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

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## Let's Save Water campaign - help spread the message

Councillors are encouraged to support the national Let's Save Water campaign, launched a few weeks ago by the Water Efficiency Campaign, led by Ofwat and 16 water companies.

The campaign aims to help people make simple changes to reduce water use and raise awareness of the long-term challenge facing water resources. Evidence from the Environment Agency's National Framework for Water Resources highlights a projected daily shortfall of five billion litres of water if action is not taken.

A stakeholder toolkit is available with campaign resources that can be shared with residents, community groups and local organisations. Councils are encouraged to repost and promote the campaign through their own channels to help spread the message and support water-saving behaviours across our communities.

## Annual Canvass 2026 about to begin

Residents across Test Valley will shortly be contacted as part of the annual electoral canvass, an important process that helps ensure the electoral register remains accurate and up to date.

The canvass is a legal requirement. Its purpose is to confirm who lives at each address and who is eligible to be registered to vote. Keeping the register accurate helps protect the integrity of elections and ensures residents can take part in local and national polls.

The process involves a combination of data matching and direct communication with households. Some residents may receive an email invitation to check and confirm their details online, while others will receive a paper form. In some cases, where records cannot be fully matched, a response will be required even if there are no changes to report. Follow-up reminders and visits may be undertaken where necessary to obtain a response.

Councillors may receive enquiries from residents who are unsure why they have been contacted. Reassurance that the canvass is a routine annual exercise and an essential part of maintaining the electoral register will help support the process.

More information about the annual canvass, including details of the different communication routes and how residents can respond, is available on the Test Valley Borough Council website: [www.testvalley.gov.uk/annualcanvass](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/annualcanvass)

Electoral Services can be contacted on 01264 368000 or [elecereg@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:elecereg@testvalley.gov.uk)

## Fire safety advice



Although cooler weather is with us, the risk of outdoor fires is still currently extremely high across our area.

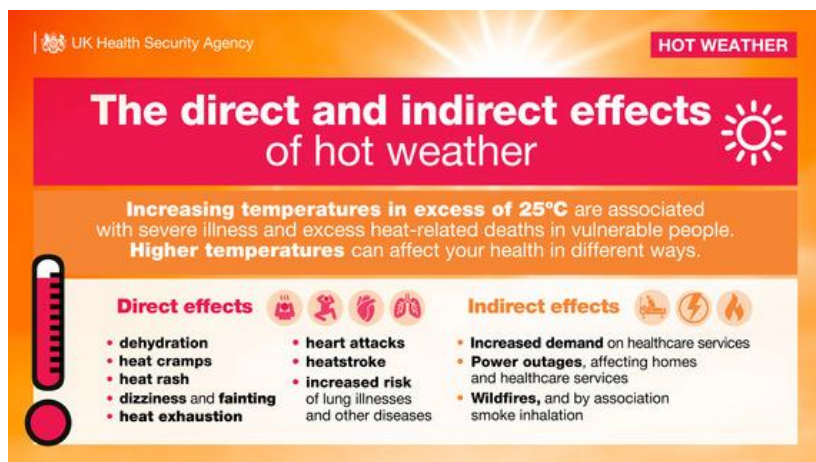
Recent fires in the New Forest and elsewhere locally are a reminder of how quickly a small spark can become a major incident, putting people, wildlife and homes at risk.

If you're heading to a park, green space or beauty spot, please help reduce the risk:

- Do not light campfires or bonfires where they are prohibited
- Dispose of cigarettes and smoking materials carefully and make sure they are fully extinguished
- Take all litter home with you, especially glass bottles, which can increase fire risk
- Avoid using disposable barbecues
- Do not park on dry grass - the underside of your vehicle can be over 400°C

Please also follow any local safety advice and restrictions that may be in place. By taking a few simple precautions, we can all help protect our communities, countryside and wildlife during the current hot weather.

## Water safety reminder for warm weather



It may be cooler at the moment but in the event that hot weather could return please take precautions.

Children are more likely to be around water at home or on days out. Drowning remains a leading cause of accidental death in children, but many incidents are preventable.

The Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership has a simple, practical water safety toolkit for parents and carers. It covers staying safe at home and outdoors, advice like “Float to Live”, and what to do in an emergency. Please help share this advice. Simple steps, like close supervision and choosing safe places to swim, can save lives:

- Regularly check the Met Office website for the latest updates
- If you are going to do a physical activity (for example exercise or walking the dog), plan to do these during times of the day when it is cooler such as the early morning or the evening
- Keep your home cool by closing windows and curtains in rooms that face the sun
- Drink plenty of fluids and limit your alcohol intake
- Check on family, friends and neighbours who may be at higher risk of becoming unwell, and if you are at higher risk, ask them to do the same for you
- Know the symptoms of heat exhaustion and heatstroke and what to do if you or someone else has them.

- Try to avoid direct sunlight, especially between 11am and 3pm when UV levels are highest
- If you are going out during this time, cover up with suitable clothing, wear a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses, seek shade and apply sunscreen liberally and re-apply frequently.
- Look out for those who may struggle to keep themselves cool and hydrated, particularly older and more vulnerable people.
- Never leave anyone or any pets in a closed, parked vehicle, particularly older people, infants, young children or any animals.

## Reporting Highway Problems

Links to report road issues:

- Potholes: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/potholes>
- Tree/hedge problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/treehedge>
- Flooding/drainage issues: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/flooding>.
- Pavement problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/paving>
- Broken or missing signs: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/brokensigns>
- Faulty street lights: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/streetlight>
- Faded or missing road markings: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/road-markings>
- Problems with rights of way: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

# Grants

## The Kitten's Emporium awarded council grant to support growth



A craft collective in the heart of Andover has been awarded an Independent Retailer Grant worth up to £1200 from Test Valley Borough Council to help support its continued growth.

The Kitten's Emporium, located in George's Yard, showcases and sells crafts, gifts and clothing from a range of small businesses. Owner Kitty Skye opened the shop after previously being involved in another

craft collective, now taking the step of running her own independent business.

Open six days a week, the shop provides a platform for local makers and creators to sell their products, including Kitty's own jewellery and crystal business and her husband's handmade instrument & musical accessories business. Her husband, Adam, also helps to run the shop on weekends.

## Grants support growth of Chilbolton village business



Chilbolton Village Shop and Tearoom is expanding its offer to customers after securing more than £21,000 in funding from Test Valley Borough Council.

Nicky Bond, owner of Chilbolton Village Shop and Tearoom, has secured £13,400 from the Rural England Prosperity Fund and £8,300 from the Rural Enterprise expand its food offering Grant to support improvements to the business and help it grow.

The funding has enabled the shop to be reconfigured, bringing together its freshly prepared food service with an upgraded coffee machine and display fridge. The funding also helps to create greater privacy for post office customers.

In addition the grants have also supported the creation of an offsite kitchen at Stonefield Park, enabling the business to increase production of ready meals, food-to-go and catering services for private and corporate customers.

Nicky and her husband Andy recently celebrated 10 years running the shop, which plays an important role in the local community and champions local producers.

The funding forms part of the UK Government's Rural England Prosperity Fund, which supports rural businesses and communities across the borough.

## Andover business cuts carbon emissions with council-backed solar project



An Andover business is set to reduce its energy bills and carbon emissions after receiving funding from Test Valley Borough Council to install solar panels at its premises.

Re-Design UK Ltd, based at Towergate Business Park on Weyhill Road, received a £5,000 grant towards the cost of installing solar panels. The project was completed by fellow Andover business Solar Prospects Ltd.

The new solar system is expected to save around four tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year while also reducing their running costs. Re-Design has also installed battery storage and plans to export surplus electricity back to the National Grid.

# Other News

## Summer Holiday Activities

School holidays may soon be over but there are still some activities which the whole family can enjoy.

### **The Three Bees Project CIC** Family and Friends sessions

During the chaos of the summer holidays it can be hard to enjoy a moment of peace with the family. This summer, we'd like to give families and small groups the opportunity to wind down, relax in each other's company, reconnect with nature and spend time with some very special animals. Choose to take part in some gentle, nature inspired activities or just relax and explore the farm at your own pace.

Available on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays throughout the Summer holidays.  
Private bookings for families/groups of up to 8 people

Booking is essential. WhatsApp Helen on 07788 880507



[www.thethreebeesproject.org](http://www.thethreebeesproject.org)

## **World Street Party returns** Monday 31 August Midday to 5pm

The sounds, flavours and traditions of communities from around the world will fill Andover High Street on Monday 31 August as the popular World Street Party returns for its third year.



Round off the bank holiday weekend at World Street Party on Monday 31 August when Andover High Street will come alive with music, dance, food and culture from around the world.

Enjoy live performances, interactive workshops, international street food, free henna tattoos and family-friendly activities as communities come together to celebrate.

The free family-friendly event will run from midday to 5pm and visitors can enjoy an afternoon packed with live performances, interactive workshops and international food. Performers, activity leaders and stallholders will share their talents, heritage, stories and experiences.

The entertainment programme begins with Mayfly Morris at midday, followed by performances from Missfits Bellydance, Petra House Gospel Choir, traditional Nepalese dancers and the spectacular Waterside Lion Dance.

As well as watching the performances, visitors can join in throughout the day. Mayfly Morris will welcome people of all ages to take part, Ceilidh Jam will get the crowd moving with a lively social dance experience that blends traditional folk dancing with contemporary styles, and an uplifting African drumming workshop led by Kwame from African Activities will offer everyone the chance to pick up a drum, clap along and join the fun.

A range of food and drink traders will serve flavours from around the world, including The Nomadic Kitchen, Indriya Kitchen, 2Tees Restaurant, Jack's Backhaus, Surf Shack Shakes, Tap on Tour and more.

## Queen Elizabeth II sculpture to be unveiled at Romsey Abbey



A new life-size bronze sculpture of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will be officially unveiled at Romsey Abbey on Friday 4 September. The ceremony, which begins at 1pm in the Abbey's north churchyard, will mark the completion of Test Valley Borough Council's Platinum Jubilee sculpture project, following the installation of a companion artwork in Andover in 2024.

Created by Hampshire sculptor Amy Goodman, the sculpture celebrates the late Queen's enduring connection to Romsey and the wider Test Valley, including her links to Broadlands and the Mountbatten family. Residents, schools and community groups also played a key role in shaping the artwork, contributing memories, ideas and artwork during its development.

The unveiling will be led by the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire and the Countess Mountbatten of Burma. The event will include speeches, live music and an exhibition exploring the creation of the sculpture. Councillors are welcome to attend and celebrate this lasting tribute to one of the most significant figures in modern British history. .

## Fly Tipping

### Man fined after mattress, fridge freezer and furniture dumped in Andover



A man has been ordered to pay more than £1,300 after admitting to fly-tipping in Andover.

On 4 and 5 August 2025, the council received reports about waste dumped in Pasture Walk, Andover. The rubbish included broken furniture, a mattress, a fridge freezer and a chest freezer.

An investigation showed that a nearby property had been vacated and the occupier, Joshua Scarlett, admitted to leaving the waste outside the home to be collected but it wasn't removed.

## Hare Coursing in rural Hampshire.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary has continued patrols and enforcement activity against hare coursing. Residents should report suspicious vehicles or activity, particularly groups entering fields with dogs, to the police. Call 999 where an offence is happening or there is an immediate risk; otherwise report through 101 or the police online reporting service. This can be extremely helpful, but nobody should put themselves at risk to obtain them.

## Battery and Vape Recycling



Please help us spread the word about the importance of recycling batteries, vapes and electrical items correctly following a recent fire in one of our refuse collection vehicles.

The incident was dealt with safely and no one was injured. However, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service attended the scene, taking resources away from an already busy service.

Investigations found several items in the waste, including a vape, laptop, mobile phone and household batteries. We believe the fire may have been caused by an incorrectly disposed vape.

As lithium-ion batteries become more common in everyday items, the risk of fires during waste collection and processing continues to increase. These fires can endanger crews, damage vehicles and cause disruption to local services. Please do not place batteries, vapes, phones, laptops or other electrical items in their household bins.

Residents can recycle:

- batteries at supermarkets, retailers, and Household Waste Recycling Centres
- vapes through participating retailers or Household Waste Recycling Centres
- electrical items, including laptops and mobile phones, at Household Waste Recycling Centres

More information about local recycling options is available on the [Hampshire County Council website](#).

## Proposal backs investment in historic Town Mills site and town centre future



A proposal that would see the expansion of one Andover's iconic pubs is now open for public comment.

We are proposing to sell two small parcels of land at Town Mills, including an empty-use building and a small adjoining area of grass, to Wadworth & Company Ltd, the owners of the popular Town Mills pub.

The plans form part of the council's wider ambitions for Andover town centre and would complement the ongoing regeneration projects, including the new theatre, planned for the area.

## Bank holiday bin collections



Your bins are enjoying the bank holiday too...

Just a reminder that, because of the bank holiday on Monday 31 August, bin collections across Test Valley will take place one day later than usual next week.

If your collection is normally on Monday, it'll move to Tuesday. Tuesday collections move to Wednesday, Wednesday to Thursday, Thursday to Friday, and Friday collections will take place on Saturday.

Please make sure you put your bins out by 7am on your revised collection day.

## Stockbridge Community Cinema

### **A Private Life (15)**

#### **Stockbridge Town Hall**

Fri 18 Sep 2026

7:30PM - 9:30PM



Available on Tue 1 Sep 2026 at 2:00AM

### **The Christophers (15) - MATINEE**

#### **Stockbridge Town Hall**

Wed 23 Sep 2026

5:00PM - 6:50PM



Available on Tue 1 Sep 2026 at 2:00AM

### **The Christophers (15) - EVENING**

#### **Stockbridge Town Hall**

Wed 23 Sep 2026,

7:30PM - 9:20PM

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## Somborne Community Cinema

King's Somborne Village Hall doors open at 7.15pm and the films start at 8pm leaving plenty of time to get your drinks and snacks from the well-stocked bar. Tickets for films are just £6 each and are available from Somborne Community Cinema web site or at the door on the night.

[www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk](http://www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk)

Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2026 National Theatre Live



### Les Liaisons Dangereuses

Filmed live on stage at the National Theatre, Marianne Elliott directs this thrilling game of love, lies and social warfare. Starring BAFTA award winner Lesley Manville (Phantom Thread) and Aidan Turner (Rivals)

## Defibrillators for public use are located at:

Stockbridge Recreation Ground (24 hours)  
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.  
Broughton Village Hall  
Mottisfont Social Club  
Ashley- Ashley Farm (24 hours)  
Lockerley - Outside the main door at the Lockerley and East Dean Memorial Hall. SO51 0JG  
Lockerley - Outside the door of Lockerley Stores on Lockerley Green. SO51 0JN  
East Tytherley - outside the entrance to the farm.

Instructions for use are given when the device is commandeered.

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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