



Stockbridge Parish Council Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 3

Newsletter Date: December 2022

Stockbridge at Christmas



In Stockbridge things are looking a lot like Christmas. The Christmas committee has organised a lovely display which it hopes will encourage residents and traders to feel part of the Stockbridge community. Small Business Saturday is the start of the Stockbridge Christmas celebrations. This year the committee organised a number of activities and entertainments for different age groups. These included a Treasure Trail for children of primary age, Test Valley Brass band and Wellow Wasps carol singers providing the festive cheer, Stockbridge primary school selling Christmas trees, Mr Lawrie McMenemy MBE switching on the lights, and carols and refreshments in St Peter's Church.

The Committee recognised that, this year with the increased cost of electricity, it might be difficult for Stockbridge businesses to be as generous as they have been in previous years. The committee successfully applied for a community grant from TVBC in order to make up for any shortfall and to ensure the display and the community event would continue to be successful as in previous years.

The Christmas committee would like to thank - Beccy's Greengrocer; Rob-jents; St Peter's Church; Stockbridge Business Association; Stockbridge Cinema; Stockbridge Parish Council; Stockbridge Town Hall; The Hub; The Little Whisky Shop; The White Hart; The Co-Op and TVBC.

Our thanks also go to the Residents of Stockbridge for their continued support and engagement and the members of the Christmas committee - Revd Philip Bowden, Dave Buck, Kim Candler, Richard Foord, Emma Jefferies, Paul Kidd, Alyson Lownie, Adelle Sharpe, Derek Smith and Nicola Vaughan.



Councillor Tony Hales

*Cllr Tony Hales
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The Parish Council is very sad to report the recent passing of Cllr Tony Hales. Cllr Hales joined the Council at the elections in 2019, he initially took on the role of managing the Resilience plan before moving on to contribute to the High Street re-design project. Tony's advice and wise words were much appreciated and val-

ued by the Council and he will be very much missed.

Cllr Hales's passing occurred less than 6 months until the next Parish Council election, due to be held in May 2023. An opportunity to hold a by-election therefore does not occur. The Council may choose to co-opt a Councillor.

The Jubilee Lantern Arch

It is hoped that the Jubilee Lantern Arch will be installed before Christmas. This has been an exciting and rewarding project for all those involved – Cllr Alex Lawrence, Mrs Sally Milligan, Rev Bowden, Mr Kim Candler, Mr David Williams. The original intention thought up by Alex Lawrence, was to install the arch in honour of the platinum jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. Sadly, Her Majesty passed away before the project could be completed but the arch will always act as a permanent memorial to the historic occasion of her 70 year reign.

Cllr Lawrence said that, having come across old photographs of the arch at the front of the church, he thought it would be a lovely idea to return the church entrance to its former attractive frontage but it wasn't until Sally Milligan approached him asking if there were any plans for a permanent feature to celebrate Her Majesty's platinum jubilee that they both realised that this was an opportunity to make the project happen and to honour the occasion.

Sally approached Rev Bowden and PCC for their permission for the arch to be installed at the church entrance, which was kindly given. Other permissions required including the Church faculty and TVBC planning and in order for them to be obtained

technical drawings would be necessary. Mr Kim Candler very helpfully stepped forward to produce these drawings, to undertake the project management and to apply for the planning permission, whilst Rev Bowden and David Williams applied for Church permission and liaised with the Church's architect.

Mr Philip Grobb, blacksmith, has undertaken the work under the direction of Mr Candler, Mr Williams and Rev Bowden and photos of the trial fitting held earlier in December, are to the left. The photos undoubtedly show how impressive the arch will look in its final form and installation.

Huge thanks are owed to those who gave up their time to make the project come alive – Sally Milligan, Kim Candler, Rev Bowden, David Williams and not forgetting Cllr Lawrence for coming up with the original idea. However, none of this would be possible without the generous donations of the residents of Stockbridge. The fact that so many residents (and a few of the shops) have provided donations is a testament to the honour of the Queen but also to the strong community spirit alive in Stockbridge. The Council and all the project participants would like to thank all the donors for their kind gifts and share with you all the excitement of seeing the project come to fruition.





What is happening with the High Street?

The Parish Council has been working with HCC, the Highways Authority, to establish a layout of the High Street to see how it could work best for residents and traders. The progression of the project has had many stages (including our own survey held in June) but it culminated in a meeting held in July with Mr David Wilson, Mr John Sorrell from HCC and members of HCC Consultancy. Minutes are available on SPC's website. The meeting was to look at what could be done for the High Street and whether there were parking controls that would be suitable for Stockbridge. Any ambitious design which could include such things as the widening of pavements, crossing points and a pavement extension at the Town Hall to create a town square, would cost a substantial amount and would need to be funded by HCC and other organisations. Along with these changes to the High Street some form of parking controls would need to be im-

plemented. The Council would need to pay for the feasibility study which would cost around £35,000.

The HCC team said that although at present two Hants towns are undergoing redesign, including parking controls, HCC do not at present intend instituting parking controls in Stockbridge – but that should not be taken as a future guarantee. They do plan to set up a camera survey in the High Street to provide them with evidence about traffic conditions, and they may act on those findings. When is not clear.

The Parish Council will be considering a number of options including; whether this is the right way forward for Stockbridge; whether the idea should be dropped; whether a less ambitious approach for dealing with smaller problems would suffice.



Mental First Aider training available

At the October Council meeting Patrick Melville, a member of the Stockbridge community spoke to raise awareness about mental health which he said was increasing as life became more complicated for us all.

Patrick runs workshops and Mental Health First Aider training to help

people tackle the worries. Everyone who attends these leaves with a better understanding how to build mental resilience for themselves, their friends and family and to manage the stress in their lives. You can contact Patrick at www.melville-solutions.com

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High Street Cleaning

The PC has been working with TVBC to ensure that the High Street is kept looking clean and smart. A pavement cleaner will visit the High Street every fortnight, a Wednesday but weather dependent. TVBC will use a machine to do the work because it can be done quicker and with a better finish than by brush. TVBC attends the High Street up to 3 times a week to empty the litter bins. The gully cleaner will visit

every Monday at 7.00am to clean the gullies on both sides of the road. The intention is to ensure Stockbridge's drains are kept clear of rubbish so that they can take the rainwater away. The gully cleaner will move round parked cars but it would be helpful if residents who have off road parking, can use these spaces on a Sunday night. TVBC is keen to ensure that Stockbridge is kept clean and attractive for residents, businesses and visitors.





What's on in Stockbridge

When

Friday 13th January
Wednesday 18th January
Thursday 19th January
Friday 10th February
Wednesday 15th February
Thursday 16th February
Thursday 16th March

Where

Stockbridge Cinema
Stockbridge Cinema
Town Hall
Stockbridge Cinema
Stockbridge Cinema
Town Hall
Town Hall

What

The Quiet Girl
Where the Crawdads Sing
Parish Council Meeting
Azor
Mrs Harris goes to Paris
Parish Council Meeting
Parish Council Meeting

Please let the Clerk know if you would like to promote your event with a listing here.

Trout Pond in the High Street



The last newsletter told of the good news that improvements to the Trout Pond had received funding from TVBC community assets grant fund. It was hoped that the work could take place in October/November of this year. In order for the work to start there would need to be a licence in place from the Environment Agency. This is because structural work on the river can only take place when there are no spawning fish. The Council's contractor applied for the licence in

good time but was surprised to find that the EA said at the beginning of November that this work can only take place after March and refused to issue a licence. Although the contractor has gone back for clarification it is now obvious that the work cannot take place this year. The Clerk has written to the project donors including HCC, TVCB, Roberts, The Grosvenor Hotel, The Houghton Fishing Club and Orvis to ask that they continue to support the project next year.

A Quick Round- up of News

The Council recognises that with the cost of heating a home being so high and when power cuts are a possibility some members of the community may be feeling vulnerable. The Council would like to invite these people to contact the Clerk to ask that she holds their name and details. The Council will be keeping in touch with local venues and other Parish Councils who may be providing **warm hubs this winter**. Please sign up to receive alerts from the News section of the Parish Council to receive information on where these might be. **May is election time** for both the Borough and Parish Councils. Please give some thought if you would like to stand as a Councillor and contact the Clerk if you would like some advice on how to proceed. TVBC has said that they will only help with improving the **Pocket Park (land behind the toilets)** if the Council can prove there is community support for the project. Let the Clerk know if you feel that this area needs to be improved. The Council **website has a new section on flooding defences** for the community. The recent articles in this newsletter about these defences, EA maps and HCC advice are all published there. Please sign up for the alerts from the Council to receive any updates about our rivers. If you are aware of any **Rights of Ways** that need maintenance please let the Clerk know.

