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From the Editors

As I write, rain is falling steadily outside, but it's warm and dry here in the office. I've always found the sound of rain on a roof just above my head to be rather pleasing - especially so in a greenhouse, for some reason. And talking of matters horticultural (well, I nearly was...), by the time you read this, the first of the daffodils should be out.

March is a month of great change. It doesn't seem long since the shortest day, but in mid-March is the equinox, when the length of the day and the night are the same. It's also the fastest rate of change of day length.

March is also the time to get those entries for the Easter Young Artists competition sorted out. We're delighted to say that we have already had some entries, but we're looking forward to seeing many more!

Julia and Peter

Stop Press

Congratulations to Mottisfont F.C.

On 17th February 2007 Mottisfont F.C. chalked up their 50th consecutive league victory with a well deserved 5 - 1 win against Fair Oak. The Font's tremendous run of victories started way back in April 2005. In the 2006 - 2007 season alone they scored over 100 goals whilst only letting 20 in their own net.

This outstanding unbeaten run is a credit to all involved with the team, not only the team members but all those involved behind the scenes including their loyal supporters.



WELL DONE

Young Artists Competition

Calling all budding Mottisfont and Dunbridge young artists. Can you draw a picture with an Easter theme that could be printed in the April edition of the Acorn?

If the answer to this questions is YES, then enter our artwork competition. A prize will be given to the winner of each age group: 7 years and under, and 8 to 12 year olds.

To enter, you should draw a black and white picture (sorry, but colours don't photocopy very well) no bigger than half the size of an Acorn page; write your name, age, address and telephone number clearly on the back of your picture and deliver it to editors at Dunelm House, Barley Hill, Dunbridge by 16th March, so the winners can be printed in the Easter/April issue.

HAPPY DRAWING!

Deadline for the next Acorn is 12 noon on 16th March. E-mail to acornnews@mandercom.co.uk. We cannot guarantee that articles received after this date will be included in the next issue.

MOTTISFONT PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Frances Hanks, Mayville, East Dean Road, Lockerley,
Romsey, Hants, SO51 0JQ. Tel: 01794 340541.
E-mail: franceshanks@btinternet.com

IMPROVING THE PARISH OF MOTTISFONT AND DUNBRIDGE

Your ideas welcomed! The Parish Council is to consider a "Mottisfont and Dunbridge Plan of Action" at its next meeting. Its aim is to improve the quality of our parish by addressing both the visual attractiveness and the social issues, e.g. housing needs. If you have any ideas or issues you think should be included, please have a chat with the clerk or any of your councillors.

LEVEL CROSSINGS

Ad Hoc Work: This has been carried out recently without any warning signs. The Parish Council has highlighted this issue to Network Rail as it is concerned about the potential problems and delays, particularly for emergency services.

Unevenness: Concerns have been expressed about the unevenness of the crossings. The Parish Council has continued to observe and monitor usage and problems at both crossings. Our chairman, John Millns, has taken photographic evidence of a problem at Dunbridge, and we will be pursuing this further with Network Rail. Network Rail's response to our original enquiry, however, explained that the Strail type of crossing is used as it gives a better grip and is long wearing. **Its advice to avoid bouncing over the crossing is to reduce speed.** (Its traffic survey showed cars consistently approaching over 30mph and often over 40mph.) Large or slow vehicles should phone the signaller before crossing. It suggests that even if you do not satisfy the length, width, weight or speed criteria given, **it is better you err on the side of caution and phone for permission to cross if you feel vulnerable.** Crossings are inspected every 3 months, but if you have concerns call the National Helpline 08457 11 41 41.

EMERGENCY PLANNING

The recent high winds caused localised problems with both power and phone lines. This has highlighted our vulnerability, with cashless call boxes and poor mobile phone coverage. The Parish Council is communicating with Hampshire County Council's Emergency Planning Department and with Southern Electric's emergency services to try to get an 0800 number for use in emergencies, and for them to put pressure on Ofcom to insist 0800 mobile calls are free.

WEBSITE

Visit www.ukvillages.co.uk/Mottisfont-Hampshire to view information about Parish Council matters. Click on Village Diary for dates of forthcoming meetings. Click on either Noticeboard or Societies and Groups and select Mottisfont Parish Council to access agendas and minutes.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING Wednesday 21st March 2007, at 7.30pm in Mottisfont Village Hall. Parishioners are very welcome to attend, and the agenda item "Parishioners Questions and Comments" is included to encourage public participation.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Interested in serving your community? The Parish Council really does make a difference to the community. It is the grassroots authority that knows its electorate and the needs of its parish. When it does not have the authority to act itself, it can put pressure on other organisations to get things done. Mottisfont Parish Council should have 6 councillors, but is currently running with only 5. All 6 seats will be up for election on 3rd May 2007. All current councillors are male, and it would be nice to be more representative of our community, so female (as well as male) candidates would be welcomed. Please seriously consider if you could make a difference in your community by serving as a councillor. If you want a chat about it, call any of the existing parish councillors or clerk, or talk to any of the Borough Council team on 01264 368020 or 368021 who can also supply you with a nomination paper.

Nominations for candidates must be handed to Test Valley Borough Council's Returning Officer at any time on or after Tuesday 13th March, but not later than noon on Wednesday 4th April 2007. If there are more than 6 candidates, the parish election will take place on 3rd May. (If there are 6 or less they will be appointed without a need for an election.)



SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST



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

“Clerk reported that TVBC had agreed to erect “Residents Only” parking signs in Mill Rise and Clerk was requested to write to the National Trust again, to request “Residents Only” parking signs in Keepers Lane.”

Extracts from the Chairman’s Report:

The Council backed the changes proposed by British Rail to Dunbridge level crossing and although the automatic half barriers will be unmanned, the Council is satisfied with their safety.

In July 1981, several people arranged a party with bonfire and fireworks, to celebrate the Royal Wedding and the Parish Council presented commemorative crowns to every child in the village.

The first year and a half of the Village Bus has proved the viability of this project.

The closure of the school has prompted the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee to open negotiations for the use of the building as a village hall and the National Trust have agreed, in principle, to a full repairing lease for 21 years at £25 a year. The Clerk was requested to get a firm decision in writing from the National Trust, as capital grant applications for major works of around £30,000, had to be made by the 30 June. The Clerk also reported that the temporary classroom could be purchased, but the National Trust did not wish it to remain on the site.”

John Millns

Awbridge School Newsletter

Diary Dates

2 nd March	Inset Day
5 th March	Book Week
12 th March	Netball and Football matches
16 th March	Red Nose Day
31 st March	Easter holidays
16 th June	PTA Summer Fete 12 noon – 3pm

The first half of the Spring Term has proved to be a busy one at Awbridge School, for children and staff alike. Mr Barnes, the new Headmaster, is settling in and is quickly getting to know all the children and their families.

Wednesday 5th February was a hectic day as there were matches for our football and netball teams. In football both the A and B teams fought hard playing against other local schools, and our best result was a 1-1 draw with Romsey Primary School. The netball teams had some stiff competition and the end results were close. Everybody had a great time. As if this wasn’t tiring enough, 14 children joined 5 other schools for a cross country run at Cupernham School on 7th of February. The girls came in third overall; one of our girls came first in the girls’ race and one of our boys was second in the boys’ race, so well done to them!

On Thursday 8th February Class 5 had a fantastic trip to the British Museum in London. Activities were based around the Ancient Greeks and included taking the ‘Ancient Greek Trail’ and drawing, taking inspiration from some ancient pots and jewellery.

The Book Week (5th – 9th March) theme “Everybody has a Story to Tell” looks like it will be an exciting, enjoyable and eventful time, with the children being visited by local people from all walks of life to share their experiences and adventures.

Emma Myszor

FROM THE RECTORY

Dear Friends,

After having the privilege of being on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land last year, this year's Easter will naturally be a little different for me. As last year I travelled to the Holy Land immediately after Easter, I arrived in time to witness the celebration of Easter again, this time by the Eastern Orthodox Church, which celebrates Easter a week later than the Western Church. Plenty of bells, chants and incense! I witnessed the many pilgrims in their strange and ornate dress, so many from all over the world coming to the place where our Lord exercised his ministry, where he lived and worked and preached the Gospel, merged the everyday with the incredible dynamic infusion of the things of God, and where the resurrection became a reality.

But none of us need travel to the Holy Land to experience the inner knowledge of his presence with us, and of the occasional glimpses of the power of the resurrection working itself out in our own lives!

This whole resurrection life is based on love for God and one another. Sadly we live in an age where it is not very cool to be generous of spirit to others. Everything has a cost, and giving of oneself in the service of others is not something many would aim at; it is just too costly. Yet at Easter we will celebrate the life of God incarnated in Christ, who lived in and among people with all their good and bad. A life which proved that self-giving love is not for losers but for winners. In other words self-giving love brings resurrection not only to the giver, but also to the receiver. It's a win win situation. God blesses and gives life to those who come to him in Christ, and he gives life in all its fullness.

Please join us in our churches within the benefice to worship the risen Lord.

With blessings,

Ron Corne
Rector

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

Time	4 March Lent 2	11 March Lent 3	18 March Mothering Sunday	25 March Passion Sunday
8.00am	Broughton HC CW	Broughton HC BCP		
9.30am	Bossington HC BCP ----- Broughton Sunday Club	Broughton Family Service ----- Houghton HC CW	Mottisfont HC BCP	Broughton Family Communion with Sunday Club
11.00am	Mottisfont Matins	Mottisfont Family Service	Broughton HC CW with Sunday Club	Mottisfont Family Communion
6.00pm	Houghton Evensong		Houghton Evensong	Houghton HC BCP

Electoral Roll for St Andrew's Church

All Anglican churches have their own Electoral Roll which is renewed every 6 years and now in 2007.

You don't have to be on the Roll to come to church, but being on the Roll signifies an interest, and enables you to have a say in what goes on there. For instance, you can vote on any matters discussed at meetings - very similar to the Parish Council, where you can't vote if you don't live in the Parish.

The church Electoral Roll is different in that you can enrol if you live outside the Parish, though there are certain qualifications. The applicant must be 16 or over, and

EITHER

a member of the C of E resident in the Parish

OR

a member of the C of E or other church subscribing to a similar doctrine, and not resident in the Parish but having attended church regularly for 6 months or more.

If you have been on St Andrew's Electoral Roll before, you will be contacted with a view to enrolling again.

If you would like to become a new member of the village church, please contact Valda White on 368346, or one of the Churchwardens (see back page of the Acorn).

St. Andrew's Church AGM

Anyone living in the Parish is invited to the St Andrew's Church Annual General Meeting, which will be held in the Church on 26th March.

At 7.15pm there will be a short meeting (referred to officially as the Vestry meeting) which is purely to appoint Churchwardens. All village residents can nominate or vote.

Following this, at 7.30pm, will be the AGM, when the year's activities will be reviewed and future plans discussed. It is not usually a long meeting, and we shall be pleased to see any of you there.

BROUGHTON BRIGHT HOUR

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

Speakers for March:

- ◆ 1st, Members Meeting.
- ◆ 8th, Mrs. Carol Boast.
- ◆ 15th, Mrs. Valerie Reid.
- ◆ 22nd, Hilary Dukes (Community Fund Raiser, Naomi House).
- ◆ 29th, David Hinks (Social Responsibility Development Officer, Winchester Prison).

We are pleased to welcome two new speakers to Bright Hour this Month:

Hilary Dukes

Hilary will be giving a talk and visual guide on the work of Naomi House Children's Hospice, which provides a caring and homely environment for children and young people living with terminal illness. This will be an opportunity to learn more about the inspirational work of this local charity and the facilities they have to offer. Without dedicated fundraisers and volunteers, this sanctuary would not be there to offer comfort and respite in times of great need.

David Hinks

David will be giving us an insight into the challenging work of Prison Chaplains and their Ministry.

Every one welcome, do come and join us.

Barbara Perry 01794 301466

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 2007. Applications for grants must be handed in by the end of May 2007, in time for the June Trust meeting.

HAMPSHIRE SCOUTS IN UGANDA FOR 100 YEARS OF SCOUTING

My name is Laura Chase and on 27th July 2007 I am going to the town of Masindi in Uganda with five other Explorer Scouts from 1st Lockerley Explorers. We will be in Uganda for the 100th birthday of the Scouting Movement on the 1st August. We will be there for two weeks and will be carrying out vital repair work on the water wells built by the last contingent of Hampshire Scouts that went out to Uganda in 2003. We will also be painting a community building and training the Ugandan teachers in First Aid, as one of our group is a First Aid trainer with the Red Cross, and I am a member of St. John Ambulance in Romsey. After spending two weeks in Uganda we will be travelling to Kenya to spend a week on safari. I am greatly looking forward to meeting the Ugandan scouts and finding out how scouting differs in Uganda to that in England. This will be an amazing once in a life time experience and I can't wait to go.



We each have to raise £1,600 to be able to go. This covers the cost of the flight/transport, accommodation and food. So far we have raised funds by bag packing in Asda at Chandlers Ford, by going to car boot sales, and by applying to companies and organisations for financial support. We are also planning to hold a 24 hour "Bounce-a-Thon" at Lockerley Scout Hut in June. On top of the cost of the trip we also aim to raise £2000 for the upkeep of the wells in Uganda. This will be a challenge but we are confident that we will achieve our target.

If you would like to know more about the trip or see pictures of past work done in Uganda by Hampshire scouts, there will be a display in the village hall over the coming month.

If you feel you would like to support this event by sponsoring us or making a donation, a cheque made payable to 'Lockerley Explorer Scouts' should be sent to the Lockerley Explorer leader, Kathryn Power. Her address is The Robins, 2 Pendle Green, Lockerley, SO51 0LZ. Please mark the envelope "Uganda Appeal". Alternatively you could send it to me and I will pass the cheque on. Or if you would prefer to attend any events we organise, the details will be in later issues of the Acorn.

Laura Chase

Village Hall Scout Hut

Following the article in February's Acorn about the Village Hall Scout Hut, John Pagnell has kindly sent us more information:

The building was used originally as a Scout Hut, and was situated behind what was the Post Office and tea rooms. However, due to lack of support, it fell into disuse.

Mrs Russell, then owner of Mottisfont Abbey and the village, handed its use over to the Home Guard, and it was used as an assembly point. As a member of the Home Guard, I remember we were always instructed, if the church bells rang at any time night or day, to assemble at the hut as soon as possible. This did happen once during the night when it was thought that this country was going to be invaded, but thank goodness it was a false alarm!

At the end of the war the building was left unused. Mrs Russell paid a considerable sum of money to have it repaired, dismantled and moved to the village school to be used as a kitchen and dining room for children's lunches. John Wilkins and myself were made trustees of the building until the school closed. Hampshire County Council paid for the running costs until eventually they felt this was not a viable option and the school had to pay for it themselves.

Enclosed is a photo* that shows there were quite a few of us in the Home Guard, and I am in the back row alongside John Wilkins.

John Pagnell

** Unfortunately photos do not reproduce well in The Acorn, so we have not been able to include it. However, if you are interested in seeing it, please contact Julia or Peter Barnett on 340793 - Ed.*

MOTTISFONT FOOTBALL CLUB



Saturday 20th January 2006 – Southampton Senior Cup Quarter Final

Mottisfont entertained VTFC Res., the team that beat them in the final last season, and they made a good start, taking the lead early on with an excellent Bundy goal, but the visitors equalised soon after. The Font once again went in front with another good goal from Cutler, but through lax defending the visitors scored a further two to take the lead. Where the first half was exciting, the second half got bogged down in midfield and no further goals being scored.

RESULT: Mottisfont 2 (Alan Bundy, Nigel Cutler), VTFC Res. 3.

Saturday 27th January 2006 – Hampshire League 2004

Mottisfont entertained fellow champion contenders Netley Central Sports attempting to do the double, but in the first half the visitors missed two great chances to go in front. In the second half, the Font scored the winner through Andy Clarke and could also have increased their lead.

RESULT: Mottisfont 1 (Andy Clarke), Netley Central Sports 0.



Saturday 3rd February 2006 – Hampshire League Cup 1st Round

Mottisfont entertained Over Wallop and in a somewhat low key performance they were still comfortable winners by five clear goals.

RESULT: Mottisfont 5 (Alan Bundy (2), Mike Jackson, Mike King, Andy Fryer), Over Wallop 0.

Saturday 10th February 2006 – Hampshire League 2004

Mottisfont travelled to Durley, on a heavy surface, but what a start – playing superb football, they scored within 3 minutes, and after 10 minutes they were three goals to the good and continued to play a great team game and scored another goal in the second half – a superb display.

RESULT: Durley 0, Mottisfont 4 (Guy Bewick (3), Robbie Abbott)

Tony Stemp

*** Be nice to your children - they will choose your nursing home. ***

➤ ➤ *Few women admit their age. Few men act theirs.* ◀ ◀

🌀 Common sense is the collection of prejudices acquired by age 18. - Albert Einstein 🌀



MOTTISFONT AND DUNBRIDGE W.I.



The Selborne and Headley riots of 1830 was an extremely interesting local history talk by John Smith. After the labourers' riots of 1830, the villages of Selborne and Headley were in turmoil. In order to reduce the tithes the farmers had to pay, a mob of 1000 desperate workers attacked, plundered and destroyed machinery, buildings and the workhouses. After the troubles, whole families were left without breadwinners when husbands and sons were transported to the other side of the world for their part in the uprising.

Our jumble sale is on Saturday 10th March at 2pm. We will be happy to collect jumble, bric-a-brac, books, toys, in fact anything you no longer require. Call Cathie 340129, Margaret 341922, Linda 323838, or bring to the hall on the Saturday morning.

The group are delighted that our turn has come for a visit to High Grove – home of Prince Charles. A ballot took place at our February meeting and three lucky ladies will have the privilege.

Our next meeting at 8pm on Tuesday 13th March will be a talk with slides by Mike Lowe entitled "Climbing Plants and Wall Shrubs". Do come along and maybe get some ideas for your garden scheme. Everyone is very welcome.

Margaret Astur

Mottisfont and Dunbridge Gardening Club

Our next event will be "Things to do in your garden" by John Perry, at 7.30pm, Tuesday 20th March in the Village Hall. All are welcome. Visitors £2.

VILLAGE DIARY

Saturday 10 March	WI Jumble Sale	2pm, Village Hall
Tuesday 13 March	WI meeting	8pm, Village Hall
Tuesday 20 March	Gardening Club	7.30pm, Village Hall
Wednesday 21 March	Mottisfont Parish Council meeting	7.30pm, Village Hall
Thursday 22 March	Village Hall Association AGM	7.30pm, Village Hall
Monday 26 March	St Andrew's AGM	7.15pm, St Andrew's Church

HOUGHTON PCC: FUN RUN, WALK, CYCLE

Your choice of route: 2 miles or 8 Miles,
through the beautiful Test Valley

Sunday 29th April. Registration from 9.30am,
starts at 10.15am.

Further information from Richard James (388534)
or Anna Allport (388328)

BRAIN TEASER: The accountant's nightmare

Three people wanted to buy a toaster costing £30, so they each contributed £10, and went to the shop. They bought the toaster, but just after they left the shop, the salesman realised it was on special offer, and should have cost £25. So, he took £5 out of the till, put £2 in his pocket, and ran after them to give them each £1 back.

OK so far?

Well, they've each spent £9 now. Three nines are twenty-seven, and the £2 in the salesman's pocket makes £29. So where has the other pound gone?

Now read it again...

Answers to last month's brain teasers

TIME TEASER:
The time is 9pm.

BOX PUZZLE:
There are several solutions. Here's one:

	1	
6	4	7
2	8	3
	5	

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
			Steward	Julie Lyne	340521
Cricket Club Secretary	Tony Stemp	340398	Test Valley Councillor	Neville Whiteley	01264 811101
History Group	Michael Horne	340105			
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
			Chairman	Jon Butler	340740
Mill Arms	Andrea and Ian Bentall	340401	Village Hall (Reg.Charity No 291629)	Village Hall	Jon & Heather Butler
Mottisfont Abbey Est. Manager		340757	Entertainments	Heather Butler	340740
MPNTTA	Gillian Francis	340151	Secretary	(Vacant)	
Neighbourhood Watch Mottisfont	Alan Earthrowl	341799	Bookings	Cathie Wood	340129
Parish Council Dunbridge	Cliff Astur	341922	Secretary	Margaret Astur	341922
Clerk	Frances Hanks	340541	Village	P.C. Dave Turpin	0845 045 45 45
Chairman	John Millns	340347			
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. © Mottisfont & Dunbridge Acorn 2007.