



# Stockbridge Parish Council Newsletter

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## Stockbridge's War Memorial is Restored

The Stockbridge War Memorial has now been fully restored and installed in its former position. The Memorial was re-dedicated at a service on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. It was attended by Martin Lutyens, the great-nephew of Sir Martin Lutyens, the architect of the memorial as well as representatives of the War Memorials Trust, which contributed to the cost of the restoration and officiated by Rev'd Philip Bowden. Mr Martin Lutyens addressed the assembled, speaking of Sir Martin Lutyens' work in general, his connection to Marsh Court and the memorial to Mrs Johnson in the Winton Hill Cemetery designed by Lutyens. He described Stockbridge War Memorial as having possible resemblances to a broadsword. Buglers from the Buglers Assoc were present to play the last post and the Reveille in a moving ceremony.

The Council would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of the project especially Mr Kim Candler, Mr David Williams and Cllr Richard Foord.



## Council meetings held in the Open Air

On May 8<sup>th</sup> the legislation allowing Councils to meet virtually ran out in England (although this was not the case in Scotland, Wales and N Ireland). This meant that Councils were required,



due to the 1975 legislation, to meet in person and in public. However, the Covid legislation did not permit that to happen until after 19<sup>th</sup> July. Some Councils arranged not to meet during this period whilst others met online but were unable to make resolutions. Stockbridge PC wanted to continue to meet properly so that it was best able to respond to the needs of the community. In order to do so, Stockbridge PC held its June meeting at the Recreation Ground and its July meeting at the Primary School. Unfortunately, the June meeting was accompanied by a light drizzle but the Council managed to get through most of its business. However, the July meeting was held on a pleasant balmy evening that enabled the Council to get through the agenda in a refreshing fashion. Other Councils also arranged to meet in less usual ways; one Council held a meeting in a car park, Weymouth Town Council held a meeting on the beach and TVBC met on the set of Jack and the Bean Stalk!





## A Guide to the Flood Protections in Stockbridge



*"Houghton Fishing Club is on hand 24hrs a day. Without the Fishing Club Stockbridge's protections could not be managed successfully."*

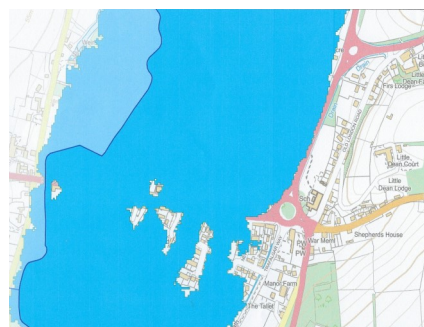
The east carrier lies north of St Peter's Church. To the west of this carrier, between it and the main channel of the River Test, is an open and protected area of floodplain. It was at this east carrier that, in the dark days of winter 2014, anyone who could wield a spade was called out to help dig the banks in order to direct the rising water away from the houses. After the flooding in 2014 HCC and TVBC granted funding to improve the management of the river and to provide the facilities to divert possible flood waters away from Stockbridge homes, should the need arise in the future. The extent of the protections that these new weirs provide can best be explained by the maps below.

The Council wanted to understand how these flood defences operated and members of the Council were taken on a tour of the protections by Mr Dan Haw-

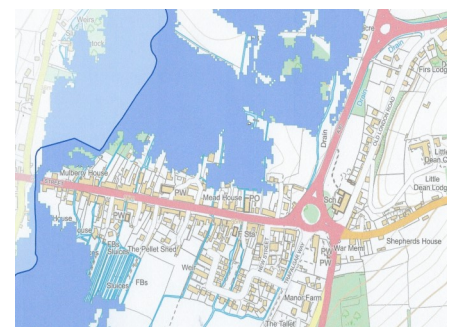
kins from the Houghton Fishing Club. Mr Hawkins explained that managing the area requires a careful balance between the clearance of vegetation to allow the water to flow and not destroying the habitats. He explained that the channels that run through Stockbridge are really the overflow channels from the main carrier. These channels need to be kept clear at all times in order to allow the excess water to flow away, however, this work is best done by hand. Any work on these channels needs to be undertaken with Environment Agency consent. Information about the responsibilities of Riparian landlords is on the Parish Council website –

[A Guide to your rights and responsibilities of riverside ownership \(stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk\)](http://stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk)

There are two parts to the protections built after 2014. One part is on the east carrier and the second is to the south of Stockbridge in the main Test river. There is another protection built further upstream but this was paid for by the Fishing Club. The protection on the east carrier is a weir, made up of two sturdy boards, built into the bank of the carrier. The photo above shows Mr Hawkins and Council members standing on the weir and looking out across the floodplain. In times when the water is rising and flooding in the village



This EA data shows the extent of possible flooding **without** the protections



This EA data shows the extent of possible flooding **with** the protections implemented.





looks to be possible, one or both of the boards can be lifted up allowing the water to pour out from the carrier onto the flood-plain. The rush of water will knock over any vegetation and will spread out across the flood-plain thereby reducing considerably the speed of the water in the river and successfully directing the water away from the housing. In extreme circumstances, when even this might not be enough, the Fishing Club will obtain emergency consent to dig the bank as well.

The support of the Fishing Club is crucial to the maintenance and management of the protections for Stockbridge. There are five employees of the Fishing Club all of whom are local people and who care about the area. At least two of employees are available 24hrs a day 7 days a week. The Club also has its own diggers and dumper vehicles for any emergency use. The Fishing Club stays in close contact with the river keepers upstream and downstream of Stockbridge to ensure they all work together to keep the river healthy and flowing. All the vegetation in and around the flood plain is vitally important as a means of soaking up the water. Any trees or branches that come down are removed by the Fishing Club in order to maintain a clear route for the water to flow. Any pruning or pollarding of the trees around the Test including the willows on the Longstock side is undertaken by the Fishing Club.

The weir to the south of the village is situated close to the border of Longstock and Houghton and is possibly the more important (see photos above and right). The main weir was built in the early 1960's to enable the management of the river but further protections were installed with the grant from HCC and TVBC. These protections are



situated to the right of the main weir. As with the weir higher up on the east carrier, this protection consists of two sturdy boards that can be removed with relative ease enabling the rising water to flood out onto the flood plain, to the west of the main river, knocking down the vegetation as it rushes out but providing much needed space for the water to spread out onto. Diverting the water away from the main carrier in this way, will reduce the threat of backed up, rising water in the river overflowing into inhabited areas.

In the event of rising river levels, Stockbridge residents should feel more confident that the protections in place will keep the water at bay. However, the Council will liaise closely with the Fishing Club and any information regarding the actions that the Fishing Club has had to undertake will be posted on the Council's website news section.

The Council does recognise that some of our community feel more vulnerable in the event of flooding and the Council would like to encourage these residents to fill out the form on the website [Resilience - Stockbridge Parish Council Stockbridge, Hampshire - Stockbridge Parish Council, Stockbridge](#) to ensure that should disaster strike arrangements can be made to check, and if necessary, rescue them. Anyone who has already forwarded their details does not need to do so again.

*These weirs  
and barriers  
should enable  
Stockbridge  
residents to  
sleep a little  
easier in the  
event of rising  
water.*







## What's on in Stockbridge

When	Where	What
Friday 8th October	In and around Stockbridge	Deputy Lieutenant of Hants to thank members of Stockbridge community
Friday 15th October	Cinema at Town Hall	The Father
Wednesday 20th October	Cinema at Town Hall	Dream Horse
Thursday 21st October	Town Hall	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 18th November	Town Hall	Parish Council Meeting
Saturday 4th December	Stockbridge High Street	Stockbridge at Christmas

Please email the Clerk if you would like to promote your event with a listing here. Please see Stockbridge community cinema website for the film information ([www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk](http://www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk)).



## Stockbridge Cemetery

Although Stockbridge has 3 cemeteries only one, the Winton Hill cemetery, is available for use. Councillors have expressed concern that the area available to be used here is decreasing year by year and they wanted to ensure that enough space was left for use by residents of Stockbridge. The Council resolved in the meeting in June to restrict occupancy of the cemetery to residents of Stockbridge only. For the purposes of the cemetery, a resident of Stockbridge will be classified as anyone who has lived in the Stockbridge within ten years of their death. The Council will also no longer allow plots to be purchased for future or family use. This is to enable the best use of the available land at the cemetery.

## A Quick Round- up of News

One of the **Deputy Lieutenants of Hampshire** has contacted the Chair of Stockbridge Parish Council because, on behalf of the Queen, he wanted to thank members of the Stockbridge Community for the neighbourly effort that they made during the first lockdown. The Deputy Lieutenant will be visiting Stockbridge on Friday 8th October and, in his official robes, will be calling on shops and community members who made a special effort and ensured that others were looked after. Refreshments will be served in Scout Hut afterwards. Things are getting back to normal in **Hampshire libraries** and they are now offering scrabble sessions, craft workshops and knitting groups. The **Report IT** function of the HCC website is the place to go if you wish to report potholes, hedging problems, drainage issues, pavement problems and issues with rights of way. Go to [Hampshire County Council | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](http://Hampshire County Council | Hampshire County Council (hants.gov.uk))

click on the service and report a problem. They will send you confirmation and an email when the problem has been dealt with. It is a great way of getting a problem sorted out. HCC notified the Council that **Lily's path**, which should have work done to it by now, has been delayed due to the availability of contractors. Please do not hesitate to **email the Clerk** [clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk) if there is anything you wish to bring to the Council's attention.

