

ACORN

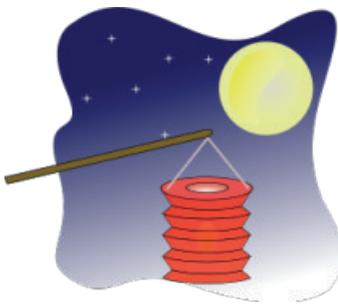
The Village Newsletter

December 2020
& January 2021



LET'S LIGHT UP THE VILLAGE!

The Romsey Lantern Parade Committee is urging residents in Romsey to display home-made lanterns outside their homes or businesses, even through the annual December event, which featured more than 200 lanterns in 2019, is cancelled this year.



Why don't we try to light up Dunbridge and Mottisfont with our own lanterns and Christmas decorations?

Plastic milk bottles can be decorated with greenery, shapes can be cut out

from juice boxes and even tubes can be made from greaseproof paper. Outdoor lights can be put inside the lantern which can be hung from trees and bushes in front gardens, or simply put in your window.

Alternatively, you could decorate your front room windows with a Christmas theme.

There are lots of ideas on the internet for making lanterns from rubbish, so why not give it a go.

Pat Frances

LITTER PICK VOLUNTEERS IN MOTTISFONT AND DUNBRIDGE

The hedgerows and verges of the roads and footpaths in the parish are looking much neater and tidier thanks to thirty volunteers who participated in a two-hour litter pick morning on Sunday, 1st November. Participants ranged from the age of four, up to some (ageless!) senior citizens.

When the litter pickers had finished, the Social Club invited them back to the Club for a free drink and some nibbles. Fifteen bags of litter were deposited in one corner of the Club's car park, and we were grateful to TVBC for collecting them the following morning. Some volunteers took their full bags home and put them out for collection with the usual black bins.

It was agreed that another litter picking day will be chosen in March 2021, when the grass and nettles are shorter and the hedgerows are not in leaf.

Peter Holmes, who asked for volunteers and arranged the day, would like to thank everyone who took part for venturing out on a reasonably pleasant morning and making the day a success.

(In fact, Peter Holmes was so pleased with the outcome that he was moved to write a poem about it - see page 6 - Eds.)



THE MILL ARMS

Well, what a year 2020 has turned out to be. Whoever could have imagined how the year would progress, but at last there is light at the end of the tunnel with news on vaccinations and the hope of a return to some normality after Easter next year.

At the time of writing we have just heard that Hampshire will be in Tier 2 post the lockdown being lifted on 2nd December. This is very disappointing news and after serious consideration we regret to advise that until we find ourselves back in Tier 1 or with no restrictions, it is not viable to reopen the Mill Arms.

As noted in our update in the summer prior to reopening, our aim is to continue running the pub for many years, and therefore to keep our losses to a minimum this year, ensuring the long term viability of the Mill Arms, we cannot reopen under the trading restrictions imposed within Tier 2.

We are devastated that this is the case, and had been busy planning our Christmas menu and activities for December. There is of course the possibility that in the next tier review due in two weeks we may return to Tier 1 from 16th December, and we would then of course reopen from that date. While we would not be able to run a conventional Christmas menu, we would have available some Christmas

continued on page 6



As I write this we are still within the middle of the second coronavirus lockdown, although it feels very different this time around, with lots of people out and about. The grounds and gardens at Mottisfont have remained open during this lockdown to enable people to spend time outdoors, and we have been also able to keep our Coach House café open for a limited takeaway offer. This has meant removing all outdoor café seating to comply with government guidelines which caused a bit of annoyance at first from visitors, but overall people seem happy to be able to go for a winter wander and get a hot drink and a 'light bite'! The house is currently closed, but as and when lockdown lifts the house will be ready for re-opening and beautifully dressed for Christmas! If lockdown continues, we may just have to make a video instead for social media, but we will wait and see what happens on 3rd December. The winter garden is now also open, and the gardens team have done a great job in getting this looking good, despite having had a number of staff in furlough over the summer.

We're also very aware that our car parks at Spearywell Woods and across the New Forest are very busy at the moment, especially on sunny days, with lots of people deciding to spend their time during lockdown heading out for walks.

Across the estate and wider portfolio we are finalising our winter Ash Dieback safety work programme which has been co-ordinated at a local, regional and national level. The impact of Ash Dieback to the National Trust has been reported widely including national newspapers, TV and radio, so we are delighted that the works include our estate too. All works have been identified and the extent of the diseases spread has prompted works at most of our countryside sites, so we are pleased to be able to finalise the work as part of the national programme.

We are planning to put the nativity into the Cellarium as usual this year so, provided that we are able to open indoor spaces, residents will be able to come in and see it using your Parish Passes. During quieter weekdays, people can now 'walk up' without booking, but the online booking system remains in place for weekend visitors and this booking system will also be in place over the busy Christmas period. The booking system is really important in helping us to manage overall numbers of visitors safely, and particularly to manage carpark capacity. The booking system has been upgraded, so you can now book online using your Parish Passes.

Just a reminder that Parish Passes are available to anyone within the parish of Mottisfont & Dunbridge who is not a tenant of the National Trust (tenants are able to apply for a separate Tennant Pass). A Parish Pass gives you free entry to Mottisfont. This year's

passes expire on 28th February, 2021. To apply for a new pass for 2021-2022 please do email Mottisfont@nationaltrust.org.uk with the names of all householders and proof of address.

The Trust's Reset programme continues, which is about making sure that the Trust is financially ship-shape for the future, and responding to a drop in memberships and income due to the Coronavirus outbreak. We are still working through this. I will communicate any changes relevant to residents as soon as I can, but overall it has enabled the Trust to be in a much more stable place than we were at the start of the pandemic, with staff here are certainly looking forward to 2021 whatever this might bring us.

Happy Christmas from myself and the team, and wishing you all a safe and peaceful 2021.

Vicky Fletcher
General Manager, Mottisfont & South West
Hampshire National Trust
Email: Vicky.Fletcher@NationalTrust.org.uk

Festive fun...

Thursday 3 December - 10 January (government guidelines permitting), excluding 24 and 25 December when the whole property is closed. 10am-4pm, house open from 11am. Last entry at 3.30pm.

Family trail: Peter Rabbit's Winter Adventure

Treat your little ones to the magic of a Peter Rabbit™ winter adventure activity trail around our gardens - in partnership with Penguin Random House UK. Peter Rabbit's friends need some help finding items to see them through the colder winter months. Young nature adventurers can lend a hand to some of Beatrix Potter's well-loved characters and solve the clues to earn their special trail badge and certificate. There are activities aimed at both 3-5 year olds and 5-9 year olds.

A trail pack costs £2, available from visitor reception. Each pack includes everything you'll need to complete the trail, including a bag and pencil to keep. There is also an additional play pack for you to take home.

Festive decorations

You'll find decorations inspired by the natural beauty of winter inside and out. Lanterns and twinkling lights line the pathways, and there are signs of woodland creatures gathering for Christmas celebrations and preparing for winter. A traditional nativity scene will be on display in the Cellarium. Inside the house, you'll find trees dressed in traditional baubles and colours for a cosy, Christmassy feeling. Mantelpieces will be adorned with swags of foliage and festive floral arrangements. Look out for more little creatures nestling down among the decorations.

continued on next page

Continued from previous page

To keep you safe, we have introduced a one-way route through the house and hand sanitiser will be made available on entry and exit. We are also limiting the number of people who can access the house at any one time - due to limits on capacity, it may not be possible for everyone to access the house during their visit.

In the gardens...

The one-acre winter garden is now open to visitors once more, with a one-way system. This seasonal star glows with brilliantly coloured winter bark from dogwood and ornamental bramble, while berries, fruit and late- and early-flowering perennials such as bergenia and hellebores also provide colour during the shortest days of the year. Sweet-scented daphnes and winter-flowering honeysuckles, wintersweet and witch hazel all contribute to a subtle fragrance in the crisp cold air.

Delicate drifts of snowdrops will begin to appear beside our waterways from January.

Keep in touch...

Visit our website, nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont, to keep up to date with things to see and do, and any changes in light of government guidelines. You can also find us on social media – look out for us on Facebook, Instagram and follow us on Twitter @MottisfontNT for regular updates.

DAVID CHASE IS MOVING ON

With a little sadness and after 34 years I will be leaving the National Trust on 14th December.

I started work with the NT in 1986 as John Surplice's Assistant Woodman. In those days there were only the two of us working on the Estate in the Woodland, but after the great storm of 1987 more staff were gradually introduced to do Woodland and Nature Conservation work.

Over the years my title has changed from Assistant Woodman to Warden and then Ranger. The department has grown to ten staff looking after Mottisfont, Stockbridge, New Forest and Hamble.

The effects of Covid-19 mean the National Trust needs to save money, so the Countryside Department is being cut by two members of staff and I am taking voluntary redundancy. Gillian and I will be staying in the village.

Looking to the future, I intend to carry out self-employed garden maintenance and property handyman work. For more information on this please call 07967 657003.

David Chase

TV Capsule A film for you, made by you

The Essentials

- We want people to produce a 2-3 minute film about their life in Test Valley.
- Films will be used to create a 'Video Tapestry' - a time capsule of today.
- Anyone can take part, no special equipment is needed. Help is available.
- The closing date for film submissions is December 31st 2020.

Visit <https://www.tvcapsule.co.uk> for full details.

How to get involved

It's up to you to make the films - but we're here to help, with "how to" videos and regular support surgeries to help you get your films made. You could make a film about almost anything that has meaning for you, (see the four rules) or gets you excited.

It's about 2020, about the here and now. So, what's on your mind? Is there something that is keeping you up at night or something that gets you out of bed in the morning? Who or what matters to you? And where are the places that offer you inspiration or comfort?

We want as many people from as many different backgrounds as possible to be part of this project, so the more people that get involved the better. So spread the word and get others involved too.

No video camera? No worries. Using a smartphone is fine. There are some 'how to' videos on our website to help you make the most of whatever video camera you have: phone, tablet, DSLR or video camera - as the saying goes "the best camera is the one you have with you."

Keep it simple and have fun

It doesn't have to be a Hollywood production (although it could be!). Keep it simple and have fun. There are only four things to remember, (without which we will not be able to include your film):

1. Your film must be no longer than 3 minutes
2. Submission must be via the web form
3. We need to know you have the permission of everyone in the film - again, see the form
4. The film must be suitable for people of all ages.

Visit <https://www.tvcapsule.co.uk> for details, inspiration or to upload your film.





From the Rector

Waiting, Hope, Joy.

For the Church, December means Advent, a time of waiting and preparation. Waiting is something that we are all now very familiar with. Waiting to be able to see the ones we love; waiting for restrictions on our lives to be lifted; waiting for a miracle (or at least a vaccine); waiting for everything to get back to “normal”.

Back in the spring, life seemed to have been put on pause, and although we all recognised the cost, there was perhaps a sense of the world taking the opportunity to pause for a moment, and maybe that was not such a bad thing. However, now we are no longer willing or able to accept that our lives will be paused for ever. Yet we are still waiting. It has worn a bit thin now.

Yet each year the church goes through his period of waiting and expectation. We all know where it will lead: the eventual celebration of the birth of Christ, the mystery of God in our midst – Emmanuel, and yet we go through the spiritual exercise of waiting in anticipation because it helps us to reflect on the state of our lives, and our need for God in the form of the infant Messiah.

So, this December, not only is the four week period of waiting a helpful time of spiritual growth, it is also

an opportunity for us to reflect on the good that this enforced wait can have on our lives if we are willing to engage with it and commit some time to self-examination.

At the time of writing we are still in a national lockdown, and it is unclear if that will be lifted on 2nd December as promised. We are however planning a full programme of church services throughout December, assuming that we are permitted to worship in church. If we are not, there will continue to be services on-line instead. The services on Christmas Day and Christmas Eve will probably require booking because of the limited numbers that we can safely welcome in the churches. Please contact your local churchwardens for more information, and accept my deepfelt apologies if you are not able to attend church as you had hoped. You are, of course, welcome all year round.

Christmas is a time when our patient waiting reaches its conclusion, and is rewarded with hope and joy. However, as we all know, that hope and joy is born into a situation of uncertain vulnerability, of marginalised forgottenness, and isolated rejection. This year we are all travelling a weary, lonely journey towards Bethlehem. It is a time to reflect on the situation into which God chose to reach out to us and share with us, living amongst the challenges of our lives, so that we might have the hope and joy of sharing with Him the glory of heaven.



CHURCH SERVICES

	Bossington	Broughton	Houghton	Mottisfont
6th December Advent 2	-	9.30am Parish Communion	-	6pm Evensong
13th December Advent 3	-	11am Parish Communion	6pm Evensong	11am Morning Worship
20th December Advent 4	9.30am Parish Communion BCP	9.30am Bible Uncovered	-	-
24th December Christmas Eve	-	11.30pm Midnight Communion	-	-
25th December Christmas Day	9.30am Communion BCP	10am Parish Eucharist	11am Parish Eucharist	10am Parish Eucharist
27th December Christmas 1	6pm Meditation	8am Holy Communion (CW or BCP) 9.30am Family Service	9.30am Parish Communion	11am Parish Eucharist

These service times may change, subject to COVID regulations in force at the time.

Please check the parish web site's calendar at www.mottisfontpc.org.uk, where we will try to show the latest information.



STOCKBRIDGE CINEMA



Wednesday 9th December Military Wives (12A)

A feel-good film, inspired by true events, *Military Wives* follows a group of women in England whose partners are away serving in Afghanistan. Faced with the men's absences, they form a choir and quickly find themselves at the centre of a media sensation and global movement.

Friday 15 January Cinema Paradiso (15)

Giuseppe Tornatore's loving homage to the cinema tells the story of Salvatore, a successful film director, returning home for the funeral of Alfredo, his old friend who was the projectionist at the local cinema throughout his childhood. Soon memories of his first love affair with the beautiful Elena and all the high and lows that shaped his life come flooding back, as Salvatore reconnects with the community he left 30 years earlier. (In Italian with English subtitles)

Wednesday 20 January A Personal History of David Copperfield (PG)

Armando Iannucci co-wrote and directed this comedy drama starring Dev Patel. Based on



Charles Dickens' novel, the film follows the life of David Copperfield from childhood to maturity, with his own adventures and the web of friends and enemies he meets in Victorian England. [Postponed from November 2020]

All three films will be showing at Stockbridge Town Hall, SO20 6HE, at 4.30pm and 7.30pm. Tickets can be purchased online - price £6.25 plus £0.75p booking fee per ticket (£7.00 total) via www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk or by telephone from TicketSource 0333 666 3366 (£1.75 charge per booking in addition to online ticket price). Socially distanced seating and no bar. Wearing of face coverings is required. Visit our website for full details.



STOCKBRIDGE MUSIC THE GESUALDO SIX will perform a socially distanced live concert in St. Peter's Church, Stockbridge, 7.30pm, Friday, 29th January



Tel: 01264 810 601
timlowden@gmail.com

There will be two types of ticket:

1. £15 to see the live performance in the church;
2. £10 per household to have the concert live streamed to your home.

For those who had already bought tickets for the Harp Recital which sadly has been cancelled, these will be transferable (at the original prices) to the new concert. The remainder will go on sale as soon as possible.

Please go to our website for further booking information, as it becomes available:

www.stockbridgemusic.uk

The Gesualdo Six (www.thegesualdosix.co.uk) are a world-famous choral ensemble, and we had a capacity audience for them for their last visit in 2018.

The live-streaming will be professionally produced using three cameras, and will be well worth watching at home.

In the meantime, we wish you all good health.

Tim Lowden, Music Director

The Thomas Dowse's Charity What do we do? Can we help?

The Thomas Dowse's Charity is able to provide grants to individuals, up to the age of 25, living in Broughton, Bossington, Mottisfont and Dunbridge, for educational purposes towards the cost of such things as uniform, school trips, music tuition, overseas educational trips, swimming lessons, transport to educational establishments, laptops and books. Applications are treated in strict confidence. Applicants must demonstrate need, but there is no means testing.

In the current circumstances the Trustees are not able to meet, but are still able to consider any applications for grants. Please email the secretary for an application form or collect one from Broughton Primary School, St. Mary's Church (Broughton) or Mottisfont Church (if they are open).

Applications received will be circulated to Trustees for consideration and applicants will be notified as soon as possible.

Email address: tinastuart1-at-gmail-dot-com. (remove the dashes, and change "at" to "@" and "dot" to ".").

An Ode to a Pick?

Lockdown came along in March, nearly all had time to spare.
As I walked along the roads and paths, I looked down in despair.
My eyes began to notice the hedgerows and verges turning green,
But also lots of bottles, cans and plastics, so much rubbish could be seen.

In November it was time to act, so to clean up all the waste,
Volunteers were assembled and a village litter pick took place.
On a Sunday morning off we set on our pre-designated routes,
With our bags and pickers, wearing gloves, safety gear and sturdy boots.

More than 18 bags of rubbish were collected on the day.
A great success, a job well done, but I look back in dismay.
Why was it there? Why throw it out? To our visitors all I say
Is keep our village clean, put your waste in a bag, and please take it away.

Next March we're planning another day, to do it all again.
It's certain rubbish will be there, just much more of the same.
So, to those who who enjoy our villages when they are out and about,
You are welcome, but please take it home, don't just throw your rubbish out!!

THANK YOU, EVERYONE!

Peter Holmes



continued from front page

Specials. If this is the case we will keep you updated via our website and Facebook page.

We still hope we will get to see you over the festive season, but if we do not get the opportunity in person, we would like to thank you for your continued support and cooperation following reopening in July, and for socialising within the Covid secure guidelines we were required to operate under.

We'll raise a glass or two on 31st December, and look forward to welcoming you back in 2021.

The Social Club

As a result of the recent government announcement that this area will be in Tier 2, the Social Club will have to remain closed for the time being. If there is a change that allows us to open, we will do so as soon as possible. Please keep an eye on the parish web site at www.mottisfontpc.org.uk for the latest information about re-opening.

We are planning to be open on Christmas Day lunchtime as usual, if allowed. We also are looking to hold a quiz every two weeks from January. As the next edition of the *Acorn* will be in February, more details about these and any other events will be put on the web site.

We hope to see you before Christmas, but if not we would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

continued from page 8

Lady Fuller died in the spring of 1935, and Cottles House was closed up. This prompted the Fletchers' move to Dunbridge, where they rented The Stores from the Aylward family, who own The Flour Mill, live at Dunbridge House, and own numerous other properties in Dunbridge. George and Lilian's children Ebba and Angus arrived from Bath to join them some weeks later.



George Fletcher initially purchased a trade bicycle to canvass trade for the first year, following which an Austin 7 van became the means to deliver groceries to the parish and adjoining villages as the business developed. Lilian Fletcher went from housewife to co-managing the shop.

TO BE CONTINUED

DUNBRIDGE STATION SIDINGS

From Ian Bullivant

Many will have noticed recently that Network Rail has been undertaking major works on the railway line to Salisbury and that the old station sidings were being used as the service yard for their equipment. These works are being undertaken in stages and Network Rail will be returning in February to mobilise all their equipment onto the site again for the next phase of work. It is hoped that the operation is not too disruptive for the neighbouring properties and can only apologise for any inconvenience it may have caused.

Since the purchase of the land from British Rail in 1985, the use of the old sidings has been a particular benefit to Network Rail. In some respects they might have regretted selling it in the first place. In the meantime, the site has been used intermittently for open storage. Many people have commented that the site is an eyesore in the centre of the village, and wish to see it developed.

It has always been our intention as owners (Dunbridge Land Ltd.) to make better use of the site and to develop it for housing to serve the community. Many may be aware that there have been approaches made to the local authority over the past 20 years. However, and despite earlier desires by the Parish Council to support residential development of the site, it has always been contrary to policy. In the revised Local Plan the site remains in the countryside, outside the settlement boundary, and not recognised as an opportunity for starter homes by TVBC. This is despite it clearly being a brownfield plot of land.



In the last few years planning applications have been submitted for ten starter homes and your Parish Council has in general been supportive of the proposals. However, there have been planning issues to overcome such as amendments to the site access, attempts to engage with Network Rail, flood risk assessments, noise and vibration reports,

geotechnical and ecological studies, and nitrates.

Our proposals were for ten, two bed starter homes. These would form an array of semi-detached dwellings forming a hard edge access yard at the back of the station. The houses fronting the road reflect the image of linked railway cottages with a profile of low roofs that fret the skyline and continue to give distant views of the countryside.

We read with interest in the Mottisfont Parish Plan 2017 (see www.mottisfontpc.org.uk/plan/parishplans.php - Eds.) an overwhelming desire for the station yard site to be developed and for improving car parking at the station. Our team has prepared plans to meet these objectives but negotiations with Network Rail have not been at all fruitful.

In planning terms, the application remains contrary to the local plan unless it is a community led project under clause COM9 of the Revised Local Plan. There are local examples of community led development in Broughton, Over Wallop and West Tytherley that have successfully achieved planning permission. The support of the Parish Council is key to the process of involving the community.

In conversation with several local residents, I am aware that there are a number of ideas that the local community would wish to see on the site. For example, station parking, traffic calming, support for residential (but not executive) homes, affordable housing for young people and some vacant green space. Commercial use of the yard or continued open storage was not favoured.

While we propose to encourage the Parish Council to engage the community in determining the outcome of development on the station yard site, I am happy to listen to anyone who has thoughts they would wish to share with me.

Ian Bullivant
01794 516497
ian-dot-bullivant712-at-gmail-dot-com

*The Parish Council strongly supports the need for **thorough** engagement with the community before any development can be considered for planning approval. If the community is properly consulted and a majority is in favour of the proposal, including the type and design of the housing proposed, then we will support the development. But that is subject to the important caveat that the developer provides benefits to the community, such as traffic calming for Barley Hill and additional station car parking.*

If you have views about the proposed development, please contact your Parish Councillors. We cannot represent your views if you haven't told us what they are!

The Stores Dunbridge – A History by Martin Fletcher

1. Early History

The history of the premises which became known as 'The Stores' prior to the Fletchers' tenure began on the Tithe Map 1837-50 with landowner Sir John Barker-Mill (Baronet) having tenanted land parcels shown as orchard and pasture let to Richard Mason.

In the 1860s, the earliest part of the current property was built with Rose Cottage as a semi-detached pair of 2-up, 2-down cottages (as shown on maps from 1870), one of the earliest in Dunbridge.



In 1901 Nathaniel Thomas Southwell of Lockerley Green was known to own these. The Register of Electors for ownership entry 299 shows '2 freehold houses and gardens let to Harriet Dobson and P.C. Ventham'. This relates to the early semi-detached cottage which later became The Stores & Rose Cottage (rather than 1 & 2 Woodlands which are not shown until the 1908 map, and when compared to the 1901 map were built within the garden of the above plot).

An early photograph shows that the premises were extended at the side in the early 20th century. This coincided with the 1911 Census showing occupation of The Stores by Bertram Edward Southwell and family (tailors and outfitters). The premises, which adjoined Dunbridge Flour Mill, became a shop for the local community. The Southwell family also operated village stores as drapers and post offices at Lockerley, Kings Somborne and Middle Wallop.

The Southwell family already owned the premises, and in 1926 they sold the freehold of The Stores, Rose Cottage, and 1 and 2 Woodlands to the Aylward family, who owned Dunbridge Flour Mill. From the sale description it is evident that the rear extension was built prior to this date.

In 1927, Elizabeth Edwards, Frank William Graham & Margaret Annie Graham appeared at the shop for that year. From 1928, Henrietta Rosetta Smith, James Smith, and Edward & Mary Kathleen Drewe were recorded at the property. Henrietta Smith originally hailed from Hyde Farm, Awbridge, and was the widow of Job Smith (late proprietor of Mottisfont Post Office & Stores) and grandmother to George Coleman (who meanwhile operated the Mottisfont store).

The Fletcher family took over in 1935, and their chapter lasts for the next 85 years.

2. Fletcher's Stores

George and Lilian Fletcher arrived in Dunbridge in 1935. They opened 'Dunbridge General Stores' in September that year.

George, son of a Scottish gamekeeper, and Lilian, daughter of a master dairyman and butcher from Bath, first met when she and her employers were on a grouse shooting holiday in Scotland, when she was the well-travelled seamstress for Lady Ebba Hambro, wife of Sir Everard Hambro, Chairman of Hambros Bank. George soon journeyed from Argyll to London in search of his future wife, arriving at the Princes Gate residence Kensington. George initially found work and lived in London. In 1926, with his personality and Scots charm, he became butler for Lady Norah Fuller (brewing dynasty) at Cottles House, Atworth, Wiltshire. Shortly afterwards he and Lilian married in Bath, and lived on the Cottles' estate.



continued on page 6