



Mottisfont & Dunbridge ACORN



The Village Newsletter

November 2008

FURTHER ENHANCEMENTS TO RAIL SERVICES

An hourly train service will be introduced at Mottisfont & Dunbridge station during weekdays and Saturdays starting from mid-December. It follows an increase in passenger numbers, and pressure put on South West Trains by Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership.

The existing Sunday service will remain in place for the foreseeable future.

As soon as the new timetables are available I will try to ensure every home in the parish receives a copy.

Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership is planning to carry on with the rail-bus link to Mottisfont Abbey and the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens next year. This service connects with trains at Romsey and Mottisfont & Dunbridge stations. It's possible the rail-link bus may include Romsey Abbey on its list of stopping places during 2009.

Car parking spaces have now been re-marked at Mottisfont & Dunbridge station after the original white lines had to be removed because a disabled parking place was installed in front of the passenger entrance and exit point on the Romsey-bound platform.

Three Rivers is currently investigating the possibility of securing more parking in the old goods yard area on the southern side of the station. A survey carried out by the organisation showed there was a shortage of parking, and people said they would use trains more if extra parking was available. It's hoped talks will be held with Ian Bullivant, who owns the old goods yard, to see what can be achieved.

Andy Simmonds

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Local children aged under ten are invited to design a Christmas card, and enter it into the Parish Christmas Card Competition. Winning entries will be used for the 2008 Parish Christmas Card.



A selection of the entries will be published in *The Acorn* in December.

Entries should be in black and white, and delivered to the editors at Dunelm House, Barley Hill, Dunbridge, by Monday, 10th November.

SMALL ADS

◆ Murray ride-on mower, in need of attention. Any offers to 368346.

Conditions

The editors will accept advertisements of up to 35 words for items for sale or exchange from individuals (no commercial ads, please) free of charge, subject to space. The editors may refuse to accept any advertisement at their sole discretion. The editors will accept no responsibility for the content of any advertisement, the items advertised, nor for any transaction that may result. It is your responsibility to ensure that the goods are as described.

Have you visited
www.theacorn.org.uk?

The deadline for the December *Acorn* is 16th November.
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.

Mottisfont Parish Plan: Results of the survey

The survey was conducted throughout July and August 2008 using a questionnaire enclosed with the *Acorn*. The questionnaire included 24 potential priorities, and asked each respondent to state if they were 'very important', 'important' or 'not important'. Respondents were asked additionally to name their 'top three' – if they could only vote for only three things from the list, what would they be. Finally, they were asked to provide additional ideas.

53 questionnaires were returned from 44 addresses, including two outside the parish but very close to our boundary. They have been included in the results. There are 140 properties in the parish and 270 electors, so the response rate, on the basis of households, was 30% (omitting the two questionnaires from outside the parish). This is a very good response rate for a questionnaire.

The parish's priorities were, in order:

1. Dealing with flooding at Bengers Lane and Lockerley Road (weighted score 112)
2. Continuing to support the Village Hall Committee in providing facilities and events for the parish (weighted score 98)
3. Working with the Police to maintain a dedicated police officer in our rural area (weighted score 96)
4. Create a footpath by the Station Goods Yard on Barley Hill (weighted score 89)
5. Retaining the allotments in Dunbridge (weighted score 87)
6. Work with the National Trust and housing associations to improve the tenanted housing in the parish (weighted score 85)
7. Reduce the 40mph speed limit on the B3084 to 30mph (weighted score 84)
8. Extend the footpath on Hatt Hill if possible (weighted score 80).

The only other potential priority that had a high score was to consider a play area for local children (weighted score 76). After that, there was a clear gap.

The analysis was undertaken by Parish Councillors Jacquie Horne and Jeff Channing.



THE NATIONAL TRUST

MOTTISFONT at CHRISTMAS

Step back into 1930's high life, when Maud Russell held court at Mottisfont with glamorous country weekends for her friends.

From Saturday, 6th December, wander past the arrival of a shooting party, and visit Mottisfont Estate's Produce stalls selling home-made seasonal foods and greenery.

For just 2 weekends, Saturday & Sunday 13th-14th, and 20th-21st, catch the house decorated for Maud Russell's society party.

Mottisfont's Countdown to Christmas

Saturday & Sunday 6 & 7 December, 11am - 4pm

Take part in traditional Christmas workshops, offering activities for all the family. Nominal fee applies. (Please note: the house will **not** be open this weekend.)

Saturday & Sunday 13th - 14th & 20th - 21st December, 11am - 5pm

Visit the House and experience the swing of a 1930's society party. Be inspired for gifts at our Christmas Fair, and make sure you visit Santa in his grotto.

PLUS

The brand new shop in the Stable Block will be one of the largest in the National Trust, offering the full range of gifts, cards, souvenirs and luxury food.



MOTTISFONT & DUNBRIDGE W.I.



Stuart Wineberg brought warmth, sunshine and colour to our October meeting with wonderful slides of his Scuba diving holidays in the Cayman Islands. Stuart is a very experienced diver, and spoke of the joys and dangers of the sport, bringing along some of the kit necessary for the activity. Parrot, Trunk, Angel and Squirrel were just a few of the amazing fish he had seen in the ocean, and also many beautiful vivid sea corals.

An afternoon tea for Downton Good Companions at the village hall was a great success, and raised funds which will be donated to the Hampshire and IOW Air Ambulance.

The next meeting on Tuesday, 11th November, is the AGM – this is not as dreary as it sounds! After the appointment of officers, we will enjoy a finger buffet with wine and lots of friendly chat. The competition will be your favourite scarf, so bring it along. There will be a sales table.

Looking ahead to 9th December, 'Dickens at Christmas', a selection of seasonal writings by Charles Dickens, will be presented as a dramatised reading in Victorian costume by Vera Hughes and David Weller. This should be a very popular event.

Everyone is welcome at any of our events!

Cathie

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Most families will be aware of the Christmas party which is run every year for children living in the parish of Mottisfont and Dunbridge.

It's a really fun afternoon with music, games, tea and, of course, a visit from Santa Claus!

This very popular event takes quite a bit of work to organise, and as our own children get older, it would be good to know that there are other parents who would also be willing to get involved and take over from us in due course.



This year we would really like some extra help both beforehand and on the day.

If you can help share the load, please contact Sarah Ritchie on 341655.

Also, if you have moved into Dunbridge or Mottisfont in the last year, **please let us know the names and ages of your children** so that we can inform Santa Claus that they are now resident in the parish!

Sarah Ritchie

WHIST DRIVES

The next of our monthly Whist Drives will be on Friday, 28th November, in Mottisfont Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm. We play social whist, with the emphasis on good companionship, food and prizes. Anyone wishing to join us would be most welcome.

Further dates are: 19th December, 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.



WALKING

Our group had its first outing on 3rd October with a walk from the Mill Arms across to Oakley, then over to Michelmersh and back through Mottisfont - wonderful weather, good company, and a walk of about two hours.

November's walk will again start at the Mill Arms at 10am on Friday, 14th November, taking perhaps about two and a half hours.

Even if you don't fancy coming, I'm sure your dog would!

Gordon 340129



Dear Friends,



November is the month to Remember. With Remembrance Sunday falling on 9th November, we are given a fresh opportunity for remembering our own lads and lasses who are being killed and injured in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, and other places in the world. So often now, a flag-draped coffin arrives home without general notice, flown back to this country carrying the body of one of our young people killed in the service of our country. Each death and each serious injury brings long lasting suffering and distress to the families of loved ones killed in these places. We should and we must remember not only those of past conflicts, but also those of today who are dying for our country.

Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, to lay down his life for his friends" (Jn 15.13). Whatever your attitude to war, you can do something for peace this year. Each one of us, whether we intend to go to worship on that day or not, can take a few moments to stop and think, and pray for peace and justice in our world. We can remember our own troops risking and giving their lives, and we can remember especially the little children caught up these conflicts. Prayer does not seek to draw God towards us since, as St Augustine said, he is closer than we are to ourselves. Its purpose is to bring us close enough to him for conversation. Prayer makes us aware of his nearness. "Out of the deep have I called to thee, O Lord" (Psalm 130.1).

Finally, as we ponder on sacrifice and self-giving, the Church also calls us in November to remember All Saints on 1st November, and All Souls on 2nd November. Not to forget Armistice Day on 11th November.

Please join us then for our services:

- ◆ All Souls Day Service at All Saints Church, Houghton, on Sunday, 2nd November, at 6pm.
- ◆ Remembrance Sunday Services on 9th November, at St Andrew's, Mottisfont, All Saints, Houghton, and St Mary's, Broughton, all starting at 10.45am.

With blessings,

Ron Corne

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

	2nd November All Saints	9th November Remembrance	16th November Trinity 26	23rd November Christ the King	30th November St. Andrew
8.00 am	Broughton HC CW	Broughton HC BCP			
9.30 am	Bossington HC BCP (Harvest)		Mottisfont HC BCP	Broughton HC CW	Mottisfont HC CW
	Broughton Godly Play		Broughton Sunday Club	Broughton Sunday Club	Benefice Service
11.00 am	Mottisfont Matins	** 10.45 ** Services of Remembrance at Broughton, Houghton and Mottisfont	Broughton HC CW Broughton Coffee Club	Mottisfont Family Communion	
6.00 pm	Houghton All Souls' Day Service		Houghton Evensong	Houghton HC BCP	

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER

2nd November - All Souls' Day, 6.00pm, All Saints, Houghton. A quiet service of remembrance for our dear departed loved ones. All are welcome, especially those who have suffered a bereavement in recent years.

9th November - Remembrance Sunday, 10.45am. There will be a service at three of our churches on this day: Broughton, Houghton & Mottisfont.

30th November, 9.30am, Benefice Service at St. Andrew's, Mottisfont. Please join us for worship as we celebrate St. Andrew's tide.

BROUGHTON BRIGHT HOUR

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

6th November: Mrs. Anne Freeland
13th November: Members Meeting
20th November: Mr. Malcolm Green
27th November: No Meeting

Everyone welcome. Do come and join us.

Barbara Perry
Booking Secretary, 301466

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.



ST. ANDREW'S GIFT DAY

Ann Saunders, Treasurer of St. Andrew's Church, reports that a magnificent £973.58 was raised at the recent Gift Day held in the church - not forgetting the stall outside selling cakes, jams, etc.!

This is a splendid outcome, and Ann wants to say thank you to all who contributed in any way, especially by giving or helping on the day.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE – OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2008



Once again as our thoughts turn to the festive season, I am writing to encourage as many people as possible to extend their Christmas cheer beyond our benefice and country to the children who, without our help, would not receive a Christmas present this year. Last year Samaritan's Purse collected and distributed 1.3 million gift-filled shoeboxes to 13 countries. We hope that with your help will be able to exceed last year's tremendous total.

It is difficult to explain quite the difference that a shoebox filled with toys, toiletries and school stationery can make to the life of the child receiving the gifts, as well as to the communities where they live. The knowledge that someone, somewhere, cares enough to think about them at Christmas and to send them gifts can make a tremendous difference to a child in need, who may be the victim of war, poverty, famine, disease or natural disaster.

If you are able to help by preparing a gift-filled shoebox, or would be able to help at the warehouse with our appeal this year, please contact Julia Barnett on 340793, or e-mail acornnews@mandercom.co.uk.



LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The History Group's next meeting is on Wednesday, 12th November, at 7.30pm at The Mill Arms (in the back room, "Flints"). It will be an informal evening - just turn up and have a chat!

GARDENING CLUB

Our next meeting will be a slide show and talk on "Geriatrics Wandering Abroad". All are very welcome. Entrance £2.00. 7.30pm on Tuesday, 18th November, in the Village Hall.



Why not visit
www.theacorn.org.uk

Lockerley Primary School

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Friday, 21st November

Lockerley Memorial Hall
at 6.30pm

A fund-raising event for Lockerley School

£1 entrance, to include
a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie

Craft stalls, raffle, tombola & home produce

AWBRIDGE SCHOOL

FUTURE DATES

- ◆ 3rd November: INSET DAY
- ◆ 9th November: Awbridge Church Remembrance Service
- ◆ 4th December: Christmas Disco
- ◆ 8th-11th December: Christmas Production
- ◆ 19th December: End of Term

The Autumn term is always a busy one, and this one is proving no exception. Year 6 had a wonderful residential trip to Little Canada on the Isle of Wight, and got back in time to celebrate a special European Languages Day. Children were all given a passport, and then could choose four countries to go to 'visit'. Parents and staff provided an opportunity for children to experience a flavour of various countries, including making windmills from the Netherlands, playing Boules, and Irish dancing, as well as learning some of each language.

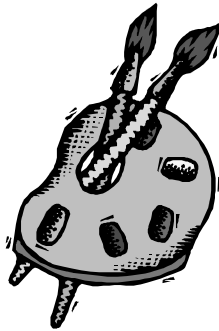
The children put on a very special Harvest Festival, with each class making a contribution. Class 3 made a stuffed scarecrow, Classes 1 and 5 made some wonderful musical contributions, and Classes 2 and 4 gave some fantastic poetic renditions.

There are now even more clubs going on at Awbridge, including Flower Arranging, Sign Language, Netball, Football, Choir and Recorder. The Parent Teacher Association also runs Ju Jitsu, Craft and Football clubs on a Wednesday afternoon.

ART GROUP

Our little Art Group has got off to a good start, and has now established that our new weekly starting time of 2pm on Thursday afternoons is more popular.

It's very sociable, why not come along for a doodle?



VACANCY

Clerk to Mottisfont Parish Council

A part time (3 - 4 hours per week) salaried position. Must have good book keeping skills. Must attend bi-monthly Parish Council Meetings and the Annual Meeting. Capable of taking minutes, setting agendas, and handling correspondence. For further information or an application form and job description, apply to Stuart Miller on 340903.

A little ho-ho?

Postman: Is this letter for you?
The name is smudged.
Man: No, it can't be for me, my name is Smith.

+ + + + +

There has been a theft at Euro Disney. A man has been charged with taking the Mickey.

#

Last night police were called to a branch of Pizza



Hut after the body of a member of staff was found covered in mushrooms, onions, ham and cheese. The police spokesman said that there was a strong possibility that the man had topped himself.

!!!!!!

Q: Who appears in cowboy films and is always broke?

A: Skint Eastwood.

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Q: What's the capital of Iceland?

A: About £3.50.





The Forest Forge Theatre Company

presents

Jack and the Beanstalk

Mottisfont Village Hall

Friday, 14th November, at 6.00pm

Tickets from Jon and Heather Butler on 340740

Adults £7.50, children £4.00, concessions £6.50

MOTTISFONT SOCIAL CLUB

There is a wonderful, friendly atmosphere and great conversation waiting for you when you enter Mottisfont Social Club. We have darts, skittles, crib, pool and snooker that you can play for fun or, if you are competitive, why not join one of the teams? Come along on a Thursday evening and play Bingo for cash prizes. Perhaps we can tempt you to buy a draw ticket for 'Catch the Joker', our Friday night draw: find the Joker and win the cash jackpot; find a heart and win 10% of the jackpot! If the jackpot isn't won, we roll over the total to the following week!!



We have monthly quiz nights and evening entertainment, plenty of parking, and it's only a short walk from wherever you live in the village. And don't forget the cheap beer!



For more information on the Social Club, or for membership, please drop in and see Lynda or one of the committee members. Alternatively, call 340521 (evenings).

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 Club, and the second at Mill Rise, Dunbridge.

FIRST RESPONDERS

We still need more volunteers, and urge you all to come to our **coffee morning** on Saturday, 22nd November, 10am-noon at the village hall. Jeff Ellis, our Training Officer from South Central Ambulance Services, will be on hand to explain and demystify the role of the Community Responder. The coffee morning is also an excellent chance to view the kits you have helped purchase, meet your local responders, and make sure your house is on our maps.

With the darker nights drawing in please can we remind villagers that if you call an ambulance you should make sure:

- ◆ The house name is visible
- ◆ Outside lights are switched on
- ◆ Gates are open
- ◆ Any dogs/pets are shut away

These simple actions mean a swifter response time and help ensure vital seconds are not lost.

For further details or any information about becoming a First Responder please contact the co-ordinator, Kay Murrant on 340289, or by e-mail at kaymurrant@aol.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.

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

SANDRA GIDLEY, MP

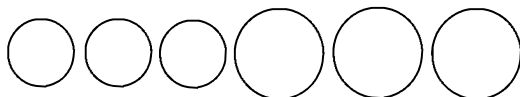
Sandra Gidley, MP, is keen to hear from you on any matters of concern. She can be contacted at 3A, Victoria Place, Love Lane, Romsey, SO51 8DE, by telephone on 511900, or by e-mail at Gidleys@parliament.uk

DIARY

Tuesday, 11th November	WI AGM	8pm, Village Hall
Wednesday, 12th November	Local History Group	7.30pm, The Mill Arms (Flints)
Friday, 14th November	Walking	10am, The Mill Arms
Friday, 14th November	Jack and the Beanstalk	6pm, Village Hall
Tuesday, 18th November	Gardening Club	7.30pm, Village Hall
Saturday, 22nd November	1st Responders Coffee Morning	10am - noon, Village Hall
Friday, 28th November	Whist Drive	7.30pm, Village Hall
Saturday, 10th January, 2009	Village Supper	Village Hall

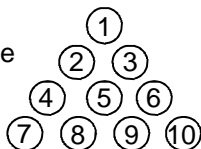
BRAIN TEASERS

1. **Six in a row** Place three 5p coins and three 10p coins in a row as shown. Moving two adjacent coins at a time, in three moves rearrange the line so the types of coin alternate, and there are no coin-sized gaps.



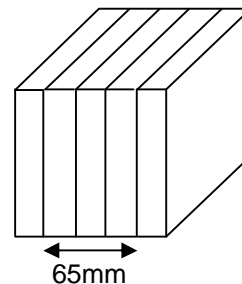
2. **Eight in a row** Now do the same for four of each coin, and in four moves.

3. **Pyramid** Move only three coins to turn the pyramid upside down.



SOLUTIONS TO LAST MONTH'S BRAIN TEASERS

1. Books: The thickness of each cover is 2.5mm, and the thickness of the pages, excluding the covers, is 15mm. How far apart are the first page of the left hand book and the last page of the right hand book?



2. $2 + 22 = 24$

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

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*, 2008.