

STOCKTON'S NEWS

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October 2024

Issue 170

Magazine Deadline:- 15th of the month

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

Adverts - stockton.ads@gmail.com

Web Page:- www.stocktonsnews.org.uk



**James Neal finishing his Fundraising Walk
see page 15**

Printed by:- Stockton's News

Stockton Football & Cricket Club

Napton Road, Stockton CV47 8JU [Facebook: @StocktonFCCC](https://www.facebook.com/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 ~ 10.00am til 12 noon ~ 8th & 22nd
AFTERNOON BINGO ~ 2.00pm ~ Thursdays - 10th & 24th
EVENING BINGO ~ Every Saturday ~ Eyes down 8.00pm (Top Room)
FOLK NIGHT ~ Last Tuesday of the month ~ 8pm

5th Robbie Williams - Doors open 8.00pm
10th Garyoke - 8.00pm
26th Third Alert - 9.00pm

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**



Lavender Service

Stockton Church

Thursday 3rd October 2024 at 2pm

Readings, Poems & Hymns

Tea & cakes afterwards



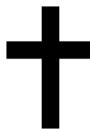
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Tom & Rachel Jeffries,
Newbold Grounds,
Staverton, NN11 6JZ

Telephone: Tom - 07970 956 804 or

Rachel - 07974 705 978

(off the A425 opposite the turn to Flecknoe
– follow the Turkey signs at Christmas)

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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 Donation**

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://stocktonnews.org.uk>

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.

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 David Brough Toby Leeman Jo Brough	07568 653158 07432 358259 07866 563301 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 ~

Cubs & Scouts: Stockton Scout Hut 6.45pm - 8pm (term time)

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 :~

Beavers: Stockton Scout Hut 6.15pm - 7.30pm (term time)

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 ~ **7th**

Parish Council Meetings: 3rd Monday of Month ~ Village Hall ~ 7.15pm ~ **21st**

Tuesday

Brewed Awakening: Nelson Club ~ 10.00am - 12.30pm ~ **8th & 22nd**

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 ~ **9th**

Thursday

Afternoon Bingo ~ Alt. Thursdays ~ Nelson Club ~ 2.00pm ~ **10th & 24th**

Friday

Saturday

Coffee Morning & Library: Every 1st Saturday ~ Village Hall ~ **5th**

Whist Drive: Every 2nd Saturday ~ Village Hall ~ 7.30pm start **12th**

Stockton Cinema: Every last Saturday ~ Village Hall ~ 7.00pm ~ **26th**

The Bridges Group Church Services

October 2024

BCP – Book of Common Prayer CW – Common Worship

THE BRIDGES GROUP	06.10.24 Trinity 19 Green	13.10.24 Trinity 20 Green	20.10.24 Trinity 21 Green	27.10.24 Last after Trinity Green
PRIORS HARDWICK	Morning Worship 9.00am	Harvest Festival 6.00pm	Holy Communion BCP 9.00am	
PRIORS MARSTON	Morning Worship 10.30am	Holy Communion CW 10.30am	Morning Worship 10.30am	
WORM-LEIGHTON				Morning Worship 10.30am
NAPTON	Holy Communion CW 10.30am	NO SERVICE	Holy Communion CW 10.30am	Evensong 5.00pm
STOCKTON	Morning Worship Lay Led 10.30am	Holy Communion In the Methodist Tradition 10.30am		Holy Communion CW 10.30am
LOWER SHUCKBURGH				Holy Communion BCP 9.00am

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

Wednesday 9th October starting at 7.30.

“Coventry Cathedral’s Windows and The Broken Angel Project”.

Professor Michael Tooby.

Admission £3

For further details and to request transport please contact

Brian Smith 01926 815119

Programmes available on request



Southam Gardening Club

thesouthamgardeningclub.blogspot.co.uk

Tel: 01926 813986 or 815086.



David Morgan will give an illustrated talk
‘I’m not much good at Gardening’ at 7.30pm on Monday 21st October
at the Catholic Church Hall, next to Wood St Car Park.

All are welcome. Non-members £4.50.

Refreshments included.

Further information: thesouthamgardeningclub.blogspot.co.uk
or tel 01926 813986 or 815086.

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: 5255

Regular Weekly Events:-

Laura Moore Podiatrist Call to book 07920141214 **Every Monday**
Chatty Café Table 10-11:30am **Every Tuesday**
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

Everyone is welcome
Stitch by Stitch – Open to everyone Every **Thursday** 2pm 4pm
Southam Youth Community Theatre Group 6:30-7:30pm Every **Friday**
Suitable for ages 7-16yearsCost: £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.
Contact Emma 07388345752 or Andrea 07766234146
SYCTG2024@outlook.com

Regular Fortnightly Events:-

Southerham Spiritualists: Meditation & Development Circle, 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7-9pm. Open to everyone (£5 entry fee).

Nosh and Natter **First & third Wednesday** of every month.
Cost £10.00 - 2 Course homemade hot lunch and dessert.
Everyone is welcome to come along from Southam and surrounding villages
booking is essential.
Please telephone 01926 812185 Ext 5365 to place book your place.
Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club

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.
Stitch by Stitch – Open to everyone 1st and 3rd Thursday of month 7-9pm

Regular Monthly Events:

Admiral Nurse: Free Dementia Advice for the Armed Forces community
Monthly 1-hour appointments available - call 01926 812185 Ext 5365 to book.

Southam Spiritualists: Mediumship Evening, **last Sunday** of the month 7-9pm

Sporting Memories **2nd Wednesday of 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.

Musical Memories **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.

Regular Two Monthly Events:

National Silver Sunday - celebrating older people. Sunday 6th October at the Grange Hall. 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. Bi-monthly at The Community Hub. Next date Sunday 8th December.

Contents

Archives	33
County/District Councillor	21
Diary Dates	14
Garden Jottings	28
Parish Council	20
Pétanque	31
Stockton Weather Station	28
Village Hall	32
Village Matters	15
W.I.	29
1st Stockton Scouts	30



DIARY DATES

Include your village event for free



3rd Lavender Service at Stockton Church at 2 pm. Refreshments **All Welcome**
5th Coffee Morning ~ Village Hall ~ 10am - 12noon
9th Lunch Club @ The Crown ~ 12.30pm
26th Film Night in the Village Hall @ 7pm

November

2nd Coffee Morning & Archives ~ Village Hall ~ 10am - 12noon
23rd Table Top Sale ~ Village Hall ~ 10am - 12 noon

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday wishes for October go to Mila Cooper, Joshua Howard, Levi Stringer and Susan Cooper.

*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** - **18th**
Blue Lid Bin & Green Bin - 2 weekly - **4th, 18th & 1st Nov**

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 ~ 11th 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.

Stockton's News A.G.M. 27th November ~ Stockton Village Hall ~ 1.00pm

VILLAGE MATTERS

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



The Churchyard is now looking really smart thanks to all the lovely people who have worked so hard. The PCC are so grateful for this. It was amazing to me that we had a shed. And that the equipment in it was still usable. Once again thank you lovely people, you have done an amazing job



Jim Gaskins &
Dave Checkley



James Neal's Fundraising Walk for St Paul's Eye Tumour Research Fund Stockton to Liverpool - 123 Miles

James Neal is fundraising for Liverpool University Hospitals Charity ([justgiving.com](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/james-neal-1))

On Monday the 19th of August I set out on a 123 mile walk from Stockton to my oncology appointment at the Royal Liverpool University hospital to raise money for the St Paul's eye tumour research fund, and awareness of Ocular Melanoma. This cause is very important to me having been diagnosed and treated for Ocular Melanoma, a rare form of eye cancer in 2021. Based at the Royal Liverpool Hospital, St Paul's eye clinic is one of the leading centres for the treatment of eye cancers and has patients from all over Europe.

Following four years of weight loss and fitness training I wanted to take on my first big challenge, and I wanted to use the challenge to raise much needed funds for eye cancer research, as well as raising awareness of this rare disease.

The first day I was joined by my stepson Tom on the walk, we set off from Stockton at 8.30am heading towards Nelson's Wharf, joining the canal to the Boat Inn. We then picked up the road to Birdingbury and used the backroads to get to Marton where we joined the main Coventry Road. Walking between

Princethorpe and Ryton without paths was certainly one of the scarier parts of the walk! We walked through the centre of Coventry and out the other side, and on towards the first stop which was the Village of Kingsbury. I was very pleased with the first day having completed 32 miles, the pace was slightly lower than I had hoped for but I was not feeling too bad and I had avoided any blisters!

Day two I set off from the hotel on my own as my brother Dominic who was joining me for day two was delayed in traffic. He caught up with me after I had covered the first mile and we carried on towards Stoke on Trent. The early part of the day we ended up walking on the verge of a very busy dual carriage way which was not fun, so when the heavens opened, and we got soaked we decided to shelter under a bridge for a few minutes and re-route! Once back underway we made good progress through the countryside towards the destination with only a few narrow verges and missing paths to navigate. Around mile 22 we met with Lisa and my parents at Wolseley Bridge Garden centre where Dominic finished leaving me to carry on alone for the last 8 miles. I started to get very sore ankles and shins during the afternoon which slowed me down a little, I eventually reached the day two finishing point near the Village of Stone in Staffordshire, just below Stoke on Trent. Lisa met me and we drove to the hotel. We had a nice evening meal and a much needed relax, and I spent some time adjusting the route to take it away from the main roads more!

Day three started around 08.30 again, and it was the one I was not looking forward to, a day walking alone. Once underway the route took me in to Stoke On Trent and on to the Trent and Mersey Canal. I am assured it is because of the iron ore around it, but it was definitely not an appealing colour for a swim!! Day three was definitely the most challenging, my ankles became quite swollen and very painful, and I really struggled to maintain a good pace. There was several breaks in the canal where it went in to tunnels which took me over the hills, the second one being the most interesting when the path crossed through a motorcross track, with a love practice going on! I met Lisa for a food and medical support stop in Kidsgrove, and I then carried on towards Sandbach. A bad day got briefly worse when I was stung by a wasp, but other than that the afternoon was pretty uneventful! I passed Sandbach and it was then on towards Northwich and the overnight hotel. It was another late finish as the pain in my ankles and shins had slowed me down drastically. When we got to the hotel our son Jack and my sister-in-law Cath were waiting for us, and we went out and met some family that live locally for a lovely meal.

The final day I was worried about pace as I wanted to be at the hospital finish line before the staff went home! With this in mind I decided we would set off at 8am sharp. Jack and Cath were early and raring to go, and I woke up at 7.58am! Once we got underway despite being in pain, I found it much easier having walking companions with fresh legs to set the pace and we soon got into our stride. We headed towards Widnes for the final push to Liverpool and the finish line. Jack took charge of navigation which made it easier for me to concentrate on walking! A lot of the morning was spent on the Canal again which thankfully had lost the horrible brown colour! Once we reached Widnes, we met Lisa and

Tom Southern, the Director of Fundraising from the St Pauls eye research foundation who both joined us for the final 10 miles to the finish line. We kept a very good pace and Tom provided some entertainment telling us stories from the areas and landmarks we passed which really helped! As we neared the finish line, I was very sore, but I think adrenalin took over and time seemed to go quickly. It was around 5.25 pm when we finally reached the hospital, to a very touching reception from the staff, including a round of applause, cheers and confetti cannons, and impromptu beeping from the taxi drivers! We went into the hospital to a very warm welcome for photos and then had to go and find various abandoned cars!

Jack left us in Liverpool and returned home, Lisa, Cath and myself went out and had a lovely meal followed by watching some live music before returning to the hotel with very sore ankles and feet for a long sleep!

Friday was my actual oncology appointment, and whilst at the hospital I was lucky enough to be shown some of the specialist equipment that is funded entirely by donations and fundraising, as well as being treated to a round of applause and thanks by the staff of the eye unit which was very touching. The whole experience of my walk was amazing, it was a lot harder than I expected, but I am so glad I did it, and I am proud of the money I have raised which is currently over £4200 including the gift aid which is just an unbelievable amount and far more than I ever hoped to raise!

There are so many people to thank, but among the main ones are my wife Lisa for her support, not just on the walk, but during my diagnosis, treatment, and the subsequent appointments, I would never have got through it without the support she has shown me. To everyone that gave up time to walk with me, to my amazing Personal Trainer Gee who has been truly inspiring in every way imaginable. Finally to every single person that has sponsored me, sent messages of support and given me kind words, it's been a truly humbling experience to receive such amazing support and it means so much.

The original goal was to raise money and awareness for eye cancer, and I think I have achieved both of these. Thankfully Ocular Melanoma is rare affecting around five people in every one million, but the most important message I wanted to get across to everyone that's read and followed my story is have your eyes tested regularly! It doesn't matter if you have perfect vision, if you wear glasses, have a regular test. My cancer was picked up thanks to the optician spotting an abnormality on my routine eye test, and I have them to thank for it being found and treated early. It's an hour every couple of years for most people, but it's an hour that may save your sight and your life!

Results for the Produce Show held on 24th August 2024

Positions are 1st 2nd & 3rd

VEGETABLES

V1 - 3 potatoes of one colour. **Adrian Noon** John Paxton, Sahil Rasmussen Singh

V2 - 3 carrots, tops trimmed to 4 ins. ~ **John Paxton** Karen Neal

V3 - 3 courgettes ~ **Anthea Knight**

V4 - 5 tomatoes, small or cherry ~ **John Paxton** Stockton School Josie Winfield

V5 - 5 tomatoes medium/large ~ **Adrian Noon** Josie Winfield John Paxton

V6 - 3 peppers of the same type either sweet or chilli ~ **Rachel Coombs**

V7 - 1 lettuce ~ **Stockton School**

V8 - 1 cucumber ~ **Josie Winfield** John Paxton Stockton School

V9 - 6 beans, dwarf or French ~ **John Paxton** Anthea Knight Stockton School

V10 - 6 beans, runner ~ **John Paxton** Sahil Rasmussen-Singh Anthea Knight

V11 - Longest runner bean ~ **Sahil Rasmussen- Singh** Sandi Couchman Lloyd Neal

V12 - Display of vegetables on a plate, up to 5 varieties ~ **John Paxton** Stockton School Anthea Knight

V13 - 1 wonky vegetable - the most amusingly shaped vegetable ~ **John Paxton** Stockton School Josie Winfield

V14 - 3 Onions Red or White ~ **Jennifer Paxton** John Paxton Lloyd Neal

FRUIT

F1 - 3 dessert apples ~ **Mary Lee** Sandi Couchman

F2 - 3 cooking apples ~ **Stockton School** Margaret Redgrave Toni Leeman

F3 - 3 Pears ~ **Toni Leeman**

F4 - 6 plums ~ **Margaret Redgrave**

FLOWERS

FL1 - 3 roses in a vase, mixed varieties ~ **Sally Humphrey** Anthea Knight Howard Collerson

FL2 - 1 vase of mixed flowers, minimum 5 varieties ~ **Sally Humphrey** Anthea Knight Howard Collerson

FL3 - Indoor/Outdoor Potted Plant ~ **Sally Humphrey** Anthea Knight Edna Noon

FL4 - 3 Dahlias ~ **Jennifer Paxton** Michelle Gaskins Anthea Knight

BAKING, JAMS & PRESERVES

B1a - Victoria sponge 7"/8" ~ **Michelle Gaskins** Mary Lee Sally Humphrey

B1b - Lemon Drizzle Cake **to recipe from this magazine** ~ **Sue Collerson** Anthea Knight Sue Flegg

B2 - 3 chocolate brownies ~ **Michelle Gaskins** Sally Humphrey Orla Stubbings

B3 - 3 decorated cup cakes - theme 'Sport' ~ **Margaret Redgrave**

B4 - 3 homemade biscuits - two categories a.) Savoury **Sally Humphrey**

b.) Sweet ~ **Sally Humphrey** Sue Flegg Rachel Coombs

B5 - 3 Scones - two categories a.) Savoury ~ **Rachel Coombs** Diane Emberton Josie Winfield b.) Sweet ~ **Rachel Coombs** Sue Flegg Josie Winfield

B6 - 1 pot of homemade soft fruit jam (e.g. strawberry, raspberry) ~ **Mary Lee**
Sally Humphrey Anthea Knight

B7 - 1 pot of homemade stone fruit jam (e.g. plum) ~ **Sue Collerson** Anthea
Knight

B8 - 1 pot of homemade marmalade ~ **Anthea Knight** Susan Sharples Sue
Collerson

B9 - N/A

B10 - 1 pot of homemade lemon curd ~ **Anthea Knight** Sue Flegg Sue
Collerson

CHILDREN 5 YEARS AND UNDER

C1 - Animal or monster made from a selection of fruit and/or vegetables ~
Harriet Flegg

C2 - A painting or drawing of a single vegetable ~ **Connie Stubbings** Harriet
Flegg

CHILDREN 6 - 12 YEARS

C3 - Animal or monster made from a selection of fruit and/or vegetables ~
Lizzie Flegg Frankie Stubbings

C4 - 1 decorated cup cake, any theme ~ **Finlay Coombs**

BEST IN SHOW This was won by **Jennifer Paxton** whose entry of three
dahlias was considered outstanding, second was Sue Collerson's entry of a
lemon cake and third was Adrian Noon with five tomatoes.

Can you help?

On page 38 is a photo of 'Nelson Harriers' Stockton 1926.

Kindly given us by Beverley Ottway

Do you recognise a family member?

Do you know any details about the Nelson Harriers?

Have you any more photographs?

Have you any photographs you would like to share?

Please help Stockton's Archives to keep growing.

Please contact Editors

Thank you.



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*

Please note that this is an informal record only, for a full record please refer to the approved minutes on our website.

Open forum - Two parishioners attended to make a complaint on behalf of Stockton 1st Scouts that the **scout field** had not been mowed this year. The parish council explained that the new mowing contract did not include the field because there was the prospect that the area would be taken over by the development of a new housing site. The council agreed to consider a request from the Scouts for a short term grant if the Scouts were still using this part of the field when mowing starts again next year.

District and County Council Matters: The **South Warwickshire Local Plan** is likely to be delayed until at least 2027 due to the change in government planning policies. The **Warwickshire County Council budget** is likely to be overspent this year due to the increased costs of social care and the education of special educational needs (SEND) children. This has caused a freeze on non-essential recruitment.

Village facilities: The **new pedestrian gate** at the Cemetery extension has been fitted. The **damaged tree** at the bottom of The Hill will be attended to by a tree surgeon. The **large tree** on the other side of the road seems to be growing at an angle and Cllr Crump will find out from WCC Highways whether it is a highway tree. He will also add the trimming back of the large hedge in **Grange Farm Drive** to the Highways list for cutting this autumn. **Sewage smell in parts of the village** - the parish council will take this up with Severn Trent. **Village handyman** - the parish council will advertise locally for someone to undertake occasional jobs for the parish council. **Double yellow lines** outside the village hall - previous requests to WCC have had no result but with the double decker buses now appearing regularly on route 63, they seem to have more difficulty negotiating the turn into Post Office Lane so the council will take this matter up again with the help of Cllr Crump.

Planning Matters: 17 Mount Pleasant (24/01892) rear and side extension, these are minor changes to the previous application - No Objection from the parish council. The planning application for **extra playing surfaces for pétanque** at SFCC is being prepared and will be submitted by the parish council as the primary tenant.

Next Meeting: Monday 21 October 2024 @7.15pm.

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 say well done to all the volunteers who have done a superb job in the churchyard – unbelievable. Volunteers are the life blood of the village, doing a great job for the local community (I'd also like to plug Hollie and the Playing Fields team too). I regularly attend the Parish Council and its dedicated councillors and clerk also work tirelessly on the village's behalf.

Most people are aware of the Government's decision to remove the Winter Fuel Allowance from millions of pensioners (see BBC article 10/9/24). It is important, therefore, that people who are entitled to it (but aren't), do so. Furthermore, around 780,000 pensioners in England and Wales, again according to the BBC, are set to miss out on the winter fuel allowance because they are not expected to apply for benefits they are entitled to, according to the government's own analysis.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) estimates were released under freedom of information laws on Friday 13th September. The "equalities analyses" predicted many people entitled to pension credit - and therefore eligible for fuel payments under the new rules - will not submit a claim, and therefore lose the subsidy altogether.

<https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim>

Recently I helped some local residents claim for attendance allowance (which is not income/savings linked). See below.

<https://www.gov.uk/attendance-allowance>

I've been out and about in the village with my loppers in September and it heralded another busy month dealing with fly-tipping, contractors not doing as promised (continually chasing National Grid), school transport and parking issues, housing, potholes, overgrown paths, thefts and ASB, speeding (see event below) as well as trying to get ahead of things e.g. preparing a list of hedges to be cut back when nesting season is properly over, as well as getting some drains unblocked before winter.

The Police can only act on evidence or community intelligence so please let them know, preferably online or via 101 – descriptions of offenders, vehicles, times and dates (plus any CCTV) will be appreciated.

Whilst I appreciate that this report is for October, readers hopefully get it prior to October and if so, there will be a speeding event at the end of September, attended by the Police and several partner organisations – please attend if you can.

Warwickshire County Council-managed libraries, along with Market Hall

Museum in Warwick, will be offering free ‘grab and go’ toiletry packs to those who may need them. The toiletry packs will be available on a first come, first served basis, while stocks last. Customers collecting a toiletry pack will be able to do so at their own discretion, and do not need to speak to a member of staff beforehand.

What's in the three types of toiletry pack:

- **Sanitary towels**
- **Key toiletry items for children** – this includes toothpaste for 0-3 years and 4+ years, toothbrushes for 3-5 years and 6+ years, shampoo and bubble bath.

Key toiletry items for adults – this includes toothpaste, a toothbrush, deodorant, shower gel, shampoo, and soap.

Suicide: The importance of starting the conversation

The theme of this year's Suicide Prevention Day is 'Changing the Narrative on Suicide', which serves as a chance to #StartTheConversation around suicide and shift the culture to one of openness, empathy and support.

read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5544/world-suicide-prevention-day-the-importance-of-starting-the-conversation>

Support to pay household bills

If you are struggling to pay your utility bills, you can look to Warwickshire County Council for support.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5542/apply-for-support-to-pay-household-bills>

Living Well website

Warwickshire County Council are highlighting the Living Well website to help support and encourages people to take preventative measures to ensure they keep themselves healthy, happy and independent.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5537/living-well-website-helps-warwickshire-people-to-stay-healthy-happy-and-independent-for-longer>

Day opportunities for people with dementia

Increased opportunities for socialising, improved quality of life and health, and living longer independent lives in their own communities are the intended outcomes from new contracts for day opportunities.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5538/day-opportunities-for-older-people-and-people-with-dementia>

Public Finance Awards 2024

Warwickshire County Council has been recognised in the shortlist for this year's Public Finance Awards in the Finance Team of the Year category.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5543/council-recognised-in-shortlist-for-national-finance-awards>

Safety advice for gas appliances

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is reminding residents to follow safety guidelines for gas appliances this Gas Safety Week.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5545/safety-advice-for-gas-appliances>

Empowering Futures JSNA report

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) has published an evidence based Empowering Futures Joint Strategy Needs Assessment which examines the physical health needs of children across the county, to help them have the best start in life.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5546/empowering-futures-jsna-report-examines-the-physical-health-needs-of-children-across-warwickshire>

Business Watch website

An upgraded website providing free and impartial business crime and cybercrime advice has been launched to help protect Warwickshire businesses from becoming victims of crime.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5547/improved-and-updated-website-provides-crime-advice-to-warwickshire-businesses>

Free sexual health services

The Coventry & Warwickshire Sexual Health Hub went live on 1 April 2024 and combines face-to-face and online services.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5548/learn-about-free-sexual-health-services-in-coventry-and-warwickshire-this-sexual-health-week>

Lias Line bridge

The Lias Line – the county's longest greenway – has recently had a new bridge installed close to Marton thanks to funding secured by Warwickshire County Council.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5550/warwickshire-s-longest-greenway-receives-an-upgrade-at-marton>

Independent Panel Member volunteer opportunity

Would you like to volunteer as an Independent Panel Member to hear School Admission Appeals?

Panel Members need only dedicate as much time as they are willing to offer to this voluntary role and exercise good judgement.

To find out more, visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/jobs-volunteering/become-independent-panel-member

Warwickshire's next Young Poet Laureate

The search is on for Warwickshire's tenth Young Poet Laureate, who will succeed May Vaughan in the role for 2024/25.

Find out more and apply: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5556/could-you-become-warwickshire-s-next-young-poet-laureate-the-competition-for-2024-25-is-now-open->

King's Award for Enterprise – Triton Showers

Nuneaton-based Triton Showers, the UK's leading shower manufacturer, has been officially presented with the prestigious King's Award for Enterprise.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5558/warwickshire-s-lord-lieutenant-presents-king-s-award-for-enterprise-to-local->

shower-manufacturer

Registering birds

Do you keep ducks, geese or chickens in your back garden or smallholding or allow your pet parrot or budgerigar to go outside?

If so, you will need to register them by 1 October 2024.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5552/pet-owners-and-smallholders-are-urged-to-register-their-birds>

Preparedness month 2024 – WRF Website

The Warwickshire Resilience Forum website has lots of information on how to become #BetterPrepared for a range of key risks in the county.

Spend a few minutes becoming #BetterPrepared today, at <https://www.warwickshireresilienceforum.org/>

#PreparednessMonth

Parking fine text message scam

Warwickshire County Council is warning drivers of a scam in which motorists are falsely being targeted via email with Penalty Charge Notices for parking offences.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5560/county-council-urges-caution-as-residents-highlight-a-parking-scam>

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->

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 !!

cllrerump@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>

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 –

Many years ago I opened my own night club, it was called “Cumber” It was very successful, there was always a long line of people outside.

I read a book called "How To Clear Leaves From Your Driveway" by Ray King. I'm doing a survey of people's favourite french cartoon characters. If I send you a list could you please mark your favourite with an asterisk.

I've just started a new hobby, it's bell ringing. I did it for three hours yesterday and really enjoyed it. The bus driver got really annoyed though.

I warned my children about using their whistle inside the house, and gave them one last chance... Unfortunately they blew it

Andy

Southam Police Speeding Consultation

28/09/2024
12:15 – 14:15
Galanos House

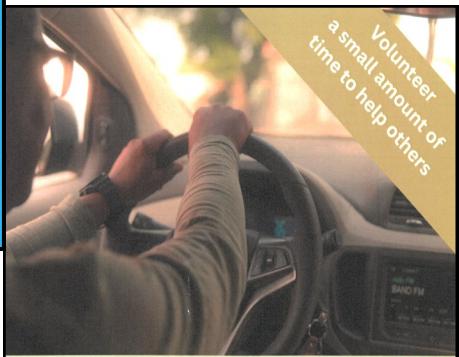


Join us for an important speeding consultation hosted by Southam Police at:

**Galanos House
Banbury Road,
Southam CV47 2BL**

- Share concerns
- Discuss solutions and safety measures
- Meet and speak with local officers and partner agencies.

For more information and to confirm attendance please contact: sntsoutham@warwickshire.police.uk



This is a vital service for vulnerable people, many of whom would not be able to attend healthcare appointments without our volunteers.

Kind words of appreciation from our clients

"It's a wonderful service"

"I don't know what I would do without it"

"This is such a valuable service for those that need help to get to their appointments"

If you can spare time, have your own vehicle and want to help others, we would love to hear from you. Drivers have the flexibility of hours they can offer or trips that they can help with - nothing is considered too little.

You will receive a mileage allowance of 45p a mile for authorised journeys which does not incur a tax liability.



To find out more
phone 01926 814004 or email
deputy@southamcouncil-warks.gov.uk



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

Gardening to encourage wildlife is something I'm often speaking about but the time has come when I've reached my limits. The appearance of a pair of roe deer has capped any issues with slugs, snails and rabbits. They are extremely destructive and are nibbling their way through the plants quite determinedly. Apparently there are just five different plants which aren't to their liking. Fencing the site isn't an option but I will try everything else I possibly can including waving my arms and swearing loudly at them whenever I see them. Any suggestions to deter them will be most welcome.

Meanwhile I have almost done my bulb order and will have fritillarias, camassia, alliums and anemones to pot up ready for spring/summer sales next year.

I hear the phrase 'putting the garden to bed' quite often. My approach is that this is a time to get a lot done right through the winter if the weather is okay. It can be such a good time to prune, plant new plants, move things, remove things and divide things. The soil will be warm, roots can get established and there is generally less clutter meaning you can see what needs to be done more easily. Happy autumn/winter gardening everyone!



STOCKTON'S WEATHER STATION



AUGUST 2024

Headlines - a very dry month with only 25% of average August rainfall

In August the average **minimum temperature** was 14.1 deg. C, one and a half a degrees above the average (12.5 deg. C.). The lowest temperature was 10.0 deg. on the 9th. The average **maximum temperature** was 22.6 deg. C, about one degree above the average (21.6 deg.C.). The highest temperature was 29.0 deg. on the 12th April. **Rainfall** was only 16.5mm, about 25% of the August average of 65 mm. The wettest day was the 24th with 7.5 mm. It only rained on 10 days. **Sunshine** levels have been 7% below the average for August. **Winds** blew mostly from the south and south west (28 days).

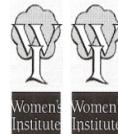
Trivia of the month - in the past 70 years only four August months have been drier than this year. After the wettest beginning of a year on record this drier month restores some of the balance.

The weather monitor



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 September meeting before welcoming everyone and we all sang Jerusalem as usual. She then told us how successful the Produce Show had been and announced that the WI winner of the Produce Trophy was Anthea Knight. Sally Humphrey came second with Sue Flegg and Josie Winfield a joint third.

Joan went through the various trips and outings. She reminded us that our darts team were playing in the final against Wishaw at Kenilworth and since then our team have played and won the WI Darts Cup. Well done to Josie, Sue F, Pauline and Diane!

Mary told us that the Festival weekend had been very successful and that we had donated funds from the Produce Show, cake stall and the toy tombola.



Joan then welcomed our speaker for the evening Alistair Price whose talk was 'What did you do in the War Dad?' which was a tribute to his father Squadron Leader Kenneth George Price DFC about his remarkable life and his part in The Great Escape from Stalag Luft 111 in 1944. He told us that many of us will have fathers with their own story to tell about their time during WW2 and he was very proud of his. He came from a relatively poor background in Coventry and joined the RAF rising up through the ranks as an officer. He played a part as one of the famous Pathfinders in Bomber Command, completing 58 missions before being shot down in 1943. He then spent two years as a prisoner of war in Stalag Luft 111 Poland. Alistair told of his father's part in the Great Escape and the subsequent Long March. His talk was so interesting and his father's experience was extraordinary and a part of life in the history of the period.

Joan reminded us about the Lavender Service at Stockton Church on Thursday 3rd October at 2 pm. This is a short service followed by a lovely get together with tea and cakes. The service and refreshments are open to everyone in our village so please come along. The smell of lavender as you enter the church will be amazing and we have been busy filling lavender bags to hand out. (see Poster in this issue).

Our next meeting will be **Monday 7th October 2024 at 7.30 pm**, upstairs at the Nelson Club when the speaker is Jennifer Rigby with Amusing Anecdotes. The competition is A Seaside Postcard.



1st Stockton Scout Group
Group Scout Leader: Jo Brough Tel: 07568 653158
email: GSL.Stockton@LeamingtonScouts.org.uk/
1st.Stockton.Scouts@gmail.com

****A HUGE THANK YOU**** goes out to all those who came and supported 1st Stockton Scouts a couple of weeks ago.

Tom Lowe, Charlie Lawson, Simon Barford, Juan CB, Richard Everitt & Jimmy, Holly Thurgood and our volunteer Leaders Neil & Sharon Minor, Toby & Antonia Leeman, Simon Diggins and Jo Brough (sorry if we have forgotten anyone!!)

They all worked extremely hard and managed to mow a section of the field, strim the overgrowth around the hut and fire pit, cut down brambles, fixed lights, update smoke alarms, add security bolts, cleaned and tidied the kitchen, sharpen and sort all our crayons and felt tips and generally tidy the Hut, ready for the new term last week.

Everyone at 1st Stockton Scouts would like to say a huge thank you for all your invaluable help and support and giving up your Saturday to keep Scouting going for our 60+ young people ☺



BEAVERS

Beavers returned for the new Winter Term and took part in a Log Chew and team games. We are looking forward to working towards earning lots of badges this term through cooking, community crafts, experiments, international foods and cultures and, of course, Halloween and Christmas activities!

CUBS & SCOUTS

Cubs and Scouts will be working collaboratively this term, towards learning new “Skills For Life”, including orienteering, night hiking and map reading.



Five members of Stockton Pétanque Club were selected to play for the Heart of England (HoE) Region in the National Inter-Regional Championship in September and helped HoE to a promotion from Division 2 to Division 1 with great performances. Our stars were Richard & Becky Rushton, Catherine Black and Steve Neale, playing as HoE 6, and Charlie Caruana, playing with colleagues from Coventry as HoE 7.

In the meantime, Catherine Black and Steve Neale are dominating the club's leagues.

With just two weeks left for the Summer League, Steve Neale is leading with 87 points, just one ahead of Catherine Black on 86 points. Sarah Jerger (74) and John Emberton (63) are way behind so it will be a two-horse photo finish!

The annual Singles League has four months to go, with Catherine Black ahead on 18 wins, closely chased by Steve Neale with 15 wins and John Emberton with 13 wins.

The club's annual open triples ended up as a contest between Stockton and Penkridge, one of the new clubs in the Heart of England Region. We played a four round competition with Stockton Yeomen – Sarah Jerger, Catherine Black and Steve Neale winning all four of their games. Stockton Knights – Becky Rushton, Rick Hayes and Jeff Rand won three games, losing only to the Yeomen, so Stockton PC were the champions, with Penkridge achieving just two wins.

We also played a competition against Coventry PC as a memorial to David Kimpton. Each club fielded five teams who played three timed rounds. The final result was a draw with 7.5 wins each, but Stockton achieved a +17 points advantage and therefore won the David Kimpton trophy. The best pair was Catherine Black/Steve Neale with +15, closely followed by Rich Powell/Jeff Rand with +13. The evening, hosted by Coventry, concluded with an excellent buffet laid on by The Burnt Post.

12 players turned up for our September melee and after three rounds there were just two unbeaten players – Rich Rushton taking the honours with a +13 advantage, just pipping Catherine Black who had +9. The best of those with two wins was Jenny Lowe with +14.

We also welcome two villagers as the latest members of Stockton Pétanque Club - Lucinda Tanner and Sara Ackers

The next melee will be on **October 5th**. Everyone is welcome – we will provide the boules and tuition on the rules.



STOCKTON VILLAGE HALL

Bookings - Helen Kittendorf Tel: 815376

Hourly Rate £9

email: helenkitten-



Some of the delicious cakes at our Coffee Morning on Saturday 7th September

The Trustee's held the AGM on 23rd September and the main points of the meeting were as follows:

The Accounts for the Village Hall have been audited and signed off
The Constitution of the Village Hall Management Committee has been reviewed and will be updated to include holding future AGM's in June to allow for the Accounts to be audited and signed off

The Management Committee has been agreed:

- Chair – Ron Flegg
- Treasurer – Steve Kittendorf
- Secretary – Sarah Redgrave
- Office & Bookings – Helen Kittendorf
- Social Media – Becky Makepeace
- Additional Trustees – Anthea Knight and Sue Flegg

Thank you to Jo Harvey, who has resigned from the Management Committee, for all her support and we wish her all the best for the future
Effective from 1st January 2025, there will be some changes to the charges made for the hire of the Village Hall for non-regular activities and the cost of coffee, tea and cake at the Coffee Morning will be increased to £1.50 for coffee or tea and £1.50 for cake

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.

We would really like to hear from you if you have any suggestions for other activities we can run as part of the Village Hall – please speak to one of the Management Committee or email Helen on helenkittendorf@hotmail.co.uk.

The Village Hall Trustees

The Village Hall Trustees

STOCKTON'S NEWS FROM THE PAST - NO. 13 - OVERCROWDING

From a report of March 1900 - Stockton is another village where overcrowding may be said to practically exist in respect to the demand for cottages fit to live in. But the general conditions are, I am led to believe, much better than at Long Itchington. Amongst other things to be observed is that a very considerable number of new cottages have been built during the last thirty years or so. Taking the cottages altogether they form a very good average and but for a very few bad ones this interesting village must stand well forward amongst the best in respect to the general condition of cottage homes. But to deal fairly with these two last named villages we should make a comparison of the rents which cottagers pay. In Long Itchington rents seem to vary according to the information I have gathered, from £3 5s to £5 per annum, whereas in Stockton they are from £5 to £7 and upwards per annum. With these figures before us we could hardly expect that Stockton would not be a more wholesome village than Long Itchington with its larger and not less stirring population.

Stockton and I

The Autobiographical writings of Victor Neal
Part 10

SONGS, CHARACTERS, THE QUARRY AND JOBS. Now some old song in the back of my mind sends me along another track, perhaps not unrelated to our recently recalled vaudeville ventures. My father would, on the rarest of special occasions, feasts and the like celebrated at the Barley Mow, sing one of his two songs; like old Charlie Berry who, at some of these same events, would say when pressed: 'Ah, well, I know two songs, and I'll sing one first.'

'M-O-N-E-Y
That's the stuff to bring you joy.
When you've got the L-S-D
Everybody seems so free.
Friends you've never met before
Flock around you by the score;
Girls to win your love will try,
For your M-O-N-E-Y.'

That one I remember distinctly, and I'm pretty sure his other was:
'She was a dear little dicky-bird,

*Cheep, cheep, cheep she went.
Sweetly she sang to me
Till all my money was spent.
Then she went off song;
We parted on fighting terms.
She was one of the early birds,
And I was one of the worms.'*

My mother had a much larger repertoire and required much less incentive than dad to burst into song, but by no means at the Barley Mow, no fear; strictly for home use only, pure joie de vivre about her work. It's interesting for the older generation to recall old songs, so I'll list some of my mother's prime and of my childhood. I believe I could still recall at least the complete choruses of each of them; if I thought it would please anyone beside myself, I would be tempted to get them all down, in spite of all the writing it would involve. Some future song collector will perhaps say: 'I wish he had.'

*Barney take me home again; Oh, I will take you home, Kathleen; Sweet Marie;
Why did I leave my little back room in Bloomsbury?; Paddy from home he never
had been (When Paddy went over the railway); Now we're aged and grey,
Maggie (When you and I were young); Two lovely black eyes; Oh, Flo, why do
you go, riding alone in your motor-car? and Marguerite.*

On some festive occasion at the Barley old Finch reeled out almost into the arms of Miles Berry (old Miles's son) with a prime-developing black eye. Miles, who was usually prepared to fight any of his acquaintances' battles for them, says: 'What've you bin at, Finch?' Finch says: 'Well, I only told him the truth, Miles.' Miles must have been in one of his wisest moods, for he replies: 'Ah, that's all right, but you know, Finch, people often don't like being told the truth.'

But I don't think I've introduced you to 'old Finch' – Charlie Finch – who was a character if you like: 'I came to Stock'n the night Griffin's ricks were on fire.' General odd-job man he was, cycle-repairing, house repairs; often living alone in some old shack from which we could hear the strains of his violin – he was no Yehudi Menuhin either – still, kindly and useful on the whole. I dare say we'll return to him as we proceed, but we can use this reference to Griffin's farm as a chance to tell of an old-time workman there. Perhaps Finch himself or my father told me the tale – I don't remember the chap's name now, which is a pity, as he could have been made as immortal as Dr Spooner, for he had a habit of speech which you'll understand if I give you this example, which was one of his best. He says: 'Ah, the best team I ever worked with were three grey ploughs and a wooden horse.'

There was old Tommy Bicknell, too; my dad would tell how for his first job of work he went to the local stone quarry called Klondyke, ironically enough, when most of the work was still done by hand. When a pit was worked down somewhat it was customary to build a barrow-road – planks on trestles – to wheel the spoil or 'muck' over to the other, worked-out, side of the quarry. Well, Tommy says: 'What do I do?' 'Oh, fill the barrer with that muck.' 'What now?'

‘Take it across the planks.’ ‘And then?’ ‘Tip it up.’ ‘Oh, b***** a job like that,’ says Tommy, ‘what’s the sense in filling a barrer if you’re going to tip it out again?’ And he puts on his jacket and goes home, and my dad says he never did have a regular job again. Lucky for him we didn’t have myxomatosis in those days.

Those barrow-roads! You’d have thought them suicide roads, and yet men accepted them apparently without a thought and trundled backwards and forwards on them with a wheelbarrow on – what should I say? I ought to check with an old quarry man while there is still one left, so I only estimate – a one-foot wide plank and thirty or forty feet high to begin with. I know my hair has stood on end watching them build the things; balancing boxes on the trestles to take the planks, which enabled the road to be lowered as the pit was worked down. Yet I never knew or heard of anyone falling off the bouncing planks, with which it was necessary to keep in step, particularly when loaded with the heavy stone which by more hair-raising skill had to be tipped from the planks’ highest point to the bottom of the quarry for loading into trucks, to be hauled up the incline and thence to the cement works by miniature loco.

There was one man killed when loading the stone at the bottom. The chaps tipping from above would shout a warning without fail, but this particular loader would always have the last stone, relying on his experience of the time taken by the stone in the air. He, poor man, finally had one too many and the stones caught him.

I had an adventure myself down at these quarries but that wasn’t in my schooldays so doesn’t really belong at this point. Arthur Mee on Warwickshire says that Stockton’s only claim to fame rests on the fact that London walks on a bit of Stockton, our quarries having provided the stone that made the cement that made part of the Thames Embankment. All very true, but what about our ichthyosaurus or Tuckwell or Colley?

PART 3: CAREERS

*Oh, mad, mad world with base seduction
How nearly had you caught me,
In the toils of mass production
What would you have taught me?*

My brother Wal had left school and before long had chewed his fingers in the mangold-pulper at the old Manor-house farm where he found his first job; my brother Ern had left school and before long stuck a hayfork through his foot at Gregory’s farm where he had started, And then there was one!

I’m pretty sure it was January 1909 we had the grand opening of our new mixed school – no doubt after the Christmas holidays – and I left the following June to make a start as odd-job boy at Stockton House, occupied then by J G Blythe Esq., boss of the cement works – managing director, I dare say he was. I remember so shyly accompanying my father to the big house for our preliminary

interview, and wishing they hadn't had that green and red tablecloth in the servants' hall where this was held: the lighting played tricks with it, making it dazzling, distracting and bothering.

Dazzled or not, I started on ten bob a fortnight, considered quite good in those days – Ern had begun at three and sixpence a week. I cleaned boots, brushed clothes – from GB's breeches and suede leggings for the cement works to his dress suit to dine; worst of all, the hunting rig, although the pair of grooms assumed responsibility for the scarlet coat and for 'boning' the boots with such craftsmen's pride; come to think of it, it was Miss Hilda B (sister to G) or rather her mud-spattered riding habit that caused most trouble, and was often returned by her maid, somewhat contemptuously, for me to make a second attempt at the job. Then down to the farm buildings at the bottom of the hill – short cut down the field and over a stile if I wasn't lugging the two great buckets of swill with the aid of a pair of yokes – to feed pigs, fowls, etc. Luckily old Billy Cleaver milked the cow or so. Home to breakfast permitted now, then back to the farm to clean out the pigs and look for eggs again. Then on to garden help under Alf Flood. 'Time to do your jobs, Vic,' Alf would say, and get coal, etc ready, then to the farm again for evening feeding. Occasional poultry and game to pluck and, as the old song had it: 'And the rest of the day's your own.' Only in the lighter months one had to go back and shut up fowls and ducks at dusk. And the jobs had to be done on Sunday, too, minus the gardening.

Jack Watson was head groom; Walter (Boxer) Hopkins his 'under'. There was Frances Cashmore, scullery-maid (who said: 'Ah, well, Victor, we shan't always be the drudges of Stockton House', a consoling and pretty safe prediction); Alice Higgins, parlour-maid; Mrs Tennant, cook, and whatever was the housemaid's name? – surname Ellison, could be. Never mind, I don't suppose you're interested, though you would have been interested in Frances's successor to her share of the drudgery, which she relinquished some time before I left, pretty little Dora Rutter. My brother-in-law-to-be, Freddie Gent, who paid visits now and then to the house to run the engine for battery-charging for the house's current (sent from the boss's works), would have liked to use me for a go-between if I had been brave or cheeky enough to make the best of my access to the scullery. Frances was from Leamington – the baker's in Tavistock Street, I remember – and Dora belonged to the little village of Broome, near Bidford, she informed us.

Now and then one of the grooms would trot off to the station with the carriage to collect a visitor, which would mean a little more clothes-brushing for a spell, and each year old Alf Flood would anxiously watch the progress of the celery. 'I don't mind as long as we can manage one stick for the partridge shooting,' he said, it being traditional for the first celery to be on the table for the first shooting party on 1st September.

At times when the garden threatened to overwhelm us, or on the occasion we extended the ground into the adjoining field, wherein was the short cut to the farm, we were allowed the help of old Jack Cook. I forget whether we borrowed him from the works, too, but I remember his favourite tale which was of the time when he was a fireman on the railway. He made one memorable journey with

quite a character of a driver, when he says he noticed the water getting low in the boiler glass, lower and lower until it was out of sight. The frightening urgency at last forced him to draw the driver's attention to it and the distance before they could replenish. 'You needn't worry about that,' says the man at the throttle, 'you're quite safe with me. I'm one of the seven that's going to heaven without dying.' Quite seriously, Jack led us to understand, and though he was in a panic for miles when he couldn't imagine there was a drop left in the boiler, sure enough they arrived safely.

Once or twice Alf drove me back to thinking about Welchman, whom I told you about, although he didn't worry me in the ordinary course of our duties. Alf having one of his rare nights out would ask me to deputise for him and bank up the greenhouse and conservatory boilers about ten o'clock at night, an eerie procedure on a winter's night in the blackness under those surrounding trees.

One bright summer's day, whilst taking the short cut to the farm, I noticed Miss Blythe's hunter limping with an awful gash nearly the full length of one of his hind legs. I soon saw the cause, a bent length in the iron fencing that surrounded the farm, indicating that the horse had managed to get his leg threaded over and under, and then in a panic had wrenched away with sheer force. It was a sickening sight and I ran back at the double up the field and got help, culminating in the vet's attention.

Later on I appreciated a lighter angle to this affair. Old Jack Watson and 'Boxer' Hopkins, the grooms, always referred to this particular horse as 'Charlie'. When I bounced back up the field path that day, who should I run into but Miss Blythe herself. 'One of the horses is hurt, miss,' and I panted out my story. 'Which one?' she enquires. 'Charlie, miss,' says I. 'Charlie? We've no Charlie; which do you mean?' 'Your horse, miss.' 'That's not Charlie, that's Hotspur,' she says, and thereby I learnt something else I didn't know, and perhaps she did, too. I couldn't imagine either of our grooms saying: 'Whoa, Hotspur.' Talk about speaking to them in the language they understand!

(To be continued)

WEL-SAN HARRIERS
STOCKTON, 1926.





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