

# STOCKTON'S NEWS

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keeping you informed ...

March 2024

Issue 164



**Stockton Juniors FC under 9's**



**U12's after a fine 5-0 victory over  
Bourneville**

## **The New Stockton Juniors F.C.**

*‘Sanguis et Totnitrus’*

More photo's pg 40

**Under 11's Lionessess enjoying  
themselves**



**Under 12's Girls proudly show of  
their new away strip.**



THE NELSON CLUB at STOCKTON

**Napton Road, Stockton Tel: 01926 812613**

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

**BREWED AWAKENING ~ 10 am til 12.30pm ~ 12th & 26th**

**AFTERNOON BINGO ~ open 1.30 eyes down 2.00pm ~ 14th & 28th**

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

**CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT ~ Friday 8.00pm ~ 29th**

**FOLK NIGHT ~ Last Tuesday of the month ~ 8pm**

**Sat 9th Road Hogs 9pm**

**Sat 23rd The Guitar Hero's 9pm**

**Sat 30th Third Alert 9pm**

**Sun 31st Easter Bingo eyes down 7pm.**

Join us for sporting events with BT and Sky Sports

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

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

Find us on **Facebook & Twitter**

## Stockton Football & Cricket Club

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

**Email** [Stocktonfccc@outlook.com](mailto:Stocktonfccc@outlook.com)

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

### The Club House

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

### **Our Teams:**

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





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P119-22-1-Midlands-PR-Stockton News

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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.**

## **Please support our Advertisers**

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

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

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

**Acc. No.** 91456652 **Reference it as** *SNews*

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

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

Click on the link for this month's magazine.

<http://stocktonsnews.org.uk>



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### Magazine Policy

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

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

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

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



## Village Calendar



### Regular Weekly Village Events

#### ***Monday :~***

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

Knit & Natter: Church ~ 2 - 4pm

#### ***Tuesday :~***

Create & Play: Church 9.30 - 11.00 am ~

Clubbercise: Village Hall ~ 7.00 - 8.00pm

#### ***Wednesday :~***

Chess Club: Nelson Club ~ 5.30 - 7.30pm

Lazy Cat Yoga: Village Hall ~ 7.30 - 9.00pm

#### ***Thursday :~***

#### ***Friday :~***

Toddlersaurs: Village Hall ~ 9.30 - 11.30am

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

#### ***Saturday :~***

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

### Regular Monthly Village Events

#### ***Monday***

Women's Institute: 1st Monday of Month ~ Nelson Club ~ 7.30pm ~ **4th**

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

#### ***Tuesday***

Brewed Awakening: Nelson Club ~ 10am - 12.30pm ~ **12th & 26th**

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

#### ***Wednesday***

Church Lunch: Every 3rd Wednesday ~ 12noon ~

Friends Lunch: Every 2nd Wednesday ~ The Crown ~ 12.30pm ~ **13th**

#### ***Thursday***

Afternoon Bingo ~ Alt. Thurs ~ Nelson Club ~ Eyes Down 2.00pm ~ **14th & 28th**

#### ***Friday***

Charity Fun Quiz Night: Every Last Friday ~ Nelson Club ~ 8.00pm ~ **29th**

#### ***Saturday***

Coffee Morning: Every 1st Saturday ~ Village Hall ~ 10am - 12 Noon ~ **2nd**

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

Stockton Cinema: Every last Saturday ~ Village Hall ~ 7.00pm ~

## WHO'S WHO

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



# Stockton church

Methodist and Anglicans in unity

The Bridges Group of Parishes

www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk

email:admin@thebridgesgroup.org.uk.

Tel:01926 812383

THE BRIDGES GROUP	03.03.24 3rd in Lent	10.03.24 Mothering Sunday	17.03.24 5th in Lent	24.03.24 Palm Sunday	31.03.24 EASTER DAY
PRIORS HARDWICK	Morning Worship 9.00am	Family service 10.30am Evensong 5.00pm	Holy Comm BCP 9.00am	Joint Village service with Worm-leighton With walk 10.00am	
PRIORS MARSTON	Morning Worship 10.30am	Family service 10.30am	Morning Worship 10.30am	4TH Sunday 3.00pm	Service for Easter 3.00pm followed by Tea & cakes
WORM-LEIGHTON				Joint service at Priors Hardwick	THE GATHERING 10.30AM
NAPTON	Holy Communion CW 10.30am	Morning Worship 10.30am	Holy Comm. CW 10.30am	Evensong 5.00pm	
STOCKTON	Morning Worship Lay Led 10.30am	Holy Comm In the Methodist Tradition 10.30am	Messy Church 4.00pm Venue tbc	Morning Worship 10.30am tbc	
LOWER SHUCK-BURGH				Holy Comm BCP 9.00am	

BCP – Book of Common Prayer CW – Common Worship

**\*\*Additional Easter Events over leaf\*\***



## Services for Holy Week and Easter

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March** St. Leonard's Church, Priors Marston

10am-noon. Easter crafts for children, with a story and refreshments.

**Thursday March - St. Michael's Church, Stockton**, 7pm, Maundy Thursday service with (optional!) foot-washing, a shared meal with Holy Communion and Tenebrae (a service of light and shadows in which to watch with Jesus)

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March** - St. Leonard's Church, Priors Marston, 10.30am Journeys to the Cross. Words, music, silence followed by hot cross buns and coffee.

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March** – Good Friday “Quiet Time and Reflections” 2-3pm St John the Baptist, Lower Shuckburgh.

**31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 Easter Sunday - Easter Morning**. St Lawrence, Napton 6.30am Sunrise Service (start off outdoors) with pastries and coffee.

**Easter Carols** Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Priors Hardwick 6pm Easter Carols.

## The Bridges group NOTICE BOARD

LOWER SHUCKBURGH, NAPTON, STOCKTON

Priors Marston, Priors Hardwick & Wormlighton

### 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](mailto:deborahduttoncreative@gmail.com)

**Babies & Toddlers Group:** Monday mornings from 9.30 – 11am (term times) in Napton Village Hall – 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 <b>Stockton</b>	Wendy	01926 812694
	Rachel	07915 056184
1st & 3rd Thursdays at 2.30pm in <b>Stockton</b>	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 <b>Stockton</b> 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](mailto:admin@thebridgesgroup.org.uk). Please note that Susan works part-time but she will get back to you as quickly as she can.

## LOCAL EVENTS

*Events and News from Our Neighbouring Villages*

**Long Itchington History Group**  
**Meeting at Community Centre 7.30pm**  
***Www.longitchingtonhistory.org.uk***

**WEDNESDAY 13th MARCH**

**STARTING AT 7.30.**

**“3D Slides of Leamington Spa” - Dr Bob Pryce**

For further details and to request transport please contact  
David Williams 01926 812573  
Programmes available on request



### **Southam Gardening Club**

[thesouthamgardeningclub.blogspot.co.uk](http://thesouthamgardeningclub.blogspot.co.uk)

Tel: 01926 813986 or 815086.



**Jane Medwell** will give an illustrated talk on  
**‘Bees and Gardeners – Working in Perfect Harmony’**  
at 7.30pm on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

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](http://thesouthamgardeningclub.blogspot.co.uk)  
or tel 01926 813986 or 815086.

# Community Hub and Café

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

Café open daily 9am - 5pm.

For a full list of events visit our facebook page: [@RBLCommunityHub](#)  
or contact us on 01926 812185 Ext 5365

## Weekly Events:

**Monday:- Warm Hub:** (Free) 2:30pm - 4pm

Drop-in and have a cup of tea with us, stay as little or as long as you like. With a warm welcoming atmosphere, the community hub is a place where people feel safe and there's always someone to talk to, if you want to. Each week we will have various groups joining us. Open to everyone.

**Tuesday: Chatty Café Table:** (Free) 10-11:30am

Our cafe is warm and welcoming every day, but we are privileged to have wonderful volunteers who will be hosting our chatty table on Tuesday mornings.

You can find our 'Chatty' table over on our comfy chairs by the window. Our Chatty Table volunteers will be wearing yellow. Why not drop-in, have a cup of tea with us, stay 5 minutes or an hour. We have a real community feel here and everyone is welcome

## Monthly Events:

**Nosh and Natter: 1st Wednesday**

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

Everyone is welcome to come along, booking is essential.

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

**Sporting Memories:** (Free) **2nd Wednesday 10.30 - 12.30pm**

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

**Armed Forces Veteran's Breakfast Club: Last Wednesday and Saturday**  
of every month **10am**. Come along, purchase your own Hub Breakfast, and join in with the banter

**Musical Memories:** (Free) **Last Friday** of every month 2.30 - 4.00pm

A dementia friendly music café with support, music and refreshments

Open to everyone, come along on the day.

**Silver Sunday:** (Free) **2nd Sunday** Every other month. **2.30pm**

Join us, bring a friend, and have a dance. Everyone is welcome to come along. Please telephone 01926 812185 Ext 5365 to book your place.

## **Regular External Events:-**

**Laura Moore - Podiatrist** *Every Monday* Call to book 07920141214

**Admiral Nurse** (Free Dementia Advice for the Armed Forces community)

Dates: *Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March*, *Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April*, *Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May*, *Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June*

**Stitch by Stitch** – Open to everyone

*Every Thursday 3 - 4:30pm and 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month 7 - 9pm*

**Southam Youth Community Theatre Group:** *Every Friday*, for ages 7 - 16years 6:30pm -7:30pm

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

Interactive session where children can learn new skills, improvisation, script writing and a place to feel comfortable and express yourself

To find out more information or book your trial session.

Please contact Emma 07388345752 or Andrea 07766234146

SYCTG2024@outlook.com

## **Southam Spiritualists:**

Mediumship Evening - *Fortnightly on Sunday 7-9pm* (£5 entry fee)

Meditation & Development Circle - *Fortnightly on Tuesday 7-9pm* (£5 entry fee) Open to everyone - call Miranda to book

## **OTHER EVENTS:-**

**Easter Craft Fayre Saturday 2nd March** 10am - 4pm

Lots of lovely gifts and cards & ideas for Mother's Day & Easter

**Quilling with Lynne Monday 11th March** 10am - 12noon

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

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

**Men's Health Talk– FREE** with Dr. Faris Al-Ramadani

**Tuesday 26th March** 6pm - 7pm Open to men, come along on the night.

**Childrens Easter party Saturday 30th March**

Full details to be announced soon. Please see our Face Book page



## DIARY DATES

*Include your village event for free*



**25th March- 5th April - Easter Holidays**

### BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday wishes for March go to

Amy Cooper, Josh Tolley,  
Leanne Rudge and Gina Rudge

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

### Refuse & Recycling

**Food Waste - Weekly** - Every Friday **Grey** Lid Bin - 3 weekly - 1st & 22nd  
**Blue** Lid Bin & **Green** Bin - 2 weekly - 8th & 22nd

Missed Bins Tel: 01789 260616

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

### Mobile Library

**1st & 25th Stockton Church 2.10 ~ 2.30pm**

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

**Southam Pharmacy ~ Post Code CV47 0HE**

**Tel: 812287 email [southam.pharmacy@dudleyt](mailto:southam.pharmacy@dudleyt)**

**Opening Hours:- Monday ~ Friday 8.30am - 6.15 pm**

**Saturday ~ 9.am - 5.00pm**

**Sunday ~ Closed**



### Lions Furniture Sales

**2nd Saturday of the month 8.30am - 11.45am**

**Behind Southam Co-op**

**Furniture Collection Contact: Ian Tel: 813737**



**VILLAGE MATTERS**  
**To have your news included please**  
**Contact by email - [stocktons.news@gmail.com](mailto:stocktons.news@gmail.com)**  
**or by hard copy to Editorial Team**



**Wheelchair Short-term Loan:-**

**Stockton Church - 815831**

**Stockton's News - 813730/812887**

I want to say a huge thank you to all the lovely people who called by for a cuppa and a piece of cake to celebrate my '21st'. I had a wonderful day, followed by another lovely day on Monday - my actual birthday.

Alison (thanks again and again) made scrumptious cakes, my sister and her husband came down from Lancashire, Adam, Haidee and the girls came over and everything was 'organised' so I didn't really have much to do except chat - and I do that quite well.

I shall now settle down to smiling at all the beautiful flowers and the lovely cards, (too many lovelies but there isn't another word) and have the odd piece of cake!!

Thank you again and again. Best wishes

*Margaret Powell*

**Can you help?**

**We have been asked if anyone has any photographs of**

**Party Cleaver and his yard - Mount Pleasant**  
**The Old Co-op - The Square**  
**The Victory Hut - behind The Crown Inn**



## 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 - FEBRUARY 2024 MEETING

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

**County & District Council Matters:** Warwickshire County Council will increase their Council Tax by 4.99% in April, Stratford District Council by 2.99%. The increase for Warwickshire Police has not been fixed yet. One of the Southam Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) priorities recently has been parking outside schools and it is understood that warning letters have been issued to drivers in appropriate cases.

**Planning Matters: Josie's Place, High Street (23/03015),** proposed canopy - permission granted. **Land adjacent to Stockton Hall Farm (24/00072),** change of use from agricultural land to commercial storage land and engineering work to alter ground levels - parish council to support and recommend conditions preventing caravans in storage being used for residential purposes and to prohibit burning of waste materials. **Stockton Primary School (24/00119),** refurbishment of existing porch on the same footprint with different materials - Parish council to support. **Bellway Homes** have approached the parish council about a development off Tuckwell Close but the council agreed not to enter into any dialogue with them at this stage.

**Village Facilities: Telecommunications aerial** on street lighting column - Severn Trent have fitted a telecommunications aerial to the lighting column outside Stockton School without approval from the parish council who own the column. The parish council will ask Severn Trent to remove the device or pay an annual fee for the use of the column. **Defibrillator** - the parish council will confirm that the Ambulance Service holds the correct code to release the defibrillator if it needs to be used by a member of the public. **Cemetery extension** - the access ramp to the cemetery gate should be installed during week commencing 26 February.

**Next Meeting:** Monday 18 March @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](mailto:cllrcrump@warwickshire.gov.uk)  
[andrew.crump@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.crump@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

### **Local Councillor update for March's Stockton News**

I was, after a near miss, asked to highlight the need for appropriate driving and parking around the School. Please could all drivers note this and think about others, not just yourselves.

I am often in and around the village looking at issues, speaking to residents, dealing with items (some confidential), reporting to the Parish Council, bus timetables, ASB, roadworks etc, liaising with the Police and looking at planning applications. I hope to spend some more of my delegated budget in George Street to improve, further, the parking and verges there. What has been done there, is looking good.

I see comments on Facebook about people not liking the tone of a response (not necessarily from me), yet they had previously commented in what could be perceived as an aggressive manner. They become, what some people would say, quite sensitive. Whilst being an elected representative for Southam, Stockton and Napton, I reserve the right to respond robustly and in a forthright way, if I receive what I perceive to be unfair criticism or a comment that is devoid of facts. Interestingly there was an article on a BBC website this week **about Councillors (see below)**

**‘Abuse towards people in local government is getting so severe it is putting democracy at risk, groups representing them have warned.**

Examples include harassment, stalking, threats, assault, and even a dead rat being pushed through a letter box.

Some councils have put security plans in place to protect staff/councillors.

But many councillors have been put off from standing at the next local elections after facing abuse and intimidation, a survey found.

It follows recent warnings from the **Jo Cox Civility Commission**, which called for a central unit to address the abuse faced by all politicians.

There are around 100,000 councillors in local government at all levels - and more staff on top to support them. Councillors are responsible for taking decisions about social care, schools, housing and planning and waste collection. Six bodies, representing local authorities at all levels in England and Wales, have warned abuse levels are unacceptably high and have called for change.

According to the Local Government Association (LGA), 27% of councillors said they would not stand in the next election, and two-thirds (68%) of respondents to a survey said abuse and intimidation had influenced their position on whether to stand again.

"If left unaddressed, abuse and intimidation risk forcing good councillors out of local politics altogether," said Councillor Marianne Overton, who chairs the LGA's Civility in Public Life Programme Steering Group.'

I know some recently elected councillors (of all colours) feel that being a councillor was harder than they originally envisaged.

However, some councillors do say things that are totally inappropriate, and cause hurt and distress to certain groups, in particular. There was a recent example locally and I believe the councillors involved have now apologised and a full investigation (that I support) is being carried out, with a range of options being looked at, including mandatory training. (I have extensive life experience of the subject)

### **Report it: Flooding and drainage issues**

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

### **Log highways issues and report feedback**

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

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

### **Young person bus travel**

Investing in a bus pass is a great way to save money in the long run, as well as to help your children become more independent, responsible, and confident as they grow up.

Find out how much you could save by visiting the website:

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/buses](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/buses)

### **Develop Warwickshire Community Fund**

Develop Warwickshire has opened its new £50,000 community fund and has now supported its inaugural project in Warton.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4971/warton-first-to-benefit-from-develop-warwickshire-community-fund>

### **Council Budget 2024/25**

Warwickshire County Council has set its budget for 2024/25 and its medium-term financial strategy.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4984/council-sets-budget-to-deliver-for-warwickshire>

### **Sucham Park development**

Sucham Park is a 42,200 square foot industrial scheme in Southam and the first development from Warwickshire Property & Development Group to be completed.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4972/new-industrial-scheme-in-southam-is-completed-by-warwickshire-property-development-group>

### **ISO 14001 certification**

For the 16th year in a row, Warwickshire County Council has been recognised for its environmental management system (EMS) and awarded ISO 14001 certification.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4975/council-demonstrates-commitment-to-being-environmentally-responsible>

### **Emotionally Based School Avoidance Pilot**

A pilot trialling a new pathway to improve support for children and young people affected by Emotionally Based School Avoidance is set to begin later this year in Warwickshire.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4964/new-pathway-to-be-trialled-for-improving-outcomes-for-children-and-young-people-affected-by-emotionally-based-school-avoidance-in-warwickshire>

### **Council celebrates contributions of apprentices**

As part of National Apprenticeships Week, Warwickshire County Council has been celebrating these brilliant routes for people to gain new professional knowledge and skills.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4976/council-celebrates-contributions-of-apprentices>

### **A great way to grow and develop your workforce**

Warwickshire Skills Hub supports businesses, schools and communities to create a well-skilled population that meets the needs of the county's evolving economy.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4978/apprenticeships-a-great-way-to-grow-and-develop-your-workforce>

### **Knife Angel inspires young photographer**

Following its month-long installation in Nuneaton last year, the Knife Angel monument has provided inspiration to 16-year-old Demi, from Rugby, to submit her photography to a national competition.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4977/knife-angel-provides-inspiration-for-young-photographer>

### **Support for victim-survivors of sexual violence**

To mark Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week (last month), Warwickshire County Council and partners are highlighting the support services available to anyone impacted by sexual violence in Warwickshire.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4979/warwickshire-county-council-highlights-support-for-victim-survivors-of-sexual-violence>

**Stop Smoking Service)** Could you be entitled to FREE Stop Smoking support? Fitter Futures Warwickshire offers 12 weeks of free Stop Smoking specialist support and advice, plus stop smoking treatments and Quit Kits across #Warwickshire.

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

### **Warwickshire Food Champion volunteers**

If you are passionate about helping others and would like to have a go at volunteering this year, there is still time to get involved in becoming a Warwickshire Food Champion.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/4981/there-s-still-time-to-become-a-warwickshire-food-champion-volunteer>

## **Romance fraud**

💬 Met someone online? 💬

They may not be who you think they are - public reminded to stay safe online as reports of romance fraud continue to rise: <https://www.cybersafewarwickshire.com/met-someone-online-they-may-not-be-who-you-think-they-are>

#WarksCyberProtect #WarksRomanceFraud

#SafeInWarwickshire

## **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>

## **Reporting highways issues – or let me know !!**

[cllrcrump@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto: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>

## **Bin 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](mailto: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-](mailto:andrew.crump@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

[dc.gov.uk](mailto:dc.gov.uk)) or 07771335273 if they need my assistance.

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

Missed bins -. Contacts are [streetscene@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:streetscene@stratford-dc.gov.uk) or Telephone:

01789 260616

Or download the app.

[https://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/missed-bin-report-form.cfm?](https://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/missed-bin-report-form.cfm?fbclid=IwAR3vkf03zQgXUeHH04ODEqfid1b1msbwpVg8DG6nQn47HoAcw)

[fbclid=IwAR3vkf03zQgXUeHH04ODEqfid1b1msbwpVg8DG6nQn47HoAcw](https://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/missed-bin-report-form.cfm?fbclid=IwAR3vkf03zQgXUeHH04ODEqfid1b1msbwpVg8DG6nQn47HoAcw)

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

**PAVEMENT PARKING/PARK IT RIGHT – the excuse, I won't be long**

**isn't sufficient – it only takes a few seconds for a collision to occur. THINK ABOUT OTHERS NOT JUST YOURSELF**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Councillor groans –**

replaced my rooster with a duck...

Now I wake up at the quack of dawn.

I've just spent £300 on a limousine and discovered the fee doesn't include a driver .I can't believe I've spent all that money and nothing to chauffeur it.

Just paid over the odds for an electric car, think I was overcharged.

Kind regards

*Andy*



## STOCKTON'S WEATHER STATION



### STOCKTON'S WEATHER STATION - JANUARY 2024

#### Headlines - January has been a sunnier and drier month than average

In January the average **minimum temperature** was 2.0 deg. C, almost the same as the average (1.9 deg. C.). The lowest temperature was -6.2 deg. C on the 17th. The average **maximum temperature** was 6.9 deg. C, about half a degree below the average ( 7.3 deg.C.). The highest temperature was 12.9 deg. C on the 23rd. **Rainfall** was 42 mm, about 70% of the monthly average of 61 mm. The wettest day was the 2nd with 15 mm. It only rained on 9 days and there was a spell of 16 days (5th - 20th with no rain at all. **Sunshine** levels have been 30 % above the average for January. **Winds** blew mostly from the west, south-west and south (22 days).

**Trivia of the month - the low temperature of -6.2 deg. C on 17th January was the lowest January figure since 2019 locally.**

#### *The weather monitor*



### WOMENS INSTITUTE

Meeting 7.30pm at Nelson Club first Monday of Month

President:- Sue Gill Tel: 01926 460278

Secretary: Joan Ford Tel: 01926 810220



Sue opened our February meeting welcoming the members and a couple of guests and we all sang Jerusalem.

Edna was then presented with flowers for her special birthday.

Joan had received a letter from Myton Hospice thanking us for the money we had sent them raised at the coffee morning held last autumn. She also reminded us of Napton's Easter Art Exhibition on the 30th and 31st March at Napton Village Hall.

The forthcoming events are cookery at Shrewley Village Hall, Lesley Smith as Peggy Knight in April, the Scrabble competition and Chutney making in May at Federation House. Details of all these are available to those interested.

Sue talked us through the Resolutions and we all voted at the finish.

Sally informed us that our February ladies lunch was to be at Draycote Water.

Sue then introduced the Speaker for the evening, Alan Rogers whose theme was A Policeman's Lot. He took us through his early years when he was a youth

footballer for Wolverhampton but was persuaded by his father to join the Police. He made us smile when he looked around the room and said he thought he recognised a few faces. He asked how many of us had been on a speed awareness course (I won't say how many) and then told us he had to turn up to one which was highly embarrassing for him as he was the one who had written the whole course. He certainly took some stick for that! Alan was a very relaxed retired policeman and gave an amusing and enjoyable talk.

We all then enjoyed tea and a birthday cake was provided by Edna which her grandson had made for her.

Our next meeting will be Monday **4th March 2024 at 7.30 pm**, upstairs at the Nelson Club when the speakers are Carol and John Matthews - Vintage Garden Store.

The Competition is a Packet of Seeds.



## 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](http://www.bridge-nursery.co.uk)*

¼ mile from Crossroads Garage – look for our Tourist Sign

At last, a glorious sunny morning (12<sup>th</sup> Feb) suggesting that spring is not too far away, she says optimistically. The weather affects me deeply as I suspect it does for many of you. This winter has been very wet and gloomy causing me to be at home far more than I would have liked. But as soon as plants start growing there will be more incentive to get outside and do a bit of gardening in an attempt to be in control and to do it better than last year.

I bet most of you have old packets of seeds in sheds and garages, some will grow, some won't so either sow them or throw them and buy some fresh seeds. Sow hardy annuals, sweet peas, parsnips, lettuce, broad beans and spring onions. Prune roses, dogwoods and late flowering clematis. Also cut back any willow which are grown for their coloured stems.

Keep a beady eye out for bramble seedlings which carefully conceal themselves until they are well established. I have a 'new' weed, wild carrot which is taking over and not easy to see until it is quite big.

The garden here will be open for the NGS starting Easter weekend and then every weekend until mid September. Many thanks to those who helped raise £1800 last year.

***Christine***



## SPORTING STOCKTON



Stockton  
Pétanque



Chairman – Richard Rushton  
Administrator – John Emberton 01926 814267  
Club Captain – Rich Powell 07957848075  
[www.stocktonpetanqueclub.org.uk](http://www.stocktonpetanqueclub.org.uk)

We are a third of the way through our Club's Winter League. Sarah Jerger is in the lead with 60 points, with Rich Rushton & Catherine Black challenging for 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The Club's annual Singles League started in January, the early leader being Jeff Rand closely followed by Charlie Caruana and Sarah Jerger. 14 players turned up for the melee on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. After three rounds there was just one unbeaten player - Charlie Caruana - who took the glory. Rich Rushton achieved the best result of those winning two games and was therefore also in the prizes.

The Club's Annual Meeting was also held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February when the Chairman, Richard Rushton, presented an overview of the year and presented the annual trophies as follows:

- Winter League 2022-23 – Rich Rushton
- Summer League 2023 – Catherine Black
- Club Singles - Sarah Jerger
- Pairs Champions - Catherine Black & Charlie Caruana

Following her impressive results over the year, Catherine Black was declared as Player of Year, and for his hard work all year with maintaining our facilities and providing coaching Dave Hancox was declared as Member of Year.

The Committee was confirmed as:

Chairman - Rich Rushton

Club Captain – Rich Powell – standing down as Knights captain

Administrator (Treasurer) – John Emberton

Coach – Dave Hancox

The next melee will on be Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Everyone is welcome – we will provide the boules and tuition in the rules. This will be followed on 9th March with Stockton hosting the Heart of England qualifier for the National International Women's Day Pairs. We will then be holding our **Annual Easter Saturday Charity Melee on 30th March.**

In the meantime we are planning for the Heart of England Summer League, which will start in mid-April. We will be entering two teams and will be agreeing the make-up of the Knights and Yeomen squads over the next few weeks.





## STOCKTON JUNIORS F.C.

□ □ □ □ BLOOD AND THUNDER □ □ □ □



### INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW STOCKTON JUNIORS FC

Over the years we have had a few Junior teams, the earliest I can trace back is to 1949 when players such as Brian Eadon, Barry Tompkins, Mick Spraggett, Les Warner, Frank Southall, Oliver Berry and my Father, Graham Hudson all donned the red and black, a truly remarkable team from what I can gather.

Albert Cox ran a junior team back in 1977-78, as a young 14 year old, I can remember playing along side Dudley Tompkins, Cassie Hancocks, Mick Hudson and Warren Lloyd to name but a few.

Steve Ward had a run with a couple of teams (for his boys) from 2002-2015 and then the most recent Juniors team was about 4 years ago ran by Steve Burnell and Ian Jones, some of the boys are now playing for our Sunday Reserve team.

Unfortunately though, mainly through lack of players (we're not the biggest village), it has been hard to maintain a Junior section. You see a pattern, a team forms, the players grow up and then disbands without any continuation.

In January last year discussions were being had for the introduction of a couple of new Junior teams to begin a new era of Junior football here at Stockton.

Before we knew it, the interest had escalated massively, spurred on with the inclusion of a complete girls section, taking the tally of teams up to 14.

A Committee was organised, sitting as a sub committee to the main Stockton Football & Cricket Club, once formed the hard work commenced to get us ready for the new season in September.

It was a massive task. We had 14 Junior teams all wanting a pitch to play on, a kit to play in, balls to play with and of course goals to score in.....along with plenty of other things too!

Fundamentally, two things drove this forward at a whirlwind pace. The unbelievable generosity of so many local businessess, donating thousands of pounds in sponsorship money for all our equipment.....by the start of the season all 14 teams had been sponsored for both home and away kits, balls, bibs, first aid bags etc, which was huge!! Without this money it just couldn't have happened, so a big THANK YOU goes out to all of you who kindly sponsored.

The second thing was the personnel involved. A group of dedicated volunteers who donate hours of their time free of charge, working tirelessly, without question, for the sole purpose to create a safe, positive and fun enviroment for our children to enjoy football, the largest most popular sport in the world.

A third shout actually, must go to the main club who have embraced the project fully, providing whatever has been needed to get us up and running, such as putting in a complete new overflow car park to cater for the additional cars, keeping them off the roads. Also providing us with the pitches to play on which has taken a huge amount of effort to get them ready. Again a lot of this work has been provided free of charge from locals and local businessess.

The finally cog in the mix was the additional funding for the goals, once again a lot of hard work has gone on behind the scenes to secure grant funding from the Football Foundation for all of our new goals.

Come the summer and we were ready with 4 Boys teams and a very impressive tally of 10 Girls teams, ranging from Under 8's right up to Under 16's. The season kicked off in September and after all the hard work, what a lovely sight it was to see such a lot of Junior football being played at Stockton.

On top of all this, we also decided to start up Mini Soccer on a Monday night. This was for all 5, 6 and 7 year olds and just like everything else, it's all run by volunteers.

There's no pressure on the kids. It was just about giving them an introduction into football, letting them have a lot of fun, making new friends and of course allowing them to blow off a bit of steam on a Monday night. Judging from the parents responses and also the fact that, even through the summer, we were averaging 47 children per session, I think it has been an amazing success and something we are happy to carry on from April, running through until October. By September last year, we were really pleased to announce the formation of a new Under 8's team solely from young Mini's wanting to step up and actually play matches. The training started and by the end of October, we had played our first game. The idea hopefully, will be for new teams to emerge every year from the Minis, girls, boys or mixed. This will encourage the continuity of Juniors football at Stockton for a long long time.

Since conception and the phenomenal interest it has drawn, we have been overwhelmed with enquiries for places, especially in certain age groups. For a Lot of these children we have managed to get them into teams, even if only on a training only option to start, however, for a few it hasn't been possible, and to those I apologise. Being our first season we had to take it steady, as the old proverb says, "walk before we run", so we really did have to be careful. Once we have a season behind us we can analyze the situation and improve and expand accordingly. MINI SOCCER Stockton Juniors FC Under 9's

As I said earlier, all this is only possible because of our amazing volunteers. If you would like to become part of our friendly team, maybe you fancy coaching a team, then please get in touch. We will ensure all the correct FA training is given to help, all volunteers will be DBS checked, and enrolled onto the FA Safeguarding course.

***Ian Hudson (Huddy)***

Stockton Juniors FC

SANGUIS ET TONITRUS

□ □ □ □ BLOOD AND THUNDER □ □ □ □

## STOCKTON VILLAGE HALL

**Bookings** - Helen Kittendorf Tel: 815376

[helenkittendorf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:helenkittendorf@hotmail.co.uk)

*Hourly Rate £9*

Wow March already, the year is romping on at full throttle, the days are starting to draw out again and Spring is in the air.

Our coffee mornings are in full swing on the first Saturday of the month, this month's date is the **2<sup>nd</sup> March from 10am till 12 noon**. We will have our usual offering of delicious cakes to cater for everyone including those who require Gluten free. Pushed for time is no reason for missing out, we offer a take-out option. It's always nice to see so many faces, old and new, so we hope to see you then.

As many of you know, we have a well-stocked fiction library available, but more excitingly we are now offering a good selection of "audio books" which will be available at the Coffee morning for you to borrow. Trust me you won't be disappointed, and believe me it solves the dilemma of how to read a book and do the ironing!

The Friends Lunch club continues to be a big success, it is so lovely to enjoy a meal with so many "friends". The Carvery offered by the Crown Inn, for our meals are delicious, what more could you ask for; good food, good company, and no washing up!! The next meet up is **13<sup>th</sup> March at 12.30pm**, there are limited spaces so don't forget to book your seat with Val on 814640. Raffle tickets are available, and the prize is your next Lunch club meal paid for.

Unfortunately due to Easter, Stockton Cinema will not run, its film and supper night on the last Saturday of the month, but don't panic ... we will be back as usual in April. Our new style "Film Club" means we no longer advertise the film but for full details and information why not join the film club by contacting Steve Kittendorf on 01926 815376 or [stevekittendorf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stevekittendorf@hotmail.co.uk), and you will be able to keep up to date with what film is being shown.

Does anyone know of a budding musician? We have an upright Piano at the village Hall that is desperate for a new home, please contact Steve Kittendorf on 01926 815376 or [stevekittendorf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stevekittendorf@hotmail.co.uk) if you are interested in offering this lovely piano a new home, it will however need to be collected as we can not offer a delivery service.

The village hall is, as always, available for hire. Please contact Helen to discuss your booking needs on 815376.

## Stockton's Archives

### Stockton and I By Victor Neal 1896 - 1978 *Part Four*

**EDUCATION.** My earliest memories are of two occasions in my pram: I remember attending Southam Mop in the conveyance, perhaps mainly because it was impressed upon me, or at least on my inexperienced little feet, by a new hanging oil lamp my parents procured whilst in town. I couldn't have been very old for my brother Ern was occasionally sharing the pram with me, and thus not leaving much spare room, and I remember the lamp bothering our extremities. This evidence I used to quote to my parents, not without effect, when they would doubt my ability to remember so far back.

Then there was the other time, on a walk which was to become more familiar to me as I grew older, as we used to term it 'round by the station and the wharf'. The canal runs alongside the road between these two places, and I remember not far from the old ladder bridge my brothers Wal and Ern blackberrying in the hedge separating us from the water, and now and then bringing some of the fruit to me in my pram.

Later, on this same route, as we grew into toddlers I recollect we would wander on to the towpath, and father would make us his little boats from a rush with a thorn to secure the end, complete with fascinating chimney, to float away on the canal. This little trick, now we work among the rushes for rush-seating for our chair-making, naturally gets passed on to our grandchildren.

I was gradually initiated by my brothers and our contemporary cronies into the delights of the countryside: violeting, birdnesting, dandelion, cowslip, coltsfoot and burnet for winemaking; the last, burnet, only grew in sufficient quantity to be worth the gathering in my Uncle Arthur's little meadows down Tomlow way, through which the brook ran that provided us with many a rich bunch of watercress for our teas.

Regrettably I also report they tried to teach me catapulting but, with more pleasure than the fact gave me at the time, I can say I was never any good with this weapon, and thank goodness I never did nor could kill a bird with it. Oddly this was one thing in which I was left-handed, anyway all the others held the stick in the opposite hand to myself. I can't see that this had anything to do with it, but more often than not, my pebble hit the hand that was holding the stick, and at this distance of time it served me right.

Now, Billy Sargent was renowned in our circles for his skill with a catapult. I still have admiration for his outstanding marksmanship, when I try to remember only his shots at other targets than the birds. One day, though, he frightened us all badly, himself not least either, when Len Giles, 'chivvying' with our gang the

other side of the hedge, got in the way of one of his shots and went down like a log, with an ominous trickle of blood from his temple. But Freddie, Billy's older brother, taking charge, gets a capful of water from the ditch and quite commendably, and to our relief, brings him round.

My brothers playing 'schools' at home had practically kept me up with their progress at the 'real' school, before some of the above events, and before I was due to start school myself; so that when I did start I romped through the Infants' School (which at that time was sharing its building with the Girls') at a rapid rate: one week in babies' class, one month in second class, to finish one year in first, and down to the Boys' School near the church, as we have mentioned earlier, under the jurisdiction of William Henry Boulter, who headmastered us through the rest of my schooldays. Living at Leamington, he travelled our branch line by train for so many years, thereby gaining, also, the healthful exercise morning and night of the one mile from Napton & Stockton station to the village. I believe he did have one spell wherein he tried motorcycling the journey of about eight miles, but perhaps that was after I had left his care and moved on to sterner things. It must have been in the early days of motoring and hazardous enough; the days when we used to run out to see a motor vehicle in the village, as today's youth might do to spot new planes. Somewhat earlier than this, going back to the first 'motors' seen in our district, for quite a period it seems to me, I remember no car getting away again the same day once its engine was stopped.

Then old John Cleaver of the Barley Mow, who kept and hired all those sorts of horse vehicles, gets himself a car (must keep up with the times) and has, along with it, all his cronies for miles around revelling in the leg-pulling banter inherent in its capabilities, or lack of them. Tales went around of John arriving home at queer hours and hunting out his trusty helper: 'Get up in good time, Joe, and go and tow her in before it's light. Take the chestnut mare (or whatever), and for goodness sake don't let Arthur Hough see you at Southam.'

John revelled in leg-pulling himself. One April 1st he dashes into his Barley Mow: 'Come on, chaps, give us a hand, we've got a horse down in the yard,' he yells excitedly, and tears out again with the little gathering at his heels. 'Hold his head, Ern. Heave up, you others,' and there he has a clothes horse, harnessed and bridled, lying unprotestingly enough on the ground. 'D--- your ----- eyes,' says old Ern Russell which, if not a very nice expression, did not lack a little affection for the perpetrator of the foolery.

Ah, John would relate to me, when I was running the old shop, Cosy Corner, next door to the Barley Mow, tales of his rides on his penny-farthing bicycle, rides to Evesham and round about, which not many villagers with all their youth and their modern cycles would consider doing today. Mind, I admit today's youth would do a dirt-track skid round a corner such as would astound the old landlord if he were still alive. I know they astound me, who at the moment am still alive – and I ride a bicycle.

You will have gathered mine host of the Barley Mow was quite a character, and you will have gathered rightly. Not lacking his imperfections (who does?), he was greatly entertaining and interesting. It was said he kept a bucket of coppers, the first he took on taking over his inn. I wonder what became of them, and wonder more what became of his famous diary? If it was thoroughly comprehensive, it is perhaps as well in obscurity. He certainly jotted down some odd things, with which he would delight in surprising one, such as the day, one 7th May, he pulls me up in the street and says: 'Well, what have you got on today?' 'Today,' says I, nonplussed, 'why today?' 'Oh, I thought you'd have some celebrations on, surely.' 'Celebrations?' 'Yes, it's an anniversary: — years (I don't remember the precise number) since you opened your fish and chip shop at Cosy Corner.'

I doubt if I should have ever kept that date in mind but for this little episode, though the event was memorable enough, unprecedented I should think in the village. I needn't have hung out my notice: 'Reserve your appetites. We open tomorrow.' I should think the population took that literally, for the fish-and-chip starved Stocktonians (this was just after the First World War) crowded the shop, filled the yard, clamoured even from the window opening on to the same Barley Mow yard where John had his 'horse' down, and queued along the street.

We are racing ahead of my schooldays, though. Back to Mr Cleaver of the Barley Mow who, just beyond my memory, I am told, had begun as a carrier, and besides the lines already mentioned, was now farming in quite a large way. I remember him with his wife attending one of our Christmas parties at home (also brother Wal's birthday, remember), and amusing us all with his impromptu rhymes on the people present, another of his well-known sidelines. Perhaps not works of genius by any means, but providing good fun.

These associations with Christmas time, coupled with John's versatility, remind me to record an anecdote in the hope of preserving the old custom of — how shall I spell it? — 'goodying', and I never learnt if it was a custom peculiar to our locality. In short, a little company of the poorer womenfolk used to walk round the better situated people beseeching them 'please to remember St Thomas's Day' on 21st December. John, I suppose, invariably handed over his contribution, but not before some dismaying delay as he assured them he never remembered St Thomas.

I remember, myself, only the last two women making these rounds, and the custom ceased, as did later the other practice of ringing the church bells at 5 o'clock on that morning. One of the last two survivors of 'goodying', Mrs Janey Bicknell (whose husband was known as 'Janey'), is always associated in my boyhood memories with 'buckthorning', too. I can picture her any time with members of her family returning to the village loaded with branches of buckthorn from which, I gather, she picked the berries at home to be sent to some chemist for some undiscovered purpose.

I should relate, before leaving John Cleaver for the moment, and because this was early in my career, so early I don't remember it, that my mother would testify with admiration to his skill with the reins. It seems that as a toddler I ran

across our corner just as John was rounding it with a horse and trap, and mother said she believed no one but John could have held his horse in the air so speedily and so long, whilst I got clear. Parents were not without their anxious moments before the advent of the internal combustion engine. For years my mother's injunction as we children went out was: 'Keep out of the horse-way'.

Another horse, though doing a most useful job, was a bit of a nuisance to us on those days. That was Dan the Mailman's (often called Bob the Mailman after his father), which used to start from Southam to make the daily journey to Rugby, running round Stockton at twenty to eight in the evening. Another command of my mother's was: 'Now, don't forget, come in when the mailman comes'. Dan must have had some roughish journeys, day in, day out, winter and summer, returning this way about six in the morning. The only tale I ever got out of him as we grew older was of being snowed up at Kytes Hardwick, and having to leave the familiar red van to trudge into Rugby on foot with the mails.

We still have a link with the equally red trap of the postman who used to do another daily journey, to Stretton I believe, for it used to be housed in a lean-to shed in our yard, attached to the very house we live in at this moment. That was in the Worralls' days of living in our house, and if the shed has gone now, not so the Worralls, for a few steps across the road lives Tommy and two doors the other side of us is Walter, both of whom have only recently retired from 'posting', and both sons of the postcart driver.

This takes us easily enough to introduce Mr Arthur Rawbone, who died about ten years ago and who kept the post office for so many years, following, I presume, his own parents in the job. He has related how, as a very small boy – he lived to be 80 – he used to be sent to meet the mails at the turnpike, just over Stockton Hill at the toll house that used to be there, at the early hour of six in the morning, often 'when the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even'. They must have made a good job of the clearance of the old toll house for I who boast of remembering pram journeys never remember one brick or sign of a house there. I am told it is now proposed to build the policeman's house on the spot, and I'm none too sure it wouldn't be a good idea to replace the toll-gates, too, and check some of the speeding lunacy.

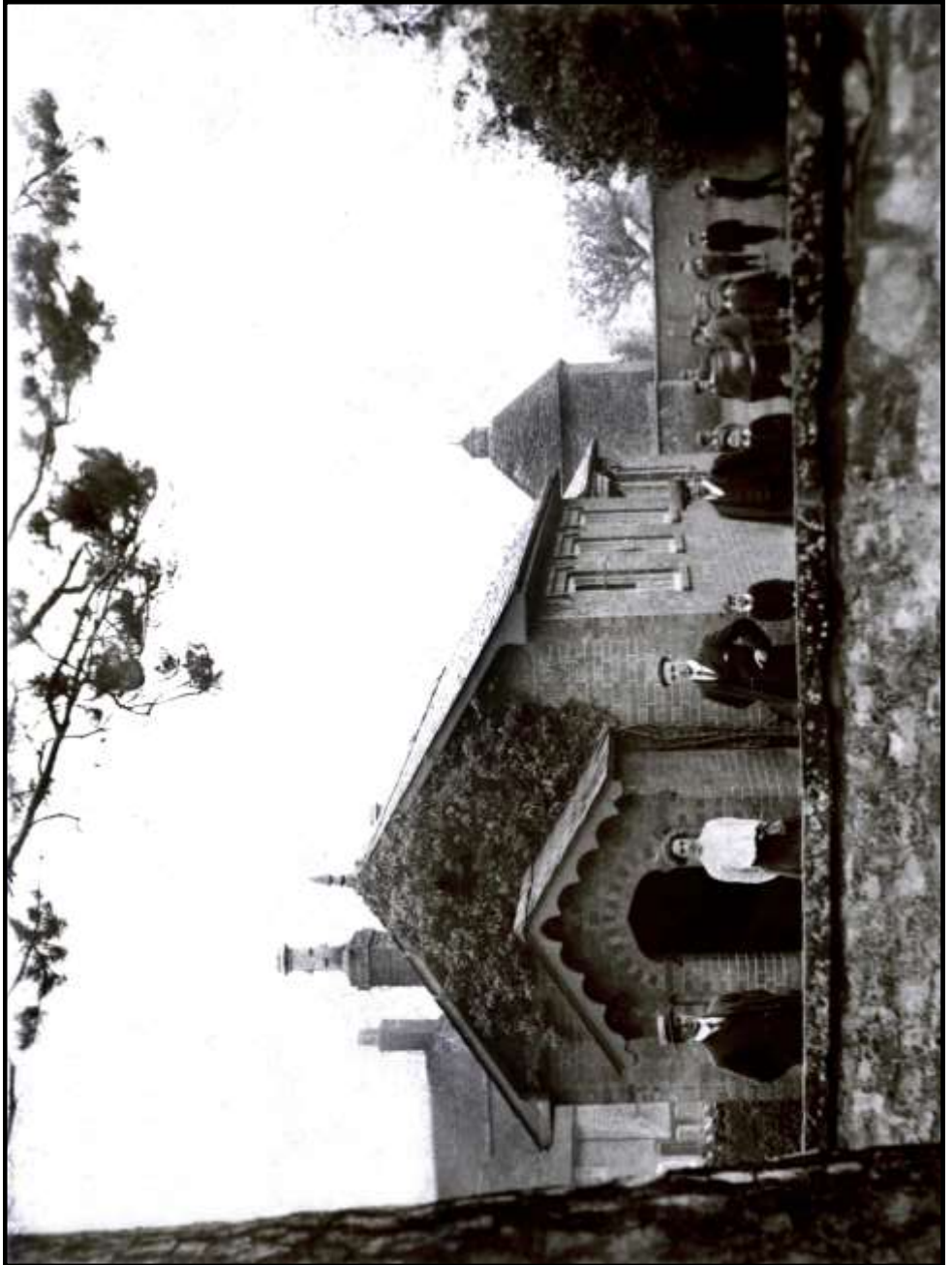
Mr Rawbone stands out in my childhood mainly as the efficient secretary of our old Stockton Flower Show. These are bright spots in my boyhood memories, efficiently organised and held in that romantic setting behind the old Manor House, their attraction spread well beyond our own village. To get to the field we had to go through the Manor Bed, by the Boys' School and what is left of the ancient moat. Here we three brothers over some years successfully carried down exhibits of wild flowers and elatedly carried back our prize money, thanks mainly to our mother's enthusiastic skill in arranging the blooms we had walked so far to gather. Mother or we must have improved in the main, if I may boast so, for I think Wal began with a sixth prize, Ern follows with a fifth, and I jumped to two firsts and a second in the three years of my turn.

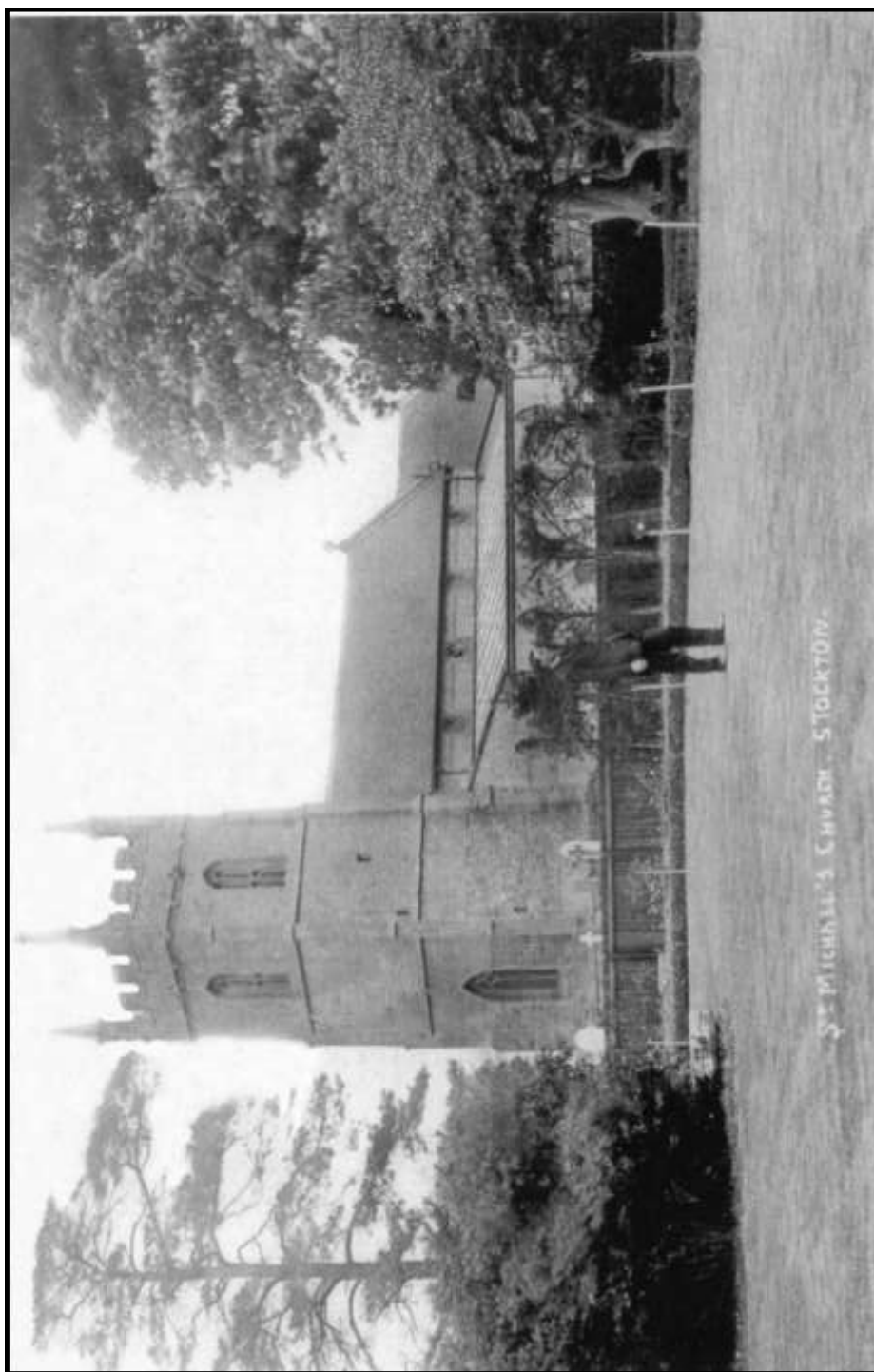
## **MARCH 1947 - TWO GIRLS KILLED AT SOUTHAM - TREE FALLS ON BUS**

Amid a wild scene of crashing trees bowled over by the gale which was sweeping the whole of Britain, tragedy overtook passengers travelling in a Middle Red bus which was on its way to Rugby via Southam on Sunday night. Two young Stockton girls, Valerie Jane Sheasby (20) of 8 Victoria Terrace, and Ruby S Hawker (17) of 19 Elm Row, were killed outright and the last four rows of seats on the bus were completely wrecked, the roof and sides being smashed and ripped like an eggshell. The bus involved was the 8.35 pm from Leamington and it left for Rugby in company with a "relief" bus. When they were approaching Stoneythorpe near Southam with the relief bus in front, it was found that a tree had fallen across the road blocking the way and the drivers decided to turn around and go back. In the meantime, however, another tree had fallen behind them, enclosing them in a trap. A number of passengers alighted, some of them making their way by foot to Southam, and whilst the drivers were viewing the situation, yet another tree fell, this time across the rear bus. The bulk of it, some two feet in diameter, crashed onto the nearside of the roof and as it collapsed through the paneling, it pinned down the two girls, who were sitting side by side in the third two seats from the rear of the vehicle. About eleven other passengers, as well as the driver and conductress, witnessed the tragedy, but little could be done. Crushed by the full weight of the tree, the girls must have been killed instantly and a number of branches and part of the tree had to be sawn up and removed before rescuers could get to the bodies. They were later taken to South Mortuary. The road remained blocked all night and it was not until eleven o'clock on Monday morning the buses left under their own power and the road was once more open to through traffic.



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