

STOCKTON'S

NEWS

April 2025 Issue 175

keeping you informed

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Stockton Charity Cup Final

Easter Monday 21st April 2025

Central Ajax Res v St John Fisher

3.00pm kick off

Entry Fee £3.00

**At Stockton Football Club,
Napton Rd, CV47 8JU**

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

Brewed Awakening Tuesday 8th & 22nd
10.00am - 12.30pm

Afternoon Bingo Every Thursday
Doors Open 1.30pm eyes down 2.00pm

Evening Bingo Every Saturday
Eyes Down 8.00pm

Chocolate Bingo Friday 18th
7.30pm for 8.00pm

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**

Stockton Football & Cricket Club

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
FOUNDED 1894
(Mens, Girls & Boys)
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**Stockton Ladies
Netball,**

**Stockton Petanque,
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- A5 page size 1/2
- Greyscale £13.00
- Colour £26.00

- A5 page size Full
- Greyscale £26.00
- Colour £52.00

50% discount for 6 or more consecutive issues.

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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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	01926853650
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. A. Bedgood	812483
Little Acorns			813789
Toddlersaurs	Rebecca 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
Editorial Team	Wendy Rumsey		813730
	Marion Stringer		812887
Advertising Editor	Steve Kittendorf		815376
Magazine Treasurer	Steve Kittendorf		815376

STOCKTON CHURCH

METHODIST AND ANGLICANS IN UNITY

The Bridges Group of Parishes www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk
 email:admin@thebridgesgroup.org.uk. Tel:01926 812383

	6.4.25 5 th in Lent Purple	13.4.25 Palm Sunday Red	20.4.25 EASTER DAY White	27.4.25 First Sunday of Easter White
Priors Hardwick	Morning Worship 9.00am	Village service & Procession 10.30am Evensong 5.00om	Holy Communion BCP 9.00am	
Priors Marston	Morning Worship 10.30am	Holy Communion CW 10.30am	EASTER SUNDAY Worship 10.30am	
Wormleigh-ton				Morning Worship 10.30am
Napton	Holy Communion CW 10.30am	Worship for PALM SUNDAY 10.30am	Holy Communion CW 10.30am	Evensong/ Easter Carol Service 5.00pm
Stockton	Morning Worship Lay led 10.30am	Holy Communion in the Methodist Tradition 10.30am	Worship for EASTER DAY 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 – 11 am (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 to pray for our communities. 4 groups are in person, or 1 is online. If you would like to join, please contact the Group leader below:

Every Tuesday online at 6.15 Zoom	Katie	07965 209 075
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: 1st 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.

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 - 11.00 am ~ (Term Time)

Cubs & Scouts: Stockton Scout Hut 6.45pm - 8pm (Term Time)

Clubbercise: Village Hall ~ 7.30 - 8.30pm

Wednesday :~

Chess Club: Nelson Club ~ 5.30 - 7.30pm

Lazy Cat Yoga: Village Hall ~ 7.30 - 9.00pm

Thursday :~

Afternoon Bingo ~ Nelson Club ~ Doors open 1.30pm Eyes Down ~ 2.00pm

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

Friday :~

Toddlersaurs: Village Hall ~ 9.30 - 11.00am 9 (Term Time)

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 ~ Village Hall ~ 7.15pm ~ *****14th**

Tuesday

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

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 ~ **9th**

Saturday

Coffee Morning & Library: 1st Sat ~ Village Hall ~ 10am - 12 noon ~ **5th**

Pétanque Melee ~ F.C. & C.C. ~ All Welcome ~ 2.00pm ~ **5th**

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

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

LOCAL EVENTS

Events and News from Our Neighbouring Villages

Long Itchington History Group

Meeting at Community Centre 7.30pm

Www.longitchingtonhistory.org.uk

AGM followed by

“Sheep that eat men, Washington & the wool trade.”

- Martin Sirot Smith .

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

Programmes available on request.

Napton Art Group Easter Exhibition Napton Art Group are holding their annual Easter Exhibition of members' work at Napton Village Hall (CV47 8LS) on **Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th April 2025 between**

10am and 4 pm. There will be about 200 paintings in all media including oils, watercolour, acrylics and pastels and greetings cards of some of these will be available. Admission is £1 with free entry for children and there will be light refreshments in the pop-up cafe. Everybody who comes can vote for “The People’s Favourite” painting. The nominated charity this year is the Air Ambulance. Group members will be displaying small paintings that will be for sale at a cost of £10 with the proceeds going to the charity.

Payments for items for sale can now be made by card/ phone as well as cash/ cheques. The Art Group has a membership that now stands at over 50 and meets every Thursday afternoon at Napton Village Hall and has a programme featuring a wide range of demonstrations and weekend workshops. Visitors who might wish to join the group are welcome on any Thursday afternoon 2 - 4 pm.

Further details from Howard Collerson 01926 813181



Southam Gardening Club

thesouthamgardeningclub.blogspot.co.uk
Tel: 01926 813986 or 815086.



Roger Umpleby will give an illustrated talk
‘The Wonder of Wild Flowers’
at 7.30pm on Monday 14th April
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.



To remember and reminisce VE Day 80th Anniversary
Join us at the Village Hall for Afternoon Tea & Music

On Saturday 10th May 2-4pm

Cost: £7.50 per person

Booking is essential – please contact:

Helen Kittendorf - tel: 01926 815376

or by email: helenkittendorf@hotmail.co.uk



VILLAGE MATTERS



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



We would like to say Thank You to Family, Friends And Neighbours for all their kind messages and cards we received on our sad loss of our beloved Jan.

Also, to everyone who attended the church service and the football club, with a special thankyou to Gillian who conducted a beautiful service

Thank You

Denis, Sarah and Kelly

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.

Refuse & Recycling

Food Waste - weekly Grey Lid Bin - 3 weekly - 4th & 25th

Blue Lid Bin & Green Bin - 2 weekly - 4th & 18th

Missed Bins Tel: 01789 260616

Mobile Library

4th Stockton Church 2.10 - 2.30pm

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

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

To include birthdays/anniversary please contact magazine.

Tel: 01926 813730/812887 or email before 15th of month



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 authorised minutes on our website.

County and District Matters: Cllr Crump has written a lengthy case to the Police and Crime Commissioner about the **collision record at the** crossroads on the A426. Warwickshire Highways have been placed second in a **national survey of road maintenance** practices. Work on the alterations to the **Southam Bypass** in readiness for the Aldi supermarket will start in July - there will be temporary reduction in the speed limit to 40mph during this time. **Devolution White Paper** - the Government wants to create new unitary authorities to replace the existing two tier system of District and County Councils. In Warwickshire there could be two submissions to the Government, one for a single unitary authority (submitted by WCC) covering the whole of Warwickshire and the second (submitted by some of the Districts) that splits the county in two with unitaries for the North and South. These submissions have to be made by November and there will be public consultation in 2026. It is planned that the new authorities will be in place by 2028. **Highways Community Action Fund** - this is a £1 million fund designed to support local communities to improve their highways, to include resurfacing of roads, installing safer signage, safety measures, etc. The parish council will be considering making applications in Stockton and it is also open to community groups to make bids at HCAF@warwickshire.gov.uk.

Stockton Housing Needs Survey: The questionnaires have been provided by Warwickshire Rural Community Council and will be circulated by the Parish Council. The deadline for completed questionnaires is 14 April and the questionnaire can be completed by hand or online. The questionnaire will go to all properties apart from outlying farms, barns etc and if residents of these wish to make a submission they can do so online at www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Stockton2025 . The questionnaire asks about views on larger housing developments in view of the potential scheme being proposed by Richborough Estates off Sycamore Close.

Village Facilities: the **speed activated sign on the A426** crossroads has been repaired. The **brick wall on the entrance to the Barley Mow** apartments has been damaged and is a potential hazard and will be brought

to the attention of the site owner. **Street light in Post Office Lane** - the parish council reaffirmed its decision to replace this older column that has not been working for some time, with a new column and LED lamp.

Next Meeting: As the next normal meeting date would have been Easter Monday the next parish council meeting will be a week early on **Monday 14 April @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-de.gov.uk

During the last month or so I've received a very large amount of calls, emails, texts, Facebook messages, tags and comments. The most I've had for a long time – I take it as a compliment that residents know that they can rely on me. The vast majority were fine, some were what could be termed unusual, whilst a small number were rude and bordering on the aggressive. When I was working, I always found that I responded better to requests etc, if I was approached respectfully. The same applies in my councillor life, therefore those rude people had a firm and robust response, particularly when they hadn't let facts get in the way of a good argument.

Stockton Crossroads – for those who haven't seen my letter to the Police and Crime Commissioner , that I posted on many local Facebook pages, including 3 Stockton ones, here it is

'Dear Mr Seccombe

Stockton Crossroads

I hope you are well. I am writing to you in your role as Chair of the Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership about Stockton Crossroads. I'm sure you know it well as you are active in all parts of the county but will give you some more context for you to peruse.

Stockton Crossroads sits on the A426, between Southam and Dunchurch, on a road that has significant amounts of traffic on it, particularly HGVs.

Periodically, collisions occur there, however more recently the number of collisions has increased to a level that warrants the investigation of a more long term and sustainable solution for the location.

Whilst I accept that no road can be made collision proof, I do feel that this

location is one that the Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership needs to invest officer time into investigating and addressing the increasing number of collisions.

I, as local WCC ward member for the area, and WCC have used our budgets to make changes to the area e.g. road markings, new larger and brighter signage, a VAS highlighting the vicinity of the crossroads etc. There are also 2 speed cameras further along the road towards Southam, but they do not appear to be helping with collisions at the crossroads.

I know that the Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership has been implementing new initiatives and pilot projects in Warwickshire to achieve its target of a 50% reduction in road deaths and serious injuries by 2030. I believe that some long term initiatives at Stockton Crossroads will aid the partnership in achieving its target.

I would be happy to meet yourself and officers from the Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership at the crossroads so you can see my (and local residents and Stockton PC's) concerns firsthand. Anything significant that can be done will be greatly appreciated.

Any meeting will need to take place prior to 1st May, the date of the WCC elections, where I am standing for re-election.

I have copied the Clerk and Chairman of Stockton PC into this email as the PC shares my concerns. The PC and I are also liaising with a newly formed Stockton Road Safety Community Group, that has mainly been formed due to the number of collisions at the crossroads (also due to 'alleged' speeding in the village).

Kind regards'

Report to Stockton PC March 17th 2025

Stockton Crossroads

After sending my long and detailed email/letter to the Police and Crime Commissioner, things seem now seem to be progressing, particularly around trying to find out all options appropriate for the location. More details are likely to be made available after WCC elections on 1st May.

The Vehicle Activated Sign is now definitely working and I've asked the sign on the turn to be replaced as a matter of urgency as well as requesting the removal the vehicle debris that is on the verges there.

WCC 2nd in a national survey on Highways - can still do better though and I continually to press Highways to do better, as well as offering the use of funding from the delegated budget allocated to me, to help facilitate improvements too.

ALDI – the S278 (Highways Works) that need to be completed before Aldi can be opened are starting in July and are expected to be completed by Dec 25 -Aldi hope that the shop will be open soon after. The by-pass, in places,

will have a temporary speed reduction to 40mph, whilst these works are carried out.

Council Tax rises – WCC 4.99 % - including 2% for Adult Social Care, SDC 3.10%

Local Government Reorganisation –

Local government reorganisation is the process in which the structure and responsibilities of local authorities are reconfigured. In the context of the English Devolution White Paper, the Government have set out plans to move away from the current two-tier system of district and county councils. The Government has indicated that for most areas this will mean creating NEW councils with a population of 500,000 or more, but there may be exceptions to ensure new structures make sense for an area, including for devolution, and decisions will be on a case-by-case basis.

An interim plan has to be submitted by authorities by 21st March, with full details towards the end of November 2025. There are likely to be 2 submissions, one which will favour a new single unitary for Warwickshire. The 2nd submission is likely to favour 2 new unitaries for Warwickshire – North and South. The Consultants employed by WCC, say that the single unitary is likely to save £20m per annum, with the 2 unitary model saving £5-7m pa. The Consultants employed by the Districts and Boroughs say that the single unitary is likely to save £21m per annum, with the 2 unitary model saving £17-18m per annum. Someone said to me, it's like whoever pays the piper calls the tune.

Both submissions are likely to request further information and guidance from the Government as some parts of the process aren't particularly clear. After the November 2025 submission, there is likely to be public consultation in 2026. The new authority/authorities are anticipated to come into place on 1st April 2028. If that is the case, SDC elections in 2027 will be cancelled and current SDC Councillors' tenures will be extended by a year. If the creation of the new authority/authorities is delayed until 2029, there will be SDC elections in 2027.

Housing Needs Survey

Stockton PC is organising the above , please complete the survey and express your opinions so that the PC has strong evidence to show SDC (and developers) what type of properties the village needs and where they should be built. Local needs homes is one area I hear about when I'm in the village.

Fire Safety – I emphasized the need to promote the use of Smoke Alarms in all properties and to highlight the Safe and Well Service offered by WF&RS A safe and well visit (previously called a home fire safety check) is a free service to help you stay safe and reduce the risk of fire in your home.

During the visit WF&RS will provide you with fire safety advice, check that your smoke alarms are working and replace/install new ones if needed.

WF&RS will also provide advice on:

Preventing slips, trips and falls

Giving up smoking

Winter warmth

Home security

Hydration and healthy eating

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

Smoke Alarm Testing

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue are urging residents to make testing their smoke alarms regularly part of their household routine.

Why not circle the first of every month on your calendar and tick it off when you have tested your alarms?

Learn more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6032/don-t-wait-till-it-s-too-late-test-your-smoke-alarms-today>

Fire Service donates life-saving defibrillators

A recent donation of defibrillators from Warwickshire's Fire and Rescue Service to the OurJay Foundation is helping to increase the availability of public access of these potentially lifesaving devices.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6053/warwickshire-fire-and-rescue-service-donates-life-saving-defibrillators-to-the-ourjay-foundation>

700 new EV chargepoints for Warwickshire

Around 700 new electric vehicle public chargepoints are to be installed following Warwickshire County Council's approval to invest nearly £3.3m in public charging infrastructure.

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6050/funding-secured-for-700-ev-chargepoints-in-warwickshire>

Spending more time outdoors

Spring is just around the corner, with milder weather and signs of the new season to be discovered across Warwickshire.

This makes it a fantastic time of year to enjoy the numerous health benefits of spending time outdoors.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6052/breathe-easier-and-improve-your-wellbeing-by-spending-more-time-outdoors>

Register to vote

With local elections approaching on 1 May 2025, Warwickshire County Council is urging all eligible residents to register to vote and have their say on important local issues.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6055/warwickshire-county-council-urges-residents-to-register-ahead-of-local-elections>

No Smoking Day 2025

Anyone in Warwickshire looking to quit for No Smoking Day 2025, which took place on Wednesday 12 March, can access 12 weeks of free stop smoking support.

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6054/warwickshire-smokers-encouraged-to-access-free-local-stop-smoking-support-to-go-smoke-free-for-good-this-no-smoking-day-2025>

Simplified home to school transport application process

Warwickshire County Council has introduced a new, streamlined process for home to school transport for pupils starting Year 7 in September 2025.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6060/council-simplifies-home-to-school-transport-application-process->

Youth group funding

Youth groups across the county are invited to apply for small grants to support their work with young people aged 11-18.

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6065/funding-to-help-warwickshire-groups-working-with-young-people>

Stratford and Alcester library awards

Stratford and Alcester libraries are delighted to be selected as a Regional and Country Winner in The British Book Awards 2025.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6066/stratford-upon-avon-and-alcester-libraries-announced-as-regional-and-country-winner-ahead-of-the-british-book-awards-2025>

Home composting workshops

Why not find out more about the benefits of home composting for reducing waste in a series of new sessions this spring?

There are four face-to-face home composting sessions taking place at venues across Warwickshire between March and May.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/green-waste/composting/6>

Love Food, Hate Waste

Discover some simple hacks, tips and guidance to make the most of your food at home. Find out why it's so crucial that we all do our bit to save our food from the bin - and protect our beautiful planet at the same time too.

More: <https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/>

Emergency grab bags

If you had to leave home for a few days in an emergency, would you know what to bring with you to keep your pet safe and healthy?

Learn what to include in a 'grab bag' for pets, and become #BetterPrepared at <https://www.warwickshireresilienceforum.org/prepare/>

Pothole repair funding

Warwickshire County Council is delighted to announce the continuation of funding for its highly cost-effective pothole repair service, ensuring that road maintenance remains top priority for 2025-26.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/5971/warwickshire-s-roads-to-benefit-from-continued-pothole-repair-funding>
<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 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

Cost of Living Support - SDC

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

Councillor groans –

My wife has become obsessed with collecting lazy susans. I keep talking her out of buying any more, but then she turns the tables on me.

My wife says I have a fixation about eggs. I said I can't stop now Omelette for work

I bought an antique Van Gogh coffee table. I know it's authentic because it's got a bit of veneer missing.

I have decided to retire after 40 years of working in a stepladder factory, it's time to step down

Why was 6 scared of 7, because 7 ate 9.

Andy

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



Did you know that approx. 90% of all cut flowers sold in the UK are imported? They come mainly from Holland but also Kenya, Columbia and many other countries. The production of flowers abroad can involve frequent use of insecticides and herbicides. Flowers from the Farm is an umbrella group promoting the sustainability of British grown cut flowers and foliage. One of the members is Heather Ward, a florist whose business is called Catkins and Clematis, who is growing her flowers here at Bridge Nursery,. She doesn't use chemicals and plastics which means there is a low carbon footprint. Her growing area is expanding year by year as is the demand for locally grown produce. Do come and see some of the wide range of perennials, annuals and bi-annuals growing alongside my plants in the sales area.

April is one of the busiest months of the year now that there is more warmth and more daylight hours. Some reminders to keep you occupied.....

Trim back lavender to help prevent the bushes getting too straggly....do some weeding....plant potatoes....weed.....sow seeds of cabbage, broccoli, carrots and peas, lettuce, beetroot.....weed.....cut out older branches of winter jasmine, shrubby honeysuckle and Viburnum 'Dawn' and V. tinus.....weed.....finish pruning roses and apply some fertiliser, don't forget to weed!!

WOMENS INSTITUTE

Meeting 7.30pm at Nelson Club first Monday of Month

President:- Sue Gill Tel: 01926 460278



Women's Institute



Women's Institute

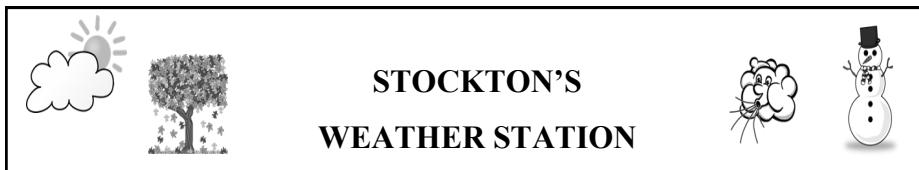
Joan opened the meeting and we sang Jerusalem as usual. She had some very sad news for us that Marlene, who had been a WI member for many years and also served on the Committee, had passed away.

Helen had celebrated a significant birthday (she'd kept that one quiet but we have ways of finding out) and was presented with a plant.

This is the start of our WI year and subscriptions should now be paid. If anyone would like to come along to see what our WI group is all about please ring Joan or Sue on the above numbers to arrange this. There is no charge for the first visit. Joan read out the trips and outings to come including the Curling session at Southam Bowls Club in April and a Games Night with fish and chips supper which is always very popular. It's amazing how competitive our teams can get! Also coming up is our Fashion Show - clothes by Wanda of Dunchurch - on Monday the 12th May at the village hall at 7.30 pm. when some of us will be strutting our stuff - it's just as well we don't take it too seriously (the fashion show is open to non WI members).

Joan reminded us that the Napton Art Exhibition is on 19th and 20th April entrance for just £1, which is well worth a visit. Our speaker was then introduced and Jess Nash, told us about life as the first lady bus driver in London in the 1970s. Her talk was a perfect blend of information and humour with tales of driving (sliding) her bus in thick snow and being rescued by a tractor, to the passenger who tried to pay for his ticket by "flashing" and then asked to be taken to the local psychiatric hospital - Jess obliged and took him safely home. She had finished her career as an inspector before moving to live in the Midlands and has driven our number 63 bus from Rugby to Leamington via Stockton. We never knew we had the first lady bus driver in London driving us!

Our next meeting will be **Monday 7th April 2025 at 7.30 pm** upstairs at the Nelson Club when the speaker is Paul Wilkins telling us about the Women of the First and Second World Wars. The competition - an Easter Bonnet.



STOCKTON'S WEATHER STATION - FEBRUARY 2025

Headlines - for the third year running, this has been a snow-free February.

In February the average **minimum temperature** was 2.5 deg. C, just less than one degree above the average (1.8 deg. C.). The lowest temperature was -2.1 deg. on the 28th. The average **maximum temperature** was 7.5 deg. C, just less than one degree below the average (8.1 deg.C.). The highest temperature was 15.1 deg. on the 21st. **Rainfall** was 34mm, about 70% of the average of 49mm. The wettest day was the 15th with 8mm. It rained on 14 days. **Sunshine** levels have been 25% below the average for February. **Winds** blew mostly from the north-west, north and north-east (14 days).

Trivia of the month - this winter has been mostly windless, dull and quite dry but the lack of sunshine has been most apparent and 2024 has had the highest number of sunless days for many years

60 days - 2024

46 days - 2002

44 days - 2017, 2018

43 days - 2021

42 days - 2004, 2010, 2015, 2016

41 days - 2008

The weather monitor



STOCKTON VILLAGE HALL

Bookings - Helen Kittendorf Tel: 815376

Hourly Rate £10 email: helenkitten-

With the clocks springing forward at the end of the month, Spring is definitely on the way! Please join us at one of our regular events: the **Coffee Morning** will be on **Saturday 5th April** 10am-midday, the **Lunch Club** on **9th April** at 12.30pm at The Crown and the **Whist Drive** on **Saturday 12th April** at 7.30pm – it would be great to see you. The next **Stockton Cinema Night** is on **Saturday 26th April** - if you want to join the mailing list for Stockton Cinema, please contact Steve at stevekittendorf@hotmail.co.uk, to find out what film is coming up and the supper on offer.

The **WI-FI** and broadband are now up and running which is great news – this is a real benefit to everyone who uses the facilities. We have been approved for a grant to install solar panels on the roof with the aim of significantly reducing our electricity bill and generating sufficient energy to also give back to the grid – we will keep you updated with progress over the coming months.

We are having a **VE Day 80th Anniversary Afternoon Tea** with Music on **Saturday 10th May** from 2-4pm to remember and reminisce priced at £7.50 per person – if you would like to join us booking is essential – please let Helen know either by phone or email, using the contact details above.

We have set up a Foodbank Donation Point in the Village Hall with items to be donated to the Fosse Foodbank. Any donations will be taken to the Graham Adams Centre in Southam which is a donation hub on behalf of the Foodbank. For an up-to-date list of urgently needed items please visit their website: <https://fosse.foodbank.org.uk/> but currently they urgently need: tinned meat pies, tinned ready meals, tins of cold meat, tea, coffee, UHT milk, packets of instant mash, tins of custard, tins of fruit, long life fruit juice, laundry powder/liquid/capsules and shampoo. The donation point will be open on Coffee Mornings between 10am-midday or alternatively please give any items to Wendy Burrows or Sarah Redgrave. Any donation you can give is very much appreciated.

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

Stockton Pétanque Club has figured strongly in Heart of England Regional Competitions, with four players: Catherine Black, Steve Neale, Jeff Rand and Charlie Caruana playing in the Regional Winter Pairs and the Veterans Pairs (over 55) qualifier - contesting for the opportunity to represent the Region in the National Veterans Championship.

The Winter Pairs was played over eight rounds involving no less than 58 pairs, with Catherine and Steve achieving a very honourable eighth place. They then did even better in the Veterans Pairs, reaching the final and losing narrowly 10-13 to Barry and Carol Cox from Solihull in a very tight game. Both pairs will now represent the Heart of England in the National Veterans Championship in September.

Four ladies pairs from Stockton PC entered the International Women's Day qualifier at Whitnash on 9th March which 18 pairs contested. Becky Rushton and Jenny Lowe were the best performers with a very creditable seventh place.

On the domestic scene, 19 players turned up for the March melee on a bright spring day. After three timed rounds there was just one unbeaten player – Rick Hayes. Unusually, one of the games ended in a 12-12 draw at the end of the allowed time, one of the contestants being Nouri Beladaci who won his other two games and so was second overall. The best of those winning two games was Rich Rushton with a +18 points advantage, just ahead of Becky Rushton with +10. A mention should be made of Maisie Rand, our only junior, who won 2 games with +5. Well done to her.

Catherine Black is leading the winter pairs just four points ahead of Steve Neale in what has become a two horse race and with just two weeks left and 12 points available we have an exciting finish in prospect.

Anthea Sansom and Nouri Beladaci are tied in first place in the Singles league with seven wins each, closely followed by Catherine Black on 6 wins.

The next melee will be on **5th April - with a 2.00pm start** (as it will be British Summer Time from 30th March). Everyone is welcome – we will provide the boules and tuition on the rules.

STOCKTON AND I

The autobiographical writings of Victor Neal (Part 15)

We were within the sound of the trains and quite near our station, while we operated our own – or rather Chas Nelson's – little miniatures, trundling the 'muck' and stones to their respective destinations. Our boss, Dick Bloxham, was understood to have some mad bursts of speed on occasions, with these steam engines as well as with his motorcycle combination.

He frightened me that day old Jasper fell down the well, and a chair was wanted from the office as seeming the most suitable implement to lower for his extrication. 'Uncouple the wagons,' Dick says, and away we tear with empty engine, which greatly lowered our capacity for holding the rails. The chair acquired, the downhill journey back to the quarry was a nightmare experience. That may have been justified in the circumstances, but I can't help thinking that the practice of what was known as 'fly-shunting' should have been entirely forbidden. I dare say it was, strictly speaking, supposed to be so. The practice consisted – particularly on 'race days' – of getting up speed on nearing the works with a string of loaded stone-wagons, such speed that on nearing the loop line provided, the rope-runner leaned out with coupling-stick, hooked under the link; a momentary shut-off of the engine to slacken the coupling and enable one to uncouple, then one got a move on to throw the stick back into the cab, drop out by the points as the driver accelerated away from the racing wagons, get the points over before the wagons reached them so that they chased round the loop to the front of the engine now stopped on its own section. This was faster than the correct course of drawing wagons on to the loop, then shunting the engine round the other line to get in the rear position necessary for pushing wagons on to the crusher or the stone-sheds. But what a dangerous procedure, when often only a few yards separated the wagons racing with their own momentum, and failure to get the points properly over could have resulted in the piling-up of the wagons carrying – if I remember rightly – more than two tons of stone each. And remember, the operating lever was less than a yard from the points themselves. I should refuse the job today but the loop line has now gone, together with all the lines connected, and Gamecock, Niras and Jurassic are gone I know not where.

Before that happened, they had developed from those comparatively little shots, blasting the rock at the quarries a few feet at a time, to drilling from top to bottom and exploding a charge that shook the whole village. Now I

wonder why we didn't kick up about it at the time, as now and then another chunk of our bedroom ceiling fell and one thought that the shaking was the most likely cause.

We had passed through that great lesson of the sinking of the 'unsinkable' Titanic in 1912, and had listened outside Wilks's shop to their gramophone re-creating the scene from records: 'Be British! was the cry as the big ship went down,' and all that. Before Jack Berry enlisted, that was, and I remember about this time Jack revelled in choosing biscuits from the bottom-most row of a tremendous stack of biscuit-tins in the shop, and Frank Wilks would serve him unblinkingly, without questioning the coincidence of his strange taste. Frank and I were to marry two sisters later on, and often we have laughed about this – the biscuit joke, I mean, not the marrying. That's no joke!

Frank and his older brother George – sons of the Thomas Wilks, butcher, we have mentioned – had gone into business at an early age, in a tiny outbuilding in their father's yard, alongside the butcher's cart and the stabling, and when I was a youngster of seven years or so they were to prove serious competitors, not only to dear old Clara Shelton, but also to the Co-op, which was then housed just across the road from the Wilkses themselves. From that little outhouse of which I have such warm memories; for it was always a comforting thought as we grew into our teens and found ourselves cycling late and lonely, or returning home from Southam circus or Coventry, Leamington or Rugby entertainments, to know there would be a cheering light there and someone still up to serve us with a bottle of pop and odds and ends, with cheerful chatter thrown in, to dispel those hauntings and tales of people being stopped on the road, difficult to forget at so late an hour and on such lonely roads; from this little shop, then, the Wilkses progressed to a new house with a general shop and a butcher's incorporated, built on the ground adjoining [see 'Old Photographs' on another page – Ed]. This general store was the shop of the biscuit-tins and the gramophone. Before many more years had passed the Wilkses had crossed the road to the Co-op side with their present spacious building. My brother-in-law Frank passed on a couple of years ago but still George and family carry on.

My brother Wal having got himself a job in Coventry, it wasn't long before brother Ern decides we two should follow suit, so bang goes the opportunity of eventually progressing to that universal ambition of extreme youth: the driving of a steam engine, and so I leave Gamecock, Niras and Jurassic, and the Rawbones and Dick Bloxham and all. I dare say the War, though, would have severed that connection anyway.

Wal had got himself digs in Bedford Street; Ern and I got in in nearby Gordon Street, both these addresses being on The Butts. We didn't foresee then that the time would arrive when buses galore would enable so many villagers to work in the city yet continue to live at home. To work in Coventry at that time was something of an adventure, a break-away, you

might say, with only weekends at home and achieved in the main by bicycle. That was the old Coventry, romantic, with its ancient streets breathing out that historical atmosphere, thick enough to penetrate, perhaps only subconsciously, even my youthfulness.

We got jobs, I at the Maudslay Motor Works on Park Side, as assistant to old Bill Piper, who by sheer coincidence lodged at Mrs Sadler's in Bedford Street with brother Wal, and who was storekeeper. He hailed from, or lived sometime at, Eastern Green, some six miles out.

Our landlady at No.18 Gordon Street was Mrs Edwards, and her second husband, dear old Bill, was quite an entertaining wit, working at the 'Rudge'. Fellow-lodger of long standing was Ernie Kenny, working at Perkins' Nursery.

Six o'clock in the morning (or middle of the night) was starting time at the Maudslay and a few minutes before this time found me almost invariably running up St Patrick's Road, but I never remember being locked out once, though numerous times enough I made it through the closing door, with Jimmy Castledine's father applying the pressure in his capacity as timekeeper. Jimmy, about my age, worked here, as did another Jimmy – Copson – and both accepted me into their circle socially, and I was permitted to join them in the queue for second house on Monday night at the old Hippodrome, which was their, and during this spell my, weekly ritual.

I mention Jim Castledine especially – and at this point, in case I forget later – because another coincidence I couldn't have foreseen occurs in the fact that his brother Chas, whom I didn't know then, is now our landlord, he having bought our house at the sale following Arthur Rawbone's death. But thinking of these successful racings to work reminds me how fortunate I have been in this respect, because many's the time I've raced similarly for trains and similarly caught them, with perhaps old Wal Gardner, the porter etc, holding the compartment door open for my final burst of speed.

Undeserved luck, you might say.

When the War came along we put in long hours at the factory: until eight or nine at night after starting at six. There was a letter from Lloyd George exhibited on the notice-board stressing the importance of speeding up our lorry-building, so essential for communications and all that. Happily they still left us our weekends, Saturday 12 noon until Monday morning, and after a scramble at the digs preparing for my ride home, I would say: 'Now, have I got everything?' and Bill Edwards would say: 'Don't go without your bicycle, will you, Vic?'

On the occasion of my twenty-first birthday he watched Wallace Maskell, who lived opposite us at home with his parents and was now lodging with us at No.18, and a few other pals of Ern and myself arrive with contributions in bottles and jugs. Bill gets up, goes to the mantelpiece and says in his inimitable style: 'Better wind the bloody clock up before we

begin.'

Later these privileged celebrations – Ma Edwards was allowing us the use of the front room including the piano – needed replenishment, and Wallace was dispatched to the Hen and Chicks round the corner. Unfortunately round the same corner was a stand-pipe, presumably for an emergency fire hose, and on the way back Wallace ran into it and re-entered our proceedings with only a jug handle in one hand. Ma led off a tirade about the loss of the jug. 'The jug?' says Bill, 'It's what was in it grieves me.'

Bob Rumbelow was at this party, too; he also worked at the Maudslay and we had become good pals, probably because we had a common country origin, Bob hailing from a hamlet called Upwell, near Outwell, some six miles from Wisbech, Cambs. An interesting point about Outwell was the river running alongside the village's main road: one side and one half of the village was in Cambs and the other in Lincs. Here I am getting ahead again for I was to pay him two visits after the war, one to his delightful Dod's Stile, Upwell, while he was with his widowed mother, and later to Outwell after his marriage. These visits brought out my friend's background, which had its interest for me, from the story he told of his first arrival in Coventry. I had memories of childhood tales of village lads going to great cities, London in particular, in search or fortune and what not, and getting themselves decoyed and robbed or worse, but had generally dismissed these as just fiction. It was a mistaken idea, because as I may relate in its turn it has been sheer good fortune, providence or what you like, and no cleverness on my part, that has kept me out of this sort of thing.

Anyway, unsophisticated Bob, by no means unintelligent either, arrives on his great venture to the great city. He wandered about aimlessly wondering what to do, to seek a job or find lodgings first? As the day wore on he plucked up courage to ask one or two people, as it chanced in not too savoury a street.

'Oh come and have a drink,' says one, 'and let's talk it over.' Bob was about to enter a pub with one or two of these chaps when a voice says: 'Hey, young man, where d'you think you're going?' and a policeman's arm draws him aside and Bob is saved, for that policeman takes him to his own home, feeds him and listens to his story. Bob finishes up by lodging with him and his wife for a time and, following their suggestion, gets a job and all was well.

Bob says he thinks his contemporaries in his native village thought him something of a hero when he set forth for the great city. It came about through his meeting a driver who had just delivered a new Daimler to a local doctor, from the Coventry factory.

As well as having an unusual surname (for the Midlands at least, but not uncommon in East Anglia) Bob had an unusual taste for mustard, which he liked plastered thick on everything he ate; toast in particular. His handwriting was unusual as well: never did I see so many flourishes adding to the picturesqueness of a page. Whatever the handwriting experts would have read

into this, Bob must have had it in the extreme.

Dod's Stile, lovely and romantic to remember, across a footpath over one field from Outwell. It was bleak early November when I visited him there, the first anniversary of Armistice Day in 1919 occurring during my short visit, reciprocating the occasional weekends when he had accompanied me to Stockton before our army days. While we are here I'd better relate the little adventure called to mind by that Dod's Stile footpath. Bob acquired an old motor-bike and he took me off on a visit to an old friend of his, a farmer's son, some miles through Swaffham and Downham Market. I have pleasant memories of the great old farmhouse and a never-to-be-forgotten lunch in the big stone-flagged kitchen. The long table was laden with all the essentials, and masters and men, mistresses and maids all sat at the board; host, hostess and helpers dishing up and serving out; a scene that Dickens would have done justice to. There were so many of us that one hadn't the slightest feeling that one must pretend to refuse the invitation to join them for fear of leaving anyone else short. The loaded pots, pans and dishes looked as if they could cope with a dozen unexpected guests, and everyone accepted us as one of the family.

A painting of the house itself hung on the wall, and a chance remark brought forth even more romance connected with it; some story of a schoolmaster and artist friend and visitor who had attempted a little grateful recognition of the kindness offered at this house to him, through his need for such comfort at some difficult period of his life.

(To be continued)

Just for fun

1. The 1997 film 'The Full Monty' is based in which British City?
2. The Time Machine is an 1895 novel by which author?
3. The villainous toad Baron Greenback appeared in which T.V. cartoon series?
4. Which awards are presented for achievement in the New York theatre?
5. A finger of _____ is just enough to give a kid a treat
6. Put the freshness back with _____
7. For mash get _____
8. Don't forget the _____ mum!

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STOCKTON VILLAGE FESTIVAL

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Beer & Cider Festival 22nd - 25th August

Scarecrow Trail 23rd - 24th August

Produce Show 23rd August

Family Fun Day 24th August

End of Festival Quiz 25th August

full program and details to follow, watch this space ...

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