

A newsletter from the Borough Councillors for the Test Valley Borough Ward of Mid-Test
Councillors Alison Johnston, Ian Jeffrey, and Stewart MacDonald



Test Valley Community Resilience Forum

The Test Valley Community Resilience Forum took place on 19 October at King's Somborne Village Hall. The session aimed to build on our current Community Resilience model, focusing on how we respond to emergencies and what Test Valley Communities require of the Council and other partners in emergency situations. A workshop took place to help identify the specific risks and challenges your local community faces and what level of support might be required from agencies in responding to an emergency. All communities face a variety of risks and challenges and we hope to understand these better to develop true to life scenarios which can test the Council's ability to respond to emergencies and put appropriate support in place for communities.



Could you or a loved one be entitled to Pension Credit?

Pension Credit is a means-tested benefit designed to top up the income of people over State Pension age, if your weekly income is below:

- £218.15 if you are single
- £332.95 if you have a partner

Even if your income is higher, you might still be entitled to claim it if you have a disability or care for someone.

The average Pension Credit award is worth £3,900 per year and unlocks a host of other benefits such as: winter fuel payments, free TV licence (if over 75 years old) and support with rent/mortgage interest and council tax.

Test Valley councillors have come together to support some of the most vulnerable pensioners in the borough who are set to lose their Winter Fuel Allowance following the government's recent decision to limit payments to those receiving means tested benefits.

Councillors showed unanimous support for the proposal to allocate £20,000 to the Test Valley Winter Fuel Payment Scheme, and a further £20,000 if required, to continue support for those of pensionable age in the borough who need assistance with paying their winter bills. For more information and to apply for Pension Credit, visit www.gov.uk/pension-credit or call 0800 99 1234

Mayor's Autumn Update

The Mayor of Test Valley, Councillor Ian Jeffrey, and Mayoress, Mrs Maura Jeffrey have continued to enjoy their civic year.

Among many other events August Bank Holiday Monday saw the Mayor and Mayoress attend 2 Village Fetes at Appleshaw and Goodworth Clatford respectively where they felt privileged to help present prizes to the Garden Produce and Flower Show winners.

The annual Showcasing Test Valley event, which is an opportunity to promote the unique and special nature of the Borough and its communities to other Hampshire Civic Heads, was held at The Hawk Conservancy in September. Guests were given a talk about Test Valley, which highlighted our approach to working with communities with councillors at the heart of this model, as well as the work of the Hawk Conservancy including a tour of the venue and an Owl flying display.

Councillor Jeffrey also invited Hampshire Civic Heads to join him on a visit to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance airbase at Thruxton to learn about the work the charity undertakes to help people in emergency situations. HIOWAA is one of the Mayor's chosen charities for his civic year.

The Queen Elizabeth II Statue



On Friday 27 September, the Mayor and Mayoress were pleased to host the Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire at the unveiling of the Queen Elizabeth II Statue in the Town Mills Riverside Park, Andover. Also in attendance were TVBC Councillors, Aldermen, Freemen of the Borough and the artist, Amy Goodman.

The Opening of the new Over Wallop Pavilion



On Saturday 26 October, the Mayor and Mayoress were delighted to join local MP Caroline Nokes for the official opening of the new Over Wallop Pavilion, an exceptionally successful project which has benefited from several Council grants as well as an impressive Parish fundraising effort.

The Mayor and Mayoress are looking forward to the Christmas Season being out and about in the borough, attending Christmas Concerts and visiting Care and Nursing Homes throughout December to wish residents and staff Season's Greetings.

OTHER NEWS

We are alerting residents and the public to a scam involving fake text messages about parking fines. These messages are fraudulent and part of a wider national scam.

The council does not issue Parking Penalty Charge Notices via text message: genuine fines are sent by post.



The Army Flying Museum

Get ready for blast off this October half term as the team from the Army Flying Museum at Middle Wallop turn their attention to all things space related.

The Army Flying Museum are hoping visitors will be completely star struck by the space themed craft activities where visitors are invited to make their own astronauts and space stations to take home, with activities taking place every weekday between 10 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. Visitors will also be invited to take part in a thrilling cosmic trail around the museum throughout the school holidays.



The museum may seem an odd place for all things cosmic, but did you know that one of their exhibits has been in space?

The shirt of former Army Air Corps officer, Major Tim Peake, was worn on the International Space Station. During his mission, Tim took part in over 250 experiments, completed a spacewalk to repair the Station's power supply, and ran the London marathon on a treadmill.

On Wednesday 30 October, between 10a.m. and 2p.m. Solent Meccano Club meets. Marvel at some of their amazing models and have a go at making some too!

Models for Heroes will be back with their popular model making sessions between 10a.m. and 3p.m. on Tuesday 29 October and Sunday 3 November.

On Thursday 31 October, you can take a virtual walk around an Apache helicopter using the Museum's VR headsets between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Finally on Friday 1 November, Places Leisure will be on hand in the conference room at the

museum to offer some free CPR training for all ages! The drop-in session will run between 12pm and 3pm and is a great chance to learn some new essential skills with staff from Places Leisure.

As well as the regular dress up stations, jigsaws, interactive exhibits and of course, there is the opportunity to sit inside some of the helicopters within the museum.

For the full programme, dates and timings, visit the Museum's website at www.armyflying.com

Remembrance Sunday parade 2024



Veterans, troops, a marching band and uniformed groups are set to take part in Andover's Remembrance Sunday Parade to honour our servicemen and women, on Sunday 10 November.

The parade is part of a morning of events in which the public can pay their respects to those who served in battle and made the ultimate sacrifice.

There will be a number of road closures in place during the parade.

Memorial events will also be held in Romsey, including a parade and a service at the Abbey.

For more information on this visit www.romseytc.org.uk.

Andover fly-tipper ordered to pay £2,000 after being caught on hidden camera



A man from Andover has been ordered to pay over £2,000 after being spotted fly-tipping twice, by a hidden camera.

On 9 August 2023, a council officer found a large amount of waste in a disused barn in Charlton, near Andover, including a large quantity of cardboard boxes and general household waste. Footage from a nearby hidden camera showed a white van at the scene.

Almost two months later, on 30 September 2023, the camera caught the same vehicle entering the barn again, with furniture and toys later found dumped inside.

Annual Canvass



Our teams have started contacting residents for this year's annual canvass. This is where we check your household details on our records, to ensure that the electoral register is accurate and up to date.

You will have received an email, or a letter, as part of this process. Please follow the instructions on the correspondence.

Monitor changes in the landscape with Fixed Point Photography



We have installed our first Fixed Point Photography (FPP) posts at locations across the borough this half term. And we're encouraging people to get outside and visit Test Valley's beautiful nature reserves.

You can help us to monitor and preserve local nature reserves and the success of conservation work by taking photos on your smartphone and sharing these with us. Officers will use these images to monitor the changes that take place over time.

Nominate a local rural business for a Countryside Alliance award 🏆

The Countryside Alliance is seeking to find the best rural businesses in the country who go the extra mile for their customers and communities. They will be presenting awards in the following categories:

- Village shop / Post Office
- Rural enterprise
- Pub
- Local food and drink
- Butcher

There is an additional award (Clarissa Dickson award) for a business that campaigns, educates and prioritises slow food, taste, quality and support for farmers and producers.

Anyone can nominate a local rural business by going to www.countryside-alliance.org/awards. Nominations must be received by Sunday 17 November.

A Defibrillator Near You

Defibrillators for public use are located at:

Stockbridge Fire Station (available 24 hours)
 Longstock Village Hall (available 24 hours)
 Leckford Estate Office (restricted hours)
 Leckford Farm Shop (restricted hours)
 Up Somborne - Rookley Farm (24 hours)
 King's Somborne Village Hall
 King's Somborne - The Crown Inn (available 24 hours on front wall of pub)
 Over Wallop - the White Hart pub, Pinchbecks Garage and the Army Flying Museum.
 Nether Wallop -Village Hall and the Pavilion on the playing fields.
 Ashley Farm (available 24 hours)
 Broughton - Village Hall, Doctor's surgery, Sports Pavilion.



Instructions for use are given when the device is commandeered but for anyone who would like prior understanding of how to use one, see: <https://www.aeddonate.org.uk/events/>

In the event of an emergency, after dialling 999 to report the incident, the phone operative should give the access code for the cabinet, to the person/first aider using the device.

Contact

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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