

SAVE OUR STOCKBRIDGE

SOS

UPDATE

1. We held our Annual General Meeting on Monday 25th July 2022 in Stockbridge Town Hall. A good number of people attended and we are grateful to them for their support, and indeed to everyone who remains on our SOS database. It is encouraging to know that you approve (generally!) of what we are doing.
2. The Committee members were all willing to remain in office so no election was held and I am grateful to them all for all the time and energy they have put in throughout the year.
3. The evening opened with a slide show of various aspects of Stockbridge. The photos make us realise how fortunate we are that Stockbridge remains a special place for us all to enjoy.
4. In my Annual Report I discussed the re-classification by the Environment Agency of the flood zones in Stockbridge which recognizes that there is a greater likelihood of flooding along the valley. However, as Roger Tym pointed out, various steps were taken after the last flooding event which mitigate against any disastrous flooding in the valley, although of course they cannot and do not rule out the possibility. It seems that flash flooding along the High Street is a more pressing concern when we get torrential downpours. So ensuring the gutters and drains are cleared remains important.
5. The AGM was told of the up-to-date position regarding the swifts that come to Stockbridge. By the end of July there were a considerable number wheeling and screaming over the High Street and some were nesting under the rooves of buildings along the High Street. The Hampshire Swifts expert has been out to have a look at the swifts and reports that he saw a swift fly out of one of the new swift boxes installed next year. In the Spring he is going to install a 'call player' near some of the boxes to attract swifts to nest in the new nest boxes which he thinks will do the trick! The swifts had all left us by early August.
6. Unlike swifts, the local swallows and martins are congregating on the wires along the Marsh Path and over the Marsh before they leave en masse. Swifts just seem to go when there is no longer food (insects)

available to them and I'm sure you will have noticed that one day they were with us and the next they had gone. They are now back in Africa and we await their return at the beginning of May 2023.

7. Our Treasurer and Secretary reported to the AGM and I hope everyone was pleasantly surprised to see that SOS is run on a very low budget and always within its means.
8. We continue to keep an eye on proposed developments, particularly those outside the Settlement Boundary, and we are ever mindful of the four Sites of Special Scientific Interest with which Stockbridge is blessed: the River Test, the Marsh, the Downs and Stockbridge Fen which lies behind the recreation ground and parallel with the road between the roundabouts. We are always watchful of any potential developments outside the Parish but which might have a considerable adverse effect on Stockbridge.

Jean Boney - Chairman

Chantal Hallé - Treasurer and Secretary

Roger Tym – Committee member

Bruce Williams – Committee member

Alex Lawrence – Committee member

Michael Woodhall – Committee member

September 2022