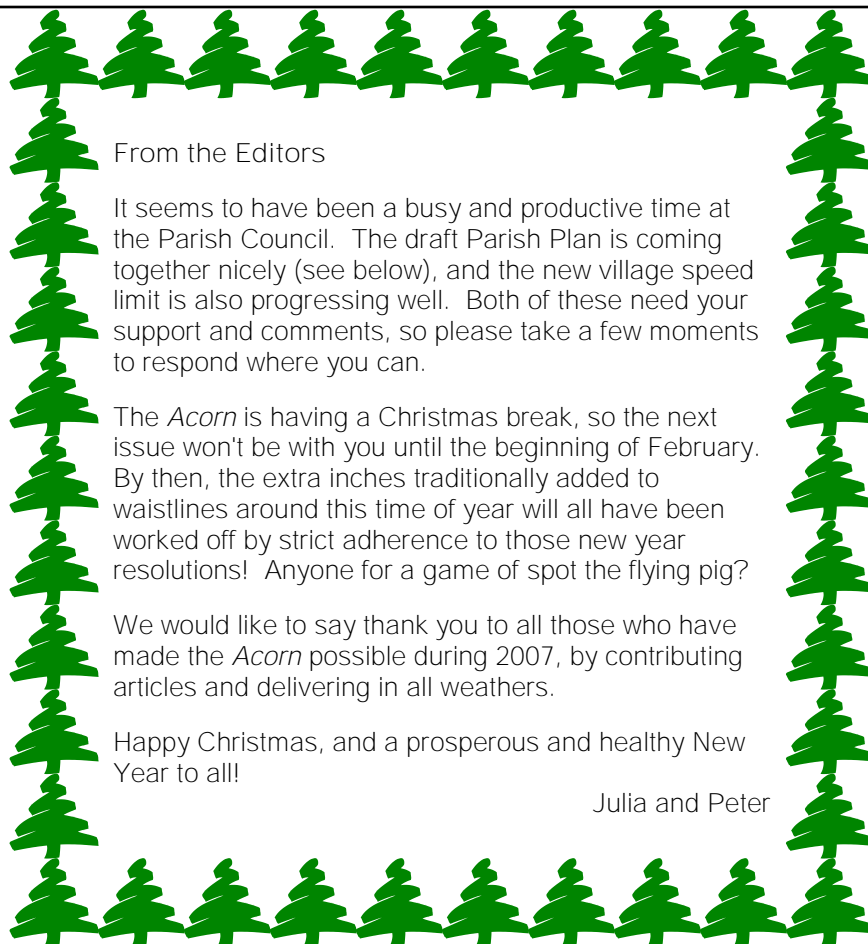




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From the Editors

It seems to have been a busy and productive time at the Parish Council. The draft Parish Plan is coming together nicely (see below), and the new village speed limit is also progressing well. Both of these need your support and comments, so please take a few moments to respond where you can.

The *Acorn* is having a Christmas break, so the next issue won't be with you until the beginning of February. By then, the extra inches traditionally added to waistlines around this time of year will all have been worked off by strict adherence to those new year resolutions! Anyone for a game of spot the flying pig?

We would like to say thank you to all those who have made the *Acorn* possible during 2007, by contributing articles and delivering in all weathers.

Happy Christmas, and a prosperous and healthy New Year to all!

Julia and Peter

How do you see the future of the parish?

What do you like about the parish? What do you think needs changing?

Our Parish Council, in line with good practice, is producing a Parish Plan that sets out priorities over the next few years. Jeff Channing and Jacquie Horne are leading on this. A draft has been produced and is available by contacting them, or by going to the website www.ukvillages.co.uk/mottisfont-hampshire (select "Notice Board", then "Mottisfont and Dunbridge Draft Parish Plan").

What's the plan for? It's a way of finding out what the parish thinks - this is your opportunity to tell the parish council what you think is important. And it helps us to work with others (such as Test Valley BC), who have the resources to deliver what we want.

This is an important document, which could help determine the future of the parish, and we want to hear from you. We also want to form a small group to comment on our thinking so we can be sure to reflect views.

If you would like to be involved, contact Jeff (340555) or Jacquie (340105).

The deadline for the February *Acorn* is 16th January.
E-mail contributions to acornnews@mandercom.co.uk.

We cannot guarantee that articles received after this date will be included in the next issue.

MOTTISFONT PARISH COUNCIL

See www.ukvillages.co.uk/mottisfont-hampshire for information about the Parish Council, meetings and events.

Speed limits: A 30mph speed limit in the village centre has been agreed by Hampshire County Council and should be implemented soon. The Parish Council is concerned about the accident rate on the B3084, and intends to propose an extension of the 30mph limit by downgrading the current 40mph limit to 30mph. It is currently working on the statistics to support its case. If you support this, please let your Parish Council know. Your Feedback is important!

Speeding: The Parish Council is also concerned about speeding in the parish. One thought is the use of Vehicle Speed Check equipment that flashes when a vehicle exceeds the speed restriction, but there are cost implications here. Again, your views are welcome – are these signs effective short/long term, are they worth paying for? Let your Parish Council know your views.

Footpaths: Andrew Simmonds on behalf of the Parish Council has undertaken a couple of surveys, which provide good evidence of the need for a footway at Barley Hill, and the further extension of the existing one at Hatt Hill. Before approaching the authorities, possible funding sources are now being explored.

Parish Plan: A draft plan has been produced and is now open for public consultation. If anyone is keen to contribute, contact either Jeff Channing or Jacquie Horne, who will be pleased to consult with you.

ACORN Costs: The Parish Council has agreed to pay the costs of production (*phew!* - Ed.) until suitable **sponsorship is found to cover it. It is hopeful to obtain a grant from your County Councillor's Members Budget to fund it. Fingers crossed!**

Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 9th January, 2008

Frances Hanks, 340541, franceshanks@btinternet.com

The Thomas Dowse Trust

The Thomas Dowse Trust was created to provide people up to the age of 25 years with financial assistance towards educational requirements. The Trust meets four times a year (March, June, September and November) to award grants to those who show a need for financial assistance towards their education, whether it be for Pre-School, School, College or University.

If you live in the Benefice of Bossington and Mottisfont and would like to apply for a grant, please contact Mrs. Gill Kilroy on 01794 301332 for an application form.

The next Trust meeting will be in March 2008. Applications for grants must be handed in by the end of February 2008, in time for the March Trust meeting.

NEW TRAIN TIMETABLE STARTS ON 9th DECEMBER

Just a reminder that the new enhanced rail service starts this month. From 9th December, trains from Mottisfont & Dunbridge station will run as follows:

To Romsey and Southampton:

Monday-Friday: 0553, 0708, 0806, 0906, 1006, 1109, 1306, 1506, 1606, 1706, 1806, 1906, 2106, 2206
Saturday: 0553, 0706, 0806, 0906, 1006, 1106, 1306, 1506, 1606, 1706, 1806, 1906, 2106, 2206
Sunday: 0826, 0926, 1126, 1326, 1526, 1726, 1926, 2126

To Dean and Salisbury:

Monday-Friday: 0649, 0756, 0857, 0957, 1157, 1357, 1457, 1557, 1657, 1757, 1904, 1957, 2157, 0001
Saturday: 0649, 0756, 0857, 0957, 1157, 1357, 1457, 1557, 1657, 1757, 1904, 1957, 2157, 0002
Sunday: 0929, 1129, 1329, 1529, 1729, 1929, 2129, 2329

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MOTTISFONT PARISH COUNCIL

Mottisfont Village Centre 30mph Speed Limit

This is still on track, but has to go through a final consultation process with all residents and businesses in the parish, before it can be implemented.

In the photographs below, the car is parked approximately where the 30 limit signs will be located



Oakley Road: looking towards North End House

Bengers Lane: looking towards the Abbey Gates junction

Abbey Car Park: looking towards the Lower Lodge

We had hoped to include a final site plan with this Acorn to show the complete layout, but unfortunately, we have not been able yet to get approval from the copyright holders (hence the photos). However, if you wish to see the final plan, please contact a member of the Parish Council.



It is hoped that everyone will support the implementation of this speed limit. If you have any comments, please write them on the form below and send it to our Parish Clerk.



Mottisfont Village Centre 30mph Speed Limit

To: Mrs F. Hanks, Mayville, East Dean Road, Lockerley, ROMSEY, Hants, SO51 0JQ

From: *(Name & Address)*

Comments:

Rector's Christmas Letter

Dear Friends,



It's a most wonderful time of the year, so goes the popular Christmas song, and indeed Christmas is a really wonderful time of the year! God has his own words of scripture which remind us of this when he sends some of his own heavenly choir as they sing in unison,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men".

It is the time of the year when we are reminded of God's own deep joy in sending to us his Son, humbling himself to become one of us. This is something that is so incredible because Christ is now with us through his indwelling Holy Spirit. So as Psalm 139 reminds us, "If I sit or rise, before a word is on my tongue you know it altogether, if I go up to the heavens, you are there, if I make my bed in the depths you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn... you are there."

This is our God, this is the one who loves us beyond our imaginings and who comes at Christmas as a **vulnerable open child. No wonder the angels couldn't contain themselves. If we really engage with what this means we also will need to sing out for joy in a world that is often hurting and in great need.**

Please join us in the parishes as we come and worship this Christmas in our beautiful parish churches. Remember this is the greatest gift you will ever receive, the everlasting, Prince of Peace.

With Christmas Blessings,

Revd. Ron Corne, Rector

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

	2 Dec. Advent	9 Dec. Advent 2	16 Dec. Advent 3	23 Dec. Advent 4	30 Dec. Christmas	6 Jan. Epiphany	13 Jan. Epiphany 1	20 Jan. Epiphany 2	27 Jan. Epiphany 3
8.00am	Broughton HC CW					Broughton HC CW	Broughton HC BCP		
9.30am	Bossington HC BCP ----- Broughton Godly Play	(10.00) Houghton HC CW (see separate notice)		Broughton Family Communion with Sunday Club	Broughton HC CW for whole benefice	Bossington HC BCP ----- Broughton Godly Play	Houghton HC CW ----- Broughton Christingle	Mottisfont HC BCP	Broughton Family Communion with Sunday Club
11.00am	Mottisfont Matins			Mottisfont Family Communion		Mottisfont Matins	Mottisfont Christingle	Broughton Matins with Coffee Club	Mottisfont Family Communion
3.00pm			Mottisfont Carols						
6.00pm	Houghton Evensong		Houghton Evensong	Houghton Carols		Houghton Christingle		Houghton Evensong	Houghton HC BCP
6.30pm			Broughton Carols						

Services to note for the Christmas period throughout the benefice

Sunday, 16th December

3.00pm Carol service at St. Andrew's, Mottisfont**
 6.00pm Evensong at All Saints, Houghton
 6.30pm Carol Service at St Mary's, Broughton

Monday, 17th December

2.00pm Broughton School carol service at St. Mary's

Tuesday, 18th December

6.00pm Carol service at St James, Bossington

Sunday, 23rd December

9.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary's, Broughton
 11.00am Holy Communion at St. Andrew's, Mottisfont
 6.00pm Carol service at All Saints, Houghton

Monday, 24th December

5.00pm Family Crib Service at St. Mary's, Broughton
 11.30pm Midnight Eucharist at St. Mary's, Broughton

Christmas Day, 25th December

9.30am Holy Communion (CW) at All Saints, Houghton
 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) at St. James, Bossington
 10.00am Family Service at St. Mary's, Broughton
 11.00am Holy Communion (CW) at St. Andrew's, Mottisfont

NB Sunday, 9th December

10.00am All Saints, Houghton. The Bishop of Winchester will be visiting the benefice on this day. This is a Holy Communion service for all ages - please come and join us. Refreshments will be provided following the service.

**The villagers' Carol Service in St Andrew's at 3pm on 16th December will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies (of course!). The village clubs and associations will each either be reading a passage telling part of the Christmas story, or will have chosen a carol for us all to sing. Some may be new to you and we have some visitors coming to guide us, as well as having Mrs. Cole playing the traditional carols on the organ. Bring your friends and family to sing, listen, eat, chat to those you know (and hopefully to some that you don't yet know) as we welcome the true Christmas.

Lesley Taylor, the Rector and PCC will look forward to seeing you there.

Broughton Bright Hour

Thursdays at 2.30 pm
 in the New Room

at St. Mary's Church, Broughton

6th December: Carol Service
 13th December: Christmas Lunch

There will not be any meetings
 in January. We resume on
 7th February, 2008.

All welcome, do come and join us.

Barbara Perry, 301466
 (Booking Secretary)

CAROLS ROUND THE CRIB

On Saturday, 15th 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 Wessex Heartbeat, 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 & John Pragnell & family

Message from St. Andrew's Church Treasurer

On 22nd September, St Andrew's Church had a Gift Day, and we were delighted to **raise £910.00**.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way towards this event.

Ann Saunders

Help for the Women's Refuge

The Women's Refuge in Southampton provides shelter and support for women who have had to leave home to seek safety, often taking almost nothing with them.

They need to have self-esteem restored and to feel clean and attractive. Can you contribute new small pretty things which would help? Soap, soft towels, items for a lovely bath, pretty underwear, tights, nighties, handcream, or nail varnish... but not outer clothing. No need to wrap. We are happy to receive your donations at the Mottisfont Christingle service, or later if you ring Gina 388433 or Valda 368346.

Thank you.

Christmas at Mottisfont

30th November - 2nd December, 7th - 9th December, 14th - 16th December

See the Abbey decorated in late Victorian style.

Relish the atmosphere of our Christmas fair in the stable block.

Sales of Christmas trees and mistletoe (latter 2 weekends only), refreshments, music.

£5 adults.

GARDENING CLUB



Our next meeting is our Christmas special on 18th December at 7.30pm in the village hall, when we have Dennis Bright showing "His Digital World". This will be followed by our Christmas buffet, to which everyone is asked to bring snacks and drinks. Visitors are very welcome.

Next year our first meeting will be on Tuesday, 15th January, which will be our AGM with a speaker to follow.

Michael Horne, 340105

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Our last meeting was a very informative evening, with 3 new people attending. Two local houses were discussed, both dating back a number of centuries: one in Dunbridge, and the other in Mottisfont. Some new pictures and a lot of chat over the changes that have taken place to the buildings made the evening very enjoyable.



We are hoping to have another speaker evening in the spring, possibly covering the period around the time that the National Trust was given the estate.

The next informal meeting will be in the New Year.

For further information, please contact Michael Horne on 340105.



MOTTISFONT AND DUNBRIDGE W.I.



All who attended our AGM in November were well rewarded when our guest speaker, Julie Adams, gave a fascinating talk on the history of cracker making, after the business and appointment of officers for 2008. We had a wonderful time making crackers from brightly coloured crepe paper. We put inside the usual traditional banger, corny joke, toy and paper hat, and decorated them with silver stars. Very professional, and not a toilet roll middle in sight!!!

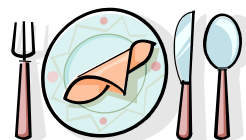
Congratulations to Sherfield English WI, who were the worthy winners of the group skittles match in November.

Our next meeting at the hall will be on Tuesday, 11th December, at 8pm. We welcome Jenny Haydn, who will give a cake decoration demonstration. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served.

Looking ahead to Tuesday, 8th January, we will hear Adrian Harbridge, Archdeacon of Bournemouth, talk about Navy Days - his life and times in the merchant navy.

A warm welcome awaits any new visitors.

Cathie Wood, 340129



MOTTISFONT PARISH LUNCHEON

ADVANCE NOTICE

The Mottisfont Parish Luncheon will take place on Sunday, 24th February, at 12.30 for 1.00pm, as previously.

There will be a 3-course meal with coffee and mints.

Adults: £16.50. Children under 14: £8.00.

Menus will be available in late January, with payment required by mid-February.

For early booking, please telephone either

Gordon Wood on 340129,
or John Jenkins on 301614.



SIZE REALLY MATTERS!



On 25th March, the Forest Forge Theatre Company presents:

TO THE MARROW

In the world of competitive vegetable growing, size really does matter!

Written by Sean Aita, directed by David Haworth

“It’s a war alright, gardening, and this is the front line. To win it you’ve got to understand how the whole thing works. How the cycle comes around. It’s all a matter of life and death. And like in any war, you have to be prepared to crush your enemy completely.”

Tickets from Jon and Heather 340740

forestforge
theatre company

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Parish Christmas Card

May I give a big "Thank You" to the following children for their drawings and designs for this year's Christmas card: Jasper & Hattie Butler, Maisie Lake, Lara Taylor, Codie and Karis Thomas, Becky-May Thick and Ella Richie.

Thank you!

Gordon Wood

AWBRIDGE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

10th-13th December	Christmas Performance
18th December	Children's Christmas Parties
19th December	End of Term
3rd January	Start of Term
11th/12th	February Spring Parents' Evening

Awbridge School had its Autumn Open Day on 8th October, which was very well attended by prospective **parents. Parents were shown around the school by pupils in Class 5, and commented on how "well informed and enthusiastic" the guides were.**

The school website has been updated with lots of new information, including a revised prospectus, term dates, uniform order forms and school news for each class. To visit the website go to :

www.awbridge.hants.sch.uk.

Class 3 are becoming experts in making pizzas, and have been coming up with new recipes of their own. A real life pizza chef from Romsey is coming to show them how the professionals do it, and then the children will create their own.

VILLAGE DIARY

Sunday, 9th December	Parish Children's Christmas Party	3-5pm, Village Hall
Tuesday, 11th December	WI	8pm, Village Hall
Tuesday, 18th December	Gardening Club Christmas Special	7.30pm, Village Hall
Tuesday, 8th January	WI	8pm, Village Hall
Wednesday, 9th January	Mottisfont Parish Council	
Sunday, 24th February	Parish Luncheon	12.30, Mottisfont Abbey
Tuesday, 25th March	Forest Forge presents "To the Marrow"	7.30pm, Village Hall

Brain Teasers

Fill in the missing number

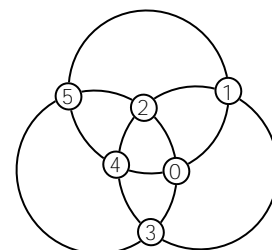
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3	4
4	7
7	11
11	18
18	

Space for sums...

Eric noticed an unusual property of his and his father's ages: if he doubled his own age and subtracted one, he got his father's age. Also, if he reversed the digits in his own age, he got his father's age.

What were his and his father's ages?

Solution to the previous Brain Teaser (there is at least one other solution!)



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

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

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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