



Happy Christmas

*...and a most pleasing New Year  
to all our readers!*

*Julia and Peter*



## SIGNS OF CHANGE?

Better direction signage aimed at pointing pedestrians and cyclists the way to Mottisfont & Dunbridge Station will soon be installed. A blue sign bearing the station name and the British Rail logo will be put up at the junction of Mottisfont Lane and the A3057, where the cycleway into Romsey starts and finishes. Blue stickers containing the National Cycleway route number 24 and the British Rail symbol will replace existing National Cycle Network stickers along Hatt Lane and Mottisfont Lane. The signage has been ordered, so it should not be long before they go up.

This initiative is part of measures being taken by the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership aimed at encouraging more people to reach the station by foot or cycling.

It's also hoped that a large map displaying the Mottisfont Estate walks will be put up at the station in the near future. This is to assist Mottisfont Abbey visitors and walkers in general arriving by train.

As pointed out in last month's *Acorn*, passenger numbers at the station continue to grow, and every effort is being made to build on patronage of the trains. The new South West Trains timetables come into force on Sunday, 14th December. This means that there will be hourly trains in both directions from Mottisfont & Dunbridge Station from Monday to Saturday, and every other hour on Sundays.

Andy Simmonds  
Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership

There will be **no January edition** of the *Acorn*. The deadline for the February *Acorn* is 16th January.  
Please e-mail contributions to [acornnews@mandercom.co.uk](mailto:acornnews@mandercom.co.uk).  
We cannot guarantee that articles received after this date will be included in the next issue.

## MOTTISFONT PARISH COUNCIL

Russell Drive Parking – On occasions there have been problems with parking in Russell Drive obstructing access. The Parish Council is particularly concerned about access in emergencies, and has been in contact with Hampshire Fire and Rescue. It was reassuring to hear that Fire and Rescue would just barge through in an emergency, but this could result in damage to vehicles. Owners parking their vehicles in Russell Drive beware!

Footpath 10 Crossing Gates – These have finally been converted to kissing gates, as the Parish Council requested Network Rail over two years ago. The Council is hopeful that this matter is now satisfactorily resolved, and that walkers will find the new gates easier to use, as well as their being more secure for livestock.

Village Centre Speed Limit – The speed limit has at last been implemented, but the Parish Council is still awaiting approval of funds for the traffic calming measures which it would also like to implement.

Date of Next Meeting: 7.30pm on Wednesday, 21st January, 2009

Mrs Frances Hanks, Clerk. Tel: 340541, e-mail: franceshanks@btinternet.com

*Mottisfont Village Hall*

### Village Supper at the Hall

**Saturday, 10th January, 2009**

A superb 3 course meal followed by tea/coffee

£15 per person. Please bring your own wine.



Choose from:

Melon with Fruits of the Forest or roasted vegetable soup

~

Chicken Veronique  
or poached salmon in a white wine hollandaise  
or caramelised cheese & onion tartlets

...all served with a selection of vegetables.

~

Raspberry Pavlova or Sticky Toffee Pudding or fresh fruit salad

~

Book early with your selection from above.  
Please contact Margaret 341922 or Jon 340740.



### **Advance notice**

## MOTTISFONT PARISH LUNCH

at Mottisfont Abbey, by kind invitation of the National Trust

Sunday, 1st March, 2009 - 12.30 for 1pm

3 course lunch with coffee and pre-lunch sherry  
Adults: £16.85, children under 14: £8

Menus, tickets and confirmation will be available in the new year.  
Enquiries to Gordon Wood, 340129, or John Jenkins, 301614.

Happy  
Christmas





## MOTTISFONT & DUNBRIDGE W.I.



At the AGM in November it was decided that we should abstain from voting for the Hampshire Resolutions as insufficient time and evidence was available to reach a satisfactory conclusion.

One member, Audrey Aitchison, brought along her beautiful collection of Shaker artefacts. The Shakers, of North America, have left behind an enduring and intriguing legacy. There is much interest in the Shakers today, and in the examples of their beautiful buildings and furniture, simple, yet elegant designs they made for themselves.

With the Christmas season upon us, everyone is welcome (including males!) to join us at Mottisfont Village Hall on Tuesday, 9th December, at 8pm to enjoy a selection of seasonal writings by Charles Dickens, presented as a dramatised reading in Victorian costume by professional performers Vera Hughes and David Weller. Tickets are £3 and will include mince pies and hot mulled wine. Book early to avoid disappointment by calling Margaret Astur on 341922 or Cathie Wood on 340129.

Events this month:

- ◆ Monday, 8th December A Buffet Supper and Blues Band at 8pm at Houghton Village Hall.
- ◆ Monday, 15th December A Christmas outing to the Salisbury Playhouse to see "Let's Face the Music and Dance", an evening of Irving Berlin music.

Looking ahead to Tuesday, 13th January, at the Village Hall we welcome Ruth King, who will talk about the History of Underwear.

All welcome!

Cathie Wood



### Our thanks for the Christmas artwork go to:



- ◆ Hattie Butler
- ◆ Masie Lake
- ◆ Esme Stock
- ◆ Lara Taylor
- ◆ Becky-May Thick

### Jack and the Beanstalk

On Friday, 14th November, we enjoyed a wonderful production of Jack and the Beanstalk, performed by Forest Forge Theatre Company at Mottisfont Village Hall.

Here are a couple of reviews by young members of the audience:

### SPECIAL CHRISTMAS WHIST DRIVE



Mottisfont Village Hall, Friday, 19th December, at 7.30pm. Mince pies, sherry, good prizes, good company! All welcome.

Other dates:  
30th January, 27th February, 27th March and 24th April.

If you would like some practice or explanation, please contact either Gordon Wood on 340129, or John Jenkins on 301614.

The play was really good. I enjoyed the humour and how it was for adults and kids. I loved Mildred the maid (really a man in ladies clothes) and how Jack's dad went all 'lovey dovey' with her. I also liked Gobby and Gertie who guarded the beanstalk and were not frightening at all! I liked the beanstalk's costume because it was so vibrant.

*Jasper, age 11*

I liked the bit where we passed the baby round. Well, I liked all of it! The Jester and the lady in waiting made me laugh. My favourite song was "Take It Easy", and I liked the violin playing.

*Hattie, age 8*

Dear Friends,



Well, whether we like it or not, Christmas is coming, and it's coming very quickly. You might want to hold it off, or you might want it to come more quickly, but be sure of one thing: it's coming! In Ecclesiastes it says, "There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens, a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant..." Part of this timing was the decision by God to send his only Son into the world, a world that was and is in such great need of this incredible message. "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy." (Lk 2:8-10)

Fear Not! Our rejoicing then at Christmas isn't focused upon the fear of the Credit Crunch or on personal or global worries, it is focused on the good news that God is with us, he is Emmanuel - a Saviour is born. The message of Christ at Christmas is, "fear not little flock for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom" (Lk 12:32). Jesus said we should know who and what to fear, "fear God, for God has the power of our eternal future". The fear of the Lord is the beginnings of wisdom, so Proverbs reminds us, therefore are we to just replace one fear for another? By no means, we are to fear God so that we acknowledge Him as Lord and King of creation and loving father, for Jesus tells us that perfect love drives out fear. When we are linked to Him in faith we are renewed as his children, and as his people, and then as such we receive the reassurance that we are God's, and no matter what happens to us in the world, God will be with us even to the end of time. We are His forever!

The Christmas message is one of great and profound joy that the God and creator of the universe who being in the very nature of God, made himself nothing taking the form of a servant, he humbled himself, to bring us joy, reassurance, confidence and salvation. We must surely celebrate that birth with so much joy!

Please join us, bring all that you are, all your concerns, and all your thanksgivings to our Christmas services, and join with us as we celebrate the casting out of fear and the gift of faith in the new Born King!

With Christmas Blessings

Ron Corne  
Rector.

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

	7th Dec. Advent 2	14th Dec. Advent 3	21st Dec. Advent 4	28th Dec. Christmas 1	4th Jan. Christmas 2	11th Jan. Epiphany 1	18th Jan. Epiphany 2	25th Jan. Conv. of St. Paul
8.00 am		Broughton HC BCP			Broughton HC CW	Broughton HC BCP		
9.30 am	Broughton Godly Play	Broughton Family Service	Broughton Sunday Club	Broughton HC CW	Bossington HC BCP	Broughton Christingle	Mottisfont HC BCP	Broughton HC CW
	<b>**10.00**</b> Houghton Confirmation Service	Houghton HC CW		Broughton Sunday Club	Broughton Godly Play	Houghton HC CW	Broughton Sunday Club	Broughton Sunday Club
11.00 am		Mottisfont Christingle	Broughton Coffee Club	Mottisfont Family Communion	Mottisfont Matins	Mottisfont Family Service	Broughton HC CW ----- Broughton Coffee Club	Mottisfont Family Communion
3.00 pm			Mottisfont Carol Service					
6.00 pm			<b>**6.30**</b> Broughton Carol Service	Houghton HC BCP	Houghton Christingle		Houghton Evensong	Houghton HC BCP

## CHURCH SERVICES

There are some alterations to our weekly pattern of services this month, apart from Children's Worship at St. Mary's, which remains unchanged.

On Sunday, 7th December at 10am there will be a Service of Confirmation at All Saints', Houghton. Please remember the following candidates in your prayer and, if possible, come to support them on the day:

*Harvey Armstrong, Clare Bates, Elliott Bates,  
Elizabeth Boulton, Peter Boulton, Tom Corne,  
Oliver Mawhinney, William Mawhinney,  
Lucy Scullard and Julie Smith.*

The congregation of St. Andrew's invites you to start your Christmas celebrations this year with two festive services in Church: the Christingle Service and the Village Carol service.

Why not join us in celebrating the Christingle Service and experience the joy in children's faces lit up in the candlelit glow of this popular and powerful symbol of the Light of Christ on Sunday, 14th December, at 11am. The collection will be donated to the Children's Society, helping them to light up even more lives.

The Carol Service will be held at 3pm on Sunday, 21st December. We look forward to welcoming everyone in the village to this traditional service, and hope you will be able to stay afterwards for refreshments to slake your dry throats after singing the carols.

### **Diary of Services for the Christmas period throughout the benefice**

#### Monday, 15th December

2.00pm, Broughton School Carol Service at St. Mary's

#### Sunday, 21st December

3.00pm, Carol Service at St. Andrew's, Mottisfont  
6.30pm, Carol Service at St. Mary's, Broughton

#### Monday, 22nd December

6.00pm, Carol Service at St. James's, Bossington

#### Tuesday, 23rd December

7.00pm, Carol Service at All Saints', Houghton

#### Wednesday, 24th December

5.30pm, Family Crib Service at St. Mary's, Broughton  
11.30pm, Midnight Eucharist at St. Mary's, Broughton

#### Thursday, 25th December

9.30am, Holy Communion BCP at St. James's  
10.00am, Family Service at St. Mary's  
10.00am, Holy Communion CW at All Saints'  
11.00am, Holy Communion CW at St. Andrew's

## BROUGHTON BRIGHT HOUR

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

4th December: Christmas Lunch  
11th December: Carol Service

This will be our last meeting of the year.  
We resume on 5th February, 2009.

Everyone is welcome! Do come and join us.

Barbara Perry, Booking Secretary, 301466

## Christmas Coffee Morning & Bring and Buy

At Dunbridge House

10.30am to midday, Friday, 19th December

In aid of St Andrew's Church

## St. Andrew's Fifth Peal

The fifth peal on the bells of St. Andrews was rung on 17th November by members of the Bishopstoke Sunday service band, on the birthday of its conductor. A peal, at least to bell-ringers, requires each bell to strike 5,000 or more times. This peal had 5,040 changes, and took 2 hours and 49 minutes to complete!

The previous four peals at St. Andrew's were on 2nd December, 1967, 21st April, 1975, 13th September, 1977, and 27th October, 1991. Roy LeMarechal, who conducted the 5th peal, also took part in the two peals in the 1970s.

On five bells, there are only 120 different combinations. Bell ringers have a variety of methods which describe the way the combinations or changes are rung, and 12 different methods were used to make up the 5,040 changes in this peal: Stedman, Grandsire, Huntley, St. Remigius, Winchendon, St. Nicholas, Reverse Canterbury, Eynesbury, St. Osmund, St. Martin, St. Simon and Plain Bob.

The ringers were:

1. Graham J Wright
2. Clare J Griffiths
3. D Annabel Preston
4. Stuart J Heath
5. Roy LeMarechal (conductor)

## LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The talk by National Grid on the recent pipeline works was very successful, with over 90 people present. We think this was the largest audience ever for such an event in the Village Hall, and there was only standing room in the end.

The evening raised over £160 for the Air Ambulance.

We have not fixed a date for our next meeting, but it will not be until next year, so all the best for Christmas!

## GARDENING CLUB

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 16th December, at 7.30pm, when Denis Bright will present a slide show on "The Digital World of Denis Bright".



This will be followed by our Christmas Buffet. Please bring something to share and eat. All are very welcome. £2.00 entrance.

Next year we will not be meeting in January or February, so our next meeting will be in March.

## AWBRIDGE SCHOOL

DATES: 5th January: Start of term  
10th February: Parents Evening  
12th February: Parents Evening  
12th February: Half Term  
13th February: Inset Day  
27th February: Book Fair

As the end of the year approaches, children at Awbridge School have been even busier than usual. Children in Class 4 have been studying the Aztecs, and had an exciting morning learning more about this ancient civilisation. A British man and Mexican woman came in and taught the children about the Aztecs and life on Lake Tenochtitlan. Class 4 were shown replicas of ancient artefacts and had a chance to play Aztec instruments and try on clothes.

Meanwhile, Class 3 celebrated the festival of Eid, the end of Ramadan. Greetings cards were exchanged, and a celebratory feast held, including dates, samosas and picaraha.

The usual preparations for Christmas are well under way, with the Parent Teachers Association Advent Fayre taking place on Saturday, 6th December, and the Christmas Production from 9th December. Children have been especially generous in donating Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes this year. They also brought in spare change on 14th November, which they used to make a Pudsey Bear in the school hall for Children in Need.

# Awbridge School PTA Film Club presents

## MAMMA MIA!

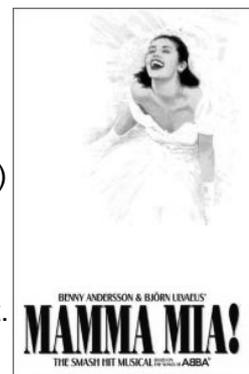
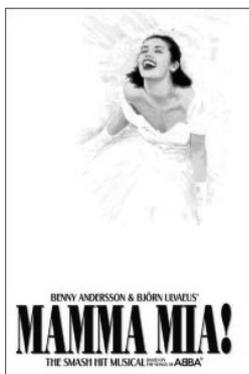
*(now the highest grossing British film of all time)*

Wednesday, 17th December, at 7.30pm (film starts 8pm)

in Awbridge Village Hall

Tickets: £6 each, to include a glass of wine & raffle ticket.

Tickets available from Philippa Luckhurst  
(tel: 323456 or 07733 006085)



## LETTER TO THE EDITORS

*From John Fryer, Treasurer of the Social Club*

How pleased I was to see an article in the November edition making people aware of the facilities and entertainment etc. that Mottisfont Social Club has to offer. The support that we get from the villagers themselves I am afraid is poor to say the least. At a recent entertainment evening at the club I only counted three people from the village!!

At the club we provide for all ages - from children to old age pensioners - and over the years have raised thousands of pounds for Romsey Hospital and the Hampshire Air Ambulance, etc. Whilst I appreciate that the days of the old village life and community bonding have long gone, it is most disappointing that people moving into the village over the past 20 years or so don't seem to want to join our social club.

How many villagers are aware of the remarkably successful football team that the village has, having won leagues and/or cups every season for approximately the last 10 years? They also use our club after every home match, providing us with invaluable income.

By the way, having noted the names in the Who's Who section in November's edition, why aren't there more social club members? For instance, only one Parish Council member uses our club, and none of the Village Hall committee!

Come on and join the excellent social club that you have - I'm sure you will be pleasantly surprised.

Yours sincerely,

John Fryer (Treasurer)

*John raises some interesting questions! Please let us have your views. For our part, we would like to add that the article on the Social Club in the November edition of the Acorn was the first that we had received from them in the two years we have been the editors. Unfortunately, we are completely reliant on what we are sent, as we are not able to go out looking for information. So, organisers of local clubs, events, activities, please treat the Acorn as your **free advertising service**, and let us know what you are up to! - Editors.*

## CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

In the tradition of appalling Christmas cracker jokes, try these:

Q: What's odd about the Christmas alphabet?

A: Noel.

Q: Who can't you overtake at Christmas?

A: Three wide men.

Q: What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

A: "It's Christmas, Eve."

Q: What's brown and sneaks round the kitchen?

A: Mince spies.

## 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.

The next Trust meeting will be held in March. All applications for the March meeting must be submitted to the Secretary, Mrs Christine Hoskins, The Old Thatch, High Street, Broughton no later than the end of February. Any application received after this date will be carried forward to the next meeting in June 2009.

If you live in the Benefice of Bossington and Mottisfont and would like to apply for a grant, application forms can be obtained from the church, the village hall or the Secretary.

## PC VINEY

PC John Viney makes regular visits to the area to discuss any matters you may wish to raise.

On the 2nd Tuesday of each month, he's available from 2.00pm until 4.00pm (sometimes longer). He spends the first hour in the car park of Mottisfont Social Club, and the second at Mill Rise, Dunbridge.

## SANDRA GIDLEY, MP

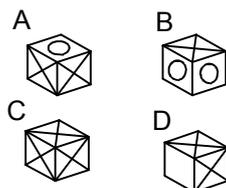
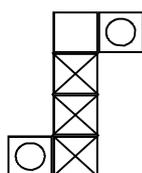
Sandra Gidley, MP, is keen to hear from you on any matters of concern. She can be contacted at 3A, Victoria Place, Love Lane, Romsey, SO51 8DE, by telephone on 511900, or by e-mail at [Gidleys@parliament.uk](mailto:Gidleys@parliament.uk)

# DIARY

Monday, 8th December	WI Supper & Blues Band	8pm, Houghton Village Hall
Monday, 15th December	WI Christmas Outing	Salisbury Playhouse
Tuesday, 16th December	Gardening Club	7.30pm, Village Hall
Friday, 19th December	Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy	10.30-noon, Dunbridge House
Friday, 19th December	Whist Drive	7.30 Village Hall
Saturday, 10th January	Village Supper	Village Hall
Wednesday, 21st January	Parish Council	7.30 Village Hall
Friday, 30th January	Whist Drive	7.30 Village Hall

## BRAIN TEASERS

1. Arrange six matches on a table so that each one is touching ALL the others. It is possible!
2. With a pair of scissors, cut a hole in a sheet of A4 paper. The hole must be big enough for you to climb through without tearing the paper.
3. When folded, which of the four shapes below would the pattern on the left make?



### Solutions to last month's brain teasers

1. Six in a row  
Numbering the coins 1-6 from left to right, start by moving 1 and 2 to the right of 6. Then move 6 and 1 to the right of 2. Finally move 3 and 4 to the right of 5.
2. Eight in a row  
Move 6 and 7 to the left of 1. Move 3 and 4 to the right of 5. Move 7 and 1 to the right of 2. Move 4 and 8 to the right of 6.
3. Pyramid  
Move 1 to below 8 and 9. Move 7 to the left of 2, and 10 to the right of 3.

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

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

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