

STOCKTON'S NEWS

keeping you informed

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February 2025

Issue 173

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**Stockton Parish Council
Villager of the Year**

1992 - A. BISHOP
1993 - Mrs B. BENBOW
1994 - Mrs. M. GRIFFIN
1995 - RON CAIRNS
1996 - Mrs. FRANCES FISH
1997 - Mrs. RUTH NOON
1998 - Rev. F. JACKSON
1999 - Mrs. E. JARVIS
2000 - DOT DAVIES
2001 - MARGARET POWELL
2002 - DAVE STANLEY
2003 - Howard Collerson
2004 - Steve Ward
2005 - Heather Owen
2006 - Tim Busby
2007 - Dave Rudge

2008 - Trudy Windsor
2009 - Sheila & Denis Stevens
2010 - Wendy Kumsen
Marion Stringer
Steve Kettendorf
2011 - Mary Lee
2012 - Richard Musson
2013 - Pat Alsop
2014 - Zoe Taylor
2015 - Irene Harkins
2016 - Val Legg
2017 - Susan & Ron Flegg
2018 - Bill Robinson
2019 - Ashley Leeman
2020 - Stockton's Covid Heroes
2021 - Sue Coutts

NOMINATIONS FOR VILLAGER OF THE YEAR 2024 NEEDED

THE NELSON CLUB at STOCKTON
Napton Road, Stockton Tel: 01926 812613
OPENING HOURS:- Mon - Thurs:- 5pm - 11pm Friday 4pm - 12.30am
Sat 12noon - 12.30am Sun 12 Noon - 11pm

Brewed Awakening—11th & 25th - 10am til 12.20pm
Afternoon Bingo - EVERY WEEK - 1.30pm Eyes Down 2.00pm

Sat 22nd Live Band - 2nd Hand Daylight - 9pm

Fri 28th - 80's Night - Tickets only -
see F.B. for more info or call in.

*** Now open 12noon on Saturday's***

Join us for sporting events with BT and Sky Sports
For last minute events or changes to the current planned events please see the following:
Web page: <http://nelsonclub.co.uk/index.html>
Find us on **Facebook & Twitter**

Stockton Football & Cricket Club

Napton Road, Stockton CV47 8JU **Facebook:** [@StocktonFCCC](#)

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

Our Teams:

Stockton Football

(Mens, Girls & Boys)

Stockton Stars Cricket,

Stockton Ladies Netball,

Stockton Petanque,

Warwickshire Grizzlies

Baseball,

SFCC Darts Team

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stephenw26268@googlemail.com

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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>

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Stockton Church

Methodist and Anglicans in unity

The Bridges Group of Parishes

email:admin@thebridgesgroup.org.uk.

www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk

Tel:01926 812383

The Bridges Group	02.02.25 Candlemas White	09.02.25 4 th before Lent Green	16.02.25 3 rd before Lent Green	23.02.25 2 nd before Lent Green
Priors Hardwick	Morning Worship 9.00am	Evensong 5.00pm	Holy Communion BCP 9.00am	
Priors Marston	Morning Worship 10.30am	Holy Communion CW 10.30am	Morning Worship 10.30am	Morning Worship 10.30am
Wormleighton				Morning Worship 10.30am
Napton	Holy Communion CW 10.30am		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	Holy Communion BCP 9.00am
Lower Shuckburgh				

The Bridges group NOTICE BOARD
LOWER SHUCKBURGH, NAPTON, STOCKTON
Prior's Marston, Prior's 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 Prior's 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



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 - 10.45 am ~ (Term Time)

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 :~

Afternoon Bingo ~ Alt. Thurs ~ Nelson Club ~ Eyes Down ~ 2.00pm

Beavers: Stockton Scout Hut 6.15pm - 7.30pm (Term Time)

Friday :~

Toddlersaurs: Village Hall ~ 9.30 - 11.00am

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 ~

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

Tuesday:~

Brewed Awakening: Nelson Club ~ 10.00am - 12.20pm ~ **11th & 25th**

Folk Night: Last Tuesday of the month ~ Nelson Club ~ 7.30pm

Wednesday:~

Church Lunch: Every 3rd Wednesday ~ 12noon

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

Thursday:~

Friday:~

Saturday:~

Coffee Morning & Library: Every 1st Sat ~ Village Hall ~ **1st**

Pétanque Melee ~ F.C. & C.C. ~ All Welcome ~ 1.00pm ~

Whist Drive: Every 2nd Sat ~ Village Hall ~ 7.30pm ~ **8th**

Stockton Cinema: Every last Saturday ~ Village Hall ~ 7.00pm ~ **22nd**

WHO'S WHO

Parish Council	Chairman	Howard Collerson	813181
	Clerk	Robbie Robinson	814094
	Councillors	John Emberton	814267
		Helen Kittendorf	815376
		Chris Millidge	812991
		Terry Warner	813424
		Richard Rumsey	813730
		Wendy Rumsey	813730
District/County Councillor		Andy Crump	815745
Member of Parliament		Jeremy Wright	01926 853650
St. Michaels	Priest in Charge		
	Administrator	Susan Holloway	812383
	Church Warden	Wendy Turner	812694
	Church Flowers	Wendy Turner	812694
Village Hall Bookings		Helen Kittendorf	815376
Stockton School	Head Teacher	Mrs. Ann Bedgood	812483
Little Acorns			813789
Toddlersaurs		Becca Makepeace	07733107197
Group Scout Leader		Jo Brough	07568 653158
Scouts		David Brough	07432 358259
Cubs		Toby Leeman	07866 563301
Beavers		Jo Brough	07568 653158
Women's Institute	President	Sue Gill	
460278			
	Secretary	Joan Ford	810220
Football		Rick Musson	813018
Football Club House		Luke Cole	07710 864192
Magazine Editorial Team		Wendy Rumsey	813730
Advertising Editor		Marion Stringer	812887
Magazine Treasurer		Steve Kittendorf	815376
		Steve Kittendorf	815376

LOCAL EVENTS

Events and News from Our Neighbouring Villages

Long Itchington History Group

Meeting at Community Centre 7.30pm

Www.longitchingtonhistory.org.uk

WEDNESDAY 12th February STARTING AT 7.30.

“Hidden Depths, Canal Industry” - Trevor Langley.

For further details and to request transport please phone 01926 815119.

Programmes available on request.



Southam Gardening Club

thesouthamgardeningclub.blogspot.co.uk

Tel: 01926 813986 or 815086.



Emma O'Neill, Head Gardener Ryton Organic,
will give an illustrated talk
‘An Introduction to Organic Gardening’
7.30pm on Monday 17th February

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.



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



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday wishes for this month go to

Emilia Tolley, Ian Cooper, Wendy Rumsey, Janet Cox,

Edna Noon and Arla Adkins

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

Refuse & Recycling

Food Waste - weekly Grey Lid Bin - 3 weekly - 7th & 21st

Blue Lid Bin & Green Bin - 2 weekly - 21st

Missed Bins Tel: 01789 260616

Mobile Library
Stockton Church 2.10 - 2.30pm ~ 7th

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

Locations of Defibrillators and Bleed Packs

**Telephone Box, The Square
&**

Football Club House, Napton Road

Stop the Bleed Pack - For use in a catastrophic bleed and does not contain normal first aid items like plasters etc.

Dial 999

and they talk you through how to apply tourniquet and wound dressings.

STOCKTON'S VILLAGER OF THE YEAR 2024

The Parish Council is asking for nominations for Villager of the Year.

This could be somebody who has worked hard for the village community or who has provided support for you or another person who may have needed help.

Please send your nominations with your reasons by 28th February to the Parish Clerk at 74 George Street or email to clerk@stockton-warks-pc.gov.uk.

Stockton Parish Council

We do apologise for any printing errors in this months magazine our excuse is having to not only learn to operate the new printer but also new publisher programme format which brings to mind the proverb -

You can't teach an old dog new tricks!

(You can but it just takes more time!) ~ Eds.



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*

STOCKTON PARISH COUNCIL - JANUARY 2025 MEETING

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

County and District Council Matters: Government Proposal for Unity

Authorities - The Government want to replace the two tiers of local council (County and District) with a single (Unitary) authority by 2028. Warwickshire have put in a bid to government to combine the five District Councils in the county into one and to be in the first round of the new councils. It is not clear yet whether this will include having an elected Mayor. **The South Warwickshire Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation** is now live and will run for a period of 8 weeks, until Friday 7 March 2025. This can be found on the SWLP website.

Village Facilities: Village Hall Broadband - the parish council has come to an agreement with the Village Hall Committee and Stocktons News to fund the installation of a broadband service in the Hall. The installation costs will be born by the Committee and Stocktons News and the monthly rent charge will be paid by the Parish Council. This will allow the Council to access relevant documents during council meetings and give all village hall users the benefit of broadband access.

Climate Change Community Fund: the parish council will support the Village Hall Committee's bid for a grant to install solar panels at the hall. **Street light in Post**

Office Lane: the old fashioned street light is no longer working and cannot be converted to LED lamps - as there have been complaints about the level of lighting in Post Office Lane the parish council will ask its contractor to replace it with a modern steel column as part of its programme to upgrade all lights. **Small cameras** have appeared on telegraph poles and lighting columns in the village and the parish council will find out who was responsible and what purpose they serve.

Stockton Crossroads: Cllr Crump and Cllr Warner had a meeting with WCC Road Safety staff over the recent crashes at the crossroads. Major alterations such as an island or traffic lights were ruled out on cost grounds but discussions are ongoing over improvements to signage, etc.

Parish Council Precept: the Precept is the money that is collected by Stratford on behalf of the parish council to pay for the services it provides in the village such as grass cutting, street lights, cemetery, etc. The parish council decided to keep the precept of £31,000 at the same level as last year, which means our part of the Council Tax for a Band D property would be about £53.60 pa.

Villager of the Year Award: the award for 2024 will be advertised asking for nominations for 2024 with a deadline of 28 February.

Moan of the Month: Dog mess has been left along the edge of Memorial Green - please clean up after your dog.

Next Meeting: Monday 17 February 2025 @ 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

Last month, Cllr Warner, a resident and I met WCC to discuss the situation at the crossroads – I've agreed to help with some more road markings. The only real long-term solution will be traffic lights, the WCC officer said that any roundabout (including mini) would not be appropriate. I and the PC will seek funds for the lights, which are likely to cost run into 7 figures.

I've been producing these weekly updates for nearly 5 years now and I'd like to think that my posts are informative and presented in a non political and non self promoting way (you may disagree) but I do get annoyed when people take credit for other people's work or go to a photo opportunity, when they have had very little input (into the subject). Some people would go to an opening of an envelope if the press was there, whereas I have the perfect face for radio.

My other pet peeve is when councillors, utility companies or developers etc say something that is totally different to my recollection – those who know me would say my memory is pretty good (especially if I am owed money ha ha !) – I was once told I was good listener too. I've have had several examples of it this over the past few months when to quote the late Queen 'recollections may vary' – I then do further research (and sense checking with other people/councillors) and it subsequently transpires that my recollections were far more accurate than theirs. I often think of the parable of Doubting Thomas at such times.

Review of 2024

Another busy year dealing with lots of calls, emails, Facebook messages from how is Aldi doing, to potholes, overgrown paths, flooding, speeding , ASB, neighbour problems, roadworks etc. This year I've often helped to pin down and hold to account organisations such as the National Grid , STW, broadband contractors, Mobile phone network providers and the Primary Care Trust, all of which can be tardy in replying to residents' concerns on a wide range of issues, Like most years, I've often been approached by several residents in various places (shops, pub, on dog walks and at meetings) for my views, opinions and information on a wide range of issues – dog walks, in particular, can take longer than anticipated.

I've regularly attended Stockton and Napton PCs, Lower Shuckburgh gathering and Southam Town Council Meetings, as well as numerous community events. At all, I've provided some sort of comprehensive update.

Many local organisations have benefitted from my Cllr Community Budget in 2024 – Southam Swimming Club, Stockton Lunch Club, Southam Community Minibus, defibrillators at Southam Cricket Club and Napton Garage, Southam Community Business Group, Lower Shuckburgh Community Bench Fund, Southam Town Play areas, Southam Vision Support, Graham Adams Centre.

I've also managed to use my Highways Budget to improve several footpaths and highways areas throughout my ward (i.e. Southam, Stockton and Napton). Also many areas have had foliage cut back (by me or the council), road signs cleaned or made visible as well as many road marking being refreshed etc.

Certainly been a busy year and I feel I've tried to make a positive contribution to our community, so I was annoyed by the paragraph below.

Recently, a friend sent me a copy of a recent post on FB of someone saying that I – along with others- was not ‘fit for purpose’ -, that someone was a person I had tried to help (over 3 years ago) – what was posted was not true and there are 2 sides to a story. I had arranged for appropriate authorities to investigate and give advice, which wasn’t necessarily followed. It was a civil case and when my advice didn’t align with their views, they became uncivil in my opinion – it was a good job I didn’t publish some of the emails (which I obviously wont btw) as they would shed a different perspective on it. At the end of the day, I’ve been a SDC Cllr nearly 13 years and a WCC one nearly 8 years and if I get retired by the electorate at a future election, so be it. I do remember the phrase that the grass isn’t always greener on the other side and be careful what you wish for.

Local Government Review/Devolution (Government decision due late Jan/early Feb – after publication of Feb’s Stockton News)

The leader of WCC has decided, after listening to a range of views, to write to the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government. This is to signal willingness to be considered for delivering local government reorganisation and devolution in keeping with the Government’s ambitious timeframe and recognising that, consequently, the Government may decide it is necessary to postpone the May 2025 County Council elections.

WCC now awaits the Government’s response which is anticipated to be received by the end of January. When WCC receives that response, I hope it will be clear on timescales and next steps.

I will share that information as soon as I have it and as such, I anticipate my next update, on this subject, will be to confirm whether or not the Government decides to postpone the May '25 elections.

I, for one, recognise that we are in a period of uncertainty and that there will be concerns around what the future may hold. While the Government has set out its ambitions, it is early days and very much business as usual as WCC continues to deliver for its residents and communities as always.

Regardless of whether Warwickshire is in the priority programme for Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation, it is clear that the next few years will bring significant change. I know that as always, Warwickshire County Councillors will continue to put the interests of residents to the forefront, and will meet challenges head-on.

Winter Fuel Allowance (WFA) – residents are aware of my opinions around its removal for most. Whilst I accept that some people who got it, didn’t really need it, there are many just over the qualification limit who lost it and really need it.

Recently, I helped such a resident (who had lost their WFA) with a claim for **Attendance Allowance** and this week that person informed me that the claim had been successful and it would be backdated until November, as well as receiving a

weekly amount. If anyone wants to know more about this and **Pension Credit**, please get in touch with me.

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>

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>

Cost of Living Support – SDC

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

Firefighter recruitment As we start a new year, are you thinking about a new career? As a firefighter you'll do more than fight fires - beyond responding to emergencies, you'll be a vital part of a community, working proactively to prevent incidents. Read Sam's Story: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5871/new-year-new-career-meet-firefighter-sam-o-malley>

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service helping patients to return home safely from hospital

Find out how Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is helping hospital patients to return home safely with their Hospital to Home service: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5863/warwickshire-fire-and-rescue-service-helping-patients-to-return-home-safely-from-hospital

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->

Winter Vigilance

You can play your part in keeping people safe.

Stay alert to people filming security exits, entrances or CCTV or anything that doesn't feel right.

Tell a member of staff, security or police, or report online at www.gov.uk/ACT.

#SafeInWarwickshire

Warm and well this winter

As we step into the winter season, the excitement of festive activities can sometimes be overshadowed by challenges, especially for those facing health risks or financial pressures. Discover more about staying warm and well: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5701/supporting-warwickshire-to-stay-warm-and-well-this-winter>

For more information about the Local Welfare Scheme visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme, to enquire or to apply for support, call 0800 4081448 or 01926 359182. Information and advice on managing household costs can be found <https://www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/>

Look out for each other during colder weather Please look out for those who may need some extra support during this time. Read more: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/keepwarm

Cold weather alert When the Met Office issues a weather warning for frost & ice, temperatures are expected to drop. As they do, road conditions can become unpredictable. Stay safe on your journeys with these simple tips:

- Slow Down: Wet, icy, or frosty roads mean longer stopping distances. Reduce your speed and give yourself extra time to react.
- Check Your Tyres: Ensure they have enough tread for good grip in wintery conditions.
- Be Visible: Use your headlights in low light and make sure all your lights are working properly.
- Plan Ahead: Allow extra time for your journey and avoid sudden manoeuvres. Stay safe, drive carefully, and look out for one another on the roads this winter.

Cold health alert Please look out for those who may need some extra support during this time such as ensuring they have adequate supplies of food and any medication they may need.

For information visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/keepwarm

Tips to keep warm

Low indoor temperatures can have a serious impact on your health, especially if you have a medical condition or are older. Here are a few tips to keep warm:

- try to heat rooms you spend a lot of time in, such as the living room or bedroom, to at least 18°C
- try to reduce draughts; you can fit draft excluders around doors cheaply
- keep your bedroom windows closed at night

wear several layers of thinner clothing; this could keep you warmer than one thicker layer

For more information visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/keepwarm

Fire safety – portable heaters

With the cold weather setting in, portable heaters can be a lifesaver. However, they can also be a fire hazard if not used correctly.

Here are some tips to stay safe:

- Placement is key: Keep your heater away from flammable materials like curtains, furniture, and bedding.
- Safety features matter: Choose a heater with tip-over and overheating protection.
- Never leave it unattended: Turn it off and unplug it when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Direct plug-in: Avoid using extension cords or power strips.
- Regular checks: Inspect your heater for damage and keep it clean.
- Smoke alarms are essential: Make sure they're working properly.

Read more: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/home-fire-safety-tips/safe-home-heating/2
#firesafety #wintertips #homeheating

Be better prepared for extreme cold weather Take a few minutes to learn how to keep your home running smoothly in cold weather. Find out how to prevent pipes

from freezing, and more top tips at www.warwickshireresilienceforum.org/risks/extreme-cold-weather/ #BetterPrepare

Preventing home electrical fires Throughout November, Warwickshire Fire Rescue Service is reminding residents of the dangers of things like overloaded sockets, or faulty appliances, and encouraging people to follow simple tips to stay safe.

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5723/stay-safe-warwickshire-fire-service-urges-caution-with-home-electricals-to-prevent-fires>

Energy bill support available this winter The Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme is distributing funding from the Department for Work and Pensions' Household Support Fund to support people who may be struggling with energy bills this winter.

Learn more: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5860/energy-bill-support-available-this-winter

Winter flu vaccination Flu is very infectious and easily spread to other people. It's important to get your winter flu vaccination if you're eligible. Getting vaccinated every year will top up your protection and reduce your risk of getting severe symptoms. Check your eligibility via www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/keep-warm-keep-well/ #FluVaccine #GetWinterStrong #FightFlu #Winterillnesses

Flu vaccinations Flu is very infectious and easily spreads. It's important to get your winter flu vaccination if you're eligible. Getting vaccinated every year will top up your protection and reduce your risk of severe symptoms.

Check your eligibility via <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/keep-warm-keep-well/>

Flu safety We are experiencing high rates of flu this Winter. Prevent the spread of flu and other winter illnesses, by waiting for 48hrs after your flu symptoms have stopped before returning to work/school, preparing food or visiting hospitals/care homes. Visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/flu/>

Measles vaccinations More than 3 million unvaccinated children are at risk of catching measles.

in England, make sure you and your child are up to date with a free NHS #MMR vaccination. To check if you or your child has had the vaccine, ask at your GP surgery. Go to <http://nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

Green resolutions 2025: Save money, save the planet If you are thinking about making new year resolutions for 2025, why not make them environmentally friendly, by using Warwickshire County Council's online pledge tool: <https://www.sustainablewarwickshire.co.uk/homepage/40/warwickshires-green-pledges>

Sustainable Warwickshire podcast – recycle and reuse Reusing and recycling our waste is crucial for creating a sustainable future. Listen to Ruth Dixon from the WCC waste team talking to Ivan Pointon from Kenilworth Lions, about the different ways in which waste is reused or recycled in the county: <https://sustainablewarwickshire.podbean.com/e/reduce-reuse-and-recycle-managing-waste-in-warwickshire/>

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](tel: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 26061 Or download the app.[https://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/missed-bin-report-form.cfm](https://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/missed-bin-report-form.cfm?fbclid=IwAR3vkf03zQgXUsEHH040Deqfid1b1msbwpVg8DG6nQn47HoAcwmw5LL9Joch)

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>

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

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>

+Reporting drains, potholes, obscured signs, blocked paths etc – whilst I am pleased that residents feel confident enough to contact me via Facebook or Messenger, I do not always access it as much as I do my emails. Therefore, I may not be able to respond as promptly as I would like. Residents can also report issues, themselves, using the methods below

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Flooding in Warwickshire With water levels remaining high across Warwickshire, emergency services and partners are calling on the public to take care when driving or walking near flood water.

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5868/warwickshire-residents-urged-to-take-care-amid-widespread-flooding>

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.

ACL: Courses to fit your goals Ready for a fresh start? Whether you're returning to learning or diving into something new, Warwickshire's Adult Community Learning Service offers courses to fit your goals. Discover a variety of subjects and supportive resources to help you thrive at <http://warwickshire.gov.uk/acl>

Residents improving maths skills through multiply Since launching in 2022, over 2,000 Warwickshire residents have been supported to improve their numeracy skills through Multiply.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5872/over-2000-residents-supported-to-improve-their-maths-skills-through-multiply->

Quit Smoking in 2025 Make 2025 the year you quit! There's never been a better time FREE stop smoking support is available for everyone living or working in Warwickshire aged 12+ this new year

Start your smoke free journey today <https://smokefreecw.co.uk/>

Councillor groans –

I got a final warning at the circus from my boss, and I've been walking a tightrope ever since I could tell it was a Monopoly board from the word Go!!

To every small pointed tool out there, I love you awl.

If you're addicted to management speak, our support group can help. Please reach out by close of play and we'll workshop the top issues and pin down some key milestones as a team. Swedish astronomer Anders Celsius died in 1744 aged 43 though his rival Farenheit was convinced he was 109

Andy



GARDEN JOTTINGS

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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

FEBRUARY

I'm guessing not many of you will feel motivated to get out into your gardens this month. But at least you can spend some time planning for the year ahead in the comfort of your home. Take a good look at the garden while there isn't much happening to see what could be changed. Are there plants which are past their best? Could the borders be made larger to add more plants? Perhaps some plants need moving or reducing in size? Maybe you have always wanted a water feature? Even a small pond can be an added attraction for wildlife. How about growing fruit and vegetables and herbs if you don't already do that? Plants growing in containers might be in need of re-potting. Fences could do with having some wood preservative.

My hopes are that more people will become more enthusiastic with their outdoor space but the reality is that fewer people are gardening. The closing of some large garden centres and the photos on Facebook where landscapers have done a professional job of installing paving and turf (sometimes artificial grass) but leaving no room for plants suggests that a lot of the population have other priorities. I just hope this isn't a growing (ha, a pun!) trend.



STOCKTON'S WEATHER STATION



STOCKTON'S WEATHER STATION - NOVEMBER 2024

Headlines - two weeks of very dull, dry weather without a glimpse of the sun, called anti-cyclonic gloom here, but the German's have a much better word - dunkelflaute.

The **average minimum temperature** was 5.2 deg. C, just less than one degree above the average (4.4 deg. C). The lowest temperature was -2.3 deg. C on the 17th November. The **average maximum temperature** was 9.6 deg. C, just below the average (10.2 deg. C). The highest temperature was 15.4 deg. C on the 24th.

Rainfall, at 61 mm was 90 % of the average (67.5mm). It rained on 8 days and we had one day of snow, the 19th. **Sunshine** levels have been 10% lower than the long term averages. The **wind** blew mostly from the south west, south and south east (23 days).

STOCKTON'S WEATHER STATION - DECEMBER 2024

Headlines - the dullest December since 1989.

The **average minimum temperature** was 4.4 deg. C, about two degrees above the average (2.2 deg. C). The lowest temperature was 0.3 deg. C on the 28th December. The **average maximum temperature** was 9.0 deg. C, one and a half degrees above the average (7.5 deg. C) The highest temperature was 14.5 deg.C on the 1st. **Rainfall**, at 78 mm was more than 20% higher than the average (64.5mm). It rained on 19 days and the wettest day was 28 December with 27mm. **Sunshine** levels have been only about 46% of the long term average.

Trivia of the month - there were no air frosts in December 2024, the first time this has happened since 2015.

ANNUAL SUMMARY FOR 2024

Hottest day - 30.4 deg C on 14 July

Coldest night - -6.2 deg C on 17 January

Wettest day - 43mm on 23 September

Wettest month - 154mm in September

Driest month - 16.5 mm in August

Annual rainfall - 796 mm

Lowest daytime maximum - 1.3 deg C on 18 January

Warmest night - 18.6 deg C on 11 August

First ground frost - 12 September

First air frost - 19 November

A TOPSY TURVY YEAR

The year started with one of the wettest Februarys on record, although it was extremely mild. March continued the pattern of mild, wet weather but the end of April made it the coldest end to the month for 33 years. May was a dull month that may have felt cooler because of the lack of sun but it was milder due to higher overnight temperatures. With 360mm of rain, the first five months of the year have been the wettest on record. June brought the first taste of normal, sunny, summer weather that continued into July, but we did experience some isolated days of very heavy rain. August restored some of balance with only 25% of average rainfall but September was the wettest since 1883 (122mm fell between 21st - 26th). While storms and floods affected much of the country, in Stockton in October we managed to escape with a typical autumn month. November and December fell into a pattern of dull, windless days that kept temperatures above normal. The total rainfall for 2024 of 795mm is the highest since 2012 when it reached 912mm.

The Weather Monitor



STOCKTON VILLAGE HALL

Bookings - Helen Kittendorf Tel: 815376

Hourly Rate £10 email: helenkittendorf@hotmail.co.uk

A New Year and perhaps a new you! It would be great to see you at some of the Village Hall activities – there is lots going on and something for everyone.

Our regular **Coffee Morning** will be on **Saturday 1st February 10am-midday**, why not join the Whist Drive on **Saturday 8th February at 7.30pm** or perhaps the **Lunch Club on 12th February 12.30pm** at The Crown – everyone is most welcome.

The next Stockton Cinema Night is on **Saturday 22nd February** - 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 and the supper on offer.

In place of the usual Cinema Night on 28th December, we held a seasonal Snowman Drive. Similar to a Beetle Drive, the players competed to complete a drawing of a Snowman depending upon the throw of a dice. Despite the poor weather, a good turnout had a great time with lots of laughter as the evening was punctuated by loud cries of "Snowman!" as one of the players completed the task. At "half-time" we were treated to a light supper, followed by tea or coffee. The winner was a visitor from Harbury. It was agreed to arrange a similar Beetle Drive sometime in the summer – more details coming soon!

We are hoping to have broadband and Wi-Fi installed soon and will keep you updated with progress.

We would like to say thank you to Anthea Knight who has been a part of the Village Hall Committee for a long time but has now decided to take a well-deserved rest – we look forward to seeing you at some of our upcoming events. Welcome to Wendy Burrows who has joined the Committee – it is great to have you onboard! We would love to hear your thoughts on other activities we can hold at the Village Hall - please let any of the Village Hall Committee members know.

We look forward to welcoming you into the Village Hall very soon.

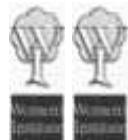
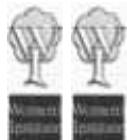
The Village Hall Trustees

WOMENS INSTITUTE

Meeting 7.30pm at Nelson Club first Monday of Month

President:- Sue Gill Tel: 01926 460278

Secretary: Joan Ford Tel: 01926 810220



At the start of December we held our Christmas Party and it certainly didn't disappoint.

Our members did us proud by bringing such a variety of delicious food. David Moylan had us all chuckling with his dry humour, magic tricks and music hall entertainment and songs. I didn't really know that I remembered The Old Bazaar in Cairo until I heard it. Such clever lines and I must have heard it as a child on an old 78 record!

Joan read out the trips and outings for February which include a Needle Felting workshop at Federation House, a Preserves Competition and Making the Most of your Sewing Machine, also both at Federation House.

The Carol Service on the 9th December organised by Stockton for other WIs in our area went very well and there was a good number attending. Thank you to all those involved in organising the evening and to the bakers of the tasty mince pies and shortbread.

We were delighted to take part in the Christmas Tree Festival at the Church, always a favourite of ours and thanks go to the members making decorations especially to Josie and Pauline for dressing the tree which looked beautiful.

At the beginning of January a good number of us went to The Crown for our annual meal which was a lovely social get together in the quiet days after the New Year. The salmon I'd ordered was absolutely delicious.

We shall soon be getting back to our normal monthly meetings and we shall be thinking about the darts competition, after all we had huge success last year with a Stockton team winning the cup!

Our next meeting will be **Monday 3rd February 2025 at 7.30 pm** upstairs at the Nelson Club when the speaker is Heather Wilson with Maker of Mad and Beautiful Things.

Pétanque Report for January

The conclusion of the Annual Singles League saw Catherine Black win with an impressive 28 wins out of 32, Steve Neale together with Jeff Rand in joint second with 21 wins.

2025 started enthusiastically when 16 players braved a very cold frosty afternoon for the January melee. After three rounds there were three unbeaten players – the best being Richard Rushton with a points advantage of +26, followed by Catherine Black on +21 and Becky Rushton on +19.

The 2024 Winter League started on October 5th with a flying start from the Summer League stars with Catherine Black on 58 points and Steve Neale on 53.

The annual award ceremony and celebratory take away afterwards took place on 10th January – Winners being Sarah Jerger (Winter League) Catherine Black (Summer league and Singles League) Richard and Becky Rushton (Stockton Pairs)

Other achievements were Sarah and Catherine winning the regional International Women's Day competition and 5 members of our club being part of the regional team that gained promotion in the annual national competition.

It came as no surprise that Catherine won player of the year due to her outstanding and consistent performance

Sally Hayes was presented with Member of the year, for her positive attitude, teamwork and marked improvement during this year.

The next melee will be on **February 1st with a 1.00pm start**. Everyone is welcome – we will provide the boules and tuition on the rules.

STOCKTON AND I

The autobiographical writings of Victor Neal (Part 13)

Mr Harold Blythe, who seemed to have the cement mills under his jurisdiction, and was referred to by the older workers as 'the little tayman' (Stockton for 'tea-man'), having been amongst the tea plantations in Ceylon, was reputed to have himself sunk £10,000 in the New Side, and already it was superseded by the Rotary, which always made me think of the American tales of tipping a pig in one end a machine and it coming out as sausages at the other.

Certainly our stone that *Gamecock*, *Niras* or *Jurassic*, with our help, were trundling up to the works, was tipped into the crusher, passed to the wet mill, to the slurry-pits, pumped into Rotary itself and in short was untouched by hand until drawn from those sleeves for dispatch by canal, rail or road; which was astounding to us who remembered the hoards of men who had been employed with wheelbarrows to link its separate processes.

So many wheelbarrows the firm owned that practically every married worker of theirs had one at home 'borrowed' for the garden. As the return of these was not covered by the rules of borrowing, the firm would periodically send Ben Cooksey with the horse and cart down to the village to collect them up. I imagine that GB, the boss, wasn't ignorant of the fact, either, that he could also have collected loads of shovels and various other tools from the hovels of his houses, for a large number of these bore the stamp 'CN', which stood for Charles Nelson. It would have been a more difficult task to have recovered the firewood that on the homeward journey occupied the space vacated by the eatables carried earlier to work in the flag-baskets. I have often thought he was well aware of these goings-on and perhaps permitted the practice to compensate for his low rates of pay. He won a half-hearted strike or two attempted to better that famous 3½d an hour; perhaps there was a better side to him. These economic references indirectly remind me to say something of my spare-time activities about these times.

Jack Berry had a liking for the oddities that were just up my street and we became bosom pals. He was a year my senior and I accepted his leadership; he led us cross-country to Ladbroke for point-to-point races, heading on a direct line for the tents visible in the distance. He taught me the pleasures of cycling and mended punctures in record time; he led me one night down to Ern Russell's yard, silently by the

hedge-side, having caught sight of Ern's son – the same Frank to whom I had handed my May Queen and my own May Kingdom in our schooldays – moving about the lighted stable bedding down the horse. Frank momentarily left the building and Jack without a word, his hand on my arm, glided us inside the stable by the light of the hurricane lantern on the floor, behind a partition four or five feet high which formed a hay pen. By this time Frank was back and foddering and grooming unsuspectingly; I almost gasped as he flung his hayfork over our partition, luckily missing us. When he finished his jobs, picked up his lantern and made for the door; I was wondering what Jack's game was and visualising us being shut in for the night. The door was one of those in two halves and Frank was just closing the top half when Jack in a deep sepulchral voice says: 'Open that door!' 'Eh?' very startled from Frank. 'Open that door and ruddy quick,' and quick as we scrambled, the hurricane lamp in Frank's hand was vanishing in the house door up the yard, which must have been remarkable time for thirty yards or so for an untrained man lacking modern technique and electric timing.

Jack and I didn't dare to tackle the length of the yard and the probability of running into Frank's father, and dashed the other way and – serves us right – blundered into the butcher's 'sockage' up to our ankles, over the hedge and across the field on to the Napton Road. Cleaning our boots on the long grass, we wandered back to the village as unconcernedly as possible, by the butcher's shop where Frank was near the gate and excitedly told us the mysterious adventure that befell him! I don't think he ever found out who it was and how they got into the stable under his very nose. But I do no that after twenty years in France Jack at last visited us, tapping on the door, opened it and said in a sepulchral: 'Open that door,' and I knew he was the same old Jack.

Well, amongst other oddities, Jack had a go at tattooing. If I were to grub around amongst my odds and ends, I could still find a few of those little handbills of his: 'By careful study of the above I can now classify myself as a tattooist,' I remember they began. I don't have to grub around for another reminder of this line of his, a reminder I can't lose even should I wish to: Buffalo Bill indelibly etched by Jack himself on my right forearm, in colour too. Jack also carried an apprentice effort or two of mine on his own arms. Our old friend Bob Lickorish, though, was our best practice target; Jack and I working simultaneously, one on each arm, Jack outlining with the machine whilst I filled in the colours with the bunched hand needles. We all three used enthusiastically to plan that crucifixion scene for Bob's chest, but it never came off (or on), for Jack had another odd idea about that time and got himself into the Royal Army Medical Corps. Before he needed to have done, too, for that was in 1913, which timing made him one of the Old Contemptibles of the following year.

On enlisting, Jack turned over the whole tattooing business – machine, transfers and what-not, including what were left of those handbills, which I had to overprint with a rubber stamp with my own name – to me, so I in my turn ‘I now classified myself as a tattooist,’ and had so many clients that – what sticks in my mind – in some weeks I earned more in this spare time job than the 11/- or so I got from Nelson’s Klondyke. At the same time I gathered – I am reminded by a glance at my hands in the act of writing – a few odd marks from the times I forgot to test the machine before filling with the ink.

Soon after this tattooing, or perhaps mixed with it, we were back to our conjuring, brother Ern now having developed enthusiasm in this line and rousing me afresh to act as his partner, for he had greater ambitions here than I, and visualised a professional act to carry us on tour of the music halls. Ern knew that we must crawl before we ran, must curb our impatience, and practise and practise. We occasionally took a day or half day from work and gave a children’s show at neighbouring schools, at Grandborough and Cubbington, I remember.

This had a romantic fascination for me and I would have liked to wander the countryside for a spell, earning a living in this way which I believe would have been reasonably possible, but the lure of those limelights was tempting my brother on to the next rung. We must give a show for the grownups. We did so at Birdingbury, enlisting the aid of Henry Baldwin, the ‘Balancing King’ and Wal (Polly) Windsor as our comedian. We became the Lenneaux Company instead of the Lenneaud Brothers, and were invited to give a command performance at Stockton Rectory for the Rector and choirboys. Ern prepared for the next rung and made sketches for a grand illusion or so to be developed for this next step, and here I get rather hazy as to why our exuberance waned at this stage. Perhaps performance found that such a fog had arisen that the mysteries and vanishings seemed likely to continue. About halfway home we all dismounted for a smoke and in the process of lighting up and joking about, lost our bearings so not one of us knew which way we’d come from or which way to go. It was thick. After some consultation I estimated that if the side road was the one I thought it was, there should be a yard wall opposite, so we fumbled around and sure enough located it. We would be able to verify our direction if in a few hundred yards we found we were running down Snowford Hill; this proved to be so, and we got home safely.

While our ardour for magic was at its height we considered adding fire-eating to our repertoire and, procuring the necessary equipment, retired to the parlour to practise. I couldn’t possibly convey the coughing and spluttering, choking and spitting this involved: one had to stuff some protective material containing the smouldering ingredient in one’s mouth and blow out the sparks and fire. In theory, that is; but

whether we Lenneaud Brothers lacked talent in this line or the stamina for sufficient practice, after an hour or so we decided it was the wrong idea and the wrong place to practise – a decision our mother was happy to agree with – and we retired beaten.

(to be continued)



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

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

8.) We will try to print anything that 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.

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