



*This Snow Maiden mysteriously found her way into Pat and Dave Francis's garden during the recent cold weather.*

### From the Editors

We're delighted to be able to say that thanks to Andrea and Ian at the Mill Arms, the costs of printing the *Acorn* during 2010 will not be a problem for us. They have very kindly agreed to cover the costs again this year - and it's not a trivial amount of money, especially in these financially challenging times. We'd like to say a very big and heartfelt thank you to them for their generosity.

While we are on the subject of the Mill Arms, there's a special offer for our readers - see page 7 for details. Don't miss it!

During the recent cold spell, we saw the lowest temperatures for some considerable time. One morning the car thermometer showed  $-8^{\circ}\text{C}$ . We seem though to live in a spot where we miss the worst of the weather: just a couple of inches of snow, while 20 or 30 miles away it was much worse.

This unusual weather must have given rise to some interesting stories, not just the appearance of the Snow Maiden to the left! If you have an interesting tale, or would like to thank someone for their support, do let us know, and we'll try to fit them in next month's *Acorn*.

Keep warm!

Julia and Peter

### MOTTISFONT & DUNBRIDGE W.I.



Despite the snowy and icy conditions, the January meeting was very well attended, and had a very interesting demonstration and talk on The Art of Sculpture in Wire by Mandy Flynn of Whiteparish. She brought along samples of her work - a dachshund, a hare and a collie - and explained that she uses the old wire netting removed from thatched houses when they are re-thatched. This is galvanised wire, which she paints with car paint and then lacquers, so is suitable for outside use. Mandy then demonstrated making a mouse, and a member helped complete it by making an ear and the tail.

Our Annual Jumble Sale is on 27th February at 2pm. If you are having a clear out, please save any unwanted items for us. Cathie on 340129 or Frances



on 301614 will be happy to make arrangements to collect it.

The Spring Group Meeting is at 7pm on Monday, 29th March, at Mottisfont Village Hall, with a talk by a New Forest Verderer.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 9th February, at the Mottisfont Village Hall at 8 pm, We will welcome Katy England, who is giving a talk on Living in the Stone Age.

We have many more interesting speakers and outings arranged for the coming year. Why not come and join us? All are welcome!

Audrey Atchison, 301156

The next edition of the *Acorn* will be in March. Information for the March edition must be submitted by 16th February. Our e-mail is [acornnews@mandercom.co.uk](mailto:acornnews@mandercom.co.uk).

## LETTER TO THE EDITORS

### WITHDRAWAL OF RESIDENTS FREE ENTRY CARD TO MOTTISFONT ABBEY

I was rather taken aback to receive a letter just after Christmas (sent out to the residents of Mottisfont and Dunbridge Parish) from Alison Evans, General Manager Mottisfont Abbey National Trust Estate, stating that she has withdrawn free entry to residents. I feel that it is a great shame that the National Trust feels the need to do this.

One of the reasons quoted was that after Ms Evans had studied Mrs Russell's Memorandum of Wishes (Mrs Russell being the donor of the Mottisfont Abbey Estate to the National Trust in 1957), and it did not contain any mention of village residents having the benefit of free admission.

I was never under the impression that Mrs Russell had made any wishes for the villagers to gain free admission. I was always given to believe that the free admission for the residents of our Parish was a goodwill gesture by the National Trust, to compensate for inconvenience caused by visitors en route to the abbey on our roads, and for any additional traffic, noise, etc., from the events held on the estate, which on occasions can be intrusive.

Ms Evans also stated that although many residents had applied for the free admission card, not many had

actually used it. Why then does the National Trust feel the need to withdraw it? Surely getting people through the gates can only benefit the National Trust bringing welcome revenue from sales in the tea rooms, shop and bookshop? The Abbey was also a meeting place for some residents. Others would take paying family and friends to look around the Abbey and gardens.

The proposed free evening opening this summer for local residents to enjoy the gardens would surely be more costly to the National Trust, than giving the free admission cards, due to staffing costs for the event.

I am aware that Ms Evans in her letter also stated that free admission to residents is not a National Trust nationally-agreed policy. However, I am sure that at local level, and given the small amount of residents who used the cards, the free admission could still carry on, if the National Trust so wished.

I urge the National Trust to re-consider the withdrawal of free admission to residents. Could we therefore ask Ms Evans to lobby the appropriate National Trust department on behalf of all the Mottisfont and Dunbridge residents to reinstate this valuable goodwill gesture?

Mottisfont & Dunbridge Parish Resident  
(Name withheld at writer's request)

## NATIONAL TRUST

### MOTTISFONT ESTATE RESIDENTS OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS

If you come across a problem on the estate please do not hesitate to contact us on the following numbers:

Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm:  
Liz Dean, 01794 344020

Weekends, 9am – 5pm:  
Duty Manager, 07977 060751  
Out of hours problems: Please, if possible, leave until the next day or Monday.

### COUNTRYSIDE CONTACT DETAILS

For **emergencies only** regarding animals, fallen trees, etc., at weekends and evenings, please contact one of our Countryside staff on the following numbers:

Philip Marshall, Countryside Manager:  
07974 753380, 01794 341257  
Chris Stock, Area Warden:  
07967 657006, 01794 341638  
David Chase, Warden Forester:  
07967 657003, 01794 340506

## Samaritan's Purse: Operation Christmas Child

Charity number: 1001349

On behalf of all the children and families who received gift filled shoe boxes from the area, I would like to say a very big THANK YOU. This year the UK Operation Christmas Child (OCC) campaign sent nearly 1.2 million boxes to some of the poorest children in Eastern Europe, Zimbabwe and Swaziland.



Did you know that OCC is not the only campaign Samaritan's Purse is involved with? We work on many fronts to help those in the need around the world including clean water and health education campaigns, disaster support and aid in times of crisis. We have been active in the relief aid work in Haiti, and by 21st January Samaritan's Purse had sent six cargo flights of relief medical, water and shelter supplies, together with medical and emergency support teams to help with the crisis.

It is fantastic that 1.2 million children are smiling because they received a shoe box over the 2009-10 appeal period, but it is a tragedy that another 1.5 million children died last year due to lack of clean water, and so many are suffering in Haiti and other crisis areas. If you would like to know more about the OCC or other Samaritan's Purse campaigns, please give me a call, or alternatively call Margaret Griffin, the Southampton and Portsmouth Area Co-ordinator, on 01794 522327.

Julia Barnett – Samaritan's Purse Local Representative (340793)

**The Broughton and Mottisfont  
Community Bus Committee**

Charity Number: 284910

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Broughton and Mottisfont Community Bus is run as a charity under the provisions of the law and the Charity Commission. An Annual General Meeting is held each year, to which members of the public are welcome. The 30th AGM will be held in the Broughton Village Hall on Monday, 22nd February, 2010, starting at 7.30pm. The bus will collect people who wish to attend, starting from Dunbridge at 7pm and circulating through the village from 7.15pm. It will be available to take people home after the meeting.

**Agenda**

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Approval of minutes of 29th AGM
- 3 Matters arising from those minutes
- 4 Financial report given by George Pratley
- 5 Chairman's report given by Michael Howe
- 6 Resignations and Election of Officers
- 7 Any other business (including further ideas on excursions in the summer months)

Anyone wishing to come on to the Committee, or nominating someone else, should contact either the Chairman, Michael Howe, on 301723, or the Secretary, George Vaughan, on 301045.

**Forest Forge presents:  
Free Folk by Gary Owen**

Forest Forge brings you the world premiere of a new play by the award-winning playwright Gary Owen. Free Folk is a comedy about living in a free country and never being able to do what you really want to!



A joyful and witty exploration of what it is to live in the rural Britain of today.

Mottisfont Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 10th March. Tickets from Jon & Heather on 340740. Adults £7.50, Concessions £6.00.

**Parish Lunch on Sunday, 28 February, 2010**

- Starters: Carrot and coriander soup  
Smoked trout pate  
Roll and butter
- Main: Lemon chicken casserole  
Pork escallops with a creamy mushroom sauce  
Vegetarian cottage pie with parsnip mash topping (v)  
Seasonal vegetables and potatoes
- Pudding: Bread and butter pudding  
Mulled winter fruit salad  
Custard/cream  
Coffee

Guests to arrive from 12noon.

Sherry will be served in long corridor, Mottisfont Abbey.

Lunch will be served in the Old Dining Room at 12.45.

£16.85 per adult (over 14yrs),  
£8.25 per child, under 5yrs free

Please return the reply slip below with your payment and menu choice to John Jenkins (301614) or Gordon Wood (340129) by Monday, 15th February. Cheques should be made payable to National Trust (Enterprises) Ltd.



Name	Starter	Main	Pudding

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Total payment enclosed £ \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Friends,



Lent is fast approaching in which we seek to provide something to help people to think and pray during this holy time for Christians. Space for prayer in Lent is both precious and imperative as we link into Christians worldwide, who are preparing for the great celebration of Christ's Passion and Resurrection. I find that it can be long after the event that I can reflect and see the blessings which have come from that time of prayer and preparation.

This year we are going to hold a Meditation on each Wednesday evening in Lent, and each Meditation will be at a different church in the Benefice, but always on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm. The idea is that we encompass the whole Benefice by using each church, which both reminds us of our unity and also our need for each other as we drink from the well of life in Christ. Please come around with us each Wednesday evening or drop in for one Meditation. Our central theme will be Christ in the Icon, and each week we will use a different Icon for our reflections, looking at what the Iconographer is trying to convey through both the painted form and the Holy Spirit.

Icons are silent; there is perfect silence in the icon, and this stillness and silence creates, both in the church and in the home, an atmosphere of prayer and contemplation. The silence of an icon is a silence that speaks; it is the silence of Christ on the Cross, the silence of the Virgin, the silence of the Transfiguration, the silence of the Resurrection.

Lent begins formally on Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on 17th February, and there will be an Ash Wednesday Service at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church, Broughton. In the Ash Wednesday Service we will celebrate the Eucharist, and have the Imposition of Ash on the forehead, a powerful moment when we are reminded of our mortality and our need to turn to Christ for forgiveness and new life.

Please join us in these prayerful meditations.

Ron Corne  
Rector.

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

	<b>7 February Sexagesima</b>	<b>14 February Quinquagesima</b>	<b>21 February Lent 1</b>	<b>28 February Lent 2</b>
<b>8am</b>	Broughton HC CW	Broughton HC BCP		
<b>9.30am</b>	Bossington HC BCP  No Sunday Club	Broughton Family Service - a commemoration of all past baptisms ----- Houghton HC CW	Mottisfont HC BCP  ----- Broughton Sunday Club	Broughton HC CW A Family Communion
<b>11am</b>	Mottisfont Matins	Mottisfont Family Service	Broughton HC CW and Coffee Club	Mottisfont Family Communion
<b>6pm</b>	Houghton Evensong		Houghton Evensong	Houghton HC BCP

**Wednesdays: 9.30am Broughton HC BCP  
17th February (Ash Wednesday), St. Mary's, Broughton, 7.30pm Service of Holy Communion with the  
imposition of ashes for the start of Lent**

## Events at St. Andrew's

At the recent evening entertainment organised by St Andrew's Church for the Benefice, those who braved the weather enjoyed a mixture of songs, hymns, readings and a Mummers' Play in which a not-so-fearsome Dragon was eventually slain by a not-too-threatening George. All with great humour and presented by the group The Madding Crowd.

Seasonal refreshments ensured that a good time was had by all, and we were able to donate the collection of £175. to the First Responders. They were, of course, surprised and grateful. They would also welcome any enquiries by potential new members, who don't need to be medical experts. (Contact Marion Gray on 341370)

### IN THE FUTURE

Mothering Sunday is on 14th March, and we have a group of young people coming to the Church. They are called 'rooakh' and came to sing at a carol service two years ago. The service will be in a slightly different format to the usual and ALL are invited to come. You don't need to have small children or to receive a posy of flowers. Let's face it, we all have, or had, a mother and can celebrate that fact, at the same time saying our Thank Yous for all those who mother or care for today's children. So make a note to come along, listen to some different songs, join in some familiar ones and hear a message from a speaker who will be new to all of us. Ron and the PCC are looking forward to it, and to seeing you there, with family and friends at 11 o'clock. Wouldn't it be good if I had to borrow some extra chairs? Babies and children are NOT expected to stay silent. We will give you a reminder in the next Acorn.

Valda White

### Women's World Day of Prayer 2010

The Women's World Day of Prayer in 2010 is on 5th March.

Please would anyone wanting to have an active part in this very special interdenominational service contact me as soon as possible. Please put the date in your diaries. Everyone is welcome. This year the service has been prepared by Christian Women of Cameroon, and will be in St. Mary's Church at 2pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available after the service.

Ann Ridout. 01980 862232.

### BROUGHTON BRIGHT HOUR:

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

4th February: Members Meeting.

11th February: David Stone.

18th February: Philip Mutton.

25th February: Michele Price. (Winchester Churches  
Nightshelter)

Winchester Churches Nightshelter fills a vital and unique place within the network of Winchester's homelessness services. It offers an essential life line where basic needs of shelter, food and hygiene can be met. WCNS is the only service to offer direct access accommodation, with outreach support and are often the first port of call for the homeless. As I write this, in the warmth and comfort of my home, with freezing weather conditions outside, it emphasises the important work of Nightshelter, the relief and comfort it brings to many unfortunate people, who often through no fault of their own, are living on the streets.

Everyone welcome. Do come and join us.  
Barbara Perry, Booking Secretary, 301466

### The Confused Samaritan

A man was beaten up by robbers on a road to London. He lay there, half dead and in bad shape. A Vicar came along, saw him and passed by on the other side. Next, a monk came by but also walked quickly on the other side. Finally, a social worker came along, looked at the man and said "Whoever did this needs help!"

### The Quiet Garden at Lopcombe

We would be pleased to welcome individuals or groups who would like to visit our quiet place for prayer, meditation, or just to get a little rest in different surroundings. You are welcome to come for an hour or two, by prior arrangement. I have started to take bookings for the Spring.



*Part of the garden in the recent snow*

The Quiet Garden at Lopcombe is affiliated to The Quiet Garden Trust, Charity No. 1038528.

Ann Ridout, 01980 862232

## Whist Drives

The following are our dates for monthly Whist Drives in Mottisfont Village Hall: 26th February, 26th March, 30th April.

We play to the rules, but without taking things too seriously. We like to think we play social whist with the emphasis on good company, good prizes and good refreshments.

If you would like a little tuition or practice, please phone Gordon Wood on 340129, or John Jenkins on 301614.

## ART GROUP



Meets every Thursday afternoon, 2pm - 4pm at the Village Hall.

Includes inspirational music to paint by - plus free tea and biscuits!

Can we tempt you?

Gordon, 340129

## HISTORY GROUP

We are holding an illustrated talk on the history of the two local railway lines in our area (the former line that went to Andover and the current one to Salisbury) on 23rd February, at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

People will tell stories of their life on the lines, stations and signal boxes.

All are very welcome, especially anyone who would like to add any stories or reflections. Entrance is £2.00.

For more information, contact Michael Horne on 340105, or e-mail [hornes@btinternet.com](mailto:hornes@btinternet.com).

## Gardening Club

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 16th March, at 7.30 in the Village Hall. The speaker will be Shirley Lawson, with an illustrated talk on the Kennet and Avon canal.



All are very welcome. Entrance is £2.00.

## LOCKERLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

### LUNCHTIME SUPERVISORY ASSISTANT REQUIRED

We are short staffed at lunchtime and in urgent need of a lunchtime supervisory assistant to join our friendly team from 12 – 1pm daily.

Good rates of pay, and term time only.

Please contact the school office on 340485 if you can help. Even if you can only work one or two days, it would be much appreciated.

## Unwanted Bikes

In the December Acorn, I asked if anyone had an unwanted or unloved bike, maybe needing a little attention. These bikes would be renovated and sent



to Africa to be used by health workers, midwives, etc., to enable them to move around more freely where lack of transport is a problem.

May I thank everyone who has kindly donated one. To date I have received **seven**, with a further five or six promised.

A sincere thank you.

Gordon 340129

## WALKING GROUP

Our next scheduled walks are:

- ◆ Friday, 12th February, at 10.00am. - meet outside the Mill Arms.
- ◆ Friday, 12th March, at 9.50am - meet at the station for a train to Dean.



The walks take about 3 hours - good gentle exercise and lots of chat!

Gordon, 340129

## 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 2010.

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.

## Awbridge Primary School News

Happy New Year to all!

The school's Christmas festivities went very well at the end of last term, with an enjoyable combination of fun activities and events within the community.

This year, our 4-8 year olds wrote, planned and performed their very own performance for parents: 1..2..3..Nativity. This was a great success and children, staff and families enjoyed the children's efforts.

We were delighted once again to be welcomed into Awbridge Church for our Christmas service by Rev'd Kington and parishioners. The children walked to the church with parents, staff and community police officers, and it chose that day to snow, so that felt extra special for the children.

The Advent Fayre was held for the first time on a Friday evening and, although it rained, it certainly didn't dampen spirits or stop people attending. In fact, it was our best attendance in recent years and the PTA raised over £1400 for the school, which was fantastic total – thank you to all who came and made it such an enjoyable event.

The choir were very active 'on tour' in the community in the lead up to Christmas, singing at Kent's Oak Rest Home, Waitrose, Awbridge Church and the Advent Fayre. They sang beautifully, and were again a credit to the school, with great feedback given by those who heard them.

This term, we have of course had a good deal of snow, and this has meant some very enjoyable times on the field making some huge snowmen.

We have some really exciting projects happening this term, with children eagerly anticipating a visit from Henry VIII for the banquet they will be preparing, creating web pages for Greek tourism and discovering about Evacuation.



## MARSHALLS WANTED

Marshalls are wanted for the Houghton Trail Run on Sunday 25th April.

Your job will be to direct cyclists or runners as they approach you. You will be provided with a hi-vis jacket, maps and directions; the runners and riders will certainly appreciate your cheery wave to help them keep to their route, because they will be concentrating hard on cycling or running!

To volunteer or for further information please contact either Bob Gosse (388617) or Fiona Evans (389237)

Proceeds to All Saints Church, Houghton.

## The Mill Arms - Special Offer for Acorn Readers



Welcome to 2010!

Why not come and join us for lunch/dinner on Monday - Thursday in January or February, and enjoy £5.00 off your meal plus a free tea or coffee?

**£5.00 free food per table  
Plus a free cup of tea or coffee per person**

We are open for food 12 - 2.15pm & 6pm - 8.30pm Monday to Thursday.

Minimum spend £12.00pp & and **bring your copy of the Acorn\*** to qualify.

**Happy New Year and See You Soon!**

\* offer valid for one meal, and only with your delivered copy of the Acorn.

## MOTTISFONT SOCIAL CLUB

Happy new year to you.

The Children's Christmas Party was a huge success, so let me start by thanking everyone involved, especially all the kids who came along - there were 70 in total!! Special thanks to Hamptons Tree Care, Growing Hand, Stuart Smith Electricals and the Jenkinsons at Hatt Farm for their generous donations, to Catherine Jenkins (who made the delicious cakes) and Doug Haste for their assistance with organising the event, and last but not least to Mottisfont Social Club for hosting the party. I think it's safe to say that everyone enjoyed themselves, even the adults who were able to indulge in a cheeky festive tippie whilst the children were entertained by Professor Potty!

I was asked by several people how they could join the social club, as they lived in the village but didn't really know anyone who was a member. For this reason I have put a membership form in this month's Acorn. All you need to do is fill in your name and address, take it into the club with the joining fee, and introduce yourself to Lynda or whoever is behind the bar. I have already

filled in my details on the form as a proposer. Please ask the person behind the bar to sign the bottom as a seconder.

Mottisfont Social Club is child-friendly, and as such is an ideal place for a family to enjoy an evening socialising with friends. We can offer the use of the club free of charge to members as a venue for their parties, and can comfortably hold up to 200 people. We have a snooker table and a pool table, as well as dart boards and a skittle alley, not to mention friendly faces and pleasant conversation when you come through the door.

We need more local people to join and use the facilities at Mottisfont Social Club, so that we are able to keep going and provide a venue for the Children's Christmas Party for years to come.

Please come in and see us soon.

Tracy Holmes

### MUMS AND BABIES COFFEE MORNING

I am thinking of starting a Mums and Babies Coffee Morning and I am wondering how much interest there would be in this. The general consensus is to open it for all parents, grandparents, carers and their babies and toddlers up to 3 years of age.

Please can you call me on 341939 if this is of interest to you, so I can gauge numbers and sort out the best day and time to hold it?

Tracy Holmes

### OLD CAMCORDER WANTED

Do you have an old Video 8 camcorder lurking unused in a drawer, but still capable of playing tapes? If so, I'd like to borrow, hire or buy it, to copy some old tapes to DVD.

If you can help, please call Peter on 340793.

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

<b>Acorn</b>	Editors	Peter & Julia Barnett	340793	<b>Social Club</b>	Chairman	Peter Simmonds	340891
<b>Art Group</b>		Gordon Wood	340129		Secretary	Jackie Appleby	
<b>Cricket Club</b>	Secretary	Tony Stemp	340398		Steward	Linda Taggart	340521
<b>History Group</b>		Michael Horne	340105	<b>Test Valley Councillor</b>		Andrew Gibson	01264
<b>Horticultural Society</b>		Michael Horne	340105				861138
<b>First Responders</b>	Coordinator	Marion Gray	341370	<b>Village Bus</b>	Secretary	George Vaughan	301045
<b>Football Club</b>	Secretary	John Fryer	512695		Bookings	Pam Dawkins	301203
<b>Member of Parliament</b>	Constituency Office	Sandra Gidley	511900		Private Hire	Julie Smith	301470
<b>Mill Arms</b>		Andrea and Ian Bentall	340401		Operations	Mike Howe	301723
<b>Mottisfont Abbey</b>	Est. Manager		340757	<b>Village Hall</b>	Chairman	Lynn Young	340134
<b>Neighbourhood Watch</b>	Mottisfont Dunbridge	Alan Earthrowl Cliff Astur	341799 341922	(Reg.Charity No 291629)	Village Hall	Jon & Heather Butler	340740
<b>Parish Council</b>	Clerk	Sue Holder	340130		Entertainments		
	Chairman	John Millns	340347		Secretary	Alan Groves	341301
	Councillors	Jeff Channing	340555	<b>W.I.</b>	Bookings	Cathie Wood	340129
		Alan Earthrowl	341799		Secretary	Cathie Wood	340129
		Jacquie Horne	340105	<b>Police</b>	Press reporter	Audrey Aitchison	301156
		Stuart Miller	340903		Village	PC John Viney	0845
		Andrew Simmonds			Romsey		0845
<b>St. Andrew's Church</b>	Rector	Revd. Ron Corne	301287				045 45 45
	Reader	Gina Livermore	388433				
	Wardens	Trish Armstrong					
		Susan Clutterbuck	340475				