

STOCKTON'S NEWS

September
2025

Issue 179

keeping you informed ...

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OPENING HOURS:- Mon - Thurs:- 5pm - 11pm Friday 4pm - 12.00 midnight
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Afternoon Bingo every Thursday 1.30pm for 2.00pm

Brewed Awakening - Tuesdays 11th & 25th
10.00am - 12.30pm

Saturday Bingo - Every Saturday - Eyes Down 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>

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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.

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Stockton Ladies

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Stockton Petanque,

Warwickshire Grizzlies

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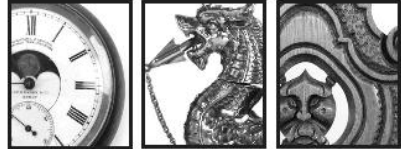
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Many thanks to all those who have already contributed towards the cost of producing **Stockton's News** it is great to have your support.

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

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

Acc. No. 91456652 **Reference it Donation**

Cash/Cheque in envelope addressed to Stockton's News to -

Steve Kittendorf - The Limes,

Marion Stringer - 12 George Street

Wendy Rumsey - 1 St. Michael's Crescent.

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

Click on the link for this month's magazine.

<http://stocktonsnews.org.uk>

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STOCKTON'S NEWS

has always been available in both hard and email copy and has never been out of circulation since our first issue.

We updated our method of circulation by adding the option of email or hard copy to those who requested it, therefore reducing the time and paper in printing unwanted copies.

**IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING YOUR FREE MAGAZINE
BUT WISH TO BE ADDED TO THE CIRCULATION LIST
PLEASE GET IN TOUCH - EMAIL /ADDRESS REQUIRED.**

WHO'S WHO

Parish Council	Chairman	Howard Collerson	813181
	Clerk	Robbie Robinson	814094
	Councillors	John Emberton	814267
		Helen Kittendorf	815376
		Chris Millidge	812991
		Terry Warner	813424
		Richard Rumsey	813730
Wendy Rumsey	813730		

District/County Councillor	Andy Crump	815745
Member of Parliament	Jeremy Wright	01926 853650

St. Michaels	Priest in Charge		
	Administrator	Susan Holloway	812383
	Church Warden	Wendy Turner	812694
	Church Flowers	Wendy Turner	812694

Village Hall Bookings	Helen Kittendorf	815376
-----------------------	------------------	--------

Stockton School	Head Teacher	Mrs. A. Bedgood	812483
Little Acorns			813789
Toddlersaurs	Becca Makepeace	07733107197	

Group Scout Leader	Jo Brough	07568 653158
Scouts	David Brough	07432 358259
Cubs	Toby Leeman	07866 563301
Beavers	Jo Brough	07568 653158

Women's Institute President	Sue Gill	07502207380
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



Village Calendar



Regular Weekly Village Events

Monday :~

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 ~ 9.45- 11.15am (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 ~ **1st**

Parish Council Meetings: 3rd Monday ~ Village Hall ~ 7.15pm ~ **15th**

Tuesday

Brewed Awakening: Nelson Club ~ 10.00am - 12.30pm ~ **11th & 25th**

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

Wednesday

Friends Lunch: Every 2nd Wed ~ The Crown ~ 12.30pm ~ **10th**

Church Lunch: Every 3rd Wednesday ~ 12noon

Saturday

Coffee Morning & Library: 1st Sat ~ 10am - 12Noon ~ Village Hall ~ **6th**

Whist Drive: Every 2nd Sat ~ Village Hall ~ 7.30pm ~ **13th**

Stockton Cinema: Every last Saturday ~ Village Hall ~ 7.00pm ~ **27th**

Pétanque Melee ~ F.C. & C.C. ~ All Welcome ~ 2.00pm ~ **6th**



VILLAGE MATTERS



To have your news included please
Contact by email - stocktons.news@gmail.com

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.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday Lacey Chatland

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

Mobile Library

19th September Stockton Church 2.10 - 2.30pm

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

Refuse & Recycling

Food Waste - weekly Grey Lid Bin - 3 weekly - 19th
Blue Lid Bin & Green Bin - 2 weekly - 5th & 19th
Missed Bins Tel: 01789 260616



Wheelchair Short-term Loan:-

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

Southam Pharmacy: 4 Market Hill, CV47 0HE Tel: 812287

Opening Hours:- Mon - Friday 8.30am - 6.15pm Sat 9.00am - 5pm

Lions Furniture Sales

2nd Saturday of the month 9am Behind Southam Co-op

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 BRIGES GROUP	07.09.25 Trinity 12 Green	14.09.25 Trinity 13 Green	21.09.25 Trinity 14 Green	28.09.25 Trinity 15 Green
PRIORS HARDWICK	Morning Worship 9.00am Lay Led	PATRONAL FESTIVAL 6.00pm Lay Led	BCP Holy Communion 9.00am GOLDEN WEDDING THANKS- GIVING 10.30AM	
PRIORS MARSTON	Morning Worship 10.30am Lay Led	CW Holy Communion 10.30am	Morning Worship 10.30am Lay Led	
WORMLEIGH- TON				Morning Worship 10.30am Lay Led
NAPTON	CW Holy Communion 10.30am	Morning Worship 10.30am Lay Led	CW Holy Communion 10.30am	Sung Evensong 5.00pm Lay Led
STOCKTON	Morning Worship 10.30am Lay Led	Holy Comm In the Methodist Tradition 10.30am		CW Holy Comm 10.30am
LOWER SHUCK- BURGH				BCP Holy Comm 9.00am

BCP – Book of Common Prayer CW – Common Worship

THE BRIDGES GROUP NOTICE BOARD
 LOWER SHUCKBURGH, NAPTON , STOCKTON
 PRIORS MARSTON, PRIORS HARDWICK & WORMLEIGHTON

Programme for Children and Youth

Create & Play: Tuesday mornings from 9.30 – 10.45am (term times) in Stockton Church – for further details, contact: Deborah Dutton on 01926 819016 or deborahduttoncreative@gmail.com

Babies & Toddlers Group: Monday mornings from 9.30 – 11am (term times) in Napton Village Hall – for further details, contact: Helen Eadon on 07811 010440

Messy Church – on 3rd Sundays of the month at 4pm – venues TBC

Mid-week programme for Adults - Home Bible Study Groups

The following groups meet for Bible study, prayer and fellowship 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: 1 st Thurs 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.

LOCAL EVENTS

Events and News from Our Neighbouring Villages



Southam Gardening Club

thesouthamgardeningclub.blogspot.co.uk

Tel: 01926 813986 or 815086.



The new season's meetings of Southam Gardening Club begins on **Monday 15th September**. It is at 7.30pm at a **NEW VENUE**, The Communal Hall, Tithe Lodge, Little Park, off Park Lane, Southam

Alison Foster will give an illustrated talk on '**Botanical Beverages**'. All are welcome. Non-members £4.50. Refreshments included.

Long Itchington History Group

Meeting at Community Centre 7.30pm

[Www.longitchingtonhistory.org.uk](http://www.longitchingtonhistory.org.uk)

WEDNESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER STARTING AT 7.30.

"William James, Father of Railways" - Rodger Butler.

For further details phone 07745110666. To request transport call 07771953139

Programmes available on request

Marton Museum of Country Bygones

Free to visit & open every Sunday afternoon 2 – 4pm
between 25th May and 28th September 2024.

Come to explore our updated displays of local agricultural artefacts, it's all hands-on and there are trails for children.

HODs open all day 13th & 14th September with tea & cakes! CV23 9SA
www.martonmuseum.co.uk or find us on Facebook

Galanos House

Galanos Summer Fete

- Bric a Brac
- Tombola's
- Second-hand Clothes
- Men's Shed Wooden Items
- LIVE Music
- Homemade Cakes & Cream Teas
- Craft Stalls
- Coconut Shy & Outdoor Games
- De-stash SALE Arts & Craft Supplies
- Ice-Cream Van

Sat 6 sept 2:30-4pm

All proceeds go towards further enhancing our residents lives at Galanos House

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
Galanos House & Community Hub
Banbury Road, Southam, Warwickshire, CV47 2BL
📞 RBLCommunityHub 01926 812185 Ext. 5365

De-Stash SALE

Saturday 6th September | 2:30-4:30pm

Sell your excess Arts & Craft supplies
£10 per table, book today!

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION | **Community Hub and Café**
(Next to Galanos House) Banbury Road, Southam
📞 RBLCommunityHub 01926 812185 Option 5

Galanos House Frock Swap

Join us for a fun evening and a chance to update your wardrobe.

Wednesday 24th September

Starts at 7.00pm

Galanos House, Banbury Road,
Southam CV47 2BL
01926 812185

Bring along at least one item of good quality, clean clothing to swap.
Shoes and accessories welcome.
Nothing to swap, buy yourself something from the rails.

All proceeds go to the Galanos House Amenity Fund.

★ £3.00 includes Bucks Pizz and nibbles.



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

JULY 2025 MEETING

Please note that these are informal notes, for a formal record please refer to the approved minutes on our website.

County/District Matters: Stratford Core Strategy - under the latest version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) the basis for calculating the 5 year housing land supply has changed and in Stratford's case their supply figure reduces from about 15 years to just over 5 years. The minimum required by the NPPF is 5 years and anything below this means that it is much easier for developers to get permission for new housing developments without going through a detailed planning application process that would involve a consultation process. The effect of this on the Sycamore Close application remains to be seen. **Local Government Devolution** - two formal submissions have been made to the government about the reorganisation of services in Warwickshire. One is submitted by Warwickshire County Council that makes the case for one single authority that would merge the District Councils with the County Council to cover the whole County. The other is a joint case made by the District Councils for two authorities to cover South Warwickshire and North Warwickshire. The government is expected to make a decision in November. **Southam Fire Station** - under the recent reorganisation of the Fire & Rescue Service Southam Fire Station will be staffed full-time during the day.

Planning Matters: Stockton FC&CC (25/00992) - part retrospective application for construction of pétanque piste - approved. **St. Michael's Church (25/01371)** - repairs and modifications to 8 metre section of churchyard wall - supported by the parish council. **Stockton House (25/01640)** - to fell three trees and remove deadwood and overhanging branches - supported by the parish council.

Village Facilities: the team that does the regular grass cutting has carried out a one-off strimming of long grass at the cemetery, the playing field, Memorial Green and public footpaths. The annual hedge cutting operation will be carried out on 15 September and will cover the cemetery, Memorial Green, The Square and Mount Pleasant, the path to the playing field and Glebe Close entrance.

Infrastructure Projects: the parish council is investigating several projects including replacing the bollards in the Boulder triangle in High Street, replacement or repair of dog waste bins in various locations, surface treatment of the path to the playing field, resiting of the bench in the

cemetery in memory of Ivan Bennett to release more grave spaces and provision of a new bench on The Radical next to the new cemetery extension.

Stockton Village Hall: temporary repairs have been made to the wooden flooring in the main hall, but the condition of the joists means that the whole floor will have to be replaced. Applications for grants to cover the cost of the work have been submitted.

NOTES OF AUGUST 2025 MEETING

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

District and County Council Matters:- the date for a committee hearing over the Richborough application has been put back possibly to wait for the outcome of a Government Planning Inspector's enquiry in to another planning application that might clarify the calculation of the 5 year housing land supply in the Stratford area. **Road repairs** - Cllr Crump has met with the area highways manager to look at potholes, etc that need repairing (you may have noticed the yellow markings on some roads). **The George Street verge** grasscrete installation will be done in the near future. **Road Safety Audit** - Cllr Crump has arranged for a safety audit to cover Stockton, Napton and the road in between.

Planning Matters: Tree Protection Order for 2 Redwood Place (25/01262) - refused permission. However this has been replaced with a slightly different application (25/01906), supported by the Parish Council.

Biodiversity Policy: Under the Environment Act 2021 there is a duty on public authorities to consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in their area. As Stockton Parish Council does not own any significant land or property this Act will have no major impact but the Council decided to adopt a Biodiversity Policy that will appear on the Council's website shortly.

Martyn's Law: following the Manchester Arena terrorist bombing in 2017 venues and publicly accessible locations with a capacity of 200 - 799 people must carry out risk assessments, vigilance and security culture development. This is to ensure that venues are better prepared for potential attacks. There is a two year implementation period before the requirements become mandatory. The Parish Council determined that it owns no venues that would be covered by this legislation.

Stockton Football and Cricket Club: The Club will become a "Legal Entity" so that it can enter a new lease with Cemex for their ground. The Club will amend its constitution and adopt Articles and Memorandum of Association. The Club has also launched a fund-raising appeal to improve the drainage on the "back field" pitches and the Parish Council agreed to make a contribution to the fund.

Village facilities: The street light in Rectory Close is obscured by a nearby tree that is covered by a Tree Protection Order so the council will pursue the matter with the Planning Dept and Warwickshire Highways. **Road Safety Group** - the parish council agreed in principle to fund the purchase of a speed monitor gun once the group has received police approval.

Next Meeting: 7.15 pm on **Monday 15 September** in the village hall.



JUNE 2025

Headlines - two heat waves in the month

The **average minimum temperature** was 14.5 deg. C, three and a half degrees above the average (10.8 deg. C). The lowest temperature was 8.6 deg. C on the 7th June. The **average maximum temperature** was 24.7 deg. C, nearly five degrees above the average (19.9 deg. C) The highest temperature was 32.4 deg.C on the 30th. **Rainfall**, at 31.5 mm was only half of the average (62.8 mm) and the wettest day was the 5th with 12mm. It only rained on 8 days. **Sunshine** levels were in line with the long term average, being 8% above average. The **wind** blew mostly from the west, south-west and south (27 days).

Trivia of the month - Lots of records broken this month - hottest June since local records began in 1892, hotter even than 1976; the night of 28/29th June was the warmest June night ever; 30th June was the hottest June day since 1976; the warmest first six months (January to June) on record. Perhaps global warming sceptics (including your weather monitor) are being persuaded that things are changing.

JULY 2025

Headlines - an especially warm month, particularly the first half.

The **average minimum temperature** was 13.9 deg. C, nearly one and a half degrees above the average (12.5 deg. C). The lowest temperature was 9.1 deg. C on the 6th July. The **average maximum temperature** was 23.1 deg. C, just one degree above the average (22.1 deg. C) The highest temperature was 30.4 deg.C on the 19th. **Rainfall**, at 48.5 mm was only 77% of the average (62.6 mm) and the wettest day was the 8th with 15.5mm. It only rained on 6 days. **Sunshine** levels were 8% below the long term average. The **wind** blew mostly from the west, south-west and south (23 days).

Trivia of the month - although the weather has been warm it has not been that sunny compared to July averages, in fact this July had fewer sunshine hours than March.



News From Andy Crump

WCC Councillor for Southam, Stockton & Napton

SDC Councillor for Southam Central and East and Stockton

Mobile: 07771335273 - cllrcrump@warwickshire.gov.uk

andrew.crump@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Local Councillor update Stockton News – September 2025

I hope you have been having a good summer as we have been experiencing some high temperatures as well as torrential downbursts. These certainly don't help road surfaces in the village and the more observant of you will have noticed a significant number of potholes being marked out for repair, with others being completed. I, and the WCC Highways Officer, have put in a bid for the road coming into the village to be re-surfaced, probably in 26/27 financial year if successful. Other works in the pipeline are the extension of the Grasscrete parking in George St, and some Grasscrete opposite the Crown. Some road markings have been refreshed too. I've asked for some more hardcore to be put in the ruts by the side of roads/verge on the Napton Road.

I've been working with the Community Speedwatch Teams in Stockton and Napton, that are in the process of being formed and have completed the necessary vetting form. I'm trying to bid for monies for Road Safety Audits in Stockton, Napton and the Napton Road.

There is likely to be a 2nd round of my Councillor Community Grant in September – so please watch this space

Application 25/00823/OUT - Land At Sycamore Close Stockton

Proposal Outline application for the erection of up to 80 dwellings, associated infrastructure and biodiversity enhancements, with all matters reserved except for access to the site from Sycamore Close, and a temporary construction access from the A426

The original determination date was 8/8/25 but this has now very recently been extended to 30/9/25 – I'm trying to find out why. Strong grounds for refusal have been validated by the officer e.g. Outside Built up area boundary (BUAB), non compliance with AS10, encroachment into the countryside and the visual impact on the village and surrounding area.

Cemex also put in an extremely strong objection.

As I've mentioned previously, the housing land supply numbers across the district have been dramatically changed due to the changes Government introduced to encourage more house building, increasing target figures for SDC & WDC in the emerging SWLP.

Recently, there was an appeal case at SDC (particularly relating to the 5 Year housing land supply below) – the outcome will likely determine how strongly SDC can oppose unwanted development in the District. When I say

unwanted I mean in areas that are outside BUABs, in open countryside etc..
Temporary Lights on Southam By-pass for the new junction into Aldi from Tuesday 26th August to 16th December.

"Section 278 Highway works in connection with the consented Aldi Foodstore on Land off the A423 Southam Bypass, including the construction of a Ghost Right turn island, footway and cycle improvements and upgrade of existing Pelican Crossing at the Galanos Roundabout."

<https://one.network/?GB144810653>

Temporary traffic lights in place with one lane closed.

Stratford District Council has updated its housing land supply position to take account of the revised standard method for Local Housing Need. The changes to the NPPF and the new methodology for Local Housing Need mean that the previous calculation is now out of date. **The Council can currently demonstrate the equivalent of 5.06 years' worth of housing land supply.**

Rural England Prosperity Fund

REPF funding is now available for rural businesses in Stratford District and North Warwickshire Borough who are looking to deliver a rural business capital project.

Read more > <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6613/rural-businesses-supported-with-new-grant-funding>

Warwickshire Resilience Forum

Are you following @Warwickshire Resilience Forum yet?

They're here to help you become #BetterPrepared for risks near you, such as heatwaves, flooding and power outages.

It's easy to get started. Give them a follow and visit: <https://www.warwickshireresilienceforum.org/>

Cost of Living Support - SDC

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

Back to School Checklist

Warwickshire parents and carers are being reminded of some important things to do to help children be happy, healthy and ready to learn when school starts in a couple of weeks.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6714/have-you-got-your-back-to-school-checklist-sorted->

Libraries Summer Reading Challenge 2025

More than 2,500 children have already signed up for Warwickshire Libraries' Summer Reading Challenge - and there's still plenty of time for

your child to join in and complete theirs!

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6720/summer-reading-challenge-2025-still-time-to-join->

A-Level Results

Well done to all Warwickshire students who have received their A-Level results! Your hard work has paid off, and you should be incredibly proud. We're wishing you all the best for your next steps, whatever they may be.

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6721/warwickshire-s-students-look-to-the-future-as-a-level-results-are-announced>

International Youth Day

Warwickshire County Council marked International Youth Day by spotlighting the county's youth conference where the voices, creativity, and leadership of young people came together to discuss the topics that matter most to them.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6678/warwickshire-marks-international-youth-day-by-celebrating-participation>

Physical activity to boost mental health and wellbeing

Why not take advantage of the summer months and warmer weather by getting moving to support your mental health and wellbeing?

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6672/warwickshire-residents-encouraged-to-take-part-in-physical-activity-to-boost-mental-health-and-wellbeing>

Cycle September 2025

This September, Warwickshire County Council is joining forces with cycling platform Love to Ride to promote the benefits of cycling to residents and businesses across the County.

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6675/bikes-at-the-ready-as-cycle-september-returns-for-2025->

Warwickshire's healthy lifestyle services survey

Adults who live, work, study, or are registered with a GP in Warwickshire are invited to share their views about the county's healthy lifestyle services.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6703/have-your-say-about-the-future-of-warwickshire-s-healthy-lifestyle-services>

Stay safe and healthy this summer

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) is reminding residents to take simple steps to stay safe, healthy, and connected this summer.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6567/this-summer-stay-safe-and-healthy-with-the-living-well-webpages->

Water safety advice

If you're heading out to enjoy the sunshine near open water, please stay safe and #BeWaterAware. Even strong swimmers can get caught out by cold water shock.

Find out more here: <https://respectthewater.com>

Dispose of BBQs safely

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service have revealed that almost half of BBQ-related fires in Warwickshire are caused by their dangerous disposal.

Find out how to dispose of your BBQ safely: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6676/warwickshire-fire-and-rescue-service-asks-residents-to-dispose-of-bbqs-safely-this-summer>

Wasps in Warwickshire

Ben Coleman, Grassland Specialist Ranger from Warwickshire County Council, shares his top advice on tips on coexisting with wasps this summer.

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/6568/wasps-in-warwickshire-get-the-buzz-on-avoiding-a-sting>

Used Cars: Stop Check Go - Buying a used car?

Thousands of people end up with misdescribed, faulty or unsafe vehicles every year.

- Check the MOT
- Run a history check
- Know who you're buying from
- No ID, no paperwork, or pressure to pay fast?

Stop Check Go

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

Councillor groans –

Packed up my job at our local Cafe. Just wasn't my cup of tea!

I asked a top baker what the secret to making good dough was. He told me the secret was on a knead to know only basis.

I don't know how many times my DVD of the film Dracula has gone missing, I've lost count.

I phoned the police today and told them my wife got assaulted watching Countdown,

They said 'That's nine letters, very good.'

Spent the night at the YMCA. It was nice but I wouldn't make a song and a dance about it

Andy

Stockton Pétanque

Chairman – Richard Rushton
Administrator – John Emberton 01926 814267
Club Captain – Rich Powell 07957848075
www.stocktonpetanqueclub.org.uk

Summer has been a very busy time for Stockton Pétanque Club, with the development of our playing facilities and competing in Regional competitions.

The West Midlands Summer League finished on 23rd July after 14 hard fought rounds. In Division 1 Stockton Knights ended their campaign with results good enough to place us 6th in the league, thereby avoiding relegation. In Division 2, Stockton Yeomen ended in 3rd place – a little disappointing after fighting very hard for promotion.

Team Stockton (Catherine Black, Steve Neale, Rich Rushton and Becky Rushton) played against 13 other teams in the qualifying competition to be included in the Heart of England Regional squad for the England Inter-Regional Championship in September. They put up a great performance, winning 7 of their 13 games and have been placed #6 in the 8-team squad to play for the Region in Division 1. Well done to them, and best of luck in the Championship.

The same team was joined by two other teams involving Stockton players to compete in the Heart of England Regional Triples on 3rd August along with 15 other teams, playing for the opportunity to represent the Region in the National Triples ‘Champion of Champions’. All three teams played well in the morning games and qualified in the top 8, playing in the gold knock out competition in the afternoon against some very strong teams. Jeff Rand’s team were the most successful, reaching the semi-final.

In the meantime, we have extended our playing terrain from 8 lanes to 16 lanes, giving us the opportunity to host Regional and National competitions. On the domestic side, with just six weeks to go of Stockton’s Summer League Nouri Beladaci has a commanding lead of 81 points, well ahead of Sarah Jerger with 69, who is being chased by Anthea Sansom on 61. After 21 weeks, the annual Singles League is a closer contest. Nouri Beladaci is in the lead with 18 wins with Anthea Sansom a close second with 17 wins followed by Sarah Jerger on 15 wins and Steve Neale and Catherine Black on 13 wins each.

17 members turned out for the July melee. After three rounds there was just one unbeaten player - Emily Adams who took the main prize of the day. There were nine players who won two of their games, the best being Nouri Beladaci with +18 followed by Richard Collyer with +14.

16 members turned out for the August melee, and after three rounds there were three unbeaten players: Jeff Rand, Nouri Beladaci and Rich Rushton.

Jeff and Nouri both achieved a 24- point advantage and so shared the honours. Rich was a creditable third with +20.

On 6th June we hosted a social evening for 25 members of a group of 'singles' called Simply Social who enjoyed a game of pétanque followed by an excellent buffet organised by Becky Rushton. We welcome any local organisation to consider a pétanque party as their annual social evening.

The next Open Melee will be on **6th September**. Everyone is welcome – we will provide the boules and tuition on the rules.

GARDEN JOTTINGS



from Bridge Nursery - your local Hardy Plant Specialists
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Tel: 01926 812737

www.bridge-nursery.co.uk



SEPTEMBER

Am I always complaining about the weather? This year is turning out to be one of the driest for a very long time. The cracks in the garden are getting deeper and wider as the weeks without rain continue. I put my arm down one of them up to my elbow then got nervous in case all the slugs were at the bottom. It was 50cm deep. Trees are shedding leaves already and a couple of shrubs have shrivelled and become brown and crispy mounds. Many other plants are much shorter than usual and flowering has finished earlier this year. Not all the plants are looking stressed though. Surprisingly the *Veronicastrum* and *Lysimachia 'Firepower'* (both normally wilt the moment it gets dry) are growing well.

This is the month when we all think of getting more bulbs for the garden for a colourful spring display but unless we have significant rain it won't be possible to dig holes to get them in the ground. The solution is to plant them in pots and plant them out later in the winter or even wait until existing bulbs appear so you know where the gaps are. Cuttings can be taken of tender shrubs and plants such as pelargoniums and some of the shrubby salvias to ensure you have 'spares' in case we have a bad winter. Don't forget to bring houseplants back inside before the end of the month.

Christine



WOMENS INSTITUTE

Meeting 7.30pm at Nelson Club first Monday of Month

President:- Sue Gill Tel: 0750 2207380

Secretary: Joan Ford Tel: 01926 810220



Sue opened the July meeting and after singing Jerusalem Joan went through the various events for the summer which included a Cream Tea at Greenacres, the Produce Show and scarecrow trail and a Petanque day later on.

Members were requested to add their names to the cake makers list and also to help with the WI scarecrow.

Our speaker was then introduced and Ann Harrison, whose talk was entitled Call me Auntie, told us about her childhood in care and the search for her mother. She had been left behind by her mother as a baby and spent her childhood in a loving foster home for years before her foster family emigrated to Australia where she wasn't allowed to go.

There followed a period of time in a Heartbreak House care home where she would go out all day taking her books just so she didn't have to be there. Although her story was very sad she worked hard and qualified as a social worker and finally became a magistrate.

Her tale is also one of resilience and personal achievement as Ann discovered she also had a brother left behind in the same way, forged a professional career, searched for her long lost relatives in Barbados and eventually came to understand that she 'may be a princess after all'.

Our next meeting will be **Monday 1st September 2025 at 7.30** pm upstairs at the Nelson Club when the speaker will be Liz Ainsworth - No Way Home. The competition - a Children's Book.



STOCKTON VILLAGE HALL

Bookings - Helen Kittendorf Tel: 815376

email: helenkittendorf@hotmail.co.uk

Hourly Rate £10

We hope you've all had a lovely summer and enjoyed the great weather! However, with the dark night's approaching we all need something to look forward - hopefully some of the upcoming events we have planned will be just the ticket!

This month our **Coffee Morning** will be on Saturday 6th from 10am-midday, the **Lunch Club** is on Wednesday 10th at 12.30pm at The Crown and the Whist Drive is on Saturday 13th at 7.30pm.

The next **Stockton Cinema Night** is on Saturday 27th September - 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.

We are now taking bookings for our **Murder Mystery Evening** on Friday 10th October – join us for Murder Most Tropical onboard SS Nauti for some murderous mayhem! Tickets are priced at £20, which includes a jacket potato with a choice of two fillings, dessert and tea / coffee – you are welcome to bring your own alcoholic drinks!

Booking is essential so please contact Helen using the details above.

There will be a **wreath making event** on Friday 14th November at 6.30pm – the cost of £40 per person includes all of the items needed plus a glass of wine – you just need to bring some scissors or secateurs. Please contact Helen to book you place by Friday 17th October as places are limited.

From January next year we are looking to hold a monthly **Quiz Night** which will be on the second Friday of each month – more details to follow soon but pencil in the date and we hope you can join us for some fun and to test those little grey cells!

As a reminder the Foodbank Donation Point will be open on Coffee Mornings between 10am-midday or alternatively please give any items to Wendy Burrows or Sarah Redgrave. For an up-to-date list of urgently needed items please visit their website: <https://fosse.foodbank.org.uk/> - any donation you can give is very much appreciated.

If you have any suggestions for events we can hold at the Village Hall then please let us know – the Village Hall exists to provide a space that the whole Community can use.

We look forward to seeing you very soon.

The Village Hall Trustees and Management Committee

Stockton's Archives

The autobiographical writings of Victor Neal (Part 20)

Now from the rear window of our medical hut, as from many points outside, one could look out across at Le Havre but looking straight ahead instead of to the right one sees, when evening and the cloud permit, the North Star and, if we have read our map aright, in that approximate direction lies home, and one may dream. Turning round in the morning we see Capt Milne, our own medical officer, at his table, and the dream is gone, and so to work.

Name, number, category, religion, diagnosis, treatment and all the army paraphernalia to go down on the endless forms, for each individual on the sick-parade; then to the dishing-out of medicines and dressings and what not. Paradoxically but understandably, our MO would grouse at me if I ever gave a chap an aspirin or such-like without his order. Chaps would worry me for these things for headaches and so on, and finding me warily reluctant, would vow never to let on, which they almost invariably did, and yet on those occasions when some more or less serious contingency brought a patient or his hut-mates to rouse us in the night-hours, I would dutifully desire to pass on the responsibility and would trot up the field to the officers' huts and knock on our Captain's cubicle door. He would always assume correctly that it was me and would first mutter: '— it!' Come in, Neal,' and then proceed to tell me that surely I knew what to do in that particular case without troubling him!

I was glad – and still am – that I passed on to him the responsibility for one poor chap who had been brought into our hut one night. He had had a bad head wound and his mates told us he had been trying to commit suicide by attempting to swallow stones or pebbles, and he started to beg us to finish him off as he was only a nuisance to everybody. We did our best to talk him out of this mood, and I duly roused our MO from his peaceful cubicle; amongst his advice he reminded us that it was often a long way from threatening to doing. He was wrong this time, though, for the unhappy lad was reported found dead in a trench at the edge of the camp.

The changes in our convalescent helpers brought us, as chance had it, a little band of chess addicts, and most of our spare time would find the chessboard on the table, a change, certainly, from those forms with name, number, category, religion, etc, but to me almost as worrying for I didn't know the game. Not knowing the moves, I couldn't make head nor tail of it, and it went on and on. So long it went on that my growing exasperation finally drove one of the enthusiasts – for once his name escapes me, though I can easily picture him – to say: 'I'll teach you chess,' and he did. I'm glad he did, too. In spite of the fact that he 'foolmated' me half a dozen times – he insisted it was best

for me to find my own way out – before I found the move to stop this humiliation.

It's a great game, even if I have never attained any brilliancy in it. Old Harry Strickland (from Coventry, as it happened) was the brilliant one: not for him any conversation or smokes to interfere with the game; too serious a matter for that. When tournaments were arranged for camp championship, and later inter-camp matches (taking in Nos 13 and 14 Depots), Harry ran away with the lot. Strange as it was, Harry seemed deceptively mediocre in most lines except his chess and one other thing: Shakespeare. He certainly made up on these.

I thought, as time went on, now here am I in the same hut as Harry, with the opportunity to play him innumerable games, surely I might have one fluke win and be able to swank I had beaten the champion? I played him up to his last evening with us before he left the base; one final attempt I begged, but all to no purpose, for as far as I was concerned he was invincible.

Harry, for his part, had one final go at me to try and coerce me to develop a similar enthusiasm for his other strong line – William, the Bard of Avon. But at this period I was willing to give him best also on this point, and stubbornly refused to accept a volume he had just finished re-reading – one of the Henry's, I think. His chess had taxed me enough to go on with; I didn't feel up to a fresh battle with Shakespeare, in fact it was years later when I joined that issue.

My streak of the showman suffered a setback when I almost joined the camp concert party on its inception; I attended only one rehearsal and bashfully retired when I found how frighteningly professional the other prospective members were. In the face of such efficiency I gladly accepted the salutary humiliation and the easier role of spectator of their polished shows.

One never knew what celebrities were hidden in this all-embracing khaki: we had Bombardier Billy Wells – he had become Sergeant-Major now – amongst the Physical Instructors, and I would look at his fine physique, on the occasions he stripped down for exhibition bouts, and wondered how the little Carpentier had managed to knock him down so easily. He seemed a nice chap, and so did another whom we knew better – or thought we did – and with whom, he being so good-tempered, we had often larked about with and sparred up to, in our hut (and in our ignorance), until when a camp boxing tournament was arranged and we jokingly asked him if he was going to enter, he told us he was barred. 'Barred? Whatever for?' 'Oh, professionals are prohibited,' he says, and he turned out to be the champion of his county, Cumberland, Northumberland or Durham or somewhere up that way.

We had county cricketers and jockeys. Very outstanding was the chap whose distinguished knee we were privileged to paint with iodine – ah, I thought I had his name but it's gone again; I mean the name on his medical slip before we learnt he was 'The Great Willard', topping the bills at the music halls

before the war. He had joined the Canadian Army as a private soldier. The Great Willard claimed to perform something like 48 different tricks, of which he challenged any other in the world to do more than three. He could grow more than a foot taller in front of our eyes, place something on a table about the same distance out of reach, then stretch his arm and reach it. He told us now we had discovered his identity that he had baffled doctors and specialists by being able to control his blood circulation, stopping his pulse in one half of his body then swapping over to the other side; dislocate every bone in his frame, easier than we learnt their names in our Coliseum classroom at Blackpool; and snap ropes round his chest by expanding it. No wonder he was so anxious about those knees troubling him, fearful lest he should be unable to dislocate them, which most civilians would have worried about in reverse, though most of the Army rank and file would have been glad to have the knack!

Through our alphabetical selection at Rouen, we four who had come down together to Trouville were M, N, O and P: Mac-something, Neal, O'Neill and Powell. I mention this because there is a tale to tell about the last. Old Powell was one of those characters – now and then one cropped up in the forces – who seemed too old to have been of military age. He couldn't have been, really, although he would tell yarns of his years in south-west Texas, which tended to increase the impression of age.

Anyway, someone decided to reshuffle us chaps and some of us were transferred to the nearby 72nd General Hospital. Powell and I were involved in this move, not without some regret at leaving No.2 Med. Hut where we had found some good company and comradeship. I got put on night duty in the Theatre Ward, which I need hardly say contained some of the worst cases of the lot, being reserved only for patients too dangerously ill to be moved further. There was the poor – what's the use seeking adequate adjectives – chap who, with a leg off, required to be laid on his back, but alas he had a hole in his back, too, to prevent this, as well as an arm gone.

There was another who – God help us – was fearful to look at: his lower jaw shot away. Whatever became of him I can't imagine. As these bad cases became moveable they were taken over to England for the extended treatment needed. I have often sat in the ward in rare spells of peace and quiet, which would then be broken by one uncontrollable yell, rousing the lot and starting off again that pandemonium of agony: praying, cursing in indescribable and awesome variety – I have sat and wondered how far we have strayed: what victory of men's selfish aims was worth this ward full of suffering, let alone the millions of other victims?

But a few weeks here saw us on towards November 1918 and old Powell and I were waiting for our Blighty leave, as an office rumour had it our names were creeping slowly towards the top of the rota. Finally, by astounding coincidence, we were to parade at Company Office at 11am on that very 11th November, and there we were, awaiting our papers and the ambulance-van

generously provided to run us down to the station at Trouville, when our CO dashed out, in his excitement for once human enough, to shout at us: 'You lucky b——s! The Armistice is signed! I wish I were going with you.' Almost my first thought was that probably all leave would be cancelled, and that thought stuck with me until our boat was well out to sea. Before that we were scheduled to go by train to Rouen, to spend a night there before joining a special leave train bound for Boulogne. On our arrival at Rouen station a kindly sergeant enquired if we were clean (ie from lice, etc), and if so he wouldn't recommend that we go to the Rest Camp provided, or we'd get as bad as ever. What then would he advise? He'd go to some hotel. Which? Oh, Hôtel Chemin de Fer. We went, Powell and I, with only a few words of French, but they fixed us up. The chambermaid showed us into a room containing two beds, which cost nine francs, or another franc if we wanted to occupy both beds.

I might mention we went out into the town that evening before turning in, because it was the only time I actually saw that boasted fraternity between the Allies, but sure enough on that mad evening of the Armistice there were umpteen nationalities rolling arm-in-arm through the streets.

And dominating the proceedings all that day was: 'La guerre finie! La guerre finie!' From Trouville to our leaving this city that had witnessed that other tumultuous scene, 487 years and a few months before – the burning of Joan of Arc – 'La guerre finie!'

As our boat got out into the Channel Powell said: 'I shan't go back to France, you know.' 'Oh?' said I. 'No, the war's over. I shall report at our Blackpool Depot and tell 'em I thought that was the right thing to do.' I watched France receding in the haze, and had a feeling myself that this could be a farewell but, sceptical of my friend's belief in the naïvety of our Blackpool Depot, I didn't dare to put this into words. I didn't go back: I still have here the return half of my ticket from France, but from correspondence from some we had left at Trouville I gathered that Powell did.

On the boat Powell begged me to see him safely on his train for Liverpool, as he said he was such a mug for that sort of thing in London. It fell out that when we docked at Folkestone, chance or our inexperience found us a long way from the one gangway that was lowered and we, at our end of the boat, became anxious that the waiting train would be filled and we forced to wait for another. So some chap took a flying leap across the gap to the quayside, and almost without thinking I was after him, and running for the fast-filling coaches. I remembered Powell and thought it would be hopeless for him to take that jump but, no fear, I could see him chasing behind. I found a seat and turned to watch out for him but he must have clambered in another coach for I never saw him again, nor at Victoria Station.

At the bottom of the bridge at our own little Napton & Stockton station, though, stood Kendall's Corn Mill (still stands under the new name of Warwickshire Farmers Ltd) and outside stood Billy Francis, who worked

there at that time; a bit of a stutter had Billy and a reputation for begging cigarettes that got him known as another Woodbine Willie. He also had a near-Cockney accent, which was more understandable as he hailed from that way. Here was I, more than a year a stranger and fresh from winning the war in France (ha, ha!), and Willie greeted me: ‘Gotta f-f-fag, kid?’ Ah, I knew I was home again, and a few hundred yards further, looking over the Townpiece Field, the footpath field that cuts the corner and across which in our Klondyke quarry days we had cut a score of paths, there were the George Street houses that had taken fewer bricks in the building than the New Side chimney. And I wondered what effect this view had on a wanderer, away a score of years or so, for I never forget its dreamlike quality to me, away for a shorter time, on this home-coming.

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