

Good News Feedback

As we move around the Mid Test parishes, we find many excellent initiatives and projects being undertaken by individuals and organisations. Often these never get the recognition they deserve, and other parishes don't get to learn from each other.

Do you have a good news story you want to share in our Newsletter so we can give you the recognition and let others learn from your success – just let us know

Recycling over Christmas and New Year 2021/22



Christmas trees - Once the festive season is over, you can recycle your real Christmas tree at one of the 9 temporary sites provided. The ones closest to Mid Test Ward are below but the full list is on the TVBC web site.

- Dobbies Garden Centre Salisbury Road
- Alma Road Car Park (near Waitrose) Romsey
- Village Hall, West Wellow
- Hillier Garden Centre Braishfield

Please remove all decorations and non-compostable items before recycling.

These sites are provided for **real** Christmas trees only from Thursday 30 December to Monday 10 January. If you subscribe to the Garden Waste Collection Service, we can collect your Christmas tree (please only cut it in half if it's over 6ft).

Waste and Recycling Bin Collections

Black bins will be collected on the normal days, but **brown bins collection days** are:

Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day
Monday 3 January	Tuesday 4 January 2022
Tuesday 4 January	Wednesday 5 January
Wednesday 5 January	Thursday 6 January
Thursday 6 January	Friday 7 January
Friday 7 January	Saturday 8 January

Garden waste collections - will not take place between Monday 20 December and Friday 31 December. Collections will be a day later during the week commencing 3 January.

Excess Waste - During the Christmas and New Year period **only** waste left in bags beside the black bin on a household waste collection day will be accepted. Collection teams will only empty one black bin per property unless extra bin capacity has been authorised.

Excess Recyclables - Recyclable materials in cardboard boxes left beside the brown bin on recycling weeks will be collected throughout the year.

Gift Wrapping Paper -- Do not put gift wrap in the brown recycling bin. Most gift wrap in plastic film, foil, or heavily over-printed, low-grade paper. Used gift wrap is also often crunched up and covered with sticky tape. Overall, it has very little material benefit for recycling.

Household Waste Recycling Centres - These will be open except on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day

Any questions about recycling or any other TVBC questions contact us.

GP Services

healthwatch
Hampshire



shape the way services are delivered in the future.

Healthwatch Hampshire have just launched a survey asking the public to share their experiences of accessing GP (General Practice) services in the last 6 months in Hampshire. They want to hear as many experiences of accessing GP services as possible, so we can help the NHS understand what is working well and what could be better. The results of this survey will be shared with NHS Services and organisations to help to

You can read more about the survey and the wider project [here](#) and the survey is here [survey](#)

Christmas Lights



Christmas in Romsey
Christmas lights switch on! Got your eye

on some late-night shopping?

December 10 is the date for your diary!

[Click here for the full list](#)



Stockbridge festive cheer!

Stockbridge High Street will be lit up for all to see on December 4 this year!

Mulled wine, mince pies and more will be available to accompany the live brass music and choir singing ahead of the switch-on at 6pm.

[See the details](#)

Explore Test Valley



Discover the beauty of Test Valley with our walking routes. Enjoy some time alone or with friends and family while taking in nature this autumn and winter. It certainly makes a great day out when combined with a hearty, well deserved pub lunch!

[View walks in Test Valley](#)

StreetSafe

The government is trialling a new online tool until the end of November which lets members of the public anonymously pinpoint on a map a location where they don't feel safe.

StreetSafe has been introduced as part of the government's response to tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG), but it should also be used to identify areas where there are fears caused by other things such as anti-social behaviour, and environmental issues.

Anyone who has concerns about a particular location is encouraged to flag it through the tool. This information will be considered alongside the extensive evidence base already gathered by police forces and used to inform the community safety activities of police and partner agencies.

<https://www.police.uk/pu/notices/streetsafe/street-safe/>

Green Flag Awards



Romsey's War Memorial Park, Rooksbury Mill in Andover and Valley Park have all been awarded a coveted national prize of a Green Flag Award.

More so than ever before, green spaces in the borough have been of significant importance to residents and visitors. Lockdown gave an opportunity for communities to prioritise spending time outdoors in the fresh air, with many exploring new spaces and even discovering the beauty of Test Valley for the first time.

Green spaces in Test Valley have provided the space to breathe and reset during challenging times and, never more than this year have they deserved to be acknowledged for their management.

[See our parks and green spaces](#)

Covid-19 guidance for community halls and centres



The Action Hampshire website have some useful resources for Village Halls and meetings in general during Covid: [Opening your community building after lockdown - Action Hampshire](#). There's also a piece there on face coverings becoming compulsory again from the 30th of November.

[ACRE](#) also have an article on keeping village halls safe this winter, although this is slightly old but perhaps still useful [Advice for keeping village halls safe this winter - ACRE | Action with Communities in Rural England](#)



The council has launched a brand-new email update system this week. The system allows regular useful information to be sent out to those who choose to subscribe and can be personalised as users select their preferences for what they'd like to hear about.

Events, Christmas bin collection dates and countryside information are just some of the updates being sent out. Users of My Council Services will this week have had a one-time email to notify them of this new service, asking them if they would like to subscribe. Their details are not being stored on the system and they have to opt-in to receive these new updates and can unsubscribe at any time.



Councillor Community Grant Scheme



Each year, Mid-Test Borough Councillors use the Councillor Community Grant Scheme to fund fantastic local projects within the Mid-Test Ward to help communities achieve their aims. This funding can be used to support community led initiatives for the benefit of your local area and community.

Grants of up to **£1,000** are available to fund up to two-thirds of the total cost of the project or activity. With applications open to: Voluntary Groups, Parish Councils, Not for Profit Organisations, and Schools in relation to their wider community role.

The Councillor Community Grant can be used towards a huge variety of projects, as long as community benefit forms the basis of its aims. If you work with or know of a local community group or project which could do with some funding, please get in touch!

Since the start of the pandemic, many groups, communities and residents have had to change the way they run or the way they support one another. Funding could be used to:

- Organising an event for local residents and bring communities back together
- Enhancing a local community facility or shared space for residents or community groups to come together
- To fund a local project or ambition, e.g. initiatives around climate change

For more information and to apply online please head to our website: www.testvalley.gov.uk/CCG

For more information, or if you have any questions at all, please get in touch:

- Councillor Ian Jeffrey: CllrIJeffrey@testvalley.gov.uk
- Councillor Alison Johnston: CllrAJohnston@testvalley.gov.uk
- Councillor Tony Ward: CllrTWard@testvalley.gov.uk
- Community Engagement Officer: Imogen Colley icolley@testvalley.gov.uk

Springing up



Urban meadows are springing up across the borough and look set to grow in numbers after a successful first year trialling the project by Test Valley Borough Council.

In spring, a change to the frequency of mowing grass was made across seven hectares of green space to encourage the growth of wildflowers and plants. Now, over the next two years, this is set to grow to 18 hectares.

Christmas & New Year Wishes

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all the residents, volunteers, community organisations and Parish Councils in Mid Test a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Councillor Ian Jeffrey	cllrieffrey@testvalley.gov.uk	01794 388872
Councillor Alison Johnston	cllrajohnston@testvalley.gov.uk	01794 500610
Councillor Tony Ward	cllrtward@testvalley.gov.uk	01794 389649