



In this issue:

Awbridge First Responders.....	2
Awbridge School Newsletter	6
Bishop of Southampton.....	4
Broughton Bright Hour	6
Carols round the Crib.....	6
Children's Christmas Party	3
Church services	5
Diary	8
Football Club	7
From the Rectory	4
Gardening Club.....	3
History Group.....	2
Message from the Treasurer.....	4
Parish Luncheon.....	7
Snippets from the Past.....	2
Special thanks.....	6
Special Christmas Whist Drive.....	6
Village Carol Service.....	4
Who's Who.....	8
W.I.....	3

From the Editors

Thank you for the many kind words of support following our first edition last month as the new editors. It's very gratifying to know that the efforts of all the people involved, not just our modest part, are being appreciated.

We're sure there's no surprise that this month's *Acorn* has something of a theme to it: Christmas, of course. We have been delighted by the number of contributions people have given us, especially the wonderful drawings from Ella Ritchie, Hattie Butler and Lara Taylor, which we hope you'll enjoy as much as we did.

Please note that the deadline for contributions for the next edition is a little earlier than usual:

14th December

Wishing you a very merry Christmas!

Julia and Peter

(PS This is saving us a fortune in Christmas cards! 😊)



Deadline for the next Acorn is 12 noon on 14th December. E-mail to acornnews@mandercom.co.uk. We cannot guarantee that articles received after this date will be included in the next issue.

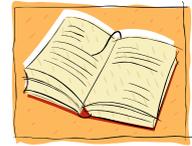
Awbridge First Responders

Awbridge Responders would like to clarify that the role they fulfil is solely to respond when requested to do so by the Ambulance Service. They regret that they are NOT able to assist with transporting people to hospital, and they should NOT be contacted directly in emergencies.

For further information, contact Kay Murrant on 340289,
or email KayMurrant@aol.com

SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST

*From the minutes of the Meeting of Mottisfont Parish Council dated 27 May 1982,
Chairman, Mr A Sykes:*



"The Clerk reported that the National Trust were not keen to have the bus shelter moved nearer to the Abbey gates. Clerk requested to continue negotiations for another site in the village.

The Clerk read a letter from the Broughton School Governors asking for Parish Council support in requesting that the Broughton catchment area include Mottisfont, which was agreed.

The Chairman reported that the National Trust had agreed in principle, to a 'full repairing lease' being granted to the Parish Council for 21 years at £25 per year, but this must be confirmed by their local committee.

Clerk reported on negotiations so far with HCC for purchase of equipment at the school. It is possible for the village to buy the temporary classroom, but the National Trust would like it to be removed. However, the dining hut can remain.

John Millns

Mottisfont and Dunbridge Local History Group

We had an enjoyable evening at Lockerley hearing about the life of Richard Meinertzhagen, who lived at Mottisfont Abbey during his childhood.

Our next meeting is on Weds 13th December at Mottisfont Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. This will be a talk and slide show on **Farming Anecdotes** by Eric Chase, with support by John Jenkins. There will be a charge of £2.50 to include a glass of wine, soft drink, tea or coffee.

We have been asked to put together a display of photos on Mottisfont Christmas Past for the Carol Service, so we need lots of wintry, Christmas pictures. They could include village activities, school or playgroup events, family gatherings or scenes, so if you have any we could borrow or copy then please let me know.

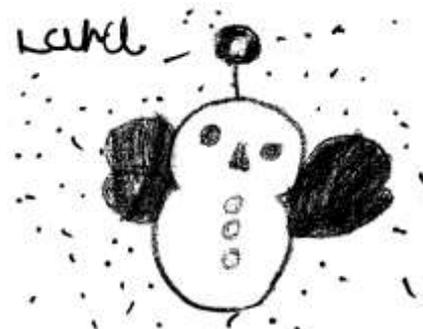
We have decided to move our meetings to the Village Hall, so the February meeting will be on Wednesday 28th Feb at 7.30pm in the small room at the Village Hall.

Finally a plea for more photos. People seem to enjoy having displays at the Village Hall, but we need some new pictures to keep it fresh...so could you search your walls, cupboards and drawers!
For more information contact Michael Horne on 340105.

Waiting for change

My Gran, who was well into her 80's and still making all the Xmas puddings, came as usual armed with sixpences to put into the pudding. Thinking it would be nice for her to "win" it, we carefully put the sixpence in her portion and watched in horror as it disappeared without the delighted shouts we were expecting. She had indeed swallowed it! We couldn't decide whether to tell her or not, but in the end we did, and it was duly found a few days later.

Jacqui Horne



Picture by Lara Taylor



MOTTISFONT AND DUNBRIDGE W.I.

Our AGM - this start will not inspire many to read the monthly report, so let me start again.

Cheese and fine wines, games with wonderful prizes, and, oh yes, an AGM. Our November meeting was all this plus plenty of laughs. We had a good turn out, and the business was soon completed to allow us to enjoy the rest of the evening. We welcome new faces, new ideas, and feel we are a very forward looking group.

The Christmas Meal at Danebury Vineyard is arranged. On December 12th there is our Aerial Photography evening plus Christmas Fare, and in the New Year an exciting programme to look forward to.

Cathie Wood, 340129

MOTTISFONT AND DUNBRIDGE GARDENING CLUB

We had an interesting evening in November with John Perry, who gave a talk and slide show on "Gardens around the Country".

The next meeting is on Tuesday, 19th December, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. This will be a talk and slide show by Dennis Bright on "Gardening for Wildlife", followed by a Christmas Buffet. Please bring snacks and drinks.

We are planning next year's programme, so if you have any ideas on speakers or places to visit, please come along or contact Michael Horne on 340105.

We are a friendly group and welcome new members and visitors.

Funniest Christmas moment:



The Inn Keeper opened the door and declared no room at the inn. Joseph replied, "Go back inside, I haven't knocked yet", bringing the performance to a halt.

Leslie Taylor

Favourite Christmas memories:

The first time I was Father Christmas. All the smiles on the faces of the children while waiting for their presents - and their patience and good behaviour!

Anon (Tony)



Picture by Hattie Butler

Q. *What is your favourite Christmas memory?*

A. Having a snowball fight with my dad by the cars.

Q. *What is your first Christmas memory living in Dunbridge?*

A. Having jelly and ice-cream at the children's Christmas party.

Jasper Butler

Children's Christmas Party

Kindly sponsored by Hildon Water and The National Trust

Invitations have been despatched for the children's Christmas party which is being held at Mottisfont village hall on Sunday 10th December from 3 – 5pm. We are very excited to discover that Father Christmas will be flying over Hants that afternoon and has agreed to drop in!

Would you please contact Sarah Ritchie on 341655 to let us know whether your child/ren will be attending the party by **Friday 1st December**.

If you have a child of primary school age and have **not** received an invitation for him/her, the party organisers may not be aware that you are living in the parish. If this is the case, please do get in touch and let us put this right.

FROM THE RECTORY

Dear Friends,

Bad news sells, and we seem to have a daily dose of such news from around the world. But what about some unparalleled good news?

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

*Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace,
Good will towards men!”*

I want you to contemplate this short passage of Holy Scripture because within it there is contained the most incredible message of hope to our world. We are not alone in the mess that surrounds us, we have a Lord who dwells with us every second that exists. Free as we are to do good or evil, we have a presence that we can call upon; a Spirit that is God's; a Son that is Christ. Born into this world, he opens his hands of love, with good will and peace. We naturally have the opportunity to accept or reject those hands, but to accept them brings the eternal Christmas present of Jesus.

This year there will be many homeless, lonely, sick, battle scarred and worried people. Christ came to bring hope of a better way, and a promise that he will never leave us or forsake us and, if we want him he is there for us. So it is really is the season to be jolly; this is not an empty thoughtless joy, but one deeply rooted in God and in his utterly profound love.

May Christ bless you this Christmas, and may you find that inner joy and peace that can only come from knowing him.

Please join us for worship throughout the Benefice.

With Christmas Blessings from Ron Corne.

VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE

Everyone, young and old, is invited to the village carol service, and a special welcome and gift is waiting for any young angel, shepherd or king who attends. We hope you will be able to join us at 3.00pm on Sunday, 17th December in church to sing carols chosen by village groups, and hear the Christmas story read by representatives of village clubs and societies.

The service sheet is being compiled ready for photocopying, and the organist is rehearsing in readiness for the service. The congregation of St. Andrew's are busy making mince pies and gathering the ingredients for mulled wine to share with everyone after the carol service. So why not make a note in your diary and join us as we start our Christmas celebrations with joyous carol singing.

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

On 23rd September, St. Andrew's Church had a Gift Day, and were delighted to raise £1,144.46. The Autumn Fayre on 4th November raised £416.35, which again all helps to keep our village church up and running.

Thank you everyone who helped in any way towards either of these events.

Ann Saunders

THE BISHOP OF SOUTHAMPTON

On Sunday, 10th December, the Bishop of Southampton will be the preacher at the Family Service at St. Andrew's at 11.00am.

Please join us for worship,
and stay for fellowship
following the service.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

	Sunday 3rd December Advent Sunday	Sunday 10th December Advent 2	Sunday 17th December Advent 3	Tuesday 19th December	Wednesday 20th December	Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve	Monday 25th December Christmas Day	Sunday 31st December Christmas 1
8.00 am	Broughton HC CW	Broughton HC BCP						
9.30 am	Bossington HC BCP, Broughton Godly Play	Broughton Christingle, Houghton HC CW					Bossington HC BCP, Houghton HC CW	Broughton HC CW for whole benefice
10.00am			Houghton HC CW				Broughton Family Service	
11.00 am	Mottisfont Matins	Mottisfont Family Service					Mottisfont HC CW	
2.00 pm				Broughton School Carol Service				
3.00 pm			Mottisfont Carol Service					
5.00pm						Broughton Family Crib Service		
6.00 pm	Houghton Christingle		Broughton Carol Service		Bossington Carol Service			
6.30 pm						Houghton Carol Service		
11.30pm						Broughton Midnight Eucharist		

CAROLS ROUND THE CRIB

On Saturday, 9th December, we are holding our annual carols in the garden of our home at 1 New Cottages, Spearywell, at 6pm. There will be a Christmas draw, mince pies, mulled wine and other refreshments at half time to keep you in good voice. Proceeds are always for charity, and this year we have chosen Radio Solent's Daisy Appeal, so please come along and get in the mood for Christmas while raising money for a worthwhile cause.



Looking forward to seeing you there,

Betty and John Pragnell and family.

SPECIAL THANKS

Please may I thank all family, neighbours and friends for all the cards, kind thoughts and telephone calls during the last 14 weeks that my husband Norman has been in hospital. Without the support of so many people, I don't know how I would have got through those weeks, so thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Fingers crossed that by the time you all read this, Norman will be back at home.

Ann Saunders

BROUGHTON BRIGHT HOUR

Meetings on Thursdays at 2.30 pm in the New Room at St. Mary's Church, Broughton.

December 7th Carol Service, followed by a cup of tea and mince pies, every one welcome, please come and join us. **14th December: Christmas Lunch** (Members Only). This will be our last meeting of the year; we resume on February 1st, 2007.

Barbara Perry 01794 301466

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS WHIST DRIVE

Friday 15th December

Mottisfont Village Hall 7.30pm

Sherry & Mince Pies

Extra Prizes. All welcome

John Jenkins 301614 Gordon Wood 340129



What are the three best bits of Christmas?

Presents,
Baby Jesus,

Mince pies (but not the bit in the middle!)
(Anon)

Awbridge School Newsletter – December 2006

Diary Dates

2 nd December	Advent Fayre
12 th -14 th December	Christmas Performance
15 th December	School Disco
18 th December	Christmas service @ Awbridge Church 11am
18 th December	School Christmas Parties
19 th December	End of Term 1:35pm

There have been two class trips this term. Class 5 explored the New Forest and recorded some interesting statistics about rivers, and Class 3 who are currently studying the Romans visited Fishbourne Palace near Chichester.

There have been lots of visitors to the school recently. Parents were invited to the Class 2 Assembly to witness a humorous comparison between present day and Victorian seaside holidays. The next day, the Reverend Bruce Kington led the Harvest Festival Assembly and a generous donation of food was sent to the SCRATCH project (Southampton City & Region Action to Combat Hardship). Members of the School Council proudly showed families around the school on the recent Open Day where prospective parents had the opportunity to see the school in action.

The School Council instigated two events in aid of Children In Need. The children were allowed to come to school in their pyjamas in return for a donation, although they did have to stay awake during their lessons! Secondly, a Bring & Buy Sale was held in the school hall, to which parents and siblings were all invited.

Preparation will soon begin for the busy run up to Christmas. As usual, the PTA have organised an Advent Fayre to get us into the Christmas spirit on Saturday 2nd December. Three performances of the school production are planned this year. Weather permitting, the whole school will visit All Saints Church in Awbridge for a Carol Concert on 18th December, and classroom parties will conclude the festivities for the end of term on 19th December.

Christmas memories - remembering a local character



Pictures by Hattie Butler

A few years ago we invited a neighbour to join us for Christmas lunch. After his regular visit to the Mill Arms, he duly arrived (at 2.30pm!) and we all enjoyed the traditional meal. We certainly think he enjoyed his turkey more than he would the two scruffy pheasants that had been hanging on a nail on his back door the past two weeks.

After the wine and brandy, we listened to many tales of people and happenings in the parish, thatching tales, and his engagement to a Bluebell (or was it a Tiller?) Girl.

Our neighbour finally left us at 2.30am the following morning!
Who was this person? Your chance to win a Christmas cracker!



MOTTISFONT FOOTBALL CLUB

Saturday 21st October, 2006: Soton Senior Cup, 2nd Round

Mottisfont were home to Soton Senior Div 1 side AFC Solent, and put early pressure on, forcing a lot of corners. However, they were unable to break down the visitors' defence and excellent goalkeeping, and went one goal down before half time. In the second half they tried hard but did not really like scoring. Then, with about 20 minutes to go, they equalised, and then went on to score another three goals.
Result: Mottisfont 4 (Mark Green(2), Alan Bundy (2)), AFC Solent 1

Saturday 28th October, 2006: Hampshire League 2004

Mottisfont travelled to The Worthies to play Upham on a grey day. The first half was a tight affair, with both defences on top. Early in the second half, the Font took the lead with a lobbed finish from Bewick, and increased their lead with a penalty, but Upham fought back with a double strike, one of those a penalty, to force a draw.

Result: Upham 2, Mottisfont 2 (Guy Bewick, Robbie Abbott (Pen.))

Saturday 4th November, 2006: Hampshire Intermediate Cup 2nd Round

Mottisfont entertained Portsmouth side Old Portsmouthians in the 2nd round, and were to miss some good chances. They went into the lead with a superb free kick from Nigel Cutler, and scored two further goals in the second half for a comfortable victory.

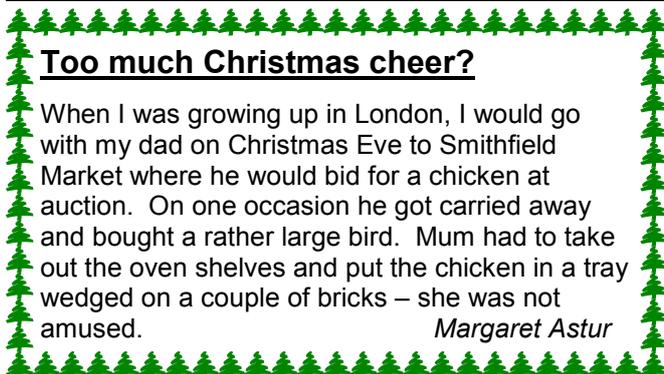
Result: Mottisfont 3 (Guy Bewick, Alan Bundy, Nigel Cutler), Old Portsmouthians 0

Saturday 11 November, 2006: Hampshire League 2004

Mottisfont travelled the short distance for the Local Derby against Michelmersh/Timsbury, and with a dominant performance in the first half were good value for a three goal lead, comfortably running out easy victors by the same score.

Result: Michelmersh/Timsbury 0, Mottisfont 3 (Guy Bewick, Alan Bundy, Mike King)

Tony Stemp



Too much Christmas cheer?

When I was growing up in London, I would go with my dad on Christmas Eve to Smithfield Market where he would bid for a chicken at auction. On one occasion he got carried away and bought a rather large bird. Mum had to take out the oven shelves and put the chicken in a tray wedged on a couple of bricks – she was not amused.
Margaret Astur

Advance Notice Parish Luncheon—Mottisfont Abbey

Sunday February 25th 2007

3 course menu details and reservations in the New Year

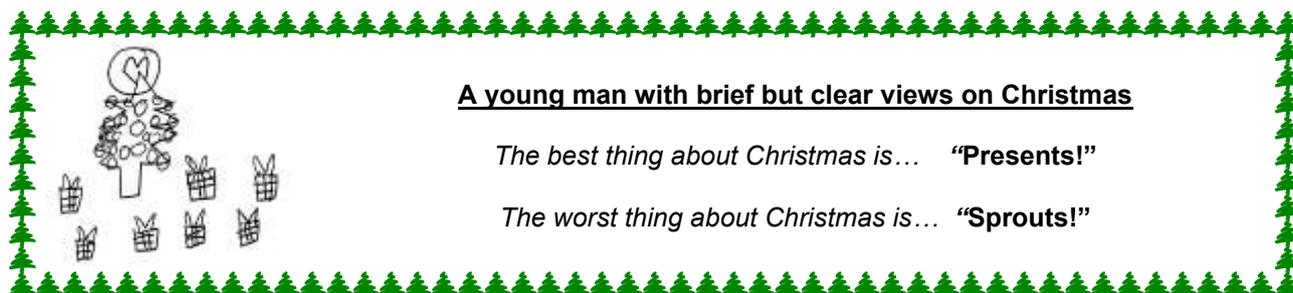
Price: £16.50 Adults £8.00 Children



Details from
John Jenkins 301614 & Gordon Wood 340129

VILLAGE DIARY

Saturday 2 Dec.	The Mill Arms Christmas Fair	10-4pm, The Mill Arms
Friday 8 Dec.	Acorn Pre-School and Toddler Group Christmas Bazaar	10.15am, Lockerley Memorial Hall
Saturday 9 Dec.	Carols Round the Crib	6.00pm, 1 New Cottages, Sperrywell
Sunday 10 Dec.	Children's Christmas Party	3pm, Village Hall
Tuesday 12 Dec.	WI Aerial Photography evening	8.00pm, Village Hall
Wednesday 13 Dec.	History Group talk	7.30pm, Village Hall
Thursday 14 Dec.	ACORN Deadline	12.00 (noon), Dunelm House
Friday 15 Dec.	Special Christmas Whist Drive	7.30pm, Village Hall
Sunday 17 Dec	Village Carol Service	3.00pm, Mottisfont Church
Tuesday 19 Dec.	Horticultural Society meeting	7.30pm, Village Hall
Friday 26 Jan	Whist Drive	7.30pm, Village Hall
Friday 23 Feb	Whist Drive	7.30pm, Village Hall
Sunday 25 Feb	Parish Luncheon	Mottisfont Abbey
Wednesday 28 Feb.	History Group meeting	7.30pm, Village Hall



A young man with brief but clear views on Christmas

The best thing about Christmas is... "Presents!"

The worst thing about Christmas is... "Sprouts!"

Who's Who, What's What and Where's Where in Mottisfont and Dunbridge

Acorn Editors	Peter & Julia Barnett	340793	St. Andrew's Church Rector	Revd. Ron Corne	301287
Acorn Pre School Group	Bella Thomas	342212	Reader	Gina Livermore	388433
Art Group	Gordon Wood	340129	Church	Susan Clutterbuck	340475
Community Spirit	Lesley Taylor	340942	Wardens	Lesley Taylor	340942
	Rachel Fowler	340877	Social Club Chairman	Peter Simmonds	340891
County Councillor	Michael Woodhall	01264 810500	Secretary	Lanita Begg	529631
Cricket Club Secretary	Tony Stemp	340398	Steward	Julie Lyne	340521
History Group	Michael Horne	340105	Test Valley Councillor	Neville Whiteley	01264 811101
Horticultural Society	Michael Horne	340105	Village Bus Secretary	George Vaughan	301045
First Responders Coordinator	Kay Murrant	340289	Bookings	Pam Dawkins	301203
Football Club Secretary	John Fryer	512695	Private Hire	Julie Smith	301470
Member of Parliament Constituency Office	Sandra Gidley	511900	Operations	Mike Howe	301723
Mill Arms	Andrea and Ian Bentall	340401	Village Hall Chairman	Jon Butler	340740
Mottisfont Abbey Est. Manager		340757	(Reg.Charity Village Hall	Jon &	
MPNTTA	Gillian Francis	340151	No 291629)	Entertainments	Heather Butler 340740
Neighbourhood Watch Mottisfont	Alan Earthrowl	341799	Secretary	(Vacant)	
Watch Dunbridge	Cliff Astur	341922	Bookings	Cathie Wood	340129
Parish Council Clerk	Frances Hanks	340541	Secretary	Cathie Wood	340129
Chairman	John Millns	340347	Village	P.C. Dave Turpin	0845 045 45 45
Councillors	Jeff Channing	340555	Romsey		0845 045 45 45
	Alan Earthrowl	341799			
	Stuart Miller	340903			
	Andrew Simmonds				

Mottisfont & Dunbridge Acorn is edited and published by: Peter & Julia Barnett, Dunelm House, Barley Hill, Dunbridge, Romsey, SO51 0LF, telephone: 01794 340793, fax: preferably not! e-mail: acornnews@mandercom.co.uk, with assistance from Mottisfont Parish Council and The National Trust. Opinions expressed in The Acorn are not necessarily those of the editorial team. We do our best to ensure the accuracy of items in The Acorn, but we will not be responsible for the consequences of errors or omissions. It is always wise to check with organisers of events in case there are last minute changes.

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