



# Stockbridge Parish Council Newsletter

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## River Test Pollution

The PC is now part of the Pan-Parish Working Group that has been set up to highlight the increasing propensity of Southern Water to dump sewage in the River Test. The River Test is one of the world's finest chalk streams but the levels of pollution now being reached are a danger to fish, wildlife, insect life and to public health. The WG aims to share information about the extent of the pollution and to alert parishes when there are major discharges. The group will also campaign to stop further river pollution incidents and is calling on the Environment Agency and other relevant bodies to enforce existing regulations and bring Southern Water to account. The WG is made up of Councillors, riverkeepers and local businesses representing communities stretching from the Lambourn to the Solent.



Houghton PC has bought a water monitoring unit to check the water quality and send alerts when pollutants exceed safe levels. Riverkeepers have taken water samples which have found higher than normal ammonia and phosphate levels. There is evidence of lower levels of fly life but higher levels of algal blooms which feed on sewage and deoxygenate the water. These changes to the river will not only affect the fishing but the complete environment it holds within its banks, damaging the local economy.

Test Valley Borough Council's Environmental Health Manager was recently forced to issue a notification making residents aware that there were "elevated levels of untreated sewage effluence entering the River Test" and Caroline Nokes, our MP, addressed the matter recently in the House of Commons.

SPC would recommend that residents be wary of letting their dogs drink from the river and swimmers are extra careful when entering the water. The link below (also available on SPC's website) is a video filmed by two riverkeepers and is an excellent demonstration of just what damage pollution is doing to the life of our beloved River Test.: <https://youtu.be/-c1h4Zq4MLk?si=RYdfH9-mAZglUy2->

## Choose the Winning Garden Design Event

The PC is holding a community event to choose the winning design for the Blandford Row community garden on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm at the Town Hall**. Students of Sparsholt College have been developing designs for the small garden area behind the public toilets. The aim is to provide an attractive peaceful outdoor space, away from the hubbub of the High Street.

In December, students showed Councillors thoughtful and exciting visions of what the space could look like. Councillors were then asked to choose a design from each student to be developed further.

Please come and join Councillors, view the stu-

dent's designs and vote for your preferred choice, over a glass of wine.

At the end of the evening the votes will be counted and a winning design will be declared.

The Council will then start the process of seeking grants and installing the community's preferred choice.





## Trout 'n About



The Trout 'n About festival is due to take place 4<sup>th</sup> August this year. The organisers are hoping to make a few changes which will benefit the residents of Stockbridge. Firstly, it is intended to generate more income in order to benefit the people of Stockbridge. Profit from holding the event has traditionally been shared by the volunteers who have assisted on the day. Stockbridge residents, who are the most inconvenienced, have received less and less in recent years. The Committee has taken the decision that this year and for subsequent years, 50% of the profit will go to good causes in Stockbridge and may even contribute to Parish Council funds. This may in time reduce the Precept levied on residents. To this end the organisers are planning to charge for parking this year and to work with the local businesses on sponsorship opportunities.

Secondly, the organisers are keen to close the High Street to vehicles. As the event gets busier there is an increasing risk that an accident may occur from someone trying to cross the road. Closing the road should enable a safer event for all. Access would be maintained for residents and emergency vehicles. However, any closure, yet to be agreed by HCC, will be notified to residents.

The T 'n A Committee would like to encourage anybody, who would like to be involved in running the event, to get in touch. The Committee needs volunteers to help with planning and organisation and be available to help on the day. The Committee hopes that more residents will come forward knowing that their community will benefit directly. Email: bob@tnastockbridge.com

*Unity Travelling  
Pantry—  
Stockbridge Pri-  
mary School  
Fridays 11:15am  
- 12.15pm*

## Travelling Pantry

The Unity Travelling Pantry provides a helping hand to make everyone's budget go further by providing a selection of fresh and packaged foods.

Food available at the mobile pantry is either grown locally, surplus, donated or purchased food through funding.

The food available is for families

and individuals to select. The cost is just £5 for up to twelve items.

The Pantry is at the Primary School during term time Fridays 11:15am—12:15pm and at the White Hart Car Park in the school holidays at the same times (but not public holidays). info@unityonline.org.uk.



## Your new Councillor - Annette Parr

Annette grew up in Winchester and has always been familiar with the Stockbridge area. She and her husband moved to Stockbridge in 2016 planning to make this their forever home. Annette and her husband have two daughters and three grandchildren of primary school age. The youngest daughter and her grandson, Rowan, also live in Stockbridge.

Annette believes Stockbridge is a

wonderful place to live. She says it is a special community with so much to offer and she cares deeply about the town and its future.

Annette has worked in finance, property and administration most of her life and she hopes that her life experiences, passion and commitment to the community will help the Parish Council in making a difference to the quality of life of the residents of Stockbridge.



## Stockbridge Recreation Ground

The Recreation Ground was established some 50 years ago when the previous football field was compulsory purchased. It is held in the name of Stockbridge Recreation Ground Trust to be of benefit to all residents. However, there has never been any provision for funding.

The Trustees are keen to make the area more accessible for a wider range of visitors. The plan is to install new ladies and disabled toilets in the clubhouse. This will encourage more spectators at the football matches with greater use of the clubhouse and will enable any events at the ground to be more user friendly.

The Trust also needs to install new fencing around the ground. The present posts are rotting and

need replacing. In order to fund these improvements, the Trust has been looking at grants from TVBC, the Town Hall Trust and thanks Stockbridge Community Cinema for their recent support.

The Trust hopes that with these improvements the ground can be made available in the summer months for other users and will become more of a venue for community events as previously.

Trustees feels that the ground should support itself and wants to encourage Stockbridge groups to use the ground for outside events. The Trust would welcome ideas for alternative uses or from anyone interested in holding an event. Contact Michael@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk



## Crossing between the Co-op and the

### Greengrocer

The Council has been working with the Co-op, the Greengrocer and HCC to install a new crossing between the Co-op and the Greengrocer. Both businesses have kindly agreed to the plans as the proposal enables residents to reach the central island safely with clear line of sight. The new crossing will consist of solid footplates positioned either side of the road with a central island. The footplates should stop cars from parking in front of the is-

land, enabling pedestrians to reach it safely.

The Co-op thinks it is likely that with the removal of the planters they will be able to complete their deliveries with a smaller vehicle. This should mean an improvement in early morning high street access for nearby residents.

SPC is liaising with HCC for an installation date.

*The new crossing  
aims to make a  
safe crossing  
zone free from  
parked cars*

## Your new Councillor - Alex Lawrence

Alex Lawrence has returned to the Council after a short break. Alex who has lived in Stockbridge most of his life and lives on the high street with his partner, their dog and a cat. Alex is keen to ensure Stockbridge will continue to be the special place it always has been.

When he was on the Council previously Alex had a keen interest in planning matters for which his legal background proved helpful.

Alex was supportive of the proposal to acquire the Lancaster House land and has a keen interest in the history of the site and the local history of Stockbridge generally.

Alex was Chair of the Council between 2019 to 2023. He was involved in traffic and parking issues and the successful application of the grant for the potential improvements for the roundabout and OLR.





## What's on in Stockbridge

When	Where	What
14th April	High Street	Daffodil Run (Bean Car Club)
18th April	Town Hall	Parish Council Meeting
19th April	S'bridge Cinema	Anatomy of a Fall
20th April	S'bridge Cinema	20 Days in Mariupol
24th April	S'bridge Cinema	The Miracle Club
25th April	Town Hall	Choose the Design for the Blandford Row Park
28th April	S'bridge Cinema	Wonka
2nd May	Town Hall	Police and Crime Commissioner election
16th May	Town Hall	Parish Council Meeting
17th May	St Peter's Church	Craig Ogden Ensemble, S'bridge Music
20th June	Town Hall	Parish Council Meeting

## Sing for Fun



Sing for Fun is running community singing sessions at Stockbridge Town Hall every Monday pm. Sing for fun want people to feel they're a part of something special by igniting their passion for singing. Their sessions try to create the perfect balance between producing top quality group-singing, accessible to all, regardless of prior experience. They are

all about creating a feel-good, fun-factor to group singing, putting the emphasis on inclusivity and FUN!

There's no need to be able to read music, no one will be asked to sing by themselves and practice material is available online. If this sounds like something you'd like to try, book on to a free taster session via [www.singforfun.co.uk/stockbridge](http://www.singforfun.co.uk/stockbridge)

## A Quick Round-up of News

Stockbridge was named in **The Sunday Times Top 10 Places to Live** in South-East England, featuring in a recent complimentary article in the Hampshire Chronicle. The Lancaster House WG has met with the **Woodland Trust** for advice on how to manage the site as a natural woodland. The Trust was able to advise about managing the area responsibly, installing a path and possibly some hedging alongside the A3057. HCC is considering **reducing the number of recycling sites** that it manages to only one per borough. It is therefore likely that the Bunny Lane site could close. The Parish Council is holding **Community engagement surgeries** every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at the Community Market. Please come down and have a chat with Councillors about any local concern that you may have. It is hoped both Borough and County Cllrs may also attend. There is due to be a further meeting regarding the road safety improvements at the roundabout and OLR. The school and residents have expressed concern at the present proposals put forward by HCC and are meeting with HCC to develop a workable solution. Remember at **6:30pm 6<sup>th</sup> June** to listen out to the **bells at St. Peter's ringing out for peace** as part of the national D-day commemoration event. Please sign up for **email alerts** from the Parish Council website [www.stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk), the news section has announcements from HCC and TVBC. Remember to take photographic ID to vote for the **Police and Crime Commissioner Elections** on 2nd May at the Town Hall.

