

STOCKTON'S NEWS

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June 2024

Issue 167



A colorful poster for a Summer Fete. At the top, a banner reads "SUMMER FETE" in white and red letters. Below this, a cloud contains the date and time: "Saturday 29th June 11am to 2pm". Underneath the cloud, it says "STOCKTON PRIMARY SCHOOL FIELD". A red banner below that says "• FREE ENTRY • EVERYBODY WELCOME". Further down, it says "JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!" followed by a list of activities: "• inflatables •", "• fun games •", "• entertainment •", "• market stalls •", "• yummy food •", and "• ice creams •". At the bottom, a green bar contains the text "For updates visit: www.facebook.com/StocktonPrimarySchoolPTA". The background is light blue with white clouds, yellow flowers, and a string of colorful bunting at the top.

**SUMMER
FETE**

Saturday 29th June
11am to 2pm

STOCKTON PRIMARY SCHOOL FIELD

• FREE ENTRY •
EVERYBODY WELCOME

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

- inflatables •
- fun games •
- entertainment •
- market stalls •
- yummy food •
- ice creams •

For updates visit:
www.facebook.com/StocktonPrimarySchoolPTA

THE NELSON CLUB at STOCKTON

Napton Road, Stockton Tel: 01926 812613

OPENING HOURS:- Mon - Thurs:- 5pm - 11pm Friday 4pm - 12.30am
Sat 2.00pm - 12.30am Sun 12 Noon - 11pm

BREWED AWAKENING ~ 9.30am til 12 noon ~ 4th & 18th

AFTERNOON BINGO ~ 2.00pm ~ 6th & 20th

EVENING BINGO ~ Every Saturday ~ Eyes down 8.00pm (Top Room)

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT ~ Friday 28th - 8pm - £2 p.p. Max in team 6

15th Live Band “The Warning” - 9pm

29th Garyoke 9pm

Join us for sporting events with BT and Sky Sports

For last minute events or changes to the current planned events please see the following:

Web page: <http://nelsonclub.co.uk/index.html>

Find us on **Facebook & Twitter**

Stockton Football & Cricket Club

Napton Road, Stockton CV47 8JU **Facebook:** @StocktonFCCC

Email Stocktonfccc@outlook.com

About Us: We are a non-profit, Community Amateur Sports Club, run by a team of volunteers for its members & the wider community.

The Club House

Recently extended to include disabled facilities and additional changing rooms.
Well stocked bar with Sky Sports & BT Sports. Pop into the clubhouse or see Facebook for information on upcoming **events** or to become a member.

Our Teams:

Stockton Football
(Mens, Girls & Boys)
Stockton Stars Cricket,
Stockton Ladies Netball,
Stockton Petanque,
Warwickshire Grizzlies
Baseball,
SFCC Darts Team



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Magazine Policy

Deadline for articles **15th** of the month and can only be accepted if in the form of a typed/written copy to Stockton's News Editorial Team or email stocktons.news@gmail.com. The Editorial Team 1.) Reserve the right to withhold or shorten items as views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editorial Team. 2.) Contributors can request that their names be withheld but the team cannot accept anonymous items for publication. 3.) Reserve the right to edit each edition of the magazine to be put on the Web. 4.) No Liability will be accepted for loss or damage caused by error or omission from advertisements or content. 5.) Income is aimed at covering all costs generated by the production/circulation of Stockton's News. 6.) Any surplus funds will be distributed within the Parish of Stockton. Village groups are invited to apply for funds to the betterment of our community.

Copy of Magazine Guide Lines reinstated from the 1980's Parish Mag

8.) We will try to print anything that wont land us up in court 9.) We do not endorse ALL the views expressed. 10.) We don't judge between those in dispute. 11.) We want to provide news, views, opinions and reports. We do not want to be unfair, biased, censorious or condemnatory.

Airing a view is an opinion but a continual airing of that view and/or it's opposite becomes an argument.

Many thanks to all those who have already contributed towards
the cost of producing **Stockton's News**
it is great to have your support.

If you wish to make a donation you can do so by **Bank Transfer** to -

Account: Stocktons News **Sort Code:** 40-42-15

Acc. No. 91456652

Reference it as *SNews*

Cash/Cheque in envelope addressed to Stockton's News to -
Steve Kittendorf - The Limes, Marion Stringer - 12 George Street
Wendy Rumsey - 1 St. Michael's Crescent.

**The magazine is run entirely by volunteers
and any surplus monies are used for the benefit of the village.**

Click on the link for this month's magazine.

<http://stocktonsnews.org.uk>

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Magazine Deadline:- 15th of the month

emails: *Magazine Items* - stocktons.news@gmail.com

Adverts - stockton.ads@gmail.com

Web Page:- www.stocktonsnews.org.uk

Advertising Rates per Issue:

- A5 page size 1/4 Greyscale £6.50 Colour £13.00
- A5 page size 1/2 Greyscale £13.00 Colour £26.00
- A5 page size Full Greyscale £26.00 Colour £52.00

50% discount for 6 or more consecutive issues.



Village Calendar



Regular Weekly Village Events

Monday :~

Senior Day Centre: Village Hall ~ 9.00am - 3.00pm

Knit & Natter: Church ~ 2 - 4pm

Tuesday :~

Create & Play: Church 9.30 - 11.00 am ~

Clubbercise: Village Hall ~ 7.00 - 8.00pm

Wednesday :~

Chess Club: Nelson Club ~ 5.30 - 7.30pm

Lazy Cat Yoga: Village Hall ~ 7.30 - 9.00pm

Thursday :~

Friday :~

Toddlersaurs: Village Hall ~ 9.30 - 11.30am

W.I. Craft Morning: Football Club ~ 10 - 12noon

Saturday :~

Bingo: Eyes down 8.00pm ~ Nelson Club (Top Room)

Regular Monthly Village Events

Monday

Women's Institute: 1st Monday of Month ~ Nelson Club ~ 7.30pm ~ **3rd**

Parish Council Meetings: 3rd Monday of Month ~ Village Hall ~ 7.15pm ~ **17th**

Tuesday

Brewed Awakening: Nelson Club ~ 9.30am - 12Noon ~ **4th & 18th**

Folk Night: Last Tuesday of the month ~ Nelson Club ~ 8.00pm ~

Wednesday

Church Lunch: Every 3rd Wednesday ~ 12noon ~

Friends Lunch: Every 2nd Wednesday ~ The Crown ~ 12.30pm ~ **12th**

Thursday

Afternoon Bingo ~ Alt. Thursdays ~ Nelson Club ~ 2.00pm ~ **6th & 20th**

Friday

Charity Fun Quiz Night: Every Last Friday ~ Nelson Club ~ 8.00pm ~ **28th**

Saturday

Coffee Morning & Library: 1st Saturday ~ Village Hall ~ 10.00-12noon ~ **1st**

Whist Drive: Every 2nd Saturday ~ Village Hall ~ 7.30pm start ~

Stockton Cinema: Every last Saturday ~ Village Hall ~ 7.00pm ~ **29th**

WHO'S WHO

Parish Council	Chairman	Howard Collerson	813181
	Clerk	Robbie Robinson	814094
	Councillors	John Emberton	814267
		Helen Kittendorf	815376
		Chris Millidge	812991
		Terry Warner	813424
		Wendy Rumsey	813730
District/County Councillor	Andy Crump	815745	
Member of Parliament	Jeremy Wright	01926 853650	
St. Michaels	Priest in Charge		
	Administrator	Susan Holloway	812383
	Church Warden	Wendy Turner	812694
	Church Flowers	Wendy Turner	812694
Village Hall Bookings		Helen Kittendorf	815376
Stockton School	Head Teacher	Mrs. Ann Bedgood	812483
Little Acorns			813789
Toddlersaurs		Jo Harvey	811120
Group Scout Leader		Jo Brough	07568 653158
Scouts		Andrew Griffiths	07877 881012
Cubs		Emily Howard	07410 137037
Beavers		Jo Brough	07568 653158
Women’s Institute	President	Sue Gill	460278
	Secretary	Joan Ford	810220
Football		Rick Musson	813018
Football Club House		Luke Cole	07710 864192
Magazine Editorial Team		Wendy Rumsey	813730
		Marion Stringer	812887
Advertising Editor		Steve Kittendorf	815376
Magazine Treasurer		Steve Kittendorf	815376

Stockton church

Methodist and Anglicans in unity

The Bridges Group of Parishes
email:admin@thebridgesgroup.org.uk.

www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk
Tel:01926 812383

THE BRIDGES GROUP	02.06.24 Trinity 1	09.06.24 Trinity 2	16.06.24 Trinity 3	23.06.24 Trinity 4	30.06.24 Trinity 5
PRIORS HARDWICK	Morning Worship 9.00am	Evensong 5.00pm	Holy Comm BCP 9.00am		
PRIORS MARSTON	Morning Worship 10.30am	Holy Comm CP 10.30am	Morning Worship 10.30am	4 TH Sunday 3.00pm	Holy Comm CP 10.30am
WORM- LEIGHTON				Morning Worship 10.30am	
NAPTON	Holy Comm CP 10.30am	Morning Worship 10.30am	Holy Comm CP 10.30am	Evensong 5.00pm	
STOCKTON	Morning Worship Lay Led 10.30am	Holy Comm In the Methodist Tradition 10.30am	Messy Church 4.00pm Venue tbc	Holy Comm CP 10.30am	
LOWER SHUCK- BURGH				Holy Comm BCP 9.00am	

BCP – Book of Common Prayer CP – Common Worship

The Bridges group NOTICE BOARD

LOWER SHUCKBURGH, NAPTON, STOCKTON
Priors Marston, Priors Hardwick & Wormleighton

Programme for Children and Youth

Create & Play: Tuesday mornings from 9.30 – 10.45am (term times) in Stockton Church – for further details, contact: Deborah Dutton on 01926 819016 or deborahduttoncreative@gmail.com

Babies & Toddlers Group: Monday mornings from 9.30 – 11am (term times) in Napton Village Hall – for further details, contact: Helen Eadon on 07811 010440

Messy Church – on 3rd Sundays of the month at 4pm – venues TBC

Mid-week programme for Adults - Home Bible Study Groups

The following groups meet for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. If you would like to join, please contact the Vicar or a Group leader:

Every Wednesday at 8pm in Stockton	Wendy	01926 812694
1 st & 3 rd Thursdays at 2.30pm in Stockton	Jan	01926 817991

Every Thursday at 8pm in Napton	Julia	01926 811476
Weekly (day varies) at 7.30pm in Napton	Angie	01926 812225

Social get-togethers

Knit & Natter: Mondays at 2pm in Stockton Church	Jan	01926 817991
Knit & Natter: Mondays at 2pm in Napton	Jayne	01926 813227
Coffee & Chat: 1 st Thursdays at 10am in Priors Hall	Anna	07870 685124

Parish enquiries

For initial enquiries about baptisms, weddings, funerals and graveyard matters etc, please contact Susan, our Group Administrator, on 01926 812383 or email: admin@thebridgesgroup.org.uk. Please note that Susan works part-time but she will get back to you as quickly as she can.

See elsewhere in the magazine for details of other church activities & events or visit our website: www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk

LOCAL EVENTS

Events and News from Our Neighbouring Villages

Long Itchington History Group

Meeting at Community Centre 7.30pm

Www.longitchingtonhistory.org.uk

Like football it's now "close season" until September.

Leamington Hastings Bowls Club

Further Information:01788 336913

Leamington Hastings Bowls Club opened their bowls green on Saturday 20th April. The traditional Captain V President match was well attended and played with enthusiasm in the sun!! (Although it was a bit chilly it didn't rain!!).

The President's team won by five bowls (yay)!

Biscuits, homemade cake and cups of tea were available after the match and much appreciated. Thank you to those who played and those who gave "advice" from the sidelines.

We had our Afternoon Of Free Bowling And Fun on Sunday 26th May, details of how it went to follow in the next edition!!

If you missed it and would still like to try please come to the bowls green on a **Wednesday at 6pm**. Loose clothing and flat shoes please. We have bowls you can borrow.

At the club plans are being made to hold the annual Beef and Ham evening, on **Friday 14th June**, with an outdoor skittle competition, a quiz, bingo and the Higher/Lower card game and, of course, a delicious meal.

You can now find the club on Facebook by searching Leamington Hastings Bowls Club.

Marton Museum of Country Bygones

is free to visit & open every

Sunday afternoon 2 – 4pm

26th May - 29th September 2024

**Come to explore our collection of local rural exhibits,
it's hands-on with trails for children.**

CV23 9SA

www.martonmuseum.co.uk

or find us on Facebook

Community Hub and Café

Next to Galanos House, Banbury Road, Southam CV47 2BL

Café open daily 9am - 5pm.

For a full list of events visit our facebook page: **@RBLCommunityHub**
or contact us on 01926 812185 Ext 5365

Monthly Events:~

Monday Club supported by Warm Hub – **FREE**

Once per month at 2:30-4pm: *17th June*, 15th July, 12th Aug, 16th Sept
Drop-in and have a cup of tea with us, stay as little or as long as you like. With a warm welcoming atmosphere, the community hub is a place where people feel safe and there's always someone to talk to, if you want to. Each week we will have various groups joining us. Open to everyone.

On **Monday 17th June** we will be joined by Lana your Community Connector from **Orbit's Thriving Communities team** and find out about the free Better Days support. Whether it's managing your money, trying something new, finding happiness with work or improving your digital skills and your overall wellbeing – they are here to help. They've also got increased cost of living advice too!

Nosh and Natter

1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month.

Cost £10.00 - 2 Course homemade hot lunch and dessert.

Everyone is welcome to come along, booking is essential.

Please telephone 01926 812185 Ext 5365 to place book your place.

Sporting Memories (Free)

2nd Wednesday of each month

Reminisce about all things 'sport' and some gentle exercise with guest speakers
Open to everyone, come along on the day.

Armed Forces Veteran's Breakfast Club

Last Wednesday and Saturday of every month, 10am

Come along, purchase your own Hub Breakfast, and join in with the banter

Musical Memories – FREE

Last Friday of every month, 2:30-4pm

A dementia friendly music café with support, music and refreshments

Open to everyone, come along on the day.

Silver Sunday – FREE

Second Sunday Bi-monthly, 2:30pm

Sunday 9th June Special D. Day 80 Celebration Theme

11th August

Join us, bring a friend, and have a dance. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Please telephone 01926 812185 Ext 5365 to book your place.

Every other month.

Weekly Events :~

Chatty Café Table – FREE

Every Tuesday, 10-11:30am

Our cafe is warm and welcoming every day, but we are privileged to have wonderful volunteers who will be hosting our chatty table on Tuesday mornings. You can find our 'Chatty' table over on our comfy chairs by the window. Our Chatty Table volunteers will be wearing yellow. Why not drop-in, have a cup of tea with us, stay 5 minutes or an hour. We have a real community feel here and everyone is welcome.

Regular External Groups

Laura Moore - podiatrist

Call to book 07920141214

Every Monday

Admiral Nurse

(Free Dementia Advice for the Armed Forces community) *Tuesday 11th June*

Stitch by Stitch Open to everyone

Every Thursday 2.00-4.00pm and 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month 7-9pm

Southam Youth Community Theatre Group

Every Friday, for ages 7 - 16yrs 6:30pm -7:30pm

Cost: £15 per month (first session is free to see if you like it)

Interactive session where children can learn new skills, improvisation, script writing and a place to feel comfortable and express yourself. To find out more information or book your trial session. Please contact Emma 07388345752 or Andrea 07766234146 or Andrea 07766234146 SYCTG2024@outlook.com

Southam Spiritualists

Mediumship Evening:-

Last Sunday of the month 7-9pm (£5 entry fee)

Meditation & Development Circle:- Fortnightly on Tuesday 7-9pm (£5 entry fee)

Open to everyone - call Miranda to book

Other Events:-

Quilling with Lynne

Monday 10th June 10am - 12noon

Cost £5.00 - Learn the art of Paper quilling with our lovely volunteer Lynne.

Please telephone 01926 812185 Ext 5365 to place book your place.

Arts Uplift

FREE fun arts workshops for people aged 65 and over with opportunities to chat over a cuppa! Dementia friendly!

Booking essential 07946 585978 jenny@artsuplift.co.uk

Take part in a range of carefully crafted sessions such as acrylic canvas painting, canvas bag decoration, marbling, glass painting, printing and colourful collages, with patient support and guidance. Meet like minded people! Improve your well-being! No experience necessary!

Mondays 10.30am - 12 noon - June - 3rd 10th 17th 24th July - 1st 8th 15th 22nd

Wellbeing Walks

Tuesday & Thursday 10am for a beginners walk (20 mins) or an intermediate walk (30 mins). Start and finish at The Community Hub, stay for a cuppa and a natter.

Southam Needs You - Volunteers Week/Southam Community Group

Alliance

Come and speak to the groups about opportunities to volunteer or join within Southam

Saturday 8th June 10am - 2pm

Warwickshire Arts Trail - Free Entrance

Come and see our talented Residents Art Group along side textiles from Claire Fell & Creative Stitch work by Southam's Stitch by Stitch group.

Friday 5th July 2.30pm - 5.00pm

Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th July 9.00am - 5.00pm.

Galanos House Produce Show & Summer Fete

Saturday 3rd August 2.30pm
Lets Celebrate Local Talents and Creativity
Free Entry Open to everyone

STOCKTON HISTORY GROUP

Meeting Bi-Monthly in Stockton Village Hall - 7.00pm
*An informal meeting of those interested in sharing photograph's
and information about the village we live in.*

The next meeting of our group will be at
7.30pm on Monday 11 June
in the Village Hall

We will be looking at the houses and the people who lived in High Street, The Square, Mount Pleasant, Becks Lane and School Street.
There will be lots of photos and (technology permitting) a short video from the 1980's of people arriving at the church for an event connected to the carnival.
If you live in one of these roads and would like to know more about those who lived there over the last 100 years then please come along.

Donations at the door towards hall hire.



DIARY DATES

Include your village event for free



- 3rd** Teacher Training Day - Stockton Primary
5th V.H. Friends Afternoon Tea ~ The Hub, Galanos ~ 3pm
11th Stockton History Group ~ Village Hall ~ 7.30pm
28th Teacher Training Day - Southam College

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday wishes this month go to
Jude Tolley, Joseph Howard, Charlotte Tolley
And to Tash Nash from all her friends at the Crown and Nelson Club.x

*To include birthdays/anniversary please contact magazine.
Tel: 01926 813730/812887 or email before 15th of month*

Refuse & Recycling

Food Waste - *Weekly* - Every Friday **Grey** Lid Bin - *3 weekly* - 14th
Blue Lid Bin & **Green** Bin - *2 weekly* - 14th & 28th

Missed Bins Tel: 01789 260616

Stockton Recycling Centre: To book a slot over the phone please ring
01926 410410 - Customer Services at W.C.C .

Mobile Library

Stockton Church 2.10 ~ 2.30pm - 21st

For further information, ring Mobile Library enquiries on 01926 851031
or visit the Mobile Library on-line at
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/mobilelibraries.



Lions Furniture Sales

2nd Saturday of the month 9.00am - 11.30am
Behind Southam Co-op



Wheelchair Short-term Loan:-

Stockton Church - 815831
Stockton's News - 813730/812887

Southam Pharmacy CV47 0HE

Tel: 812287 email: southam.pharmacy@dudleyt.

Opening Hours:-

Mon - Fri 8.30am - 6.15pm

Sat 9.am - 5.00pm

Sunday - Closed



VILLAGE MATTERS

**To have your news included please
Contact by email - stocktons.news@gmail.com
or by hard copy to Editorial Team**



We would like to thank everyone for their kind words, cards and support following the death of our amazing Dad, Mick Redgrave, on 18th March. Dad was well known in the village and met many wonderful people on his regular walks around the village, 'down the lane' or 'up Cally' - always whistling and ready with a story to tell.

Thanks also to Jo and Ashleigh at The Nelson Club for hosting the wake and providing a lovely buffet.

An amazing £655 has been donated to the Alzheimer's Society in memory of Dad - thank you to everyone who donated, we are very grateful.

Dad will be missed very much by his family and friends.

Sarah Redgrave & Michelle Gaskins and family

STOCKTON BELLRINGING VISITORS.

Please note

Margaret Ingman, Tower Captain & Wendy Turner, Churchwarden.
give notice that on

Thursday, June 20th at 10.00am for approximately 45 minutes
the bells will be rung, by a team attempting a Quarter Peal.

Also on **Saturday, July 13th**

Coventry Diocesan Ringers will be making a visit to ring at:
Napton from 4.15pm to 5.00pm and at **S**
tockton from 5.15pm to 6.00pm.



STOCKTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meetings held every 3rd Monday in Village Hall 7.15pm.

Full copies of approved minutes available from Clerk to Parish Council

Mr. W.J. Robinson Tel: 01926 814094 or

website .www.stockton-warks-pc.gov.uk

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023-2024

I would like to pay tribute to a couple of successes in the village over the last year or so. One is the continuing growth of Stockton Football and Cricket Club with a new baseball section and a growing interest in football teams for youngsters. This only happens because of the efforts of those who volunteer to train and coach the teams. The parish council has also been supporting the club in its efforts to get a new lease from Cemex and the signs are hopeful that these discussions can now be concluded after several frustrating years. Second the success of Josie's place is good news for the village. It gives villagers somewhere welcoming to go during the day to meet friends. Its fame is spreading people are now coming from quite a wide area.

I would also like to pay tribute to Gillian Roberts who had a long relationship with the church and has served as Priest in Charge for nearly 10 years. She got involved with so many aspects of our village life that went way beyond the "job description". I wish her and Dave a happy retirement with their move to Southam.

This year the parish council has had an overwhelming response to its Villager of the Year award with 21 nominations for 11 people. This is an encouraging sign of people getting more involved in community life and the nominations covered area such as Toddlersaurus, the children's playing field, the Village Hall, the Grizzlies Baseball Team, the Football Club, The Nelson Club, Josie's Place and Stockton Church. The Parish Councillor's decided that the award should go to Hollie Jones who has acted as the Chair of the Children's Playing Field Committee that has raised over £40,000 so far for the refurbishment of the field. Over the last year the village has seen progress on several fronts. The refurbishment of children's playing field has continued with the installation of the Multi-Games Arena (MUGA) and will shortly be installing new football goal posts and a youth shelter. The council will continue to support the Playing Fields Committee in its efforts to improve the facilities. I would like to thank the Playing Fields Committee for the work they have done over the last two years to make this happen. The parish council has committed to repairing the access path off St. Michael's Crescent to the playing field when major construction work is no longer foreseen.

The strengthening of the grass verges in George Street was undertaken with a grant from Andy Crump's delegated highways budget (Thanks Andy) and it seems to have met with general approval. It is hoped that another section can be tackled this year. Beyond that the parish council will be looking at other parts of the village that could be treated to reduce damage to verges.

The cemetery extension off The Radical is likely to be needed within the next year or so and an access ramp into the gateway has been installed. The council will be looking at ways of replacing one of the double farm gates with a pedestrian gate to make access easier.

Another facility that only happens because of the efforts of volunteers is the Defibrillator housed in the old phone box - once again thanks to Sue Coutts and the volunteers who make this life-saving instrument available.

Last summer saw exceptional growth of hedges and the parish council decided after several complaints where certain areas where ownership of hedges was in doubt, that it had to take on the responsibility for their maintenance for safety reasons. These included hedges in Mount Pleasant and St. Michael's Crescent and a contractor was employed to undertake the work. This will become a part of an annual programme. The weather had a similar impact on grass cutting and as it coincided with the end of the three year mowing contract the council was obliged to go out to competitive tender. This resulted in a change to a new contractor, so I would like to thank Garry Farmer for carrying out the contract over the last six years.

On the planning front the illegal change of use at Stockton Hall Farm off the Rugby Road has now been stopped. For many years the parish council has been urging Stratford Planning Enforcement to take action against the owners who had levelled off what had been a meadow and filling in a pond and had used the area for storing and servicing HGV's coupled with tipping of waste. This land has now been sold to a reputable owner who has been granted planning permission for change of use to commercial storage and for light industrial purposes. Decontamination and levelling of the land is already underway. From this last year the parish council has become a contributor to the Southam Voluntary Driver Scheme that arranges transport for medical appointments in exchange for a contribution to the driver's expenses.

The parish council decided to increase its precept by £1,000 for this next financial year taking the total precept up to £31,000. This will take the council tax for a Band D property to £53.60 per annum roughly equivalent to £1 per week. Across the Stratford District the average council tax is £73.83 for Band D and out of 88 parishes Stockton is 43rd highest, bearing in mind that several of those lower than Stockton are smaller villages or hamlets that have no street lighting, which is always a major part of any parish council's expenditure. Finally I would like to express my thanks to the various people who have supported me in the past year, the Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk and our County and District Councillor.

Howard Collerson (Chairman)

STOCKTON PARISH COUNCIL - MAY 2024 MEETING

These are informal notes only, for a full report please refer to the authorised minutes on the PC website.

District & County Council Matters: The **problems with roadworks** carried out by contractors for Broadband, Severn Trent and National Grid seem to have been resolved in most instances now. Parishioners raised with Cllr Crump the ongoing problems with the **speed of vehicles on Napton Road** and various suggestions were made, which he agreed to look into. The **County Councillors' Community Grant Scheme** is now open for bids with a closing date of 30 June 2024. Details can be found on www.warwickshire.gov.uk/cllrgrants. The parish council agreed to approach Warwickshire Highways about installation of **double yellow lines on Napton Road** outside the village hall to make exiting from George Street and Post Office Lane safer for pedestrians and vehicles. The parish council agreed to make a contribution to the **cost of mowing the churchyard**.

Planning Matters: **55 Elm Row** (24/00514) - variation of previous permission to realign side elevation - permission granted. **Land adjacent to Stockton Hall Farm** (24/00072) - change of use to commercial storage and light industrial purposes - permission granted.

Village facilities: It was agreed to contact **Orbit Housing** about ownership of land at the George Street bungalows and the green at the end of George St/Elm Row, and also the case of a tenant who may be contravening their tenancy agreement.

Asset Disposal Procedure: the council agreed a procedure to be followed in the event of the need to dispose of any of its assets.

Cemex Liaison Group: the chairman reported on matters that had been discussed at the Liaison Group meeting on 22 April including the new Grinding Mill at Rugby that will be used to process waste from other industrialised processes that would then be used in the cement manufacturing process; landfill of the Parkfield Road quarry with HS2 waste products; relocation of the Admix plant at Rugby possibly to the Southam site; a 3 year extension of the planning permission to extract clay from the Spiers Farm site.

Online Banking: the parish council agreed to look at using online banking so that payments can be made without the need for cheque payments. This is because more contractors and suppliers that the council uses now only accept online payments. The council will ensure that the current levels of security and accountability will be maintained to protect the council's assets.

Next Meeting: 7.15pm on **Monday 17 June 2024**

Howard Collerson (chairman)



News From Andy Crump

WCC Councillor for Southam, Stockton & Napton

SDC Councillor for Southam Central and East and Stockton

**Mobile: 07771335273 - cllrcrump@warwickshire.gov.uk
andrew.crump@stratford-dc.gov.uk**

I would like to start by sending my congratulations to Hollie Jones, who picked up her Villager of the Year Award (a bird table) at the Annual Parish Meeting in May. She is a force of nature and a star. The award is thoroughly deserved – I had to apologise to her as she had to sit next to me at the meeting and listen to my dad jokes. (She had previously extracted money from my community grant fund so it was small price to pay ha ha.)

Talking about community grants - The Round 1 of the **Councillors' Grant Fund 2024-25 will launch on Monday 20th May at 9am with the deadline of Sunday 30 June at 5pm.** Over the years, many organisations in Stockton have received grants from it.

I am constantly holding (council/utility) contractors to account, particularly the ones causing disruption to the village.

At the PC meeting, I informed councillors that double yellow lines are to be looked at to make ingress and egress to the village easier for buses. I also informed them that I was looking to extend the grasscrete area in George St from my councillor delegated highways budget as well as looking at road safety measures too

Grass Cutting - Unfortunately, due to the extremely wet weather in March and April, SDC was unable to cut all the grass verges in advance of 'No Mow May'. SDC has instructed SDC's new grounds maintenance contractor (Continental Landscapes Ltd) to continue to cut to ensure that each grass verge received one cut. I appreciate that some grass verges will be cut in May, however, the alternative would have been to leave them uncut until mid-June by which time they would have not received a cut for 8 months. I can therefore confirm that the grass verges in Stockton, including George Street (in green) and Manor Road, are scheduled to be cut w/c 27 May.

I also liaised with WCC so they will cut the grass on the verge back to allow suitable visibility at the cross roads and will monitor it regularly.

Meetings/emails/messages – again lots to deal with this last month on a range of subjects including potholes, drains, SEND places and transport, issues I've had to refer to the Police. I even had one relating to an issue a resident relating to a late relative from Liverpool! I often get contacted by residents who aren't in my wards (either District or County).

Officers detect driver offences during Op Tramline

Warwickshire Police detected 63 offences in just two days of Operation Tramline on the M6, M40 and A46 in May 2024. This included a woman

driving at speed on the M40 southbound not in proper control of her car whilst she applied makeup and a van driver eating 'fast food' totally hands free along the M6 Northbound whilst steering with his knees.

Another van driver decided to film the Op Tramline supercab with his handheld mobile phone whilst driving along the M6 Northbound. He chose the wrong supercab to film as this is precisely the type of offence Operational Patrol Officers aim to detect.

Officers were observing him and other drivers from a specially adapted National Highways supercab. The elevated position allows officers to capture footage of some of the most dangerous driving offences possible known as the 'Fatal 4' including not wearing a seatbelt and using a handheld mobile phone whilst driving. Once an offence is identified, an unmarked police car intercepts the offending driver.

Offences detected include:-

- 22 mobile phone offences

- 18 seatbelt offences

- 5 speeding offences

- 3 drivers not in proper control of their vehicle

The following offences were also detected:-

- 6 no insurance and 5 vehicles were seized under Section 165 of the Road Traffic Act

- 4 vehicle condition and use offences. This includes excessive window tints, modifications and defects to the vehicle. One vehicle was prohibited from being driven until the defect was rectified.

- 1 driver dealt with for driving otherwise in accordance with a licence

- 1 driver has been summoned to court for driving whilst disqualified

- 1 theft of a motor vehicle resulting in the arrest of the driver and passenger.

The vehicle was recovered. Enquiries are ongoing.

One driver received a graduated fixed penalty. These are used mainly for breaching commercial vehicle drivers' hours and overloading and penalties are graduated to reflect factors such as the length of time spent driving over the legal limit.

Whilst 30 Traffic Offence Reports were given to drivers, words of advice were given to 28 drivers including one van driver who hogged the middle lane for 12 miles and failed to move over when lane 1 was empty.

A rogue roofer has pleaded guilty to fraud following a successful investigation and prosecution undertaken by Warwickshire County Council Trading Standards. For more information visit: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5220/nuneaton-rogue-roofer-pleads-guilty-to-defrauding-nuneaton-and-lemington-spa-residents>

Warwickshire Fire Service Warns of Fire Risks Around Hoarding

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) is urging residents to be aware of the fire dangers associated with hoarding.

Hoarding, a recognised mental health condition is characterised by difficulty discarding items, can significantly increase fire risks in the home. Excessive clutter can block exits, hinder escape during emergencies, and make it harder for occupants to escape and firefighters to access the source of a blaze. WFRS estimates that hoarding affects between 2% and 5% of the population, potentially impacting up to 1.2 million people nationwide. Hoarding Disorder is more common than OCD and Schizophrenia combined. **Councillor Andy Crump, Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety at Warwickshire County Council, emphasises the importance of prevention: "Hoarding creates unique challenges for fire safety. If you or someone you know lives in a hoarded home it is important to consider fire safety. While our firefighters are well-trained, prevention is key."**

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service tips to keep safe:

- Keep escape routes clear
- Have a good night-time routine, turning off appliances and checking for hazards
- Close doors where you can
- Make sure that you have working smoke alarms

Book a free home fire safety check

If you or someone you know lives in a hoarded or cluttered home, don't be afraid to ask for help, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service can arrange a safe and well check, this is a person-centred approach to fire safety where staff can work with you to identify risks, offer advice and support and fit smoke alarms to help keep you safe.

Visit: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fire-safety/apply-safe-well-visit/1>

Councillor Crump concludes, "We want to ensure residents have the support they need to address hoarding while highlighting the fire hazards it can create. By raising awareness, we can prevent tragedies and keep Warwickshire communities safe."

Visit <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fireandrescue> for fire safety tips and <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/recycling> for information on responsible waste disposal.

Sensory smoke alarms

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is reminding deaf residents of the importance of installing sensory smoke alarms this Deaf Awareness Week.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5196/warwickshire-fire-and-rescue-service-reminds-deaf-residents-of-the-importance-of-installing-sensory-smoke-alarms-this-deaf-awareness-week>

Queensway and Ford Foundry Roundabouts works

Work on the improvements to Queensway and Ford Foundry roundabouts will start on Monday May 13 and last up to 51 weeks.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5174/work-to-improve-queensway-and-ford-foundry-roundabouts-start-date-announced>

Find financial support and reduce stress

Warwickshire County Council is reminding people of the financial support resources and services that they can access to help make their lives a little bit easier.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5170/find-financial-support-and-reduce-stress>

Child Friendly Warwickshire Network of Friends

Warwickshire businesses are invited to take part in a virtual event to inspire collaboration and innovation towards a shared goal to make Warwickshire a child friendly county.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5197/be-part-of-child-friendly-warwickshire-join-our-network-of-friends>

Podcast – Rugby and Stratford Climate Eco hubs

The Climate Eco hubs in Rugby and Stratford are featured in the very latest episode of the Sustainable Warwickshire podcast.

Find out more and listen: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5205/rugby-and-stratford-climate-eco-hubs-featured-in-sustainable-warwickshire-podcast>

The King's Awards for Enterprise 2024

A record eight King's Awards for Enterprise have been awarded to Warwickshire businesses this year.

Find out more about the winners: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5198/record-number-of-warwickshire-winners-of-the-king-s-awards-for-enterprise-2024>

May 2024 Cabinet

Find out what happened at the Warwickshire County Council Cabinet meeting on Thursday 9 May: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5211/warwickshire-county-council-cabinet-9-may-2024>

Educational attainment in Warwickshire

Warwickshire County Council Cabinet has endorsed a series of recommendations aimed at tackling disparities in educational attainment rates across the county.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5213/plans-to-improve-life-opportunities-through-education-in-warwickshire>

Funding for school development

Warwickshire County Council's Cabinet has approved significant investment to create thousands of new school places across the county.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5215/warwickshire-commits-to-further-investment-in-school-places-across-the-county>

Specialist resourced provision in Warwickshire

The expansion of the Specialist Resourced Provision offer at several schools in the county has been approved by Warwickshire County Council Cabinet.

Find out what this means: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5212/cabinet-approves-the-expansion-of-specialist-resourced-provision-in-the-county>

Bus service improvements

A significant package of investments designed to improve the county's bus

network has received approval from WCC's Cabinet.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5216/new-funding-secured-to-improve-bus-services-across-warwickshire>

Delivering Better Value Programme for SEND

Warwickshire County Council's Cabinet has officially endorsed four pivotal projects proposed as part of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Delivering Better Value Programme.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5214/cabinet-endorses-delivering-better-value-programme-for-send>

Social Care and Support recruitment event

People will be encouraged to choose a career with Warwickshire County Council at an Adult Social Care and Support recruitment fair and showcase event later this month.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5210/warwickshire-recruitment-event-for-people-looking-to-advance-their-career-in-social-care-and-support>

Kenilworth to Leamington cycle route Phase 1a complete

The first stage of the ambitious new cycle link between Kenilworth and Leamington Spa has now been completed with cyclists able to enjoy a route between Leamington Town Centre and North Leamington.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5180/council-celebrates-completion-of-first-section-of-kenilworth-to-learnington-cycle-route>



Educational Psychology Service webinar series

Warwickshire Educational Psychology Service has created a series of webinars to help parents and carers guide their children through important school changes.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5178/warwickshire-educational-psychology-service-presents-webinar-series-supporting-school-transitions>

Immunisations

Is your child up to date with their vaccinations? Make sure you check their Red

Book or contact your GP practice to find out & book in any missed doses.  

More info: <https://ow.ly/rr3V50QR3N2>

Introducing Warwickshire Resilience Forum

An introduction to Warwickshire Resilience Forum and advice on how become Better Prepared for risks in Warwickshire are some of the topics discussed in the latest Let's Talk Warwickshire podcast.

Listen now: <https://letstalkwarwickshire.podbean.com/e/warwickshire-resilience-forum/>

Mental health and wellbeing support

There are a range of mental health and wellbeing services and support available across Warwickshire that can help you to improve your wellbeing and support you during difficult times.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5187/council-highlighting-mental-health-and-wellbeing-support-available-to-residents-throughout-may>

Report it: Flooding and drainage issues

Council officers are still out across the county clearing our blocked gullies and drains following the recent flooding. If you spot any issues with blocked drains or gullies in your local community, please report it at <https://warwickshire.gov.uk/reportit> and click on report flooding or drainage issue.

Log highways issues and report feedback

Warwickshire County Council has launched a new platform to support the way customers can report a highways problem or log customer feedback through its website.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4953/updates-to-the-way-customers-log-highways-issues-and-report-feedback>

Stop Smoking Service

Could you be entitled to FREE Stop Smoking support? 🚭

Fitter Futures Warwickshire offers 12 weeks of free Stop Smoking specialist support and advice, plus stop smoking treatments and Quit Kits across #Warwickshire.

Visit: <https://fitterfutures.everyonehealth.co.uk/stop-smoking-service/> to check your eligibility.

Help from Warwickshire County Council

If you are struggling with money and need help now, Warwickshire County Council can help with:

📦 food, energy and water bills

💰 money advice

👨‍👩‍👧‍👦 aspects of family life

🚒 accessing emergency food

💭 mental health support

Find help here: <https://costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/home/i-need-urgent-help>

Help to meet household utility costs

Warwickshire residents struggling to pay their utility bills can look to Warwickshire County Council for support.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5030/help-to-meet-household-utility-costs>

Reporting highways issues – or let me know !!

cllrcrump@warwickshire.gov.uk

Warwickshire County Council is urging residents to report any Highways faults that they encounter while driving or walking in the county via its website.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4085/warwickshire-county-council-encourages-residents-to-report-road-issues>

Cost of Living Support - SDC

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/benefits-support/cost-of-living-support.cfm>

Collection Calendar

SDC no longer post out the A5 bin collection calendar as a matter of course.

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/waste-recycling>

A pdf can also be downloaded or printed

Paper copies can be requested still either by emailing info@stratford-dc.gov.uk or ringing 01789 267575. Residents in my ward of Stockton and Southam Central and East can use my contact details (andrew.crump@stratford-dc.gov.uk) or 07771335273 if they need my assistance.

Missed Bins – please continue to report to SDC – the App is very useful for doing so and **make a note of your reference**. It helps SDC hold the Contractor to account.

Missed bins -. Contacts are streetscene@stratford-dc.gov.uk or Telephone: 01789 260616

Or download the app.

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/missed-bin-report-form.cfm?fbclid=IwAR3vkf03zQgXUsEHH04ODEqfid1b1msbwpVg8DG6nQn47HoAcw mw5LL9Joc>

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/missed-bin-report-form.cfm>

PAVEMENT PARKING/PARK IT RIGHT – the excuse, I won't be long isn't sufficient – it only takes a few seconds for a collision to occur. THINK ABOUT OTHERS NOT JUST YOURSELF

Every week, I get reports of some terrible parking – with cars blocking pavements (especially dropped kerbs), making it impossible for people with mobility scooters or with push chairs to get by, without going into the road. In some cases, too, emergency services vehicles (particularly fire appliances) would struggle to pass. PLEASE THINK OF OTHER PEOPLE, NOT JUST YOURSELF

PLEASE REPORT ANY ASB , however trivial it may seem. Small incidents can lead to bigger ones, so better to stop them before they escalate .Also, the more calls/incidents the Police have, the sooner they will realise there is a problem in a certain area. PLEASE ALSO ENSURE YOUR PROPERTY AND CAR IS LOCKED AND SECURE.

Reporting out of hours highways issues can be challenging, the best number for that is 01926 415000.

streetlighting@warwickshire.gov.uk or 01926 412515 (not all are currently owned by WCC – some owned by town or parish council.)

<https://www.fixmystreet.com/reports/Warwickshire>

It is worth noting for future reference that anything immediately dangerous on the highway should be reported direct to the Police on 999, which is the same process for any pressing issue Out of Hours.

During normal office hours - 8:30am to 4:30pm, WCC call centre is best on 01926 412515

Councillor groans –

I gather that there is a new regulation that Santa's helpers must be served their hot beverages in polystyrene cups, so that they don't burn themselves. Honestly, it is elf and safe tea gone mad!

After many years of trying, I will seek to represent the UK in the Eurovision song contest for the final time. I'm going to put forward my own version of 'There once was an ugly duckling'. It will be my swan song.

I've got a Neil Diamond mobile phone. It's a Samsung blue.
Today I started my new job at the local bakery, piece of cake.

Kind regards
Andy



STOCKTON'S WEATHER STATION



STOCKTON'S WEATHER STATION - APRIL 2024

Headlines - 33 years since the end of April was this cold.

In April the average **minimum temperature** was 7.2 deg. C, two and a half degrees above the average (4.9 deg. C.). The lowest temperature was 1.7 deg. on the 26th. The average **maximum temperature** was 14.4 deg. C, about half a degree above the average (13.7 deg.C.). The highest temperature was 20.0 deg. on the 30th. **Rainfall** was 63.5 mm, about 30% above the average of 49 mm. The

wettest day was the 27th with 20 mm. It rained on 13 days. **Sunshine** levels have been only 90% of the average for April. **Winds** blew mostly from the west, south-west and south (16 days).

Trivia of the month - the first recorded daytime temperature this year of 20 deg C was on 30 April. Since 2012 this has fallen in March in 3 years, April in 6 years and May in 3 years.

The weather monitor

STOCKTON VILLAGE HALL

Bookings - Helen Kittendorf Tel: 815376

helenkittendorf@hotmail.co.uk

Hourly Rate £9

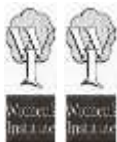
Here is hoping that, that lovely big yellow ball in the sky continues and gives us all more reason to smile, the sun shining makes everyones day better....right?

Yes it does but so does cake! Why not join us on Saturday 1st June for our wonderful coffee morning, a variety of home baked delicious cakes including gluten free variety, fresh tea & coffee along with the ever popular library. As many of you will have seen, the village hall has a new framed portrait of King Charles III, it has been a welcome piece of art and a brilliant conversation starter.

Wednesday 5th June is our afternoon tea, bookings have been confirmed and finalised. If you have booked & are in need of a lift please don't hesitate to contact Helen/Val as soon as possible to see if we can help.

Saturday 29th June is Stockton Cinema film night, a prebookable supper is available and served from 6:30pm (this must be prebooked through Helen) followed by the film for a 7pm start. To be added to our mailing list with information on supper and the film for the month please contact Steve on: stevekittendorf@hotmail.co.uk or 01926 815376.

We look forward to welcoming you into the village hall soon,
The Village Hall Trustees



WOMENS INSTITUTE

Meeting 7.30pm at Nelson Club first Monday of Month

President:- Sue Gill Tel: 01926 460278

Secretary: Joan Ford Tel: 01926 810220



Sue opened our May meeting welcoming everyone and we all sang Jerusalem. We also welcomed two guests, Sarah and Catherine.

Joan congratulated both darts teams who are winning their matches and getting through the rounds. She also thanked the members who had participated, in any way, towards the recent Spring Flower and Craft Festival at the church. It had been a great success enjoyed by many. Wendy Turner had sent a message of thanks on behalf of the church.

Joan informed us about an acrylic painting session on the 10th June at Ashorne and also the Annual Group Meeting at Harbury also in June. The competition this year is for a Theatrical Mask which should be brought along to our own meeting at the beginning of June for the vote to take place.

Our August outing is a trip to Cyn's smallholding at Broadwell where we have a tour of the farm and then a barbecue afterwards in the barn. This is a revisit for many of us as we enjoyed it so much the first time we went.

Sue explained the Resolution process and we all voted on this year's which is, Dental Health Matters.

Our speaker for the evening was Julia Mitchell whose talk was entitled IT to Tai Chi. Julie had changed career due to ill health, deciding to study at Moreton Morrell College and then setting up a wedding events business. Although this was a success, because her knees were suffering badly she changed course again starting Tai Chi and launched her Tai Chi classes in 2019. She has felt such a benefit to her health and inspires others, with a similar diagnosis to rheumatoid arthritis, to try Tai Chi as this makes very gentle and small changes to improve health.

Most of us then took part and really enjoyed the gentle flowing movements and the relaxing music. We were made aware though that if it hurts, don't do it! Then, totally relaxed, most of us enjoyed Sandi's quiz.

Our next meeting will be **Monday 3rd June 2024 at 7.30 pm**, upstairs at the Nelson Club when the speaker is Janet and Team for Quiz Shows on TV. The competition is A Single Rose.



W.I Spring Flower and Craft Festival





Garden Jottings

from Bridge Nursery - your local Hardy Plant Specialists



Christine Dakin, Bridge Nursery
Tomlow Road, Napton.

Tel: 01926 812737
www.bridge-nursery.co.uk

¼ mile from Crossroads Garage – look for our Tourist Sign

All retail compost is now peat free and I'm hearing far too many examples of people ending up with an inferior product. Seeds and cuttings often fail and the grower thinks maybe they did something wrong. Too much water/not enough water/too hot/too cold. The rep from the company I buy from says that there are no (or few) controls regarding the constituents and very little trialling for compost for the amateur gardener. There can be bits of plastic or glass and perhaps some residual weed killer in some bags. Over the years I have found that some plants just won't grow in peat-free compost. Two things might help make the situation better. The producers should be made to list the contents on the bags and you should return a faulty item in the same way you would with anything else.

Meanwhile there is plenty to do in the garden. Plant out sweet corn, leeks, lettuce, brassicas and tomatoes. Sow more peas and French beans. Remove some of the thicker stems of shrubs such as *Viburnum b. Dawn*, *Lonicera fragrantissima* and *Spirea arguta* to encourage fresh new growth. Try to catch up with the weeding especially any weeds which are in flower. If you can remove them before they seed everywhere it might make life easier next year.

There are many open gardens to visit this month for the NGS, check the dates on their website.

Christine Dakin

Stockton's Summer League started on 6th April and after 6 weeks Catherine Black has established a strong lead of 28 points being chased by Sarah Jerger and John Emberton with 22 points each and Jenny Lowe and Steve Neale who are also tied on 19 points.

The Club's annual Singles League started in January and after 12 weeks the leader is Jeff Rand with 9 wins, being chased by Catherine Black and John Emberton who are tied on 8 wins.

There was a great turnout of 21 players for the Stockton melee on Saturday 4th May for the first dry and warm day of the year. After three rounds there were four unbeaten players, the star being Charlie Caruana who enjoyed 2 13-0 wins and a comfortable 13-6 win for a points advantage of + 33. Sarah Jerger was 2nd with +25, just ahead of Catherine Black with +23. Steve Neale came 4th with +17.

The Heart of England Summer League started on April 17th and after a slow start both Stockton teams excelled in Round 4 with 3-0 victories, putting The Knights 2nd in Division 1 and The Yeomen 4th in Division 2.

The next melee will on be **on June 1st**.

Everyone is welcome – we will provide the boules and tuition in the rules.

STOCKTON'S NEWS FROM THE PAST - NO.10 -TWO BROTHERS, TWO SUICIDES ?

From a newspaper report of February 1899 - Driven to Death by Pain - An inquest was held at the Southam Union Workhouse before Mr J J Willington (Coroner for Central Warwickshire) on Saturday last, concerning the death of John Hales, aged 70, who died on the Thursday previously, from shock brought about by a determined attempt to commit suicide by cutting his throat with a razor at Stockton on January 20th. From the evidence it appeared that deceased had been a great sufferer from cancer and it was believed that he committed the rash deed during a paroxysm of pain. Elizabeth Hales, a feeble old lady residing at Stockton was the first witness. She stated that deceased was her brother-in-law. He had been ill for thirty-six weeks and had kept to his bed for some time. On the morning of 20th January deceased was in bed but while she was in another room he got up, partly dressed himself and went downstairs. She did not hear deceased and a neighbour came out to tell her that deceased had cut his throat. She could not see him, the shock upset her so and he was afterwards removed to the Southam Workhouse. George Kendall, dairyman, Stockton, stated that on the morning of 20th January the last witness called to him and asked if he would look about for John Hales as she had lost him. Witness went into a hovel close by, the door of which was shut but not fastened, and on opening it found deceased in a sitting position on a block of wood. He saw deceased's throat was cut and a razor and a knife, both of which were blood-stained, were lying near him. Deceased was not dead. Witness fetched PC Black and also wired for Dr Lattey. PC Black, stationed at Stockton deposed to being called to deceased and finding him in the hovel as described by the last witness. Deceased's throat was cut badly but there was no bleeding of any account. He was quite sensible and as he appeared cold witness wrapped him up to keep him warm. Witness asked deceased what he did it for and deceased replied "it is my nerves, I could not help it". Witness sat with deceased most of the day and deceased stated the pain had been so bad during the past thirty-six weeks that his life had been a misery to him. The pain, he stated, was more that he could bear. Walter Charles Lattey, surgeon, Southam, deposed to dressing deceased's wounds on 20th January and he had also dressed them since. He had attended deceased for about two years. He was suffering from cancer of the rectum and the pains he had to bear must have been very great. He thought it was very probable that the pains had temporarily unhinged deceased's mind and led him to attempt suicide. Deceased knew he was suffering from an incurable disease. The Coroner, in summing up, said the case was a very sad one. He had no doubt in his own mind that the pains which the deceased had to bear had temporarily unhinged his mind and led him to attempt to take his life. It was however, for the Jury to decide that. The Jury, of which Mr H Darley was chosen foreman,

returned a verdict “That deceased died from shock caused by attempting to commit suicide whilst temporality insane”.

NOTE - It is known from family records that John Hales (born 1828 - died 1899) had a brother Thomas (born 1832 - died 1907). Thomas’s death was recorded on 13 September 1907 at the County Lunatic Asylum and so the question is whether the Thomas referred to is the brother of John above ?

From a newspaper report of February 1907 - Attempted Suicide - Thomas Hales, labourer, Stockton, was brought up in custody charged with attempting to commit suicide by cutting his throat with a razor at Stockton on January 26th - PC Jones stated that about 9.20pm on the date named he was called to the prisoner’s house. Witness noticed that the prisoner had two cuts to his neck. Dr Ormerod was in attendance at the time. Mr E W Ormerod, surgeon, Southam, deposed to attending to the prisoner’s injuries which consisted of two cuts on the throat. There was a lot of blood about. Witness noticed the razor, produced, lying on a table. There was blood and hair on the razor. One of the cuts was about two and a half inches long and the other two inches long commencing from the middle of the throat to the right. The cuts were not very deep but necessitated nine stitches being put in. Prisoner said “I wish I had done it properly, as I am always in pain”. Prisoner was suffering from loss of blood and shock. After a week’s medical treatment prisoner was removed to the Southam Workhouse. Prisoner suffered from a bad heart and was often unable to lie down at night. He became very depressed at times and had several times during the past fortnight said he wished he had done things properly as it would have put him out of his misery. Witness considered that the prisoner at times suffered from suicidal mania and it would therefore be unsafe to let him go at large. Prisoner was subsequently certified by Mr Ormerod to be insane and removed to Hatton Asylum, the charge of attempted suicide being dismissed.

STOCKTON AND I

The autobiographical writings of Victor Neal (Part 7)

NEW ZEALAND FARM, WINDMILLS AND ARCHDEACON COLLEY.

Our favourite walk in those schooldays developed in the New Zealand Farm area, perhaps mainly because my Uncle Arthur had taken over that little place with the name borrowed from the other side of the world. I never knew why the name had been taken from Australasia; on the other hand my father often used to wonder why Uncle Arthur had taken over the place, and thought its remoteness, particularly in bad weather, fully justified its name. There were times when the normally pretty enough brook that ran within twenty yards of the house, and

where we would catch minnows and three-spined sticklebacks (as we rightly or wrongly called them), would flood and my Aunt Bertha would have to take off her boots and stockings and carry them to get through the several fields to the village for her shopping, and this walk included the 'Radical' allotments (which name still commemorates the Rev Tuckwell and his land innovations), famed for their muddiness.

In any case we lads enjoyed the mud in its season, as well as the ice in its turn, providing safe sliding nearer the farm where the water often lay shallow in the furrows. In the summer-time we paper-chased, stripped to our shorts professionally to make good use of our boxing gloves, and sometimes stripped further to bathe in the ponds, which makes me shudder to think about now, so fraught with danger was it, with clinging mud and fallen branches from the bushes grown round to provide cooling shade for the water; I should be uneasy to think of any of my descendants acting such silly tricks as I did then. Yet we came through safely, praise God, and a refreshing coolness remains in the memory.

The biggest magnet of all was the overgrown spinney. What couldn't we work up in our imaginations – particularly Sammy Warner and I, and later Jack Berry – over this little jungle, from bush-ranging among the aborigines to stalking the redskins and a thousand other things. It was just the right size, for one could almost lose oneself fighting through some of the tangle, and yet remain brave knowing that it was small enough to make getting lost comfortably remote; and we loved it so much that we camped out by it as we grew older.

My Uncle struggled over the years down there until he won through, in spite of the two years he would quote: 1911 so hot and dry that he carried all his hay on 'one bit of a joggle', then wonderful crops the very next year, 1912; he got it all cut then the floods took nearly all of it down the brook.

Before he took over 'New Zealand' all I remember of the place was a row of rats hanging along the barn wall that adjoined the little house, rats in all stages from skeletons to the one caught yesterday. Victims of 'Old Chitman' as he was known; an odd character, Charlie (I believe) Adams (I know), to give him his correct name who, with or without permission made this his lonely residence. He wasn't given to much worry about modern amenities, and my father would report that he didn't care as long as he had three-halfpence for a 'latch-lifter', the price of half a pint which gave the old chap the right to get inside an inn, where he could usually rely on the goodwill of all who knew him to provide the rest of the evening's entertainment.

To me a greater deterrent than the lack of three-halfpence would have been that long trek over the fields and back late at night, and I believe he often took the path that ran through the fields where his house stood and on to the canal-side New Inn (now The Bridge) at Napton. As well as this footpath from Stockton to Napton – seldom, if ever, used now – running through the same field and crossing near the farmhouse was the better-defined bridleway from Calcutt to Southam along which we and Uncle Arthur used to take our horses to be shod, through those picturesque double gates at the brook bridge near the spinney.

Sadly it, too, has become indistinct for much of the way. If we followed this old bridleway it would get us to Grandborough, and we may ponder that long ago it was as important a road as many another nearby, and wonder what circumstances developed one into a modern motor road and left the other neglected.

On our way we should pass near another farm with overseas links – Gibraltar House – and some quarter of a mile before that Pike Hall Farm. The latter, as its name suggests, was at one time a more important house, and was owned by relatives of mine for some years, until quite recently; we have checked on old foundations, still easily found, adjoining the smaller house that remains. Trevor – cousin once removed and living there at the time – and I found this romantic and I threatened to investigate the cellars further when he told me of a bricked-up doorway down there; for wasn't it said there used to be an underground passage linking the Hall with Gibraltar, which was and still is a spacious building?

Somehow this never came off and now the place is sold. Maybe just as well as it would have been a risky affair, for many a roof has caved in, in our stories and in real life too. But what history lurks behind all this? What coaches drove in through those huge yard doors and were housed in that great threshing barn? Revilings or revellings, frivolities or feuds, fracas or festivities...or perhaps nothing of the sort. Who knows, and now lying so quietly two or three fields away from the road.

Whilst we are in this sentimental mood, let's bemoan the passing of our two windmills, though this takes us to the other side of the village, to the top of the hill and across one short field, where the unimpeded winds could do their best and turn the sails merrily. Where else could you find an ancient wooden mill and a not-so-ancient brick-built one within fifty yards of each other? These old landmarks would surely have been better preserved than demolished. Napton, Southam, Harbury and even Chesterton with its famous Inigo Jones design could only boast one mill. The old hands used to tell that the building of the second, the brick one, ruined old Miller Beck. The house that was built when the mills disappeared, replacing the miller's cottage, gives us the only reminder of these memories of our boyhood playgrounds, being named 'The Windmills'.

The younger Miller Beck (known to the end as 'Miller' – if he had another name I don't remember it) lived almost opposite us and dabbled in a bit of butchering, using his little wash-house as a shop and – endearing to us youngsters – included faggots in his wares. I well remember his limp, and yet forget if we were definitely told this was caused by some mishap at the mills, or whether I only guessed it. Old Miller's faggots immediately connect up – irreverently if not irrelevantly – with the venerable Archdeacon Colley, whom you might consider one of our greatest characters. He was Rector here for some years in my schooldays and was reputed often to dine on a penny faggot or so from Miller's tiny shop. He might have done worse than that, certainly, but he had greater oddities, that put him, and Stockton itself, on the front pages of the national dailies; more than once, too, a thing that only the ichthyosaurus, with millions of years behind him, had ever managed to achieve.

He was a spiritualist, and to this day I need no reference to quote the wording

of his eerie notice in the church porch: ‘Ghostly voices from lips that have crumbled to dust in the grave may be heard after Divine Service by those who care to remain’. We lads usually cared to remain, amongst others, and the Rector would play gramophone records which he proclaimed he had procured as blanks, and by the laying on of hands (himself and one or two others) the voices of heavenly choirs could be heard. This roused the sceptics, as you can imagine, and so did his ‘spirit photographs’, of which I only remember seeing one which undoubtedly had a ghostly face superimposed on a rectory garden scene, if I remember aright. But against that was the rumour of the chap reported as saying: ‘Oh, old Colley, I’ve faked many a photo for him’.

But what bounced us on to the front pages was the Archdeacon’s challenge to the famous magician Maskelyne, who was claiming to be able to produce Colley’s ‘spirit’ effects by his conjuring trickery; something about producing a spirit form emerging from a mortal’s body, which I believe the magician demonstrated at St George’s Hall in London. It all fizzled out rather tamely with Colley refusing to enter the hall but distributing pamphlets at the door and having to pay £50 damages.

I saw in person the other event which reached the headlines. I was 15 or 16 at the time and happened to be in church that first Sunday of a new year, whether from force of habit or because we had wind of something, I do not recall. The rector had something to say about an ancient custom when a sacrifice was offered on the first Sunday of a new year, and said he was prepared to offer himself this evening if he were deemed worthy. He then proceeded to lay himself in his prepared coffin to be carried round the church by four parishioners. How can I convey the eerie atmosphere, and so near the ghost stories of Christmas-time, don’t forget.

I peered over anxiously, as he was carried by our pew, to see if any mist from his breath was visible on the pane of glass he had had let into the lid, to ascertain whether or not he was still alive, and was relieved when, the perambulation over, the old chap clambered out again. The Archdeacon said some wise things, too, like: ‘I am a rich man, not from the much that I have but from the little that I need’, and he wasn’t naïve either. He would ascend his pulpit, glare round the congregation and bawl out: ‘Woe be unto you hypocrites! What dost thou here?’ Then again he would break into sing and roar out in a stentorian voice: ‘Dare to be a Daniel; dare to stand alone/Dare to have a purpose firm/And dare to make it known’. He had a plaque in what he called his music room at the rectory, which read: ‘Arthur Wellesley Colley, great-grandson of the Iron Duke of Wellington’. I never learnt his own Christian names, but I gathered he had an officer son in the army abroad at that time (India, I think) of that name.

Yet he must have had a soft spot for children for he set up a huge see-saw and other things on the lawn behind his house for us, had a novelty dulcimer in church for young people’s services, and kindly shepherded us to confirmation by the Bishop of Worcester at Harbury church, via the brake ‘Victory’ which had contributed so much to winning the Garland Cup outright; and to tea on our return in the Barley Mow clubroom.

There was his little noticeboard, cemented on the wall at the rectory entrance, to display his texts, precepts and maxims, and a greater news-provoking item was his well-known 'speak-pipe', which was a summerhouse he had erected overlooking the Green from his boundary wall, through a hole in which he would lower a pipe on occasions. To the children who spoke a text into this pipe up to the Archdeacon, and often his guests, he would roll down an orange into which he had inserted a penny. This 'speak-pipe' summerhouse stands in the garden of my good friends the Harold Rawbones at Church Farm, Leamington Hastings, about three miles away, having passed on there from Harold's father's garden at the old post office in our own village, he having acquired it at a sale following the owner's death.

I remember our noted Rector delivering a much-reported speech from the same little building which he entitled: 'Tittle-tattle, or village gossip', and in which he was criticising the publicity he himself was attracting. I remember, too, calling on Mr Rawbone Senior, and finding him sitting in the same building during its time in his possession, comfortably installed with a bottle of cider on the little table. I enquired if he had ever seen anything of the old spiritualist who had suggested that he was quite likely to return to confound the sceptics. No, replied the old man, he had never seen him, but gesturing towards the cider bottle he wondered if it required something stronger to make him appear.

I'm pretty sure the Archdeacon had a prominent visitor in the Countess of Warwick, who also dabbled in spiritualism. Presumably they would have a lot to talk about in 'daring to stand alone'. It was generally understood that the Rector had left orders that on his death his body was to be given to Birmingham University for dissection, on the condition that first of all they examined his brain and told the inquisitive world whether it differed from the normal. The same four bearers who had carried him round the church were supposed to officiate again to get his body to the station, en route to Birmingham, for which they were to receive £1 each. In the event he died in Middlesbrough, which upset all the plans.

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# STOCKTON VILLAGE FESTIVAL

Bank Holiday Weekend 23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> August 2024

**Beer & Cider Festival**

23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> August

**Live Bands over the Festival Weekend**

23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> August

**Scarecrow Trail around the Village**

24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> August

**Produce Show**

24<sup>th</sup> August

**Family Fun Day at the Football & Cricket Club**

25<sup>th</sup> August

**End of Festival Quiz at the Nelson Club**

26<sup>th</sup> August

**Entering a Scarecrow**

Are you interested in having some fun making a scarecrow for this event, there is no cost to enter a scarecrow for the trail.

The theme this year will be

**"ALL THINGS SPORT "**

Entry forms can be downloaded from our Facebook page or requested from [stocktonvillagefestival@gmail.com](mailto:stocktonvillagefestival@gmail.com)



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