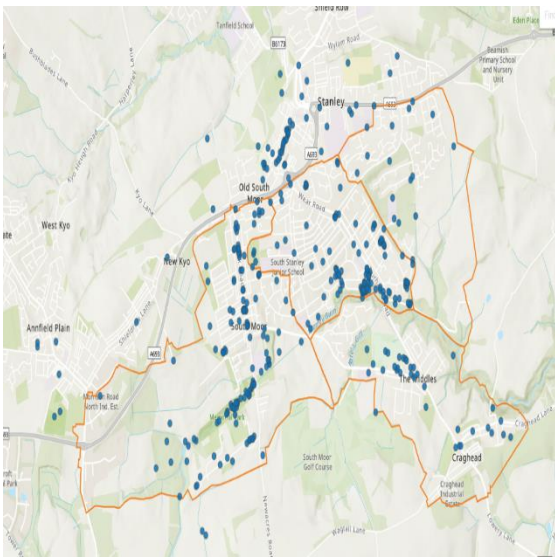
Stanley SUDs have been very active in South Stanley following a community survey last year 2023 on flooding and the environmental effects it has on the community. Rain monitoring equipment has been placed in three separate locations to monitor rainfall.

Following on from the public workshops the data has all been formulated and additional workshops have now started in March 2024. The blue dots on the map are the survey location results.



The public have highlighted possible areas of improvement in this local which have been investigated to see if they can be implemented if suitable sustainable funding is obtained.

The public would like to see additional tree planting, flower displays, playgrounds, venues for outdoor events, litter picking events and much more. STC will support the public and encourage them to be sustainable and take the lead in their Stanley in Bloom projects.



**Tree Planting In Stanley (last chance of the winter)**

South Causey Inn Garden (below Blue Bell pub)  
 Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023 10 am-12 noon  
 Tools and trees provided

For more information contact Dave Jarvis [david.jarvis@durham.gov.uk](mailto:david.jarvis@durham.gov.uk)





**Got a few hours spare?  
 Want to improve the area?  
 Why not join us for our Litter  
 Picks in February?**

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 10-12  
 Meet in car park opposite St Stephen's Centre

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 10-12  
 Meet at Craghead Village Hall

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 10-12  
 Meet in South Moor Park car park

All equipment provided sign up via <https://wear-rivers-trust.teamkinetic.co.uk/>

For more information email  
[mark.davinson@wear-rivers-trust.org.uk](mailto:mark.davinson@wear-rivers-trust.org.uk)




### The Greenhouse Greencroft Industrial Estate

The Greenhouse currently looks after and maintains a pond next to the business building. The staff plant up the area with spring and summer bedding plants. The area is litter picked regularly.

This is the new base for Stanley Town Council and will be part of our new Northumbria in Bloom judge's route. This area replaces the Civic Hall (STC's previous home) which is now under different ownership. Many horticultural features have been re-located from the Civic Hall Site to The Greenhouse site as part of our recycling and adaptation initiative. Spring features have been installed and work continues to update summer features on the conservation site.



There are several volunteers who litter pick the area on a regular basis to keep their environment clean and tidy. STC appreciates their assistance and thus support the volunteers who carry out the litter picks in their own time.



Before



After

### **Stanley Angling Club Greencroft Industrial Estate**

The Angling Club rent the land from DCC on an annual rental agreement. Part of that agreement is the maintenance and upkeep of the pond and surrounding land. The club have improved fishing stands on the pond embankments, planted new trees and shrubs, re-barked many of the existing footpaths, stocked up with new fish and some selective pruning around the footpaths with the support of STC & DCC. The club operate a catch and release policy and re-stocking the pond with fish which are purchased from the Environment Agency.

The club continue to carry out regular litter picks to the site. New litter bins have been installed, which has reduced significantly the amount of litter entering the water. The club has been successful in applying for funding to have new security fencing installed and two containers to store equipment.



The club pan to continue with shrub planting and re-barking of footpaths which highlights the pride and commitment to the environment by the club. Long may it continue?



The club ensure all members and visitors have the relevant licenses to fish the pond and follow club rules when fishing.

The STC wardens patrol the area to ensure there are no ASB issues like there have been in the past so the anglers can enjoy fishing and the environment. The site has a beautiful landscape which the club keep clean and tidy encouraging wildlife.

### **Stanley Town Council Gateway Features**

In 2019 it was agreed with Durham County Council (landowner) to enhance the entrance roads into the Stanley Town Council area. STC installed six gateway features. Whiskey barrels were purchased from a local supplier. The six gateway features are currently located at: Good Street, No Place, South Causey, Greencroft, Craghead and Harelaw. Sustainable shrubs and herbaceous plants have been added to make the sites sustainable. The refurbishment project has been completed to replace the six whiskey barrel sites with new barrels with three of the sites having iron hand pumps fitted. The wooden birds-mouth fencing has been repainted to further enhance the popular gateway features with the public.





## Stanley Town Council Projects

Stanley Town Council is constantly looking to improve Stanley and its environment under the Northumbria in Bloom competitions improve each year scoring system. The projects can be from STC staff and employees or from our many partners. Feedback from the public is crucial as it highlights problem areas and grot-spots. Planning then takes place with the public and partners to collectively come up with a suitable idea to develop the area accordingly, with the various partners helping to maintain the features/displays/projects in the future. As mentioned before sustainability is built into the project from the start to ensure the project is successful and sustainable and enjoyed for many years to come. Partnership working provides STC with many new projects from residents/partners who want to get involved and tidy up grot-spots in the area they live in. STC arrange meetings to discuss the projects and agree with the residents an action plan. The plan is then priced up and our new partners can apply for funding with STC's help. It is important that partners understand that the project must be sustainable to be a success in the future. We welcome ideas and love to help put them into action.



The IYN awards are directly linked to various project improvements each year for STC and its many partners. Partners in the main competition and IYN section have commented on the many photos at the awards ceremony at THE FED. The photos have inspired people to come up with their own unique designs for projects.

Six partners have entered (IYN) this year promoting the continued improvements to Stanley in bloom.

You must remember most of the people involved are not professional gardener's however the ideas they come up with are stunning and a delight to see. STC supported 6 partners back in 2019 now we support over 43 partners, promoting community engagement, recycling, sustainability and horticulture in all projects.

### **In Your Neighbourhood**

Last year's ten new partnerships were a huge success and STC have sent out invites to enter for 2023. Support is provided to any new partners with STC attending meetings to work with the staff with detailed advice for their grounds. Discussions on projects and advice is given for applications & judging criteria for In Your Neighbourhood (IYN) applications. This provides the partners with a vision for their projects. Partners have also provided feedback on how many residents are now taking notice and engaging, taking extra pride in the area by tidying up of their gardens, litter picking and more volunteer work.

Karbon Homes one of our partners has purchased the Old Board School building on Stanley, Front Street. They are carrying out a public engagement survey to see how locals would like the building to be used.





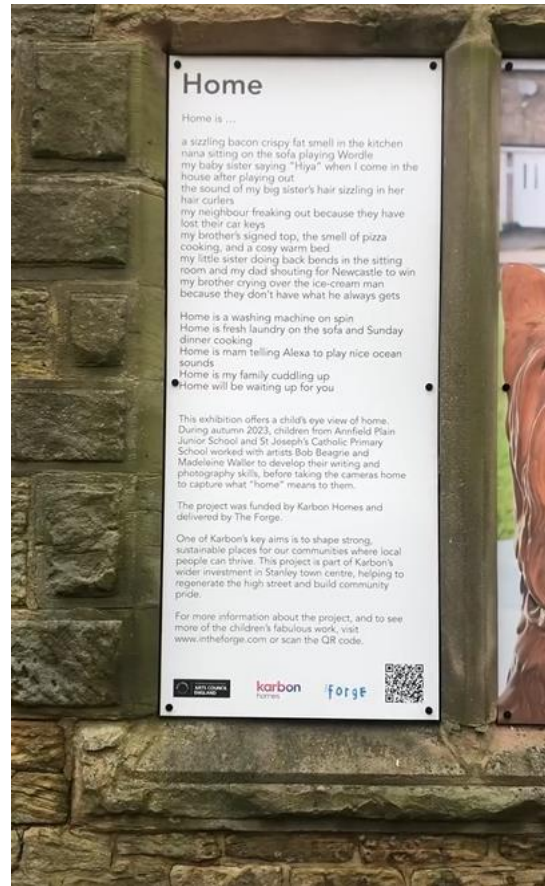
## **The Forge**

The Old School Building has recently become an eyesore on the Front Street. Stanley Town Council came up with the idea to cover the windows and doors of the building with artwork from local schools. St Joseph's RC completed the first project with AAP funding. St Josephs and six other schools completed the next project. The forge completed the next project titled local heroes back in 2022.

Karbon Homes the new building owners have commissioned this year's artwork exhibition on the School building which is focusing on children's home lives. This type of commercial community project is instrumental to the successful development of Stanley. The key focus is bringing the community together to improve the environment, educate the youth of the future to respect their local environment and encourage new business.

Last year several new businesses locate to Stanley Greggs, Costa Coffee and Dominique's Pizza. A former pub The Royal on Station Road Stanley has been developed into office space.

**The Forge artwork exhibition 2024 commisioned by Karbon Homes.**



The group picture is of the school children who designed the artwork with the artist.

### Spring Bulb Planting

Planting up of new daffodil floats in the Stanley area is always an encouraging and a big event with the local schools. This has become an annual event in partnership with DCC who identify different sites for the daffodil floats each year. The parents from schools also proudly attend events with their



children under environmental tidy ups, which is well received. This type of community engagement promotes togetherness in the area and educates people on the importance of programmes like Keep Britain Tidy and Northumbria in Bloom.



Oxhill Nursey School Stanley.



No Place Gateway feature Stanley.



### **Wild Flora Meadows**

Durham County Council maintains over 10 wild flora meadows in the Stanley town council area. The protected areas are well maintained and depending on the condition of the flower sites, they are re-seeded on a four-year plan. This ensures that wildlife is attracted to the flowering site and the colourful displays are well received by the local public.

The following areas are programmed for reseeded this year 2024.

- Beamish roundabout A693 Stanley.
- Harelaw B6168 Stanley.

The Wear Rivers Trust and a local councillor have been approached by residents to see if two new wild-flora meadows can be installed in Stanley as part of environment improvements. STC support the residents (possible new partners in Stanley in bloom) and look forward to working with them in the future.

The environmental and eco-friendly sites are closely monitored by a specialist department at DCC who issue instructions to DCC Clean & Green department on when they can maintain and re-seed sites. DCC have given the Town Council permission to plant daffodil bulbs in the wild-flora meadows with our partners.

### **Stanley Town Council Blooming Good Fun**



Stanley Town Council host their own garden competition every year which has been a huge hit with the residents of Stanley. The competition has grown each year and this year over 50 applications have been sent out to former entrants. The banners are out throughout the town to attract any new entrants to the competition. BGF has also attracted partners to join STC in Northumbria in bloom and this year.

One of our outright winners has agreed to show his garden in the specials category of the regional competition supporting Stanley in bloom.

### **Stanley Town Council – Apprenticeship Scheme**

Ethan Clark has now completed his apprenticeship attending Houghall College Durham with flying colours. Ethan has been awarded an NVQ level 2 in Horticulture which is a great achievement promoting horticulture in his new career. The photo below shows the range of new herbaceous plants which have been planted in the Stanley Town Council beds under sustainability. Ethan also used the plants as part of his college exam for plant identification.



Below Ethan pruning and shaping established shrubs.



## Events

Stanley Town Council not only promote their own events but also promote as many local community events as possible via our Social Media platforms and Website.

- <https://www.stanley-tc.gov.uk/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/stanleydh9>

Social media is a good way to connect with people, receive feedback and interact with the community under community engagement. STC and the STC neighbourhood wardens monitor Face book for improvements to services and what is happening locally. This is also a good way to promote Northumbria in Bloom and various campaigns within the local community. Showboat any partnership projects and champion community engagement. Other events include Armed Forces day, Miners Sunday, Remembrance Day, Stanley Fireworks Display and much much more going on in the Stanley area.

**TIME TO TALK  
TIME TO WALK** Unleash  
Walk  
Durham

**3 WALKS FOR 6 WEEKS!**

Click the link to book a place  
[www.durham.gov.uk/walkdurham](http://www.durham.gov.uk/walkdurham)

**Come join us!**  
Anyone can come along to enjoy our short walks and meet new people.  
You are welcome to join us for all of the walks but you can also choose which ones you would like to attend.  
These walks promote positive mental well-being and encourage you to get out and be active.  
At the end of the walk you'll have access to refreshments and a chance to find out about local health and wellbeing services.

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>WOLSINGHAM</b><br>MEET 10:30AM AT ST ANNE'S CENTRE<br>DL15 5AT<br>EVERY THURSDAY<br>2ND FEBRUARY - 9TH MARCH | <b>MURTON</b><br>MEET AT 1:30PM AT THE DANCING BETTY PUB DALTON PARK<br>SR79HU<br>EVERY MONDAY<br>15TH FEBRUARY - 20TH MARCH | <b>STANLEY</b><br>MEET 3:30PM AT THE PACT HOUSE<br>DH9 0JE<br>EVERY WEDNESDAY<br>1ST MARCH - 5TH APRIL |
|---|--|--|

For enquiries or more information contact:  
[chris.affleck@investinginchildren.net](mailto:chris.affleck@investinginchildren.net) or 0191 307 7030

*Stanley*  
**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**  
SWITCH ON

**Friday 1st December 2023**  
on Stanley Front Street

5:30 PM | Christmas Characters & Craghead Colliery Band  
6:00 PM | Stage Show - Hosted by Dan Charles  
7:00 PM | Light Switch On and Sing Out

STANLEY  
TOWN COUNCIL



# Play in the park

FREE Rides - Activities - Games - Facepainting

Preparations are currently underway for these years play in the park events which are free to the public. The years events will be over a week in August at North Durham Academy Stanley are currently planning to have two gazebos at the events. One to promote Stanley town council and the other to promote Northumbria in Bloom, Keep Britain Tidy, including the RHS and Blooming Good Fun under community engagement. Photos of the various projects and floral displays are on show for the public to see and comment on. This is a great way to inspire new and old partners to Stanley in bloom.





## Tanfield Village

Tanfield Village won GOLD, Best in Class - Small Village and The Percy Boydell Award for best over-all entry in 2019, plus a GOLD in the National Britain in Bloom Small Village competition.

In 2020 Tanfield Village decided they would retire from all bloom competitions and go out on a high; it was time for a break. STC and Tanfield Village set up a partnership in 2022 under community engagement, the agreement is still in place in 2024.

The former committee have agreed to keep Tanfield Village tidy, so the local volunteers are seen to be involved again after dropping out of the national competition.

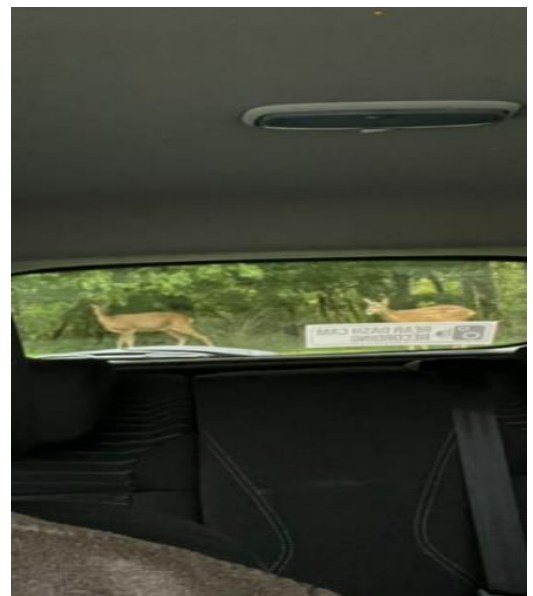


## Conservation and the Environment

Stanley Town Council working with its in-bloom partners need to enhance and manage existing sites for important species and to encourage biodiversity, offer education such as conservation of British Wild Life, work with partner organisations, to protect local wildlife and promote sustainable environments. Interest has been shown as some of the SSSI sites in Stanley are below national figures for regeneration.

STC are now working with DCC countryside rangers on the further development of SSSI sites, ponds, and water courses in Stanley. Wildlife is now being spotted in housing estates as they look for food and shelter.

Quaking Houses Stanley (Deer), Tantobie Stanley (Deer) and The Greenhouse Stanley (robin) are all showing regular visits from wildlife.





Below is the comprehensive report on the condition and wildlife currently living in the SSSI sites in the Stanley area.

The site known as Greencroft and Langley Moor comprises important areas of heathland and mire, habitats which are now rare and fragmented in lowland County Durham due to agricultural improvement and industrial development, with an associated area of birch woodland.

The areas of heathland both at Langley Moor and Greencroft comprise a dry heath dominated by heather (Calluna vulgaris) with mat-grass (Nardus stricta), heath rush (Juncus squarrosus), common sedge (Carex nigra), purple moor-grass (Molinia caerulea) and hare's-tail cottongrass (Eriophorum vaginatum) in places. Within the heath localised waterlogged areas support mire vegetation, some dominated by soft-rush (Juncus effusus) others with a more diverse flora including common cottongrass (Eriophorum angustifolium), carnation sedge (Carex panicea), marsh violet (Viola palustris), sneezewort (Achillea ptarmica), devils'-bit scabious (Succisa pratensis) and greater bird's-foot-trefoil (Lotus uliginosus).

The woodland is dominated by downy birch (Betula pubescens) with some sessile oak (Quercus petraea). Local subsidence has caused waterlogging which is reflected in the occurrence of several mire species in the ground flora including soft-rush, purple moor-grass, hare's-tail cottongrass, tufted hair-grass (Deschampsia cespitosa), bog moss (Sphagnum recurvum) and the moss Polytrichum commune. In drier areas bilberry (Vaccinium myrtillus) is common.

Of additional interest are small ponds which support a breeding population of - great crested newts\* and also the black darter (Sympetrum danae), a dragonfly which is rare in north east England.

This site covers a large area which is in three zones, one of the zones is in Stanley.

The most obvious difference between the Scarlet Darter Dragonfly and nearly every other dragonfly is the colour. Most dragonflies are green, but the Scarlet Darter is – you guessed it is scarlet red. This coloration extends across the entire body – their legs, head, eyes and even the veins in their wings are red.



**Stanley folk see trees of green colourful flowers too we all see them bloom for me and for you and Stanley in Bloom think what a Bloomin Good Town.....  
Stanley Town Council would like to thank the Northumbria in Bloom judges for their**



**visit today and wish them all a safe journey home. We look forward to seeing you again at the NIB Awards Ceremony. Thank you.**