

News and updates from Test Valley Borough Council

Test Valley Borough Council's Cost of Living Grant Scheme

If you know of a Test Valley based, not-for-profit organisation or community group, who would be interested in the Cost of Living Grant, please contact your Community Engagement Officer for the relevant ward to discuss this further, all contact details can be found here: www.testvalley.gov.uk/CEOfficers

For more information about the Test Valley Borough Council Cost of Living Grant please visit: www.testvalley.gov.uk/costoflivinggrantscheme

For more cost of living related support, please visit the Test Valley Borough Council Cost of Living Support Hub: www.testvalley.gov.uk/CostOfLivingSupport

There have been 2 Cost of Living grants awarded this week.

There have now been 64 awards made, totalling £71,319.31 in funding, which means £28,680.69 remains available.

Round	Organisation	Project	Award value	Totals
24 02/08/23	King Arthur's Way Community Association	Warm Hub, Thrift Shop, Café & Advice Towards the cost of continuing a project which offers local people a wide variety of support	£2,000	2 awards £4,000
	Unity	Oral Health & Wellbeing Towards the cost of providing a free, referral only, mobile dental service in the Andover area	£2,000	
Totals			£71,319.31 awarded	64 awards

Waste

Residents urged to take single-use vapes to recycling centres

Hampshire County Council has urged residents to ensure that single-use vapes are disposed of safely at recycling centres, with the council citing figures showing that more than 700 fires in bin lorries and at recycling centres across the country have been caused by batteries discarded in general waste. Cllr Nick Adams-King said: "Anything containing batteries, including vapes, should never be placed in your waste or recycling bin at home, as they are inflammable and can spontaneously combust."

Council generates over £1.6M in additional income thanks to prudent property investments

During the financial year 2022-23, Test Valley Borough Council generated additional income of £1.68 million, thanks to investments it has made in property since 2014. Through 'Project Enterprise', the Council has been developing and enhancing its own property portfolio, and making purchases of investment property, for financial return. This has included investment in a number of sites, including Walworth Business Park developments, Andover Trade Park and some residential properties in Romsey.



Non-native species removal at Rooksbury Mill

On Saturday 12 August The Anton River Conservation Association (TARCA) were out at Rooksbury Mill Local Nature Reserve to conduct non-native species removal. They were working in the River Anton pulling plants such as Monkey flower and Orange Balsam. These species are two common examples of non-native species which outcompete any native plants and reduces biodiversity. By removing these non-native species, we can encourage growth of native plants to allow our rivers to be as healthy and diverse as possible.

Test Valley schools learn about invertebrates residing in local nature reserves

Over the last school term TVBC's countryside team have been hosting lots of school visits at our local nature reserves. Almost 500 children from eight local primary schools across the borough have taken part in sessions which gave them an opportunity to get hands on with several nature reserve themed activities.



The school children enjoyed an interactive experience learning to identify a variety of invertebrates that live in our lakes at the nature reserves, by taking part in activities like pond dipping where they found plenty of Pond Snails and Water Boatmen coupled with some exciting finds such as Water Scorpions and Dragonfly Nymphs.

Public Spaces Protection Order

Further to the consultation process undertaken, the Council has now extended (with minor changes) the Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order made in 2020, with the Order running for a further period of 3 years and due to expire on 15 June 2026. The Order covers dog fouling throughout the Borough and contains an exclusion in relation to child's play areas and enclosed sports facilities. It also allows authorised persons to request that dogs be placed on a lead if they are causing a nuisance. This Order is available for download from the document section of the following Test Valley Borough Council website:

Public spaces protection order (PSPOs) | Test Valley Borough Council

Warmer Homes Scheme

You can upgrade your home with energy-saving insulation, solar panels, or an air source heat pump!

Test Valley Borough Council is part of a group of 23 councils offering these measures and more through our Warmer Homes programme. 🏠



<https://www.testvalley.gov.uk>

(housingandenvironmentalhealth)

Energy

Rural communities face 'their own ULEZ' over oil boiler ban

Former environment secretary George Eustice has urged the Government to scrap plans to ban the sale of new oil boilers to off-grid homes from 2026 in favour of air-source heat pumps, warning that given the cost of heat pumps, a shortage of trained engineers, and the unsuitability of many less well-insulated rural homes for heat pump heating, rural communities "are about to have their own version of the ULEZ dumped on them". "They should call off the ban on the sale of boilers and pursue a different strategy", he said, "which would be to properly incentivise renewable fuels in those boilers", noting that kerosene boilers can be easily converted to run on hydrogenated vegetable oil derived from waste cooking oil or vegetable waste.

COVID-19

No winter COVID-19 booster for under-65s

Health Secretary Steve Barclay has announced that, based on advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), COVID-19 booster jabs will no longer be offered to otherwise-healthy under-65s this winter, while free flu jabs, which were extended to those aged 50-64 during the pandemic, will also only be offered to the over-65s. Professor Wei Shen Lim from the JCVI said the autumn booster programme "will continue to focus on those at greatest risk of getting seriously ill".

The future of residential and nursing home care

Local authorities took responsibility for market shaping for adult social care under the Care Act 2014, which led to councils developing their commissioning functions. Arguably this lost some momentum through years of budget cuts, until 2021 when the government's plans to reform adult social care charging brought it centre stage once more. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) required councils with adult social care responsibilities to produce and publish market sustainability plans and fair cost-of-care proposals in preparation for the cap on care costs. The government has postponed implementing the reforms until October 2025, but planning continues and market sustainability plans provide a resource of information about care home and home care commissioning and provision.

Official naming ceremony of the Queen Elizabeth Memorial Copse at Bury Hill

A reminder that the official Naming Ceremony of the Queen Elizabeth Memorial Copse at Bury Hill, Red Rice Road, SP11 7PU, is taking place at 1pm on Friday 8 September.

News from Unity



Test Valley News Survey

We only have a couple of weeks left of the Test Valley News survey and we need as many people as possible, of all ages, to take part. It doesn't matter whether they read TV news every time, or don't even know what it is.

Please could you share the link on your social media pages or with any groups you think it would be relevant to. The survey closes on Friday 1 September.



Link to survey - www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TVnews23

Planning Matters

The *Times* reports that despite Natural England having imposed nutrient neutrality rules restricting new housebuilding in nitrate vulnerable zones across 74 local authority areas, as part of efforts to minimise the impact of development on local waterways, the Environment Agency has issued almost 500 derogations to farmers in those areas, allowing them to discharge more nitrogen from their land than would normally be permitted. In the five years to 2022, the paper found, the agency granted 99.4% of the 1,191 applications for derogations that it received - with the permitted increase alone equivalent to the nitrogen that would be produced by hundreds of thousands of homes. A spokesperson for the Home Builder's Federation said: "It is frustrating that one government quango's solution is to ban housebuilding, despite its negligible contribution to the issue, whilst another signs off the use of thousands of tonnes of nutrient-rich fertiliser."

Entertainment

Cinema

Stockbridge Community Cinema

We are pleased to provide details of our screenings next season which as usual offer a variety of film genres and hopefully with something to interest everyone.

Our **Friday** evening films happen to all be in the French language (with subtitles) but are very different in their subject matter.

Close (September) was the winner of the Grand Prix award at Cannes 2022 and is an elegant, poetic, and empathetic study of two thirteen-year-old best friends, whose seemingly unbreakable bond is suddenly, tragically torn apart.

Saint Omer (October) a novelist attends the trial of a young woman accused of killing her 15-month-old daughter.

One Fine Morning (November) - a touching reflection on love and loss.

Our **Wednesday** films offer something lighter.

Allelujah (September) a warm, humorous, and deeply moving story about surviving old age, based on the play by Alan Bennett.

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry (October) based on the novel by Rachel Joyce starring Jim Broadbent as a man who passes through life on the sidelines.

What's Love Got to Do With It (November) A British romantic comedy in which a documentary filmmaker (Lily James) films a man traveling to Pakistan for an assisted marriage.

We end the year with a 'recorded live' screening of one of the most popular ballets - ***The Nutcracker***.

Tickets for all films and further details on our website.

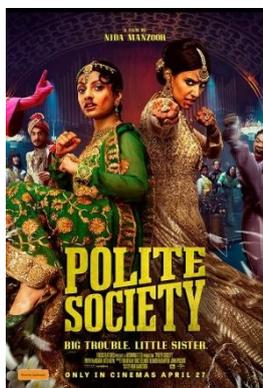
Somborne Community Cinema

Allelujah (14th September)

With a star-studded cast, including Judi Dench, Derek Jacobi and Jennifer Saunders *Allelujah* is a warm and deeply moving story about old age. When the geriatric ward in a small Yorkshire hospital is threatened with closure, the hospital decides to fight back by galvanising the local community. They invite a news crew to film their preparations for a concert in honour of the hospital's most distinguished nurse. *Allelujah* celebrates the spirit of the patients whilst paying tribute to the deep humanity of the medical staff battling with limited resources and ever-growing demand.



Polite Society (12th October)



A British comedy fuelled by boundless energy, *Polite Society* overflows with creativity, humour, and action. Ria Khan believes she must save her older sister Lena from her impending marriage and after enlisting her friends' help, she attempts to pull off the most ambitious of all wedding heists in the name of independence and sisterhood. A fresh and fun film, which makes for a delightful outing not just for the adolescents but the adolescent soul lurking within every adult.

Tickets for these films are just £6 each and are available from the Somborne Community Cinema web site at www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk or at the door on the night.

All screenings are at King's Somborne Village Hall on the second Thursday of the month.

Doors open at 7.15pm and the films start at 8pm

If there are any issues in this copy that you would like to discuss, or any items of news that you would like to be considered in a future copy please contact any of the Borough councillors.

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