



SOS

SAVE OUR STOCKBRIDGE

Dear All

SOS recently attended a demonstration at the Southern Water's Waste Water Treatment Works at Fullerton to object to the amount of raw sewage that is regularly being pumped into the River Test. As most of you will know a carrier of the River Test flows along the Marsh Path (between Kudos and the Garden Inn) and into the Marsh Court River which flows all along the west side of the Common Marsh until it meets the Test. The carrier and river should be crystal clear and free of pollutants all the way along but they are not. Raw sewage is pumped into the river by Southern Water not only when they are permitted to do so when there is exceptionally heavy rain, but at many other times when to do so is against the law. The trouble is that they self regulate their compliance so perhaps unsurprisingly we find them dumping sewage into one of the most renowned chalk stream rivers in the world, the River Test.

For those of us who hold Stockbridge at heart this is very worrying. You may have noticed a large pipe that crosses the Marsh from east to west and its outflow is straight into the Marsh Court River. From that outflow raw sewage spills frequently and not just at times of heavy rain. It means that sometimes the 'beach' further south of the pipe is a real hazard to dogs and of course to humans. We are aware of a

number of dogs that have been ill after they have gone into the Marsh Court River and when children use the 'beach' in the summer they may well be at risk. We feel it is vital that you are aware of this so you may warn family and friends and anyone else you might see on the Marsh.



The effect of this pollution on insect life and tiny invertebrates has been immense and as the whole ecosystem depends on insects, the effect on trout, water voles, ducks, birds etc is very noticeable. And that is why we went to the demonstration.

The demonstration has raised awareness but it is important that everyone who loves Stockbridge and the River Test, realises what is happening to the river. The television, newspapers, and social media all recognise the damage that is being done. But we feel everyone who supports SOS should also be aware of what is happening so that you can add your voice to the objections, if you want to. To raise your voice against what Southern Water are doing you can email them on customeraccounts@southernwater.co.uk or email us on SOSstockbridge@outlook.com and we will forward your views.

Jean Boney,
Chair of SOS
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