

STOCKTON'S NEWS

keeping you informed

June 2026

Issue 187

Magazine Deadline:- 15th of the month

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

Adverts - stockton.ads@gmail.com

Web Page:- www.stocktonsnews.org.uk **Printed by: Stockton's News**



**Villagers of the Year 2025 - The Village Hall Committee
Who chose as their award a new sign for the Village Hall.**

THE NELSON CLUB at STOCKTON
Napton Road, Stockton Tel: 01926 812613
OPENING HOURS:- Mon - Thurs:- 5pm - 11pm Friday 4pm - 12.00 midnight
Sat 2.00pm - 12.00 midnight Sun 12 Noon - 11pm



Live Music
6th 3rd Alert 9pm
20th Dirty Pop Group 9pm

Join us for sporting events with BT and Sky Sports
For last minute events or changes to the current planned events please see the following:

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

Find us on **Facebook & Twitter**

Stockton Football & Cricket Club

Napton Road, Stockton CV47 8JU **Facebook:** @StocktonFCCC

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

The Club House

Recently extended to include disabled facilities and additional changing rooms.

Well stocked bar with Sky Sports & BT Sports. Pop into the clubhouse or see Facebook for information on upcoming

Our Teams:

Stockton Football

(Mens, Girls & Boys)

Stockton Stars Cricket,
Stockton Ladies Netball,

Stockton Petanque,
Warwickshire Grizzlies

Baseball,



STOCKTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUMMER FETE

SATURDAY 20 JUNE
11AM - 2PM

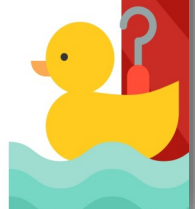
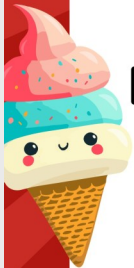
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on

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stephenw26268@googlemail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

Click on the link for this month's magazine.

<http://stocktonsnews.org.uk>

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Village Calendar



Regular Weekly Village Events

Monday :~

Knit & Natter: Church ~ 2 - 4pm

Tuesday :~

Create & Play: Church 9.30 - 11.00 am ~ **2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th**

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 ~ **3rd & 17th**

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 ~ Village Hall ~ 7.30pm ~ **1st**

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

Tuesday

Brewed Awakening: Nelson Club ~ 10.00am - 12.30pm ~ **2nd & 16th**

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

Friday Village Hall Quiz Night ~ 7.00pm ~ **12th**

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**

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	7th June Trinity 1 <i>green</i>	14th June Trinity 2 <i>green</i>	21st June Trinity 3 <i>green</i>	28th June Trinity 4 <i>green</i>
PRIORS HARD- WICK	Morning Worship 9.00am	Evensong 5pm	Holy Comm BCP 9am	
PRIORS MARS- TON	Morning Worship 10.30am	Morning Worship 10.30am	Holy Comm CW 10.30am	
WORLEIGHTON				Morning Worship 10.30am
NAPTON	Holy Comm CW 10.30am		Family Ser- vice 10.30am	Evensong 5pm
STOCKTON	Morning Worship 10.30am	Holy Comm Methodist Tradition 10.30am		Holy Comm CW 10.30am
LOWER SHUCK- BURGH				Holy Comm BCP 9am

Book of Common Prayer CW – Common Worship

(Note: All services other than Holy Communion are Lay Led)

Napton Forest Church: Summer Solstice June 21st 6pm

Outdoors in St Lawrence Churchyard. +Informal services that follow the Celtic year+

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: 1st Thursdays at 10am in Priors Hall Anna 07870 685124

Parish enquiries

For initial enquiries about baptisms, weddings, funerals and graveyard matters etc, please contact Susan, our Group Administrator, on 01926 812383 or email: admin@thebridgesgroup.org.uk. Please note that Susan works part-time but she will get back to you as quickly as she can.

WHO'S WHO

Parish Council	Chairman	Howard Collerson	813181
	Clerk	Robbie Robinson	814094
	Councillors	Helen Kittendorf	815376
		Chris Millidge	812991
		Terry Warner	813424
		Richard Rumsey	813730
		Wendy Rumsey	813730
	John Emberton	07749325120	
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	07902775078	
Stockton School	Head Teacher	Mrs. A. Bedgood	812483
Little Acorns			813789
Toddlersaurs	Becca Makepeace	07733107197	
Group Scout Leader/Scouts	Jo Brough	07568 653158	
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	07706155358	
Magazine Treasurer	Steve Kittendorf	07706155358	

LOCAL EVENTS

Events and News from Our Neighbouring Villages

Southam Open Gardens Weekend

Southam Open Gardens is on **Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th July, 11am-5pm**, with 9 gardens to explore. Entrance is by programme (**£5 per person**, school age children free) available from Jacqueline the Florist on Market Hill prior to the event and, during the Weekend, from the Heritage Centre, Tithe Place, High St or from any of the gardens. Programmes are valid on both days. All proceeds will go to support Southam In Bloom

Southam Heritage Collection will be open and on the Saturday there will be a Craft Fayre in St James Church. Several of the gardens will be serving refreshments and some will have plants to sell. So come along, have a couple of great days out, and pick up plenty of ideas for your own garden!!

Marton Museum
is open til end Sept
Sundays 2pm - 4pm
Come to see our new
farming displays!
Marton CV23 9SA

www.martonmuseum.co.uk





VILLAGE MATTERS

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



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday Wishes for June go to

Jude Tolley, Charlotte Tolley, Joseph Howard and Tash Nash

To include birthdays/anniversary please contact magazine.

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

Mobile Library

5th June **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](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/mobilelibraries).

Refuse & Recycling

Food Waste - weekly

Grey Lid Bin - 3 weekly - 19th

Blue Lid Bin & Green Bin - 2 weekly - 12th & 26th

Missed Bins Tel: 01789 260616

Locations of Defibrillators and Bleed Packs

**Telephone Box, The Square
&**

Football Club House, Napton Road

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

Dial **999**

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

Stockton Charity Cup Final 15th May

Congratulations to Coventry Colliery 2 - 0 win over St John Fisher, in a very competitive game

I'm pleased to say we hit and bettered the £1000 target we set for this season Stockton Charity Cup Competition for Local Charities

Big thankyou to:

Charity Cup Committee - Amy, Noel, Di & Ian

Bar - Lisa, Sally and Gabby

Pitch preparation - Bill, John & Shane

Stockton Football & Cricket Club

Sponsorship from Harbury Caravan Park - Robbie D

All the people who bought raffle tickets, had goes on the blackout & paying spectators

Once Again Thank you to You All

Create and Play in the Church

Open ended play, snacks and songs for all.

Term Time - Tuesday 9.30 till 11.00am - Donations welcome

Our babies, pre-school children, parents and carers have been meeting up this half term and engaging in a range of activities. We all grated cheese and courgette the other week and popped it onto delicious crumpets. Some children and babies discovered cream cheese and some other new tastes. The preschoolers were pretty good at chopping and spreading.

Other sessions we have used paint, glue and scissors too.

The sand is always out and a lot of time is spent pouring and transporting it. All opened ended activities engage babies as well as the preschoolers . For the very little ones (some sleep through the whole session) we have soft floor coverings with soft cushioned supports so they can smile, roll and kick their legs .Best wishes in play ,

Deborah and Wendy

2nd June - Open ended play as always with cutting and sticking - no Deborah.

9th June - Make a meal picture. Always sand play too!

16th June - Threading - no Deborah

23rd June - Let's paint

30th June - Make a massive den.



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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2025/6

The dominant feature of the last year has been the planning application from Richborough for an estate of 75 houses accessed off Sycamore Close. This application is very similar to a previous application on the same site in 2014 that was turned down by Stratford Planning Committee. However, the planning situation is very different now following the government's changes to planning rules that mean that if a planning authority has less than 5 years future land supply of houses, then the balance of factors for and against a development is very much skewed in favour of the developer. Almost every aspect of the proposed development is unacceptable to the parish - location on a site dominating the village, highway issues, environmental damage, lack of school places, etc. but these all could well be swept aside. There have been objections from our ward councillor, the parish council and more than 125 parishioners, as well as Cemex and Warwickshire County Council in relation to the impact on quarrying on the adjacent site. The parish council is currently considering employing a transport consultant to carry out an independent assessment of the developer's findings and also to cover access problems not so far taken into account.

Another site has been given approval under these new rules and this is on land off Napton Road opposite the junction with Station Road for nine homes. However, all is not doom and gloom. There have been some important achievements with village organisations. Stockton Football and Cricket Club have now agreed a direct lease with Cemex that removes the old relationship of the main lease being granted to the parish council and with a sub-lease between the council and the club, making a more efficient arrangement. Also the Village Hall Trustees continue to bring improvements to the hall with a high speed broadband connection for all users, solar panels to reduce heating costs, replacement of the wooden flooring that was becoming unsafe and a new audio system.

On the wider front there are two potential changes. The South Warwickshire Local Plan and the government's initiative to reduce the number of tiers in local government to establish Unitary Authorities. In the case of the first of these, the Local Plan, has been through several consultation stages with the "Publication Version" being considered by a joint committee from both councils on 28 May, that if approved will be put to the government at the end of 2026. Basically the plan goes away from the current plan of dispersing developments among all of the larger villages to a new plan of concentrating new development in specific larger settlements with better transport connections. All of this information is available on the SWLP website.

The second issue of Unitary Authorities would mean the merging of the responsibilities of the district and county councils into a new Unitary Authority. Two models have been suggested - one is to have a South Warwickshire Unitary combining Stratford and Warwick Districts and a North Warwickshire combining Nuneaton and Bedworth, North Warwickshire and Rugby Districts. The second model is to have a single Unitary covering the whole of Warwickshire. The parish council favours the two Unitary model as there is so much difference between the urban north and rural south of the County and that might lead to resources possibly being skewed towards the north because of higher levels of deprivation. Nationally some of the new Unitaries have been decided but it is likely that we will have to wait at least into next year before Warwickshire is considered.

This year there were four nominations for Villager of the Year and the parish council decided to give the award to the Village Hall Committee whose achievements have already been outlined above. Well done to a hardworking committee and also to the other people who were nominated this year.

Each year I also refer to the parish council's precept. This is the amount of money that Stratford collects on our behalf through the Council Tax and is in essence our budget for the year. For this financial year the parish council decided to hold the precept at the same amount as the year just finishing at £31,000 in view of the problems of increasing inflation that families have to deal with. This is equivalent to a Band D property in Stockton of £55.38. This compares across all towns and villages in the Stratford district of £84.13, and nationally about £100. Other local figures are £132.12 for Long Itchington, £84.76 for Napton, £129.49 for Harbury and £122.69 for Southam.

Finally I would like to thank the parish clerk and my fellow councillors for their support over the past year and our Ward Councillor, Andy Crump, for all the hard work he does on our behalf, including funding the verge treatment in George Street and getting capital funding for improving Stockton crossroads into the County Council's capital budget.

STOCKTON PARISH COUNCIL - MAY 2026 MEETING

Planning Matters: 26/01138 - Redwood Place, Rectory Close - cut back branches that are obscuring street light - PC supports the application.

SCOPE/00118 - Land South of Welsh Road East, Southam - Environmental Impact Assessment Request for erection of 850 houses, community healthcare facility, primary school, etc - this is not a formal planning application at this stage so no opinion is being sought from the parish council.

Village Facilities: Recent problems with the **local civic amenity site** not opening or users being turned away were raised with Cllr Crump; also the dangers caused by overgrowing vegetation affecting visibility when leaving the site. **Waste bin adjacent to the canal by the Boat Inn** - this bin has disappeared and discussions are taking place with Rugby Council about responsibility for its replacement.

Hedge between old and new cemeteries - this will be examined with a view to

cutting it back in the autumn. **Hedge at the top of Mount Pleasant** - this will be examined with a view to cutting it back in the autumn.

Highway Matters: Old reinstatement in Post Office Lane - Cllr Crump was asked to raise this with the Highways Manager so that a more permanent repair can be made as filling potholes has not worked.

Policies and Procedures: the policies and procedures on the council's website have been reviewed and will appear on the website in the near future. This happens every three years. The only procedure not to be reviewed at this stage was Financial Procedures because changes are being made to allow online banking to pay contractors and these will need to be reflected in the Procedure.

Next Meeting : Monday 15 June 2026 at 7.15pm in the village hall.



APRIL 2026

Headlines - Another dry month mainly due to a high pressure system in the North Sea in the second half of the month that brought dry north-easterly winds.

In April the average **minimum temperature** was 6.5 deg. C, one and a half degrees above the average (4.9 deg. C.). The lowest temperature was 2.5 deg. on the 5th. The average **maximum temperature** was 16.9 deg. C, more than three degrees above the average (13.7 deg.C.). The highest temperature was 22.2 deg.C on the 8th. **Rainfall** was only 8.5 mm, about 17% of the average of 49 mm. The wettest day was the 15th with 4 mm. It only rained on 7 days. **Sunshine** levels have been 48% more than the average for April. **Winds** blew mostly from the west, south-west and south (13 days).

Trivia of the month - at this time of year I always look out for the first recorded daytime temperature of 20 deg C. This year it was on 8 April when it reached 22.2 deg. C. Since 2012 this has fallen in March in 3 years, April in 8 years and May in 3 years.

The weather monitor



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

A tale of 2 Apologies – or not

Someone questioned what I'd done for Stockton since I'd been re-elected in May 25 Obviously I provide a comprehensive monthly update in this magazine, since 2017, I do a full weekly report on several Stockton Facebook pages , I attend Stockton PC regularly, I often visit the village to look at potholes etc, have helped several Stockton organisations get grants this year, helped complete benefits forms, successfully, for several Stockton residents, lobbied hard to get £1.5m in WCC capital budget for Stockton Crossroads improvements as well liaising and co-ordinating a strong response to the 76 home application for the village. This week I had a phone call at 8pm from a Stockton group about an issue they needed advice on and I spent significant time going through their options. This shows I am committed to help the village and the area in general. I also arranged (and paid for) the significant grasscrete in the village to aid parking.

Apology from Cllr L Adam (about the secret recordings of Cllrs Bromwich & Crump)

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/news/index.cfm/item/138766>

We think this vindicates the decision to bring it into the public domain so we will now review our next steps.

However SDC Leader Cllr Juned appears to think she shouldn't apologise

<https://www.warwickshireworld.com/news/politics/southam-councillor-sorry-over-secret-recording-row-but-no-apology-from-leader-over-double-error-8549390>

In the article above it says 'A senior councillor has apologised for obtaining covert recordings of political opponents – but his leader stopped short of a sorry in her correction of two untrue statements'.

We think it's 3 (but that's another point to be discussed later), however Cllr Juned as leader of Stratford District Council has a duty to ensure what she says in press interviews etc is 100% correct and that you are properly briefed beforehand, particularly if it affects opposition Councillors.

We did ask to meet Cllr Juned, with senior SDC officers in attendance, but no meeting has been forthcoming. We will now, reluctantly, have to go down the Code of Conduct route.

As Elton John once sang , It's sad, so sad

Why can't we talk it over?

Ohh, it seems to me

That sorry seems to be the hardest word

A425 – By Dallas Burston (5/5/26 to 31/5/26)

Road Closures - 9.30 am-3.30 pm – Monday to Friday

7am – 2pm – Sat & Sun

Over night temporary lights

Bridge Nursery (Tomlow Road near Napton – by the Canal Bridge !)

Do you know that the garden is open for charity every weekend from Easter until the end of September.

The charity is the National Garden Scheme which is nationwide. People open their gardens raise funds which are then distributed to **Macmillan Cancer Support**, **Marie Curie UK**, the **Carers Trust**, and other caring charities. Last year £3,875,596 was raised across the country

Strengthening local social care and health support

Warwickshire County Council’s Cabinet has endorsed an £80.1 million plan to support residents to live healthier, more independent lives for longer.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7621/cabinet-endorses-80-million-plan-to-strengthen-local-social-care-and-health-support-in-warwickshire>

Local Government Declaration on Healthy Weight

Warwickshire County Council is the first West Midlands local authority to sign the Local Government Declaration on Healthy Weight, strengthening its commitment to improving residents' health.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7631/warwickshire-leads-the-way-on-healthy-weight-by-signing-national-declaration>

Cost of living website

Many different aspects of daily life have been affected by the rising cost of living. To help find information to support with managing increased household costs visit: www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk

Emergency contacts

Do you know who to contact in an emergency?

You can find your key contacts near you on the #Warwickshire Resilience Forum website! Pick a risk and pop in your postcode at <https://www.warwickshireresilienceforum.org/emergency-contacts/>, and find out who’s here to help where you are.

The Crisis and Resilience Fund

The Crisis and Resilience Fund offers emergency help with essential living costs for low-income households after a sudden financial shock.

To ask about support call Warwickshire’s Local Welfare Scheme on 0800 408 1448 or visit: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/crisisresiliencefund>

Cost of Living Support - SDC

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

Warwickshire County Council Cabinet – May 2026

Find out more about what was discussed at the latest meeting of Warwickshire County Council’s Cabinet on Monday 11 May: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/>

[news/article/7623/warwickshire-county-council-cabinet-11-may-2026](https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7623/warwickshire-county-council-cabinet-11-may-2026)

Warwickshire County Council AGM

Key appointments and a number of important items of Council business were agreed at the Annual General Meeting of Warwickshire County Council, held on 14 May 2026.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7634/key-appointments-and-decisions-confirmed-at-warwickshire-county-council-agm>

County Council approves bold new Council Plan

Warwickshire County Council has approved “Recalibrating Warwickshire”, a new Council Plan that refocuses its priorities on what matters most to residents.

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7635/county-council-approves-bold-new-council-plan-to-reset-priorities-for-warwickshire>

Xcalibre broadens its global reach

A Warwickshire business has cemented its place as a globally renowned designer and manufacturer of precision equipment following support from Warwickshire County Council.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7620/xcalibre-broadens-its-global-reach>

Registration is now open for 11+ entrance test

Parents and carers who would like their child to be considered for a Year 7 place at a Warwickshire grammar school in September 2027 are being reminded that they must register their child for the 11+ test by 30 June 2026.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7617/registration-now-open-for-11-entrance-test-for-grammar-school-places-in-2027>

Enhancing school facilities in Warwickshire

£1.66 million in funding has been announced to deliver improvements to safeguarding, accessibility, and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities provision within Warwickshire’s schools.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7626/significant-investment-agreed-to-enhance-school-facilities-and-specialist-education-provision>

Support available for families awaiting ADHD assessments

Parents and carers in Warwickshire whose children or young people are waiting for an ADHD assessment are being reminded that help and support are available without the need for a formal diagnosis.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7628/support-available-for-families-awaiting-adhd-assessments-in-warwickshire>

Supporting sibling relationships for children in care

Children and young people from across Warwickshire recently came together for a special circus-themed Brothers and Sisters Day in Warwick.

Discover more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7632/supporting-sibling-relationships-for-children-in-care>

Safe and Active Schools Awards 2026

Warwickshire’s Road Safety Education Team is busy preparing for the County Council’s Safe and Active Schools Awards 2026.

Find out more about this event: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7633/warwickshire-county-council-looks-ahead-to-2026-safe-and-active-schools-awards>

The WorkWell programme

The WorkWell programme has supported local resident Andrew to overcome barriers to employment, improve his mental health, rebuild his confidence and take his first steps back into the world of work through volunteering.

Read more <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/7636/workwell-sparks-a-fresh-start-for-andrew>

Knife surrender bins at police stations

From Monday 18 May, you'll have the chance to surrender any knife at knife surrender bins at all police station front counters in Warwickshire — no questions asked, no details required.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/news/warwickshire/news/2026/may/your-chance-to-learn-about-knife-crime-and-surrender-your-knife/>

Warning signs before an electrical fire starts

With so many electrical appliances in our homes, it's crucial to stay vigilant and follow simple safety tips to prevent fires. □ □

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 !!

cllcrump@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

Collection Calendar

SDC no longer post out the A5 bin collection calendar as a matter of course.

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/waste-recycling>

A pdf can also be downloaded or printed

Paper copies can be requested still either by emailing info@stratford-dc.gov.uk or ringing 01789 267575. Residents in my ward of Stockton and Southam Central and

East can use my contact details (andrew.crump@stratford-dc.gov.uk) or 07771335273 if they need my assistance.

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

Missed bins -. Contacts are streetscene@stratford-dc.gov.uk or Telephone: 01789 260616

Or download the app.

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/missed-bin-report-form.cfm?fbclid=IwAR3vkf03zQgXUsEHH04ODEqfid1b1msbwpVg8DGG6nQn47HoAcwmw5LL9Joc>

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

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 -

I once had a relationship end because of my obsession with horoscopes to be fair it Taurus to Pisces

Never bite your nails.....especially if you're a carpenter.

I just want serious game of golf - but everyone just wants to play a round

To the person who stole my place in the queue. I'm after you now.

I didn't know Jeremy Clarkson has a farm - Proves I know Diddly Squat

Andy



GARDEN JOTTINGS

from Bridge Nursery - your local Hardy Plant Specialists

Christine Dakin, Bridge Nursery, Tomlow Road, Napton.

Tel: 01926 812737

www.bridge-nursery.co.uk

¼ mile from Crossroads Garage – look for our Tourist Sign



There have been three good things to report. The warmer weather means that plants are growing well, some are flowering much earlier than usual but at least the sales area is beginning to fill up. There has been a lot of new people coming to buy plants, in turn they are saying they will tell their friends and family about me. And last but not least, there was a cuckoo to be heard for a week or so. It's been many years since I heard one.

The not so good news is that there seems to be fewer bees around this year. I've been told that many were wiped out during the long wet winter. There has been hardly any rain for a couple of months which means I'm having to water more than I usually would at this time of year and that seedlings such as *Verbena bonariensis* are just not germinating in the garden. And the roe deer are back brazenly munching their way round the garden.

A few reminders of things to do.....

You might need to support some taller plants with stakes before they start to flop, this is a job I tend to leave until it's too late.

Sow sweetcorn, more carrots, peas and beans so you get crops for a longer period of time.

Dead-head flowers to encourage more new buds.

Water containers and feed with either a slow release fertiliser or maybe tomato feed.

Speaking of tomatoes, pinch out side shoots unless you have bush tomatoes and feed regularly.

Prune shrubs which have finished flowering such as *Viburnum tinus* and *ceanothus*.

Take soft wood cuttings of *Sambucus*, *Philadelphus* and *Weigela*.

Stockton Pétanque



Chair – Catherine Black
Administrator – John Emberton
Club Captain – Rich Rushton
www.stocktonpetanqueclub.org.uk

Eight Stockton players have recently competed in the National competitions to select the England teams for the European and World Championships. All put up great performances against the best teams in England, and the heroes were Rich Rushton and Alfie Potter who had six wins from 10 games and finished 11th from 28 teams. Well done to them.

Three Stockton pairs entered the Heart of England Veterans championship, with Nouri Beladaci and Richard Collyer losing the final and qualifying to represent the Region at the National Veterans championship.

Ten Stockton players have entered the qualifying competition to represent the Heart of England Region in the National Inter-Regional Championship in September. This is a round robin of 18 teams, with just one round played so far.

The West Midlands Summer League started on 15th April and after 5 rounds Stockton Knights have won 11 from their 16 games, Stockton Villagers have won 9 from their 16 games and Stockton Yeomen have won 7 from their 16 games.

Stockton's Summer League started on 4th April and after seven weeks Richard Prosser is leading the pack with 24 points, just ahead of Ben Merrick and novice Greg Coyne with 22 points each.

The annual Singles League started on 10th January 2026 and after 14 weeks Steve Neale is in the lead with 11 wins, just ahead of Nouri Beladaci, Richard Collyer and Rich Rushton.

There was a great turn-out of 28 for the May melee and after three rounds there were six unbeaten players with Richard Collyer taking the honours with a +27 points advantage, just pipping Ben Merrick by one point. Glen Woodward was third with +23, Nouri Beladaci fourth with +21, Nigel Polding fifth with +20 and Catherine Black sixth with +15

The next Open Melee will be on **6th June with a 2.00pm start**. Everyone is welcome and we will provide the boules and tuition on the rules.



WOMENS INSTITUTE



Meeting 7.30pm at Village Hall first Monday of Month

President:- Sue Gill Tel: 0750 2207380

Secretary: Joan Ford Tel: 01926 810220

Sue opened our May meeting welcoming the members and we all sang Jerusalem. Joan then went through the new events including a Croquet evening at Kenilworth, the WI Big Day Out this year in London, the Farm Fest event at the NAEC showground at Stoneleigh during the weekend 22nd to 24th May where the WI have a marquee and the Big Federation Quiz later in September.

The Plant Stall held in May was very successful, we buyers had to be outside the village hall early to find our favourite plants. Thanks go to Josie, Mary and Pauline for organising and running the stall, to those who donated plants and all those who supported in any way. It was a great idea to have the stall on the same morning as the Village Hall Coffee morning. Sarah reminded us of the Chedhams Yard trip in August and Sally told us that ladies lunch this month is at the Crown. Sandi is once more organising a kurling afternoon (the indoor variety) at Southam Bowls Club for October. This is always very popular and a lot of fun.

Sue then introduced our speaker for the evening, Christine Farmer whose talk was Let's all go to the Music Hall. Christine put us more in the mood, after we'd donned our music hall hats we'd decorated in March, telling us about 18th Century London with taverns, coffee houses and entertainments for the lower classes. The acts were not always appreciated with bottles, old boots, rotten tomatoes and an occasional dead cat being thrown in disapproval. Bottles were eventually chained to trays to prevent this. I was surprised to learn that the last music hall closed in 1960!

We then went through the provided songsheet singing songs which most of us still remembered such as Down at the Old Bull and Bush, My Lady Love, the Boy I Love, Daisy Daisy, On Mother Kelly's Doorstep and ending with We'll Meet Again. Everyone seemed to enjoy the sing-song. After the refreshments, we held a parade of the hats and the winner, chosen by our speaker, was Sandi Couchman who has always done very well in our hat competitions. We ended up with Irish Bingo.

Our next meeting will be **Monday 1st June 2026 at 7.30 pm** at the Village Hall. The speaker for the evening is Andy Crump on Fraud Awareness. The competition item is a Tea Towel.



STOCKTON JUNIORS



Stockton Juniors Football Club continues to go from strength to strength, with another fantastic month of football enjoyed by players, coaches and families across all age groups. From tournament triumphs and cup runs to brilliant team performances and continued player development, May perfectly showcased everything grassroots football is about: teamwork, resilience, friendship and fun. The club's Lionesses teams once again led the way with some outstanding performances. The **U8 Lionesses** showed incredible bravery and determination during their cup run, continuing to grow in confidence and teamwork with every game. The **U10 Lionesses** demonstrated just how much progress they have made this season, competing brilliantly against strong opposition and showing real character throughout. Meanwhile, the **U11 Lionesses** produced exciting attacking football and excellent teamwork, with players continuing to flourish both individually and collectively. The **U13 Lionesses** also rounded off their season in style, finishing strongly after stepping up into a higher division this year – a testament to the squad's hard work and resilience.

The **Wildcats** added another incredible achievement to the club's growing list of successes, being crowned Kenilworth Champions 2026 after an unbeaten tournament run. Their victory marked back-to-back tournament wins and highlighted the fantastic spirit and quality running throughout the girls' section. Across the boys' teams, there were equally impressive displays. The **U10 Hurricanes** produced a remarkable comeback performance full of belief and determination, while the **U11 Thunder** and **U11 Lightning** both showed tremendous character, teamwork and attacking football in exciting performances against strong opposition. Coaches across the age groups continue to praise the attitude, commitment and development shown by all players week after week. One of the standout moments of the month came from the **Stockton Under 6s**, who lifted a trophy after a brilliant five-a-side tournament at Central Ajax. The young side showed fantastic confidence and composure throughout the competition and produced a memorable final performance to bring home silverware for the club. Away from the pitch, Stockton Juniors continues to thrive as a real community club. Families are now looking forward to the club's Presentation Day in June, where players from every age group will come together to celebrate another successful season. With food, music, games and presentations planned throughout the day, the event promises to be a wonderful celebration of the club's football family spirit.

Stockton Juniors is also continuing to recruit new players across a number of age groups and warmly welcomes anyone interested in joining the club. Whether players are new to football or already experienced, the club prides itself on

providing a positive, inclusive and supportive environment where every child can develop, make friends and most importantly enjoy the game. Another month of outstanding football has shown exactly what Stockton Juniors is all about success, development, determination and smiles all round. The future continues to look incredibly bright for this thriving village club.





STOCKTON VILLAGE HALL

Bookings - Helen Kittendorf Tel: 07902 775078

email: helenkittendorf@hotmail.co.uk

Hourly Rate £10

As a committee, we are extremely proud of being voted as Villagers of the Year 2025, however we want to thank everyone who continues to support the Village Hall. Without you we wouldn't be able to maintain this Community facility for all villagers and visitors - all monies raised go towards the upkeep of this great building so that it can be used for generations to come.

We are holding our **AGM on Monday 29th June at 6.30pm** in the Village Hall and anyone is welcome to attend. We will give an update on finances, current activities and plans for the future and would love to hear from you if you have any suggestions on how we can improve the Village Hall or arrange any additional events or activities.

The Oscar Wilde play, *An Ideal Husband*, held on Friday 1st May, was humorous and was well received by everyone who attended – once again our thanks go to Aunty Jen Productions for their excellent production.

Our weekly / bi-weekly events are scheduled as followed:

Seated Chair Exercise Class – every Thursday at 11am

Community Singing Group – 1st and 3rd Friday in the month

Our monthly events are scheduled as followed:

Coffee Morning will be on **Saturday 6th from 10am-midday**

Lunch Club is on **Wednesday 10th at 12.30pm at The Crown**

Quiz Night is on **Friday 12th starting at 7pm**

Whist Drive is on **Saturday 13th at 7.30pm**

Cinema Night is on **Saturday 27th starting at 7pm** – supper is available from 6.30pm. If you would like to know about the upcoming film and supper that is on offer, please contact Steve @ stevekittendorf@hotmail.co.uk

Planning for our 80th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday 12th July is well underway and tickets are now on sale priced at **£12** per person. The price includes Afternoon Tea as well as some great entertainment so contact Helen and book your place now!

Thank you for your continued support and use of the Village Hall - we hope to see you very soon at one of our events.

The Village Hall Trustees and Management Committee

HILDA GARDNER'S MEMORIES

Continued from last month.

EVACUEES

It was later that evacuees came to the village. They were originally from Grays, in Essex, and had previously been evacuated to Southwold, in Suffolk, but it was now thought to be getting dangerous for them to stay there. We put our names down to take one but enough homes were found before getting to us, however, a little boy of about four was living in the next block with Olive Sewell and was always at the bungalow with Chas, watching him do his woodturning. He spent so much time at our home that Olive suggested he came to live with us and that's how we came to know Bill. All he remembered of his home in Grays was being pushed in his pram around the market, his brothers and sisters stealing things and putting them in his pram and a man called 'Spector Barnett' chased them. Bill still comes to see us after about fifty five years. Now retired, married with four children and grandchildren, he once ran away from home after he left Stockton, and came back to us, not wishing to get into trouble, we sent him back. At that time we did not realise that he wasn't wanted at home. Every time he comes to see us he says he should never have left Stockton.

Another of our friends in Coventry is Patricia (Pat), also a widow, we got to know her through the 1939 war. She stayed with us in George Street for quite a while but got very homesick and returned to Coventry just before the blitz on the city. She occasionally chats to Brenda on the phone, it keeps us in touch. It was through her Father that we managed to get six hens and they kept us supplied with eggs during the food shortage. Two evacuees did stay here, Winnie Duckett and Fred Neal. Fred's previous name was Eagles, changed to Neal because the family he lived with, when evacuated, adopted him.

A decoy factory was built, just past Hill Turn on the Rugby, Dunchurch Road, to try to draw any bombing planes away from Coventry. I shall tell you about this, later.

Until about 1924 there was a little cottage on the canal side, in what is now the Boat Inn's car park, it was right down by the bridge and a little old man called Baggy Paine lived there. There was a similar cottage, also on the canal side, by the ladder bridge. The house was occupied by Ben Cooksey, who later lived in Elm Row. This ladder bridge, across the canal, was a public footpath from Stockton to Broadwell, quite near was an arm of the canal where boats used to load up with cement. The cement works had their own canal boats, which travelled, mostly to Birmingham. In a row of cottages at the cement works lived folk who did 'bag mending'. The bags were made of sacking then later paper sacks were used. Small

locomotives were used to carry the trucks of stone from the quarries to the factory. Chas first worked on what was called the pump house. It was a building along the Station Road, by the quarries, exactly what the pump house did I don't recall. It was done-away with years and years ago and Chas then worked on the main boilers.

I wonder, have I said that he left school at thirteen to work on a farm? Gibraltar Farm along the Broadwell Road, for four shillings a week. Leaving there he worked in Coventry, cycling daily and from there he went to the cement Works. The houses mentioned above had no drinking water and people had to come down to the village to get water until it was provided by the firm. Later a well was sunk and a pump installed halfway up the field to the works. It was around 1945 that Rugby Portland Cement Co. purchased Nelson Cement Co. and promptly closed it down, transferring any men who wished to go to their Cement factory at Southam.

GEORGE STREET

In 1946 the houses in George Street and High Street were put up for sale. Some were sold, others withdrawn, but afterwards we bought number twenty three and number twenty four for two hundred and two hundred and fifty pounds respectively. The idea of buying number twenty three was so that we could more or less choose who would be our neighbours, and also hoping that one day Brenda might live there. We were soon making alterations; we put windows at the side to enable us to look into the fields, made the coal house into a bathroom and, by now we had running water and taps so Chas was able to fit up a hot water supply, new fireplaces, install a Rayburn cooker and build a glass roof to cover the back yard. When the electricity supply was connected, this did away with the need for oil lamps. A pensioner, named Bill Wright, was living next door and was unable to look after his vegetable garden, so we took it over.

During the war years any iron was commandeered and the old iron railings on either side of Elm Row were taken. Elm Row was never a properly made road, formerly a cart track, but, over the years had various loads of rubble tipped on it to try to make the surface useable. Now the council decided to make a decent road of it, possibly they had in mind to build houses on the opposite side, which were really the back gardens of the houses on George Street. They needed pieces of ground from our two back gardens to make a turn around at the top of the street, which was then a dead-end leading only to fields and a footpath to houses and a bridle path to the late cement works. We decided they could have some of our ground in exchange for a strip of the field next to our garden and, without a quibble, they agreed - providing we fenced it off. We were delighted as this strip reached out into the field and in length from Elm Row down to George Street. Chas made large lawns, a lily pool, built a summerhouse, planted poplar trees along the fence and named our house the Poplars. Doubtless, Elm Row was also named after trees because I remember large elm trees on the front gardens on the-then houses, these were felled at the time they were considering making a proper road. Looking back I recall people seemed to wander over anybody's property. For instance, folk living in Elm Row used the garden paths of George street houses to

go down to the allotments, which were at the front of George Street. The same applied in Victoria Terrace and George Street, anybody would walk down the backs of the houses, from top to bottom, through anyone's back way. Now that many people have purchased the properties they have put gates across the pathways.

THE BATORY

We went around looking at bungalows on various building sites, to get ideas and eventually decided. We drew-up our own plans but had to have them drawn professionally to present them to the Council. Then we asked around and found a family of brothers from Bishops Itchington who agreed to do the brickwork in their spare time. Chas, John, Brenda and I dug the footings, we also dug the trenches for water and electricity - which were a long length as the plot is four hundred feet long. We then had to wait for the water and electricity to be connected. The bricklayers charge was eleven pounds to lay a thousand bricks. We had received a cheque for two hundred and fifty pounds from an insurance. When we originally took out the policy it was planned that, on maturity, the money would buy a new Austin Seven, however, things had changed over the years and it was used to pay the bricklayers. We intended paying for things as we went along so that when the building was finished we would not be in debt and the bungalow would truly be ours and this is what we did. We bought a much needed second hand cement mixer and, after a while, it became a nuisance to start and was wasting the bricklayer's time, so it was exchanged for a new one. Before any lorries could deliver bricks something had to be done to make a suitable driveway. We ordered two truckloads of ballast to make a foundation and this arrived at the railway station with instructions 'to empty as soon as possible', otherwise we would have to pay demurrage. Chas and John worked all that day, using our Morris pick-up to fetch this ballast - and making a fairly decent road.

Another problem was where to site the bungalows. The Council, on second thoughts, had given us permission to site them where we liked.

We helped our menfolk (Chas and John) to make cement posts and fenced off our plot with the aid of chain linked fencing. Whilst all of these jobs were being done, one thousand thorns (rooted) arrived to make the fence cattle proof and it took me hours, the next day, to plant them. It was now time to order bricks. After contacting various brick works we were told there was a dreadful shortage of bricks but after much searching we managed to get enough from The London Brick Company to make a start on the building. Getting bricks continued to be a problem, we were frantic when told of a four months waiting list.

In the meantime, the water pipes had arrived and been fixed. We were still waiting delivery of the blue bricks for the damp course and stone for the chimneys, which we had ordered from Hornton Stone Quarries at Edge Hill, meanwhile, Barry was helping Chas to dig postholes for the fence; he really was a great help. A load of sand and gravel arrived and the lorry got stuck up the drive so it had to be tipped where it was making yet another job for us to move it. It made such a mess of the road that we spent most of the next day trying to repair it. The footings, now

finally finished, meant we could take delivery of the window frames. The lorry had just left when another came with fifteen hundred blue bricks, followed by another with three and half thousand Tucson bricks, the weather had been so dry that the lorries were able to get up the drive and be unloaded exactly where the bricklayers needed them. Now, if only a load of commons would arrive the brickies could make a start. Yes, they did arrive. So, it was on the 6. May, at 7am. that the first brick of our home was laid. In between the various hold-ups, John and Brenda had been getting on with the footings of their bungalow but there was still a shortage of bricks. I remember Chas on the phone to the brickyard, begging - yes, almost on his knees, for bricks and though he succeeded in getting a promise of a load, it was not the kind we wanted.

There was no sewage in the village so we had to build a septic tank because in this year, 1959, the village was still using bucket toilets. We had to fit all the normal daily work in between all this work, Chas had his school job and some wood-turning, me looking after meals, ironing, washing, greenhouse etc. etc., but we managed and really loved it. It was hard work and lots of planning was needed. Still the search for bricks continued. Chas went twice to Northampton, only managing to bring back three hundred and fifty, then another three hundred from Rugby; small quantities but all helped. Hurrah, we were told we could have six thousand from Leamington Brick Company. Our spirits quickly dropped, they were no good for what we wanted (John's footings), however, we used them later for our inside walls. The timber for our roof arrived, and also the tiles. Having got the roof on we thought we had almost finished - only to be told that we were just about half way.

I have missed out that we needed scaffolding and were able to obtain this, second hand. for twenty five pounds. We were also held up for bricks called squints, which were needed for our bay window. Chas and Barry made all the lintels. Twelve thousand tiles, for the roof, arrived one day when Brenda and I were alone, so we had the job of unloading them - did the driver help? not likely, he was just the driver.

The bricklayers left us at the end of June to start building Brenda's bungalow, they had worked on ours since mid-May. John, and a mate of his, fetched loads of bricks from Calais Cement Works for the footings of their place. We now had to think about plumbers and carpenters for the inside work. Whilst waiting for them and some of the floors to be done we went off to Northampton to choose our bathroom suites, fire places etc. This firm also had a depot in Rugby. I chose a pink bathroom suite, and plain grey tiles for the walls, Brenda chose green with black tiles, and they were to be delivered when we were ready for them. This day duly arrived and my suite was being delivered from the Rugby branch but on arrival it was found to be badly damaged and the plumber refused to accept it. Later we learned that some of the smaller items had been put into the bath and as the driver had driven, at speed, over a hump backed canal bridge they had moved and consequently caused damage. With the exception of Chas collecting the terrazzo tiles for the kitchen and bathroom things for our building (for us) were not

so urgent. We left the plumber putting in the central heating and carpenters laying floors and fitting doors etc. and we were able to help with Brenda's building where the shortage of bricks problem still persisted.

WOODWORKING

Chas carved an elephant, in walnut, for the late Duke of Gloucester - I have many letters from Royal people but oh how I wish I had kept the cheque the Queen Mum sent - when I took it to our local Lloyds Bank it caused great excitement. They showed it all round, never having seen a cheque from the Queen Mum or one from that well known bank, Coutts.

At one show I was asked if I would demonstrate on TV, it was to be on The Joan Gilbert's Show, introduced by Raymond Glendenning and Sylvia Peters. It was so long ago - before we had TV in the Midlands - and was televised from Alexander Palace. I was met at Euston by a Daily Express Representative and taken to their office in Fleet Street for lunch. When we arrived at Alexander Palace I seemed to walk miles along corridors, with studios on one side and dressing rooms on the other, at last coming to a door which said, 'Mrs. Gardner'. It contained a bath, dressing table, easy chairs etc. and I felt very grand.

We had a little discussion about the programme, I found I was to be followed by a 'Man who ate grass', and I thought Sylvia Peters a bit toffee nosed. The interview went off OK (I mean the TV item) and I stayed the night with a friend. Brenda was also once on TV, with Michael Miles, in a programme called Take Your Pick. she had half a crown for getting through the part without saying 'Yes' or 'No' and then got to 'Open the Box' - it contained nylon stockings, a pair for every week of the year. I digress - back to the woodturning.

One day we exhibited at a University and I was shocked. We went for a coffee in a very large, carpeted room, set out with lots of small tables, students sat about reading newspapers etc. - why they couldn't put their empty coffee containers on the tables I do not know - they just dropped them on the carpeted floor. Back to the room where our woodwork was displayed I later saw one of the students take one of our bowls and walk off with it, I immediately chased after him and caught up with him as he was about to go out of the door. Needless to say, my impression of that University was not very good. Chas always said "Trust everybody until you find them out." Well, I think it's often too late then and was proved right when we did a show in Belfast. A lady there chose a bowl, saying the she hadn't any money on her but would come back later - she said she was a landlady of a hotel - well, of course, we didn't see any more of her.

We did enjoy going about with the woodware, it was billed as 'an educational exhibit' because of the large variety of woods used, mostly Warwickshire grown. One year, Chas made over a hundred egg cups and displayed them on a board on the shape of the World Cup (football), it was the year England was in the final, but failed to win. So well known did Chas become that he had a box of wood from an Australian lady and petrified wood from the Arizona Forest, in America. One day Chas was working on a piece of wood when he felt the chisel strike something hard. Looking at a piece from the same wood he found a lead bullet. Now Chas,

knowing where every piece of his wood came from, began to think. he discovered it came from the field where there had been a decoy factory, which I mentioned previously. Well, it transpired that one day - at mid-day - a stray German aircraft came over and machine-gunned this decoy factory and the bullets were embedded in the trees growing near to the site.

CARAVANS

Mr. Jack Saunders, then at Long Itchington and later retired to Australia, now, alas, dead, gave us our first Gypsy caravan. It was at the back of his garage, full of car spare parts, and gypsy caravans. Chas and Barry had the job of renovating them but I did most of the painting. I spent a lot of time researching the original colours of paint and designs. Inside was usually varnished and grained, that was Barry's job. Chas made a Barrel Topped van, with a farm wagon base. We heard of, what was known as, a Square Topped wagon in a ditch at Ashorne Hill so we took the car and towed it home. It needed a lot of repair, chicken cages, hayrack and two new wheels. We saw a gypsy caravan advertised at Evesham and went down to see it, it was a real beauty and didn't need any repair, we fitted it up with an old wireless - cat's whisker type - and head phones. With the caravans on our lawns and the woodwork on show, we often had coach loads of folk to see them when they were out on afternoon outings, we made them a cup of tea, it was much work but we enjoyed it. Rambling organisations also called, it was surprising how people soon got to know about us. It was always Chas's idea that one day we would set off on holiday in one of the vans, we even built a stable for a horse at the back of the workshop and wrote off to an organisation who dealt with unwanted horses in need of a good home. We explained what the horse was required for, they replied to say they had put us on their list, however, it was over three years before we heard that they a suitable horse. I can't recall why we then refused the offer, maybe the idea of roaming the countryside had worn off.

For some years after Chas died I kept the caravans in order, painting them each year and covering them every winter. It became too much for me and Brenda and I decided I must sell them. As they were fairly costly, I felt sure that whoever bought them would look after them. Barry, my grandson, didn't like the idea, he knew how much his Grandfather had loved them, so to try to put things right with him, we gave him one and sold the other three. He put his near his swimming pool and used it as a changing room. It was sad to see them go but I think it was for the best, now, instead of having to paint them each year I have time to paint my bungalow windows inside and out. I find now, that when I have to 'putty' some of the frames it's a bit tricky, getting more 'putty' on my hands than where it should be - around the windows. Such is life, we have to learn to do a lot of jobs, some successfully, others less so. It grieves me when, after seventy years of doing my own decorating, I had to employ someone else because I could no longer climb the steps.

STOCKTON PEOPLE

I think I should write about Stockton village. I have lived here now for seventy-four years.

We then had living here; A vicar, The Rev. Easau; A school master; A policeman - Mr. Smith; A fish shop; The Co-operative Stores; Bakers - Newitts; A village Nurse; Two butchers; Three public houses and The Nelsons Club. I think that Post Office Lane was quite the busiest street. One of the village pumps was opposite the Post Office. There was The Chapel, Tom Tuckey's (butchers); Mrs. Dick Cox - who sold pies and tripe; Two Miss Badgers kept the sweet shop next to Post Office, which was run by Mr. Rawbone. Cozy Corner was first a sweet shop, then a fish and chip shop, before reverting back to a sweet shop. Wilk's Grocers, and I think butchers, used to be opposite their new shop, which was built about 1930 (sold in 1977) and is now part grocers part Cantonese take-away. The Co-op was in the building next door, now occupied by Neville Neal, the chair maker. Neville Neal has retired and his son Laurence has taken over with the odd bit of help from his father if he has a lot of work on. Next to that used to be a room where the Girls Friendly Society held their meetings, it has, in later years been a newsagents but is now closed down. Opposite this is a huge stone which, until the 1939 war, was surrounded by iron railings, these were taken away when iron was needed for the war work. The stone, I am told, came from Mount Sorrel, in Leicestershire, during the ice age, the reason for this thinking is that there isn't any more of that sort of stone in this area.

Across from the stone, where Mr. and Mrs Joe Sheasby now live, a fish shop was kept by Mrs. Morris, Joe's Grandmother. Farther on, opposite the Crown Inn, was a blacksmith's shop. In The Square, lower down, was Newitts Bakery, now the Post Office and little super market, they have also taken over as the newsagent. The Co-op moved to a new building over the opposite side of the square, the original Co-op premises were recently demolished to make way for new houses. Before the Co-op moved there it was a shop run by Jack Stevens and a while after Gladys Maskell (nee Wilks) ran it. Next door is a detached house with bay windows, this was once a draper's shop owned by Mr. Johnny Clee of Southam. His previous shop became the late Reg Tuckey's butchers and was down towards the Church, opposite the Barley Mow. said we could have it if we would clear it out. This proved to be the first of four . The bay windowed shop I have just written about was Reg Tuckey's butcher's shop for a time, later the Post Office moved there and, for a while at least, it was used as the doctor's surgery. At the end of the row of houses on the left, as you go up Mount Pleasant, there was a wheelwright and undertaker business owned by Charlie Cleaver. There was another village pump in the square where later a bus shelter was erected, then many years later demolished because of vandalism.

On, down School Street, Mrs. Cox's sweet shop and lower on the corner, Maskells the coal merchants. Here I must relate a story I have been told. This coal merchant delivered coal to surrounding villages by horse and trolley and a village character used to run behind the lorry full of coal, hoping for a ride on the way back. This particular delivery was to Kites Hardwick, a small village along the Rugby Road and he ran all the way there and then found that he needed to pass water, so he ran all the way back to Stockton to use the lavatory.

There were thatched cottages next to the Barley Mow pub and another village pump in the middle of that piece of village green. No Manor Road, No bungalows. At the back of the Church was a Church Hall (the Church Hall is now a heated swimming pool for the large house that was built on land adjoining the old Churchyard). In front of the Hall used to be a tennis court. The Rectory, now demolished, was a lovely large house set in beautiful lawns, Church fetes etc. were held here. Chas told me about Archdeacon Colley, a well known spiritualist, had a sort of summer house in his garden with a pipe attached down which he used to talk to the children and roll apples and sweets to them. Chas was in Church when the Archdeacon was carried round the Church in his coffin - he wasn't dead at the time, just having a practice run. The coffin was kept at the Rectory and was to be used when he died, however, he died when away from home so I don't know what became of it. The summer house was purchased by Harold Rawbone and the last I heard it was in his garden at Hill. I understand that the Church Hall was also used as a school before the new one was built. St. Michael's Crescent was built in 1952. Members of the Co-op always had a check number, mine was 4410, and every year we were paid a dividend, the more money we had spent in their shop the more dividend we received. Everyone looked forward to 'Divi-day'. Sick and Divi Clubs, as they were called, was money paid into the club each week so that when the men were sick and away from work they drew 'sick' pay from the fund. At Xmas, any money left was spent in giving the members a supper. Various pubs ran clubs for a few pence a week. The Nursing Club members had the services of the nurse when needed, the Pig Club members were sure of compensation if their pig died and, lastly, the Vicar ran a Clothing Club into which folk paid a shilling, or what they could afford, each week, this money was repaid each Xmas and was supposed to be used to buy clothing only. Chas told me that the Post Master (Mr. Rawbone) was the first person in the village to have a motor car. The letters posted in Stockton were taken to Marton Station by horse and trap, looking back to my childhood days it then cost one penny for a letter and one halfpenny stamp for unsealed letters. We also had a delivery on Christmas day. Mr. Way took over Newitt's Bakery in 1924, he had been a baker at Coventry Co-op (or so we were told). I remember he delivered hot cross buns on Good Friday - so early they arrived before we were up and this meant a bun and a cup of tea was enjoyed in bed. He was very popular in the village and served on various committees and the District Council. He retired after about thirty years to live at Southam, and later he moved to Leamington. The first nurse I remember, after our Village Nursing Association was formed, was Nurse Twigg

Stockton Working Men's Club is run by a committee elected from the village. Next to this building is the Village hall where whist drives are held, a doctor's surgery every Wednesday, Women's Institute and Good Neighbours meetings, and I believe Parish Council meetings too. Things are so different today. Village life is not the same. At one time we knew everyone, of course the village has expanded and new people arrived.

A villager said to me the other day that he walks around and hardly ever meets anyone he knows. We went 'scrumpling' gooseberries once, from my school friend's garden, Kath had a bleeding finger from a thorn and got the blood on a new blouse that her mother had made for her. Another escapade happened one Sunday afternoon, maybe we were about ten years old. We went to see Dr. Clague's house, then being built, there was scaffolding and ladders were all around and Kath and I decided to go up a ladder and wander on the planks around the top. Some boys quietly took away the ladder leaving us high and dry, didn't we get a telling off? You will now realise that in those days we too were naughty, or should I say mischievous but we didn't vandalise, steal or wilfully damage, the way the youngsters do today. There was always the village policeman to keep us in order and of whom we were afraid. No drugs or under-age drinking, the teachers were always respected, which, I understand, isn't always the case today, though I think that the blame for some of this falls with the teachers. Some years ago the teachers went on strike and formed a march to London, which was televised, as I watched I thought, no wonder they have lost respect they were dressed very unlike the collar and tie and suit that I remembered. Oh yes, I realise that 'clothes do not make the man' but they do help, probably you will not agree with me but there is a lot to be said for 'The good old days'.

Yes, there is a lot more money about, work made easier by machines, motor-cars, T.V., holidays abroad, but do all these things make for happiness? In some instances, yes, but what of all the divorces, murders, robberies and the unrest everywhere, all this 'have now and pay next year?' I don't profess to be a goody goody but I do believe in saving up for anything you want and then have the pleasure of going to buy it, that's the way I was brought up and the way I firmly believe is best. I expect you will say the idea of have now and pay later wasn't the fashion, no it wasn't but I still say my way is best. What a 'big-head' I am, I can hear you say, oh well, perhaps I should not have written this, if so, forget it. It takes all kinds of people to make the world and each of us has our own way.

PARISH COUNCIL

During the time Chas was Parish Clerk, it became apparent that the council refuse tip was becoming a health hazard. The flies, vermin and smells were terrible. After months and months of correspondence from the Parish Council, and visits to see the tip officials, it was finally decided it should be closed, this was over twenty years ago it is now pasture land. Another thing that happened during Chas's period in office was applying for, and getting, an extension to the cemetery. The extension to the cemetery was dedicated by the Bishop, those attending were Tom and Mona Griffin, Bill Priest and Charles Gardner. At one parish meeting only the Chairman and Chas. (Clerk) turned up.

It was agreed by the Stratford District Council and the Parish Council that a street should be named after Chas in memory of his work for the village including about twenty years service on the Parish Council and as Caretaker at the school. I understand an objection was received from someone so a tree was planted in the Pound (at the bottom of the hill) instead.

The past years have also seen new, small housing estates built; Glebe Close, the Laurels and Green Acres (Napton Road). Lots of odd - I don't mean they are 'odd', perhaps I should say detached houses, have been built since my years at Stockton; Manor Road, George Street, houses on land that were allotments, the houses at the end of George Street - in what was a field - were built in 1959-1960, new houses (a row) on one side of Elm Row, also houses up Stockton Hill. The large house, now named KINGS HOUSE was the home, in years gone by, of the village squire. When I first came to Stockton it was George Blyth owner - or part-owner of the local cement works, also owner of quite a lot of the village houses. At the moment it belongs to a Christian cult called "The Jesus People", and some of them live there. Back to the Blyths. When George Blyth's nephew 'Jimmy' was married a special train was arranged to take all the cement work's employees and their wives to a place called Turvey (which I believe is in Bedfordshire), home of the bride. After a lovely wander around the grounds and into the house to see the bride's wedding gown, tea was served in a large marquee on the lawn and afterwards we returned home on the train.

The railway from Northampton to Leamington, via Stockton, was opened in 1895 and finally closed down in 1960. Although a mile out of the village it was a very popular service, especially on Saturdays when villagers would go to Leamington to do the shopping because there was no bus service. School children, going to College, also used it. Looking back, although at that time we took it for granted, it must have been tiring to have that mile walk home carrying all the shopping. The station was just past the Midland Shires Depot, the prices, as I last remember, was 7p to Leamington, I forget if that was return.

Two or three times a year we went on the 7.00 am. train to Northampton, arriving home on the 7.00 pm. train. We really enjoyed those day trips.



FAMILY FUNDAY

SUNDAY 30th AUGUST

FROM 12 NOON



DOG SHOW



BOUNCY CASTLES



STALLS & GAMES



PIZZA



ICE CREAM



BUFFALO BURGERS



LIVE MUSIC



KIDS ACTIVITIES



**FACE
PAINTING**



TOMBOLA

FREE ENTRY



STOCKTON FOOTBALL & CRICKET CLUB

CV47 8JU



STOCKTON VILLAGE FESTIVAL

Summer Bank Holiday Weekend
28th - 31st August 2026

Live Bands over the Festival Weekend
28th - 31st August

Beer & Cider Festival 28th - 31st August

Scarecrow Trail 29th - 30th August

Produce Show 29th August

Family Fun Day 30th August

End of Festival Quiz 31st August

Name the Bear at all Venues 28th - 31st August

Entering a Scarecrow

Are you interested in having some fun making a scarecrow for this event, there is no cost to enter a scarecrow for the trail, entry forms to follow.

The theme this year will be
“**British icons of the past 100 years**”

stocktonvillagefestival@gmail.com

