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From the editors:

Inspired by the Forest Forge Theatre Company's excellent production last night of "To the Marrow", we wondered if there was something in the play for us. Not being ones to think too deeply about it, we seized on the blindingly obvious: how about a giant marrow competition, to be judged at the Village Fete?

We're rather jumping the gun here, because we haven't had time between going to the play last night and sending the *Acorn* proofs off this morning to talk to anyone else, so apologies especially to the organisers of the fete for springing this idea out of the blue!

It seems a winner both ways, because even if you don't have the satisfaction of growing the biggest marrow, you can have the satisfaction of eating it. There are some great recipes in the programme we picked up last night!

Julia and Peter

Putting the tin hat on Hatt Hill?

In December 2007 Britain's business secretary, John Hutton, announced that the United Kingdom is poised to make a major investment in wind farms. Hundreds of new turbines would generate over 30 megawatts of clean electricity, which would be enough to light every home in Britain.

Mottisfont and Dunbridge are poised to be at the forefront of this 21st century development. Local intelligence has uncovered plans to place a wind turbine farm close to the village hall. Following a lengthy closed planning meeting between councillors and a consortium of unidentified local businessmen, plans are understood to be in development to raise significant funding for this controversial scheme (*watch out for news of fundraising quiz evenings and a possible Tandoori night? - Eds.*).



How a wind turbine would look next to the village hall

If these plans go ahead, the redirection of local wind via the turbine could generate enough power to run every home in the area by April 1, 2012, thereby dramatically decreasing our local CO₂ emissions and complying with the Parish plan to "promote recycling and other sustainability measures wherever possible".

**The deadline for the May Acorn is 16th April.
 Please e-mail contributions to acornnews@mandercom.co.uk.
 We cannot guarantee that articles received after this date will be included in the next issue.**

STRONG GROWTH IN RAIL USE

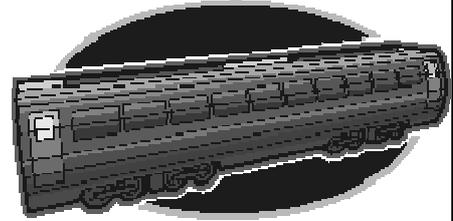
THERE has been a big increase in the number of commuters using Mottisfont & Dunbridge station. Figures for the year ending September 2007 show that there were 12,400 passenger journeys to and from the station. This was an increase of about 2,000 on the previous year's figures, and the highest on record.

More people are now using the station to reach Mottisfont Abbey and estate walks. With the new and almost hourly service that South West Trains introduced last December, I would expect to see a further increase in passenger numbers when the next lot of figures are released early next year.

The National Trust introduced half-price admission charges at Mottisfont Abbey for people who caught the train last year, in a bid to encourage more people to travel via Mottisfont & Dunbridge station. This policy could be one of the reasons why figures are going up. Also, the station is being widely promoted, and it is important this work continues to ensure the long-term viability of train services to and from Mottisfont & Dunbridge station.

A large and detailed map of the Mottisfont Estate is likely to be erected at the station soon. This is to assist tourists visiting Mottisfont and surrounding area. Other developments planned at the station include more cycle racks and new passenger information points. The passenger information points are due to be installed later this year or early in 2009. Investigations are also on going into providing additional parking near the

station. First Great Western are also going to mark out car parking



places near the station house. An initiative to run a rail-link bus between Mottisfont & Dunbridge station, Mottisfont Abbey and the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens at Ampfield is also being investigated.

When the new train timetables are issued in May, I will try to ensure that every household not only Mottisfont and Dunbridge has one, but surrounding villages have them too.

Hampshire County Council's countryside department supplied me with a number of small signs to put up along the footpath between Hatt Lane and Hatt Hill at Mottisfont, to help commuters find their way back to the station after visiting the abbey and the Mottisfont estate, but sadly vandals have destroyed most of them. I must point out that these signs cost £10 each and council taxpayers foot the bill for them. Remember, these signs are there for the benefit of tourists who help keep Mottisfont & Dunbridge station open.

Anyone with any issues relating to Mottisfont & Dunbridge Station can contact me at Bushywood, Hatt Hill, Mottisfont, Romsey, SO51 OLH or by e-mail at andysimmonds@ic24.net.

Andy Simmonds
Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership
volunteer.

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 June 2008. Applications for grants must be handed in by the end of May 2008, in time for the June Trust meeting.



MOTTISFONT & DUNBRIDGE W.I.



A dinner celebrating the 10th anniversary of the W.I. in Mottisfont and Dunbridge was enjoyed by members at The Lamb Inn at Nomansland on 7th March.

Nigel Palmer entertained the members with an informative and interesting talk entitled "Tall Hats and Tall Tales". The "Tall Hats" were policemen's helmets, and "Tall Tales" concerned the events that happened to him during his 30 year career with Hampshire Constabulary. This included helping in the rescue of a young woman from the sea at Portsmouth (but who was not very pleased to be rescued), guarding an armed robber, and comforting a lady involved in a minor car accident. She was worried about the mouse - in a humane trap on the back seat of her car - that she had been driving into the country to release! There were many more amusing anecdotes during this entertaining evening.

We are looking forward to our trip to Jersey from Bournemouth Airport, and an evening cruise on the Beaulieu River. Other planned events include a Bluebell Walk and a Quiz Night.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 8th April, at 8pm, and will be "Hanging Baskets", a talk by Mr. Lowe.

Everyone is welcome to attend any of our meetings - why not come along to our Village Hall and see what we do?

Cathie Wood, 340129

What's on at The Mill Arms

Sunday 20th April

The Lover – Harold Pinter play with dinner £25.00pp (the last theatre night before Sept/Oct 08). Please be quick to book as there is a maximum capacity and we are already half full! This is the third performance, and it has proved very popular.



Tuesday 22nd April

Starters and Desserts night – 6.30-8.30pm

Platter of each to share per table of 4+ - if you are a 2, that is fine, and we will pair you with others. £11.50pp. Reservations are requested in advance please.

Andrea and Ian have also taken on **The Abbots Mitre** pub, Chilbolton - between Stockbridge and Andover - and look forward to welcoming our Mill Arms guests there as well. It is another part of the beautiful Test Valley, so once again great for walks and bike rides. There is a different menu, but the same ethos of friendly service and good food. Dogs are welcome on leads, and there is plenty of parking plus lots of outside seating – which will be great if the weather ever improves!!!!

Hope to see you at either venue soon.

Vacancy

We are looking for a part time cleaner 2-3 days per week (most likely to be on a Monday - Thursday) for about 1-3 hours per day from 10am. It would easily fit in around school hours, etc. There could be an opportunity later in the year for more hours if required.

Please email millarms@btconnect.com or phone 340401 and ask for Andrea.



Dear Friends,

Well, we have already celebrated Easter this year, amazing because the next time Easter will be this early (March 23rd) will be in the year 2228 (220 years from now). The last time it was this early was in 1913 (so if you're 95 or older, you are the only ones who were around for that!). Therefore be assured you will not see the next March 23rd Easter!

However, one thing you will be able to see and be part of is this year's Confirmation Service. This is being held on December 7th, 2008, at 10.00am at All Saints Houghton for the whole Benefice, so please put the date in your diary now. Bishop Michael, the Bishop of Winchester, is coming to confirm our candidates.

If you are thinking of Confirmation for yourself or for your children, please would you let Gina or me know so that we can talk to you about this very important decision. Confirmation makes you a full member of the Church of England, but most importantly of all it confers on you the wonderful privilege of being able to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. This will be something once received you will treasure and will be yours for the rest of your life. Receiving Holy Communion sustains in times of trouble and joy, and will nurture and feed your spiritual life.

We are holding our first evening for those who are thinking about being Confirmed or who have definitely decided to be Confirmed, and this will be on 9th April, 2008, at 7.30pm at the Church Room in St Mary's Church.

With best wishes,

Ron Corne

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES FOR APRIL

	6th April Easter 2	13th April Easter 3	20th April Easter 4	27th April ROGATION
8.00 am	Broughton HC CW	Broughton HC BCP		
9.30 am	Bossington HC BCP	Houghton HC CW ----- Broughton Family Service	Mottisfont HC BCP ----- Broughton Godly Play	
10.00 am	Broughton Open Door Service			
11.00 am	Mottisfont Matins	Mottisfont Family Service	Broughton Matins with Coffee Club	Bossington HC CW
6.00 pm	Houghton Evensong		Houghton Evensong	

Some of the special things to note for April and May are:

- Wednesday, 9th April, 7.30pm, St. Mary's Church Room: meeting for those thinking about being confirmed later this year.
- Saturday, 26th April, 10.00am - 5.00pm: Prayer Day at St. Mary's.
- Sunday, 27th April, 11.00am: Rogation Service at St James', Bossington. Please join us for this act of worship as we pray for God's blessing on our fields and crops.
- Thursday, 1st May, Ascension Day, 6.00pm: Hymn singing from St. Mary's church tower (weather permitting).
- Sunday, 11th May, Pentecost, 10.00am, All Saints, Houghton. This will be a special service of celebration (suitable for all ages) as we give thanks and affirm the many skills and talents of those who live in the benefice.



DIOCESAN-WIDE DAY OF PRAYER



Saturday 26th April

St. Mary's Church will be open for various types of prayer from 10am until 5pm.

In the Dovecote there will be an opportunity to light a candle, to remember a loved one, or to pray for God's help in a time of worry.

The Church Room will be a quiet place for prayer.

In the Lady Chapel there will be an opportunity for celebration prayer with various aids to help this.

Someone will be available if you would like help with your prayers.

A cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit will be available.

Please come and support a time of prayer with no set service.

Come, whether you live in the village or a neighbouring one, whether you come to Church, or not.

Everyone is welcome, and your prayer WILL make a difference.

Ann Ridout. 01980 862232

BROUGHTON BRIGHT HOUR

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

3rd April: Members Meeting
10th April: Mr. Philip Mutton
17th April: Mrs. Sheila Few
24th April: Mrs. Ann Robinson

Everyone welcome. Do come and join us.

Advance Notice

1st May: We will be visiting Furzey Gardens and Retreat in the New Forest. If you would like to join us, please contact me.

Barbara Perry, Booking Secretary, 301466

ADVANCE NOTICE:

ALPHA IS COMING TO BROUGHTON



Everyone is welcome.

If you have ever wondered about Alpha, or thought that one day you would like to go to an Alpha Course, please put these dates in your diary.

An Alpha Course will start in Broughton on Wednesday, 10th September, and will continue for 10 weeks, finishing on Wednesday, 12th November.

Ann Ridout. 01980 862232

LOCKERLEY SCHOOL PTA FUNDRAISING EVENT

Saturday, 10 May, 7.30pm
at Lockerley Memorial Hall

Bond, James Bond

A night of entertainment:
casino tables,
dancing,
supper,
licence to drink.

Tickets £15 each,
to include £5 of casino chips.

Prize for best dressed Bond character.

Tickets available from
Lockerley School 340485
or
Bella Thomas 342212

LOCKERLEY PTA SUMMER PLAYScheme

Monday 4th to Friday 8th August 2008

9.30am to 12.30pm

at Lockerley Memorial Hall

WHIST DRIVES

The last monthly Whist Drive
will be taking place
in
Mottisfont Village Hall
on 25th April, at 7.30pm.

We would be pleased to welcome any new
players, and if anyone would like an evening's
practice, please contact Gordon Wood
(340129) or John Jenkins (301614).

We play social whist, and do not take it too
seriously. We enjoy good
company, refreshments and
prizes.



GARDENING CLUB: Villages of Test Valley

Tuesday, 15th April
7.30pm at the Village Hall

If you are interested in hearing a talk and
seeing slides of local scenes, then why not
come along to the next Gardening Club
meeting.

Gerald Ponting is giving the presentation.

There is a £2 charge for visitors,
and you will receive a very warm welcome.

Another date for your diary:

The meeting on 20th May is

"A Wild Life Journey Round Britain"

Excellent Parish Lunch - Thanks to all!

Our 8th annual Mottisfont Parish Luncheon
was again very successful and enjoyed by 60
parishioners.

We would like to thank Alison Evans, the
National Trust Property Manager, for enabling
us to hold the event, and also Ann Edwards,
the National Trust Catering Manager, for
creating an excellent menu, and for her
overall presentation.

We would also like to thank the Estate
Manager at Kimbridge Farm Shop for again
sponsoring the excellent sherry, which
everyone enjoyed.

Gordon Wood & John Jenkins

"The British churchgoer prefers a severe
preacher because he thinks a few home
truths will do his neighbours no harm."
George Bernard Shaw

"A dog teaches a boy fidelity, perseverance,
and to turn round three times before lying
down." *Robert Benchley*

"Keep your eyes wide open before marriage
and half shut afterwards." *Benjamin Franklin*

Broughton is going to be dancing in May!

To raise money for our pre-school building, we can offer:

3rd May: Gig by popular local band "Mavis Grind"

8th May: Salsa and Latin evening, with tuition

10th May: Family Barn Dance

17th May: The famous Grasscutters Ball

18th May: Traditional tea dance

Details are on posters on display round the villages, and tickets are on sale from:

Broughton School
West View Stores, Broughton
and
Broughton Crafts, Stockbridge

Dancing is good for you - that's official!

Mottisfont Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday, 9th April, 7.30pm

Everyone is welcome to attend.

This is ***your*** meeting.

Come and find out what the Parish Council has done over the past year, and its plans for the coming one.

It's also an opportunity to raise any issues or questions you may have.

CONTACTING YOUR MP

Sandra Gidley, MP, is keen to hear from you on any matters of concern. She can be contacted at 3A Victoria Place, Love Lane, Romsey, SO51 8DE. Tel: 01794 511900.

E mail: Gidleys@parliament.uk
Web: www.sandragidley.org

Some dates for your diaries

St Andrew's **ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING**, Tuesday, 15th April, at 7.15pm in the church.

This is the time for villagers to appoint Churchwarden(s), who must be on the Church's Electoral Roll.

There is a list on the notice board.

Also the year's happenings will be reported, as well as the financial position and hopes for the future.

Please come if you can.

- o o o -

AN EVENING IN THE ROSE GARDEN

Friday, 30th May, from 6.30pm

A chance to see the roses without too many people around, and enjoy the scents of the evening.

£5 all adults, £2.50 age 10 to 16yrs, under 10s free

- o o o -

STALLS IN THE ABBEY CAR PARK

- Bank holiday Mondays, 5th and 26th May
- Saturdays, 14th and 28th June
- Bank holiday Monday, 25th August

Please contribute items for sale.

- o o o -

HOG ROAST

Sunday, 13th July, at Mottisfont House

Hog Roast 6pm to 8pm.
Garden open until 9pm

Tickets beforehand:

Adults £15

Children under 15 £7.50

Senior Citizens £12

Apply to Mrs. Clutterbuck

Any more info needed? – ring 368346

DIARY

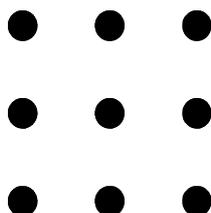
Tuesday, 8th April	WI	8.00, Village Hall
Wednesday, 9th April	Annual Parish meeting	7.30, Village Hall
Tuesday, 15th April	St. Andrew's Annual Church meeting	7.15, St. Andrew's Church
Tuesday, 15th April	Villages of the Test Valley	7.30, Village Hall
Friday, 25th April	Whist Drive	7.30, Village Hall
Saturday, 10th May	Lockerley School PTA Fundraising	7.30, Lockerley Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 20th May	Wild Life Journey Round Britain	TBA
Friday, 30th May	An Evening In The Rose Garden	6.30, Mottisfont Abbey

BRAIN TEASERS

1. Can you arrange twelve matches to create six identical triangles?

Space
for →
doodles!

2. Without removing the pencil from the paper, draw four straight lines that among them pass through all nine blobs.



*Answers to last month's
Brain Teasers:*

1. Fred spent £10 on beer.
2. The anagrams were:
PORRIDGE
MINERAL WATER
ORANGE JUICE
PEANUT BUTTER
PRAWN COCKTAIL

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	Warden Susan Clutterbuck 340475
County Councillor Michael Woodhall 01264	Social Club Chairman Peter Simmonds 340891
	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	
First Responders Coordinator Kay Murrant 340289	
Football Club Secretary John Fryer 512695	Village Bus Secretary George Vaughan 301045
Member of Parliament Constituency Office Sandra Gidley 511900	Bookings Pam Dawkins 301203
	Private Hire Julie Smith 301470
Mill Arms Andrea and Ian Bentall 340401	Operations Mike Howe 301723
Mottisfont Abbey Est. Manager 340757	Chairman Jon Butler 340740
MPNTTA Gillian Francis 340151	Village Hall (Reg.Charity 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	Secretary Margaret Astur 341922
Councillors Jeff Channing 340555	Village P.C. Dave Turpin 0845
Alan Earthrowl 341799	
Jacquie Horne 340105	Romsey 0845
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, acornnews@mandercom.co.uk, with assistance from The Mill Arms, Dunbridge, and 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. You should check with organisers of events in case there are last minute changes. © Mottisfont & Dunbridge Acorn 2007.