

STOCKTON'S NEWS

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September 2024

Issue 169

Magazine Deadline:- 15th of the month

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

Adverts - stockton.ads@gmail.com

Web Page:- www.stocktonnews.org.uk



Best In Show 2024
Jenny Paxton



Winning Scarecrow 2024
Dave & Gina Rudge

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



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 ~Tuesday 24th
AFTERNOON BINGO ~ Doors open 1.30pm ~ Alt. Thursdays
EVENING BINGO ~ Every Saturday ~ Eyes down 8.00pm (Top Room)
FOLK NIGHT ~ Last Tuesday of the month ~ 8pm

Sat 14th Live Band STONE PUNCH 9.00pm

21st Adult Old School Disco - Tickets available phone/call in

28th Live Band 2nd HAND DAYLIGHT

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**



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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 stocktonnews@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 won't 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 its 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**

Donation 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://stocktonnews.org.uk>

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WHO'S WHO

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



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 ~ **2nd**

Parish Council Meetings: 3rd Monday of Month ~ Village Hall ~ 7.15pm ~ **16th**

Tuesday

Brewed Awakening: Nelson Club ~ 10.00am - 12.30pm ~ **24th**

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 ~ **11th**

Thursday

Afternoon Bingo ~ Alt. Thursdays ~ Nelson Club ~ 1.30pm ~ **12th & 26th**

Friday

Saturday

Coffee Morning & Library: Every 1st Saturday ~ Village Hall ~ **7th**

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

Stockton Cinema: Every last Saturday ~ Village Hall ~ 7.00pm ~ **28th**

Stockton church

Methodist and Anglicans in unity

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

www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk
Tel:01926 812383

BCP – Book of Common Prayer CW – Common Worship

THE BRIGES GROUP	01.09.24 Trinity 14 Green	08.09.24 Trinity 15 Green	15.09.24 Trinity 16 Green	22.09.24 Trinity 17 Green	29.09.24 Trinity 18 Green
PRIORS HARDWICK	Morning Worship 9.00am	PATRONAL FESTIVAL with Bells Celebration 6.00pm	BCP Holy Comm 9.00am		
PRIORS MARSTON	Morning Worship 10.30am	CW Holy Comm 10.30am	Morning Worship 10.30am	‘4 TH , SUNDAY 3.00pm	
WORM LEIGHTON				Morning Worship 10.30am	
NAPTON	CW Holy Comm 10.30am	Morning Worship 10.30am	CW Holy Comm 10.30am	Sung Evensong 5.00pm	
STOCKTON	Morning Worship 10.30am	Holy Comm In the Methodist Tradition 10.30am		CW Holy Comm 10.30am	PATRONAL FESTIVAL THE GATHER-ING 10.3AM
LOWER SHUCK-BURGH				BCP Holy Communion 9.00am	

The Bridges group NOTICE BOARD
LOWER SHUCKBURGH, NAPTON, STOCKTON
Priors Marston, Priors Hardwick & Worlton

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

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

Cafè open daily 9am - 5pm

For a full list of events visit our facebook page: [@RBLCommunityHub](#)
or contact us on 01926 812185 Ext: 5255

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.

Wellbeing Walks

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

Regular External Events:

Laura Moore Podiatrist - Every Monday. Call to book 07920 141214

Quilling with Lynne *Monday 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.

Reflective Reiki - Every Tuesday. Call

Stitch by Stitch Open to everyone

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

No limits Functional Training - Ami Grindley - Fitness class designed for all fitness abilities from beginner or advanced gym goer.

Call to book 07786 393957 or find on Facebook

Regular Monthly Events:

Warm Hub – FREE

Once per month at 2:30-4pm: *Monday 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.

Nosh and Natter *1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month.*

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

Meet new friends and enjoy the company. 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 from 10.30am*

Reminisce about all thing's '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 - 12noon

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 6th October & 8th*

December Join us, bring a friend, and have a dance. Open to everyone, come along on the day.

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Southam Gardening Club

thesouthamgardeningclub.blogspot.co.uk

Tel: 01926 813986 or 815086.



The new season's meetings of Southam Gardening Club begin on **Monday 16th September, 7.30pm** at the Catholic Church Hall, next to Wood St car park.

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust will give an illustrated talk on 'Gardening for Wildlife and your Plate'.
All are welcome. Non-members £4.50.
Refreshments included.

Long Itchington History Group

Meeting at Community Centre 7.30pm

Www.longitchingtonhistory.org.uk

Wednesday 11th September starting at 7.30.

"If Warwick walls could talk". Trevor Langley.
Admission £3

For further details and to request transport please contact Brian Smith 01926 815119

Programmes available on request



DIARY DATES

Include your village event for free



7th Coffee Morning with Stockton Archives ~ Village Hall ~10-12noon
9th History Group - details p.15
23rd **VILLAGE HALL A.G.M.** ~ Village Hall ~ **7.00pm All Welcome**
28th Film Night ~ Village Hall ~ 7.00pm

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday wishes for this month go to
Lacey Chatland

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

Photographs on front page kindly sent in by Alwyn Farren and Eric Scott.

Mobile Library

13th **Stockton Church** 2.10 - 2.30pm

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

Refuse & Recycling

Food Waste - Weekly - Every Friday **Grey Lid Bin - 3 weekly** - 6th & 27th

Blue Lid Bin & Green Bin - 2 weekly - 6th & 20th

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 .

Remember Me Book

A book in a covered stand where tributes to those who have passed can be preserved is available in Church. If you would like to place a memorial to a loved one please get in touch with Wendy Rumsey on 01926 813730 or Wendy Turner on 01926 812694. This is open to all and free.



Wheelchair Short-term Loan:-

Stockton Church - 812383
Stockton's News - 813730/812887

VILLAGE MATTERS

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



STOCKTON PARISH COUNCIL - VACANCY FOR A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Stockton Parish Council are seeking to co-opt a parish councillor to fill a vacancy.

This would suit somebody who wanted to make a positive contribution to community life in the parish. The council meets on the evening of the third Monday of each month. Training in the various aspects of a councillor's duties and responsibilities is available.

Please make your application in writing by 30th September stating why you think you might be suitable for the post, to the Parish Clerk at 74 George Street, Stockton, CV47 8JT or email to clerk@stockton-warks-pc.gov.uk

STOCKTON HISTORY GROUP

Meeting in Stockton Village Hall - 7.30pm

An informal group sharing information about the village we live in

The next meeting of our group will be at **19.30 on Monday 9th September** in the village hall. The topic will be the local business premises - pubs, butchers, bakers, candlestick makers (?), etc. Like recent meetings it will be lavishly illustrated with lots of photos, etc, but we do need you to come along with your memories.

The King's Arms,
Becks Lane

Howard Collerson
hjc05@icloud.com



Val Legg steps down from the Village Hall.

Soon after arriving in the village, Val joined the Committee and quickly took on the office of Treasurer and was appointed Trustee in 2013. Val, always at the forefront of fundraising events; her cakes always being well received (and will continue for as long as she wishes to make them for us in the future).

Over the years, both Val and Bruce have contributed massively to maintaining the fabric and building of the Hall – (behind every good wife stands a supportive husband – lol).

With Val's stewardship over the years, the Hall is well placed as we go forward.

On behalf of all our family I would like to give our heart felt thanks for the kind words and support given to our Dad (Mike) and the rest of our family following the passing of our Mother Hazel Grey on 30th May.

She was sadly taken unwell very suddenly whilst on holiday on Hayling Island and subsequently passed away in intensive care a few hours later in Portsmouth Hospital.

Special thanks go to Gillian Roberts who carried out the funeral service for us. It was lovely that a friend of many years was able to do this and give the service a very personal touch. Thanks to The WI who made some lovely cakes to complement the amazing spread of food which Dorne from Josies Place prepared for the wake. Thank you also to the Football Club for hosting the wake. It was a beautiful sunny day which allowed us all the opportunity to spend several hours reminiscing about Mum whilst sat looking out over the beautiful countryside.

Thank you for all the messages of condolence and cards/flowers we have received. It has been overwhelming. Thank you to all those people who came to the funeral. The church was bursting at the seams with family and friends. It's times like these which help us to realise how wonderful it is to live in the village. It reminds us of the love and kindness that surrounds us even in moments of sorrow. Your thoughtful gestures have brought us peace to know we are in your thoughts.

Thank you

Karen Neal

Hazel Grey 1940 - 2024

Hazel Schofield was born, on the 13th of September 1940 during an air raid near Heathrow airport. Her Dad, Richard, was often away in the army serving in the war. Her memories of her early childhood were carefree, searching for treasure in the bombed remains of houses.

She was surrounded by close family, grandparents, aunts and cousins who all lived close by. She remembered the first time she recalled seeing her dad. He had brought her back bananas that he had kept safe in a wooden canary cage and lifted her on his shoulders. She vividly remembered how the rough army uniform chaffed her legs.

Her brother, Rich, arrived when she was seven years old and she was very close and protective of him. She used to talk about being a 'latch key kid' who would come home from school to an empty house, to start tea and light the fire and how she accidentally set fire to the kitchen curtains, which wouldn't have gone down well as her Dad was a fireman.

She remembered a very happy childhood, running wild in the streets, fishing for sticklebacks in the river Longford with Rich, jam sandwiches and Dandelion and Burdock.

She went to Spring Grove Grammar School where she said she was teased about her ginger hair. They used to sing "Ginger you're barmy" to her but she was proud that her ginger gene lives on in her grandchildren Ollie and Finn. In her teenage years she found Elvis. Much to the disapproval of her Dad. She often used to say that she would have left home for Elvis, but I'm not sure how our dad ever felt about that.

When she left school she went to work at Nestle' in the laboratory making small batches for new products. Family legend has it that she created the Toffee Crisp -but what we do know is a fact that she became the first woman in the country to obtain a City and Guilds in chocolate and sugar confectionary.

While she was at Nestle her boss asked her to go down to reception and bring a young man up for a job interview. He later told her that he had just employed her future husband and how right he was. Our dad, Mike Grey, married her in 1962 at St.Catherine's church, Feltham and so their life together began.

In their early married life they lived with Dad's mum and brother Dick in a converted flat upstairs in their house. Karen was born two years later.

A job opportunity came up for dad so they moved to Bristol in 1965. This was such a brave thing for her to do. To move away from all her family and friends with a young child and not being able to drive- it must have been so daunting. Sadly while they lived in Bristol she gave birth to little Eleanor who only lived for a short while. It was such a heart breaking time that she only really talked about it in her later life.

A year later, Jo made her appearance, quickly followed by Neil. Three months after Neil was born we moved to Stockton. If she thought Bristol was a change of culture she wasn't prepared for the shock of Stockton!

Dad worked extremely hard and often worked away. So it must have been tough

for her with 3 young children, in a small village and still not driving. Tuckwell Close had only just been built and had no tarmacked road at the time. She used to bump her huge, silver cross pram down the hill with Neil, a happy chubby baby, Jo a reluctant walker perched on a board on top and Karen toddling behind.

She remembered trying to negotiate the pram up the steps and squeeze through the village hall door to visit the doctors surgery. Being a city girl she was frightened to leave Neil outside. She was greeted by a straight talking Stocktoner who said “what’s so special about your baby for anyone to want to steal him....we’ve got plenty of our own. Stockton was going to be a very different life!

She came to love Stockton very much and threw herself into village life. She organised and ran the village playgroup for many years where her caring nature thrived. Her “two little dickie birds” routine became legendary and something she continued to do for her grandchildren.

Dad then taught her to drive, a feat in itself with 3 children arguing on the back seat. Once she could drive it opened up a whole new life for her. She trained to become an Auxiliary nurse for the NHS and visited patients in their homes. Yet again her caring nature made her a much loved and respected nurse.

Dad was a keen sportsman so she regularly did cricket teas and used to wash Stockton Football teams kits every weekend. She managed to wash and dry them without the luxury of a tumble dryer and having 3 children’s clothes to wade through as well.

Her love of football and cricket continued and our dad would often take her to Edgebaston. I’m not sure she knew the rules but she loved the atmosphere, especially the international matches. They became season ticket holders at Coventry City football club and it was something she shared with Karen’s family right up to the end of her life. She would sit with her ear phones in listening to the radio commentary, people watching & soaking up the atmosphere.

She was an active member of so many groups. She went crafting, which we think was more of catching up on village gossip. She joined a line dancing group, much to the amusement of her grandchildren when she went ‘on tour’ in her rhine stone, embossed T-shirt. And of course, the WI that she was a member of for so many years and got such huge enjoyment from. We have the WI to thank for what we now call ‘Grandma’s pass the parcel game’. It became such a Christmas tradition. Every year she would declare it was the last year she would do it and every year she was forced out of retirement to do it again. Who knew that a simple game could generate such passion and competitiveness? She took it to Christmas in America when we stayed with Neil and his family. The grandchildren ended up arguing over a pair of socks, which they still talk about now. Who won them Adam? Josh? Jonty??? Neil has now introduced Grandma’s game to his team at work and so the tradition will carry on. She was so proud of all 8 of her grandchildren and we are sure she told all her friends their achievements and exploits. She was never happier than when she

was with them. She was so excited to be able to spend time with her new great grand-daughter, Emmy, so Hollie and Laura, thank you for that special time. Family birthdays will never be quite the same without the early morning call where her and Dad would sing the entire happy birthday song, regardless of where we were or what we were doing.

In the last few years her health deteriorated which infuriated her. She said she never went out anymore but if you called her she was always on her way out to some group or sat in McDonalds with Dad enjoying a coffee.

She used to bring up her “when I’m dead” conversation, and we all just rolled our eyes. At one point our dad jokingly offered to fly her to Switzerland to Dignitas. Typical mum she said she wouldn’t be able to go with him as she wouldn’t get travel insurance.

So that is Hazel’s life, but not who she was. She was so much more. Of course she wasn’t perfect. She was full of lovely human imperfections and quirkiness that made her who she was. She was prone to saying things in a loud, outside voice where we would all cringe and shrink in our seats- apparently it’s a Schofield family trait that we hope to carry on.

Everyone here has been touched by her in so many different ways.

She was an amazing friend to so many people but especially to Sandi, Chris & Shirley. They supported each other for so many years and travelled in their lovely friendship group to countries they had dreamt about.

She was the most caring, generous & supportive mum to us and to all her grandchildren.

She was not just a wife to Dad, she was so much more and we can’t speak about that without crying. But you know, dad, and we know how much she meant to you.

At the end, in the hospital she said to the consultant “I’ve had a lovely life” and that is something we will all remember.

As one of our mum’s favourites, Winnie the Pooh said “How lucky I am, to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard”

But we need to finish with mum’s words

“Isn’t it lovely that we are all together”.

Karen Neal



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*

JUNE 2024 MEETING

These are informal notes only, for a full record please refer to the approved minutes on our website.

District and County Council Issues: Fire Service reorganisation - a report was due to go to the County Council Committee on 26 June about the proposed reorganisation of the Fire and Rescue Service to give a better coverage and response during the busiest periods of the day. This will mean that Southam Station, that is presently covered by “on-call” staff, would in future be staffed with full-time people during the daytime (7am - 7 pm), which is the busiest period, and at night there would be on-call staff who would be contracted to turn out in case of an emergency. If necessary there would be back up from other stations. Over the county this would increase the number of guaranteed pumps from 11 to 14. The plan will also mean that £2.26M would be spent on improving the infrastructure and facilities at the stations over the next 3 years.

Village Facilities: The electricity sub-station by The Pound still has fencing barriers left and an unfinished excavation - this will be reported to National Grid.

Hedge trimming: the contractor will be asked to cut back the hedges in Mount Pleasant, The Square behind the bus stop, St. Michael’s Crescent next to Glebe Close and Memorial Green. On Memorial Green the untended area under the chestnut tree will also be cleared. Warwickshire Highways will also be asked to cut back the overgrown hedge in Grange Farm Drive. This work will take place after 31 August. **Gates to the new cemetery** - quotes have been sought to replace one of the double farm gates with a smaller pedestrian gate to make access easier when the new cemetery comes into use. **George Street verges** - Councillor Crump has allocated money from his delegated highways budget to extend the “grasscrete” area that was done last year. Discussions are being held with **Orbit Housing** about ways in which the parking outside houses at the end of George Street can be accommodated.

Planning Matters: Springholm, Napton Road 924/001360 - reconfiguration of garden space, permission granted.

Parish Councillor Vacancy: An advert will be placed in the next few weeks in Stockton’s News and on village Facebook sites for a co-opted councillor to fill the vacancy.

Stockton Football & Cricket Club Lease: Negotiations with Fisher-German who act as agents for Cemex are progressing well and it is hoped that this will provide the club with a 20 year lease held directly with Cemex rather than being a sub-tenant under the Parish Council.

Next Meeting : 7.15pm on Monday 15 July.

JULY 2024 MEETING

District and County Council Issues: Fire Service reorganisation - the report is due to go to Cabinet on 16 July. **No Mow May** - Cllr Crump has raised problems arising from the No Mow May policy that has caused grass in some places to be left unmowed until the end of June. **Councillors' Grant Scheme** - Cllr Crump has allocated some of his grant funds to family lunches in our church.

Planning Matters: Westfield House, Mount Pleasant (24/00941) - proposed new 6 bed dwelling house and new vehicular access - permission granted.

Audit Report: The Auditor has carried out a full inspection of the parish council's financial records and procedures and gave a general judgement that they were satisfactory. Three recommendations were made

The council to consider internet banking - this process was already under way

To consider a financial procedures process - this will be given further

consideration

Keep up to date records of playground inspections - this will be commenced.

Village facilities: A contractor has been appointed to replace one of the double farm gates at the **cemetery extension** with a pedestrian gate to make access easier. This year's **hedge trimming** will go ahead on 14 August. A contractor has been appointed to undertake various "**handyman**" **duties** including painting the defibrillator box, removal of the wooden fence in the children's play area, cutting back the brambles and weeds on the public footpath between Becks Lane and St. Michael's Crescent and applying weedkiller to the tarmac area in the playing field.

Volunteer Transport Scheme: the parish council agreed to continue with its subscription to the Southam Volunteer Driver Scheme when the current membership expires.

Vacancy for Parish Councillor: the parish council is seeking to co-opt a councillor to fill the vacancy that has existed. The advert is shown elsewhere in Stockton's News.

Next Meeting: 7.15 pm on Monday 19th August 2024.

AUGUST 2024 MEETING

(Please note that these are informal notes only, for a full record please refer to the authorised minutes on the parish council website.

District and County Council Matters: Warwickshire Highways

Maintenance has been ranked as one of the best performing maintenance authorities in the country. The "**Grasscrete**" **verge** treatment in George Street is in the programme for completion later this year.

Village facilities: An **independent safety inspection** on the children's playing field equipment has been completed and found only minor issues that will be dealt with by the Parish Council or the Playing Field Committee. No serious

defects were found. The wooden fencing that has come to the end of its useful life is being removed. The **hedge trimming** work around the village has been completed. **Village post box** - the post box outside the Post Office has been reported to Royal Mail as needing repainting and they will undertake an inspection and repainting as necessary.

Police Patrols: the Southam Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) have been undertaking foot patrols around local villages including Stockton and have been **checking parked vehicles to see if they have valid tax, MOT and insurance.** **Warwickshire Connected** is a free messaging service which gives regular crime updates and gives people an opportunity to report concerns about local crime and safety. The website is warwickshireconnected.com.

Planning Matters: **17 Mount Pleasant** (24/01802) rear and front side extension and raising of roof line to create extra storey - No Objection from parish council. **Stockton Football & Cricket Club** - the parish council will submit a planning application as the prime tenant for the extension of the pétanque area.

Stockton Football and Cricket Club Lease: The current prime lease is between Cemex and the Parish Council and with the club as a sub-lease. It has about four years to run and this is proving to be a difficulty in applying for grant funding so negotiations have been underway for some time over a new lease that would be directly between Cemex and the Club. The current lease with the Parish Council will have to be surrendered and so the Council has agreed to share the legal cost of the transfer of lease.

Parish Councillor Vacancy: an advert appears elsewhere in this magazine.

Next meeting: 7.15 pm on Monday 16 September 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

Facts, evidence etc

Often, I see residents in both my County and District Wards making comments/statements that are not true, using sources that were questionable to say the least. One referred to petrol prices and was quite inflammatory, then whoosh it all it all kicked off.

Please try to ensure all statements are as accurate as possible when posting. There was also a post about ASB and alleged dangerous riding on mopeds (and electric scooters) in the area – please continue to report details to the Police. Particularly, when they are riding between Stockton & Southam, in dark clothing and without any lights at night.

One resident also complained recently about alleged drink driving and drug dealing in the area/building. Unfortunately, the resident had no descriptions of alleged perpetrators, nor their vehicles nor dates and times, which I found highly suspicious.

Crimestoppers

If you have information contact them anonymously and securely on **0800 555 111**

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information>

There will be a Police drop-in session in Tithe Lodge on 30th September – please feel free to attend and let the Police know of your concerns. I will advertise the event nearer the time.

These concerns could include

Dangerous driving through the village

ASB & alleged drug dealing

Car thefts/break-in

Grass- cutting – No Mow May (NMM)

Whilst I support, in principle and within certain parameters, NMM – I still think it can be done better as some areas suffered from no mow June too, due to a backlog in cutting. Also, there are large clumps of grass left behind too, at times. I also got the area by the crossroads cut again due to visibility concerns. I did raise with the leader of Stratford District at Full Council the 3 Cs in terms of NMM

Communication – need to be honest with residents and let them know that grass in their area won't be cut immediately after NMM ends.

Contractor Capacity – due to backlogs, the contractor needs to ensure that it has sufficient machines/staff available from 1st June to tackle backlog

(also equipment is powerful enough to cut grass that can be 30-60cm high)

Co-ordination -sometimes cuttings blow into the road/gutters , leading to potential blocked drains then some minor flooding.. I did ask for the streetsweeping to be co-ordinated to take place after the cutting, in order to stop cuttings blocking drains.

The Leader agreed that the suggestions were sensible and would liaise with streetscene team.

Pregnant smokers

When a new baby is due, quitting smoking is one of the best things you can do for you and your baby.

Stopping smoking can be challenging, but it has now been made easier for pregnant women and expectant parents with the introduction of vape quit kits.

Find out more: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5461/pregnant-smokers-in-warwickshire-encouraged-to-quit-with-the-use-of-vape-quit-kits-

Hepatitis C test

Hepatitis C is set to be eliminated in Leamington Spa following a rigorous testing and treatment process. For more information read here:

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5465/hepatitis-c-set-to-be-eliminated-in-leamington-spa-following-a-rigorous-testing-and-treatment-process

Keeping children and young people safe this summer

Enjoy the outdoors this August! Warwickshire County Council shares tips to keep your family safe and healthy. Stay hydrated, sun-safe, and cautious around water and barbecues.

Read more: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5466/keeping-children-and-young-people-safe-this-summer

Warwick business promoting safer workplaces with SaferAI programme

A Warwick firm is aiming to revolutionise health and safety in the workplace by using the power of AI to predict the likelihood of incidents and stop them before they happen.

Read more: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5467/warwick-business-promoting-safer-workplaces-with-saferai-programme

Domestic Abuse

If you are #LGBT+ and have experienced domestic abuse, we want to hear your views about the support available in Warwickshire. Come to a confidential closed engagement session.

Go to <http://talk2someone.org.uk> or email VAWG@warwickshire.gov.uk for more information.

Aston Martin honoured with King's Award for Enterprise

One of the UK's most iconic luxury brands - Aston Martin - was awarded the prestigious Kings Award for Enterprise earlier this year in the category of Innovation.

The company has manufacturing bases in Gaydon in Warwickshire and St Athan in Wales. Read more: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5458/aston-martin

-honoured-with-king-s-award-for-enterprise-in-innovation

Nature recovery strategy engagement

Can you help to shape nature's recovery in Warwickshire?

The public engagement period has been extended until 29 September to give as many people as possible the time to complete it.

Have your say today: <https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/bi/nature-recovery/>

Stratford Park and Ride

Visitors to the beautiful market town of Stratford-upon-Avon are being invited to take advantage of a new free parking and free bus travel offer by Stratford Park and Ride this summer.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5408/enjoy-free-parking-and-free-bus-travel-with-stratford-park-and-ride-this-summer>

Footpath improvements along Harbury Lane in Warwick

Construction work on footpaths along Harbury Lane between Earl Rivers Avenue and the B4087 Tachbrook Road/ Oakley Wood Road Junction is due to start on Monday 19 August.

Find out more: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5470/work-set-to-begin-on-footpath-improvements-along-harbury-lane-warwick

Share your views to help shape community support services

Parents and carers and those who use Community Support Services for adults with complex learning needs in Warwickshire are being invited to share their views to help shape future support.

Find out more: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5471/share-your-views-to-help-shape-future-community-support-services-for-adults-with-learning-disabilities-and-autism

Coventry and Warwickshire Food and Drink Showcase

Coventry and Warwickshire's diverse range of hospitality sector suppliers will have a chance to boost their business at a new region-wide event.

Find out more: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5472/coventry-and-warwickshire-partnership-launches-event-to-boost-business-for-hospitality-sector-suppliers

Saltisford Canal Arm

Explore the Saltisford Canal Arm and discover life on the canals, past and present, on Sunday 8 September. Heritage and Culture Warwickshire are also supporting the event with activities for everyone to enjoy.

Learn more: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5473/visit-the-saltisford-trust-and-discover-life-on-the-canals

Bikes on Stratford Greenway

A new bike hire business, Mercia Cycles, has recently opened on The Stratford Greenway. It's open 9am to 5pm, seven days a week, and provides a vast range of bikes and carts to visitors.

Find out more: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5476/bikes-for-all-at-mercia-cycles-on-the-stratford-greenway

Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership reminds drivers to prepare well for longer journeys during summer holiday season

Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership (WRSP) is encouraging drivers to prepare well for longer journeys during the summer holiday season by sharing some top tips from National Highways.

Drivers are urged to remember the acronym **TRIP** to help them remember to:

Top-up – fuel, water and oil

Rest – every two hours

Inspect – tyres and lights

Prepare – plan your journey ahead and check the traffic and weather forecasts

Get sorted for school

Parents and carers of children who will be starting school for the first time in 2025 are being encouraged to prepare early for their child's application to a Reception class.

Find out more: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5455/get-sorted-for-school-helping-families-prepare-for-primary-school-applications

Smoke alarms

It is important to make sure that you have enough working smoke alarms fitted in your home and to test them regularly.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5443/do-you-have-enough-smoke-alarms-fitted-in-your-home->

Stay safe around water

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is highlighting the importance of water safety on World Drowning Prevention Day and beyond.

Find out more about staying safe around water: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5424/stay-safe-around-water-this-world-drowning-prevention-day->

Kind Communities Kind Food

If you would like to find out how to eat more healthily why not come along to one of Warwickshire County Council's Kind Communities Kind Food events.

Find an event near you: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5425/kind-communities-kind-food-events-continue-to-support-warwickshire-food-strategy>

Summer kitchen safety (and beyond)

Whether they're lending a hand or simply seeking a snack, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is sharing tips and information to help keep children safe while in the kitchen.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5356/stay-cool-in-the-kitchen-this-summer>

Support to pay household bills

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/5320/apply-for-support-to-pay-household-bills>

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>

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>

Cost of Living Support - SDC

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

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>

Friday marked the start of the Euros. While some people can cope with their team losing – others can't. Domestic Abuse will not be tolerated in Warwickshire. #YouAreNotAlone #euros Go to www.talk2someone.org.uk for information and advice

All day travel for disabled people

Warwickshire County Council Cabinet has approved the extension of the all-day travel trial for holders of disabled person's bus passes who are below state retirement age.

The trial, which began in August 2023, will now continue until March 31st, 2027.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5307/disabled-people-to-benefit-from-two-year-extension-of-free-weekday-travel-before-9am>

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=IwAR3vkf03zQgXUsEHH04ODeqfid1b1msbwpVg8DG6nQn47HoAcwmw5LL9Joc>

<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 got hit by a falling box of Andrex, but I only suffered soft tissue damage. I've been burgled, they took everything The police said what about that alarm you just had installed - They took that too

I hate my surname Potato although not as much as my sister Jackie.

The man next door plays the cello in The Royal Philharmonic so he does his housework at midnight - Orchestral man hoovers in the dark
Got a friend called Clair Voyant. Nice girl but bit of a know-it-all.

Andy



First Stockton Scout Group

Group Scout Leader Jo Brough Tel: 01926954940 07568 653158
email..jo.brough@warwickshirescouts.org.uk

Beavers

We were very busy during the summer term, with visits to Brandon Marsh Wildlife Centre for pond dipping and bug hunting, Southam Fire Station where we had an interesting talk about fire safety and then all the Beavers had a go with the hose! We have also been making bird feeders, dog poo bag holders for the village and learning all about knots.

We have had sessions on erecting tents, teeth hygiene, navigation and safety. We have also been working on our Gardener, Camp Craft and Science Activity Badges and our Adventure Challenge Badge.

Cubs

We accompanied the Beavers to Brandon Marsh for a bit of pond dipping and learning about animal habitats.

The older Cubs have been working towards their Leadership Challenge Badge by

organising and running a weekly meeting. Both Zachary and Owen had the Cubs engaged and ran fun filled sessions.

We were also lucky enough to have a great evening with Stockton Pétanque Club where Becky kindly taught us all about the game and how to play.

We have also had a busy term working towards our Money Skills, Artist, Scientist Activity Badges and our Skills and Teamwork Challenge Badges.

Scouts

We had a session on building a Da Vinci bridge to see whose bridge could span the widest gap and hold the most weight.

We also designed a course with obstacles, challenges and forfeits along the way. Our Young Leader Josh devised a great scavenger hunt around the village!

Photo's on back inside page



JUNE 2024

Headlines - a dry month, slightly cooler than recent Junes, but sunnier.

The **average minimum temperature** was 11.6 deg. C, nearly one degree above the average (10.8 deg. C). The lowest temperature was 7.3 deg. C on the 4th June. The **average maximum temperature** was 21.1 deg. C, just over one degree above the average (19.9 deg. C). The highest temperature was 29.2 deg. C on the 24th. **Rainfall**, at 18.5 mm was only 30% of the average (62.8 mm) and the wettest day was the 15th with 5mm. It only rained on 7 days. **Sunshine** levels were in line with the long term average, being 8% above average. The **wind** blew mostly from the north-west, west and south-west (24 days).

Trivia of the month - in the space of less than a fortnight the daytime high of 16.1 deg.C on 11 June was actually lower than the night time low of 17.8 deg.C on the 25th. In other words this night was warmer than some days.

JULY 2024

Headlines - a month of two halves, cool and wet to start, warm, dry and sunny for the second half

The **average minimum temperature** was 13.9 deg. C, nearly one and a half degrees above the average (12.5 deg. C). The lowest temperature was 9.1 deg. C on the 6th July. The **average maximum temperature** was 23.1 deg. C, just one degree above the average (22.1 deg. C). The highest temperature was 30.4 deg. C on the 19th. **Rainfall**, at 48.5 mm was only 77% of the average (62.6 mm) and

the wettest day was the 8th with 15.5mm. It only rained on 6 days. **Sunshine** levels were 8% below the long term average. The **wind** blew mostly from the west, south-west and south (23 days).

Trivia of the month - most of this month's rain fell on just three days, the 6th, 7th and 8th with 31mm out of a total of 48.5mm.

The Weather Monitor

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

1/4 mile from Crossroads Garage – look for our Tourist Sign

Until recently I used Humax* peat-based multi-purpose compost with added perlite to grow my cuttings and seeds in. This was mostly successful except for a few shrubs which tended to be more difficult. Viburnum bodnantense 'Dawn' was one of them, I'd be lucky to get 10% rooted cuttings. When this product was withdrawn I started to use John Innes No1 with some perlite (with some trepidation) and am really delighted to tell you that I've had an 80% success rate. This is a winter flowering shrub which attracts bees and is such a good, easy plant for the garden.

*Humax peat-free seems to be mainly wood fibre, it is lightweight and looks floofy as one customer described it. I suggest people use John Innes No3 mixed with it for any container growing.

Reminders for the month.....plant more bulbs (there is always room for a few more), pick peas, beans, lettuce, carrots and courgettes (select the best and enter into the village produce show and win prizes) and bring houseplants back into the house.



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 the last meeting before our summer break welcoming everyone and we all sang Jerusalem as usual..

Joan went through the various trips and outings and then welcomed our speaker for the evening Eddie Smallwood who gave a very interesting talk on Medieval Medicine and hats off to the brave ladies who tried the snail cream which is a remedy for dry skin and warts and can still be bought today. It was actually a very soothing cream which smelled quite nice!

During August some of us visited Cym's smallholding at Broadwell for a small tour of the animals and an evening barbecue. It was a lovely balmy evening enjoyed by all.

The Produce Show, Scarecrow Trail and our Cake Stall for the Summer Festival will have taken place by now and hopefully all went well but as of writing it's all systems go with the Produce Show organisation.

Our WI are to hold the **Lavender Service with the Church on the 3rd October at 2 pm**. This was a delightful short service last year followed by the handing out of lavender bags which are in the process of being made. There is lavender drying everywhere! This is followed by a lovely get together with tea and cakes. It was lovely to see some Stockton people who came over with the Galanos group. The service and refreshments are open to everyone in our village so please come along.

We are about to start back to regular meetings after the summer and if anyone would like to come along to see what we do please ring Joan or Sue on the above numbers. There is no charge for the first visit but you may wish to participate in the raffle.

Our next meeting will be **Monday 2nd September 2024 at 7.30 pm**, upstairs at the Nelson Club when the speaker is Alistair Price with What did you do in the war Dad.

The competition is War Memorabilia



STOCKTON VILLAGE HALL

Bookings - Helen Kittendorf Tel: 815376

Hourly Rate £9

email: helenkitten-

We hope you have all had a lovely August and managed to find some sunshine on your holidays!

We will be holding our **AGM on Monday 23rd September at 7pm** in the Village Hall – all welcome to attend.

Our Village Hall is a key part of the local community, providing a meeting place for community-related activities. Below is a reminder of some of the great activities already taking place in the Village Hall:

Every Monday - Senior Day Centre - 9am - 3pm

Every Tuesday – Clubbercise – 7pm - 8pm

Every Wednesday - Lazy Cat Yoga - 7.30pm - 9pm

Every Friday – Toddlersaurs - 9.30am - 11.30am

Coffee Morning - 1st Saturday of the month - 10am - 12noon – we have a library with paperbacks as well as audio books – please pop in and have a browse!

Whist Drive - every 2nd Saturday of the month - 7.30pm start

Stockton Cinema – last Saturday of the month - 7pm

Thinking about holding an event for friends and family – maybe a one-off or perhaps a regular event? Then please consider the Village Hall – we have parking, good kitchen facilities, disabled access, a stage and tables and chairs – contact Helen on the number above for more information or to arrange a viewing.

If you want to join the mailing list for Stockton Cinema, please contact Steve on stevekittendorf@hotmail.co.uk, to find out what film is coming up & the supper on offer.

The Village Hall Trustees



Mums enjoy helping to make Pom poms at the Village Hall Stay and Play session !

Catherine Black and Steve Neale are dominating the club's leagues at present. With just seven weeks left for the Summer League, Steve Neale is leading with 72 points, just one ahead of Catherine Black on 71 points. Sarah Jerger (58) and John Emberton (53) are way behind so it promises a two-horse photo finish! The annual Singles League has five months to go, with Catherine Black ahead on 16 wins, closely chased by Steve Neale and Jeff Rand on 13 wins and John Emberton on 12 wins.

Catherine and Steve also figure in a Stockton team, which - together with Richard & Becky Rushton – has been selected to play for the Heart of England Region in the National Inter-Regional Championship in September. Charlie Caruana is also selected with colleagues from Coventry.

Only six players turned up for our July melee due to weather, holidays and football! After three rounds, Anthea Sansom was the only unbeaten player and took the honours. Emily Adams was the best of those with two wins.

However, there was a great turnout of 23 players for our August melee, including seven guests from other clubs. After three rounds there were six unbeaten players, the prizes going to Becky Rushton with a +23 points advantage, followed closely by Rick Hayes with +22 and Jenny Lowe with +21. The other unbeaten players were Doreen Scrutton with +18, Ewan Cameron with +17 and Bill Bentley with +15.

Stockton Pétanque Club continued their programme of social evenings on 25th July when 14 members of the Rugby Webb Ellis 41 Club enjoyed a Pétanque competition followed by a French-themed buffet to complete a very sociable evening. The club is available for any local organisation to enjoy a social evening comprising a game of Pétanque followed by a buffet. Contact Becky Rushton or John Emberton for more details.

The next melee will be on September 7th. Everyone is welcome – we will provide the boules and tuition on the rules.

In the meantime, the club has plans to double the size of our terrain to 16 lanes which enable us to host larger Regional and National competitions, offer our terrain as a venue for the Heart of England Regional Programme of coaching and accommodate larger social events.

STOCKTON AND I

The autobiographical writings of Victor Neal (Part 9)

BOYS' SCHOOL, MAYDAYS, VILLAGE HALL AND CANAL BOATS.

When my cousin Bert Neal started work (he would no doubt have been staggered by any mention of today's further education) he immediately developed his flair for making profitable little deals on his parents' milk-rounds in the village. He cleared many a debt of his customers by settling for a side of bacon or a prime ham or the like, which items he often offered for sale to my mother, his aunt. As for the figures in his milk books, it was understood that only his mother could translate the hieroglyphics he concocted.

Talking of Bert's school-dodging reminds me of other little dramas enacted in that old boys' school, the little porch of which, containing a few books as well as acting as a cloakroom, carried the text over the door: 'Feed my lambs', to which someone, perhaps in the heat of the moment, had sardonically added: '...with the stick'. There was the day when Cecil 'Tiger' Wood (is the nickname knock another of the dying arts?) fully justified his name in so fierce a struggle with Mr Boulter that between them they smashed the glass partition between the two rooms. This feat, 'when old Tiger smashed the screen', was one of those things handed down in some awe to the young newcomers.

I recollect the day, too, when our same Headmaster was attempting a little well-deserved chastisement of Bill 'Kirk' Warner. Bill managed to get hold of WHB's collar, one of those high starched chokers, from the rear and to our amusement, as our respected master whipped round to get hold of his intended victim, so Bill went with him, legs swinging in the air.

I didn't escape a nickname, either. It began when my friend Bob acquired a toy cinema, a tin contraption which spun round so that, peeping through the slots of the revolving part, the pictures inside appeared to be moving in quite a realistic way. He brought it to school one day, and it became such a popular diversion among our fellows that we blossomed into impresarios and held shows down the 'jitty', a narrow passage between the school building and the wall separating us from the Manor Farm yard. We made a charge for admittance, of a conker, a button (we used to play a game called 'buttons'), a marble...or, well, we weren't particular and seldom refused any offer at all, which proved we were learning something on or off the educational premises.

As the cinema's novelty paled, I introduced my hobby of dabbling in a bit of conjuring which immediately increased our attendances, kept our entertainment solvent and earned me the nickname 'Magic', which stuck for years until wars and things messed so many matters up by carrying us away from each other and so on, until now Sammy Warner is almost the only one to use it occasionally. He

himself became ‘Weller’.

At the risk of another piece of potential swaggering I relate a trivial incident when Miss Mason, our teacher at the time, drawn by some boy’s failure to spell some word or other, maybe touching boastfulness herself, challenged the class to give her a word she couldn’t spell. Several were suggested which she romped through, until I shyly suggested ‘encyclopaedia’. ‘What?’ she says. I repeat my word. ‘No such word,’ she astonishingly dismissed me. Now I wish she hadn’t done that, for I was sensitive enough to let it destroy some of my confidence for a time for fear I was in the wrong myself. How could I know better than a teacher? But alas, poor Miss Mason, her own tragedy of dying so young, and so soon after her marriage, puts my grievance into its proper perspective. And she may not even have heard me right.

Jack Berry, who was to become such a pal later, I remember at school only for his climbing a ladder, honoured by Mr Boulter’s enlisting him for the job, over the porch to fix up a holder for carrying a flag on some special day. The holder remained there for years to remind me of this.

I should have said earlier, as it was at my beginning at the old boys’ school on leaving the infants, that at the school gate the bigger lads would stand sentry and demand: ‘Boer or Briton?’ on our wishing to enter, and woe betide you if you replied ‘Boer.’ Only the biggest hardy lads, looking for a scrap, dared make this answer.

Talk about nicknames! We had Shuffler, Dib-dab, Pug, Nephy, Cowbag (from his huge marble-bag – he was perhaps the best player of all), Boggy, Jossit, Teg, Peggy, Robin and Coddy. There was Podgehat and Push-hat, Punch and Perfect, Timmy and Tiny, Traveller and Turkey, Tetty and Tripe. We were before Walt Disney for three of his seven dwarfs: Happy, Sleepy and Doc.

Let’s get along to the Village Hall for a change. But on the way there’s the Green again, and I haven’t told you that long before the Speak-pipe days, on the very spot where the children used to gather to say their pieces into the pipe there was a pond. It’s just the vaguest blur in my memory but I accept my elders’ word that it was known as Rawbone’s Pit or Pond.

And oughtn’t we to consider the great Maypole Days held on this Green, while we are about it? My wife was duly ‘crowned’ on almost this same spot, and so were Topsy Bicknell, Ida Cleaver and Edie Maskell. Can we recall their respective consorts? Yes, Cyril Bicknell (Topsy’s brother), Bruce Law, Wal Neal and George Neal; Charlie ‘Chuck’ Tompkins escorted Gladys Wilks and Charlie Law Doris Todd. These six occasions merit a special mention because they were the years when our Mr Boulter developed an interest in the ceremonies, and his energies created such a procession of decorated vehicles and personalities that we became renowned for many miles around for our Maydays, as we had been for our flower shows in Mr Rawbone’s heyday.

My ‘owd woman’s’ year of sovereignty saw the outbreak of the 1914 war and never again was the affair arranged on so large a scale. I myself had refused a kingdom before I left the school, but that was in the earlier era of minor Maypoles, when we used to walk round the village singing appropriate songs of

Maying, carrying a huge garland of flowers, and to tea in the school itself. In those days, when we were separated from the girls after the infants' classes, these sort of things were considered essentially feminine and we looked on them with masculine (and possibly feigned) contempt. The girls, in their school, elected Queen and also King, without any consultation whatever with us.

To my astonishment that particular year Ede Rawbone, one of the older girls, reported to my mother their decision to honour me with the royal role. I had no objection to my intended Queen, Janet Wall, far from it. It must have been that my tender years weren't up to the publicity involved, for in my inherent shyness I passed her majesty on to young Frank Russell, the butcher's son, perhaps with a pang of regret.

Anyway, I hardly knew my wife then, she being a few years my junior, which seems so much at that age. Much less did I realise she was in succession to the throne. This last one-time majesty reminds me, with all respect to Mr Boulter, that Miss Morris, head of the infants' and later to become my wife's sister-in-law by marrying brother Arthur, also had a tremendously big hand in the staging of those notable ceremonies we have mentioned.

From these out-of-door festivities, which of course included the traditional dancing round the Maypole itself (Miss Morris being indefatigable in this) the attendant Sports and the Tea, not to mention the gaily-decorated and streamered streets vying with the vehicles, let's see what we remember of the indoor entertainment the Village Hall offered.

I have the faintest idea of having heard, or heard of, Arthur Rawbone (cello) in a string trio providing music for dancing, etc. Before that I am told my mother-in-law could remember a Joe Neal of Braunston (no kin of ours, to my knowledge) prancing up and down the Hall with his concertina full steam ahead. Somehow I get mixed up about this, with a fiddler doing the same thing, so let's get on to surer ground.

There was Billy Stephens, the barber of Southam, newly arrived in the district at that time. He must be getting on now, for that's a long time ago and still he barbers in that grand little town. Billy would come over with a Southam concert party; in his role of comedian. Whether he could or did stand up to more mature critics I couldn't say, but I know he got hold of our generation all right.

'PC49', 'Up the stairs and down again', those two about father papering the parlour, and joining the Territorials, are the songs I connect with that period, but cannot remember whether Billy sang the lot or shared them with other visiting comics.

Topsy Bicknell as May Queen



I know Alf Flood, church organist for over 40 years, would sing ‘Polly-wolly-doodle’ and ‘Just tread on the tail of me mush’ and that we lads would be mystified at the applause given to Maud Kendall’s classic recital on the violin, uncultured louts that we were. All through the long years there were whist and dances, political meetings and now and then school concerts and smoking dittos.

G B Blythe Esq of the Top House and boss of the Nelson Cement Works usually acted as chairman at the Tory meetings, naturally enough. The only outstanding thing I remember him saying, though, was something about his supposing he was regarded as a sort of father to the village, and this stayed in my mind because I had heard him called a good many different names, but never that one. It’s possible, in some respects he may even have deserved it, for after all he had this very Hall built for Stockton, and later the Club.

But Stocktonians were never such squire-worshippers as most villages roundabout, and elsewhere, no doubt, at that time. We were not wholly agricultural, you see, and the boss’s very cement likely made the difference. As a young man I would have smiled at the suggestion that we villagers could differ so much, particularly after our mixing in the cauldron of the war camps, but growing older I realise we still mostly retain an individual character: horsey Napton, naïve Long Itchington against a more sophisticated Stockton; Southam what you would expect of a small market town; Methodist Broadwell, and so on. But I wouldn’t pretend that the subtle difference is so easily defined; there is more to it than that, a mental analysis that words – my words at least – fail to describe.

I remember swinging Indian clubs with my classmates at one of the School Concerts, which was about the extent of my contribution to Village Hall entertainment, on that side of the curtain, anyway. That aforementioned streak of the impresario (this flamboyant word is getting hold of me) broke new ground, and we went on tour of lesser halls – to be honest, a tour of our mates’ houses. We had procured a toy magic lantern complete with slides, and we added to the musty, fusty and coal-dusty air of those plazas and palaces the smell of our oil-burning lamp, a fascinating combination which still lingers lovingly in our nostrils. I wouldn’t say our parents were very impressed by the initiative of this venture: they largely missed the point and their reviews were mainly concerned with the dirt involved and, like most reviewers, there were times when they got quite heated and expressed themselves strongly.

I was astonished a few years ago on a Euston-bound train by the proficiency developed by modern train-spotting enthusiasts, such juggling with figures and checking with handbooks. Less prosaic and less efficient was our childhood

spotting: how can 987654 compare with *Venus*, *Daffodil* and *Captain Cuttle*? About a mile’s walk from home was the canal where we idled and waited for the passing of boats. These narrow-boats usually ran in pairs, all so correctly in those days: *Emperor* and *Empress*, *King* and *Queen*, *Lion* and *Lioness*, *Daffodil* and *Narcissus*, *Jupiter* and *Venus*. Long years were to pass before I could be bothered to discover what *Scylla* had in common with *Charybdis*. I know I was puzzled as to how we could possibly pronounce the latter and, to a lesser degree,

still am.

In later years my work was to keep me near the canal for considerable periods and give me the opportunity to note the drift towards inconsistency amongst these old partners, now passing so much less frequently. The noble *Lion* is quite likely to pass with the tender *Daffodil*, entrancing *Venus* to keep company with *Bedworth* or *Nuneaton*, and *Helen* with *Falstaff*. A democratic age, I suppose, with progress and all that, but such strange company.

The last two boats belonging to our local cement works to survive the iron and macadam road competition, and to be seen together for some considerable time were *Captain Cuttle* in royal company with *Princess Mary*.

(To be continued)

STOCKTON'S NEWS FROM THE PAST - NO. 12

From a newspaper report of February 1899 -

Discovery of a Cinerary Urn at Stockton.

Only a few months ago considerable excitement was caused when it became known that the fossil remains of an ichthyosaurus had been discovered at Stockton. Today we announce with much pleasure that so recently as Wednesday last a find of an equally interesting nature was made in the rear of the Stockton Limeworks. It is a rare and beautiful relic of Roman times in the shape of a cinerary urn. As regards design it is as artistic as the celebrated vase in the conservatory at Warwick Castle.

Unfortunately, however, it is not perfect for in excavating it a careless workman seems to have completely destroyed one of the handles.

This is the more to be regretted because so far as we are aware there is but one other example of the kind outside the South Kensington Museum, that being in the possession of a gentleman at Edgbaston.

Round the body of the urn runs a Latin inscription. We trust that the exquisite urn will be sent to London to be taken care of by the authorities of the British Museum.

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