



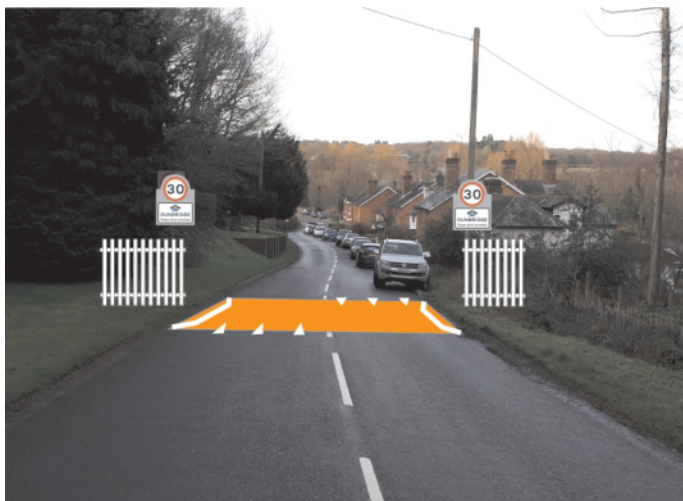
Parish Council approves traffic calming measures for Barley Hill

At its January meeting, the Parish Council approved a number of measures to help reduce the speed of traffic on Barley Hill.

There has long been a problem with vehicles speeding on Barley Hill to get past parked cars before oncoming traffic blocks the way.

The measures approved include:

- 6ft (1.8m) high white fencing to be fitted either side of the road to give the impression of a narrower road width. Known as a village gateway, this type of feature has been shown elsewhere to reduce traffic speeds significantly;
- replacing the speed limit signs with more prominent versions;
- replacing the worn coloured road surface;
- adding road markings for further emphasis.



An impression of the recently approved traffic calming measures on Barley Hill.

The coloured surface and road markings are yet to be agreed with Hampshire County Council's Highways Department, but the gateway should be installed in the next few weeks.

We had hoped to have a raised road surface at the gateway, but apparently this is not permissible in areas without street lighting.

Register your car to access Household Waste Recycling Centres

Hampshire residents will need to register their car for free access to Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC).

During 2020, automatic number plate recognition systems will be installed at HWRCs such as the one on Bunny Lane. If, as a resident of Hampshire, you have registered your vehicle, you will be allowed to enter and use the facility free of charge.

Registration is also free of charge at www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/recyclingcentres/vehicle-registration.

BROADBAND: LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER INTEREST

In the December edition of the Acorn, we invited anyone interested in getting improved broadband from Virgin Media to contact the Parish Council. Unfortunately we have only had 17 replies, well short of the roughly 50% of households that Virgin Media say they need to justify the costs.

The Parish Council plans to continue its efforts to find a suitable broadband solution. So, if you are interested in improved broadband and haven't let us know since the end of last November, please send an email to broadband@mottisfontpc.org.uk.

All change at the station!

South Western Railway (SWR) is due to take over the management of Mottisfont & Dunbridge Station in April.

The embattled rail company has provided passenger train services at our station since December 2006 when GWR withdrew its stopping services. But management of the station remained under the umbrella of GWR.

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**National
Trust**

Greetings from Mottisfont Abbey!

Well, the ground is sodden, but signs of spring are already starting to appear – we've had some snowdrops out since the middle of January. If you can dodge the raindrops, the Winter Garden is looking really lovely, with all the bright stems of the dogwood and vivid colours of cyclamen glowing through the gloom. It's 10 years since we created this garden, so we're celebrating it with a little trail exploring different plants that really come into their own at this time of year.

Our big anniversary this year is the 125th birthday of the National Trust. There are all sorts of things going on nationally, and we'll have a special photographic exhibition later in the year that features 125 people who work or volunteer for the Trust. It features no less than three people from Mottisfont: Neil our River Keeper, Clair our Gardens Apprentice, and of course John Surplice, who was our very first suggestion when we were asked to suggest key people who might be photographed for the project. John of course worked for the Trust for many years as a forester, and has continued to volunteer for us, as well as painstakingly removing dead material from fallen trees to create his beautiful 'found wood' forms.

Another key date for us is Saturday 16th May, when we'll be taking part in Springsong, a region-wide celebration through (you guessed it!) song. We're inviting local people, as individuals or community groups, as existing choirs or just people who fancy a singsong, to come and join us in the morning. We'll all learn a special anthem being written to celebrate the Trust's birthday, taught to us (no need to read music) by a choral leader who knows just how to get everyone singing – it's lots of fun, and anyone can join in. We'll then take our place in a 'beacon of song', rippling out from Alfriston Clergy House, which was the first house acquired and restored by the National Trust. We'll sing the anthem, and a few other songs, and then individual choirs are welcome to stay on and sing a bit of their repertoire at different points around the property. If you're part of a choir that might be interested, or just an individual who fancies this, do look out on our website for details of how to book.

We all have jobs that we need to do at this time of year, from cleaning the gutters to starting a spring clean. Another is of course that it's time to renew your Parish Pass to Mottisfont Abbey! For new residents or people that don't have them, this is a pass that gives you entry into Mottisfont Abbey (sadly not other National Trust properties, you need membership for that!) as many times as you like throughout the year. We offer this to all parish

residents as a benefit to being on the doorstep of a National Trust property – we'd like you to feel welcome to come here whenever we're open.

A few key points: you need one pass for every member of the family, except under-fives (but if your child will turn five this year, you will need to get a pass for them). The pass is not transferable, and only residents of Mottisfont and Dunbridge can use it. To apply, please either call the estate office on 344001 or email Mottisfont@nationaltrust.org.uk, and they'll send you the form. You need to provide proof that you do live within the parish (a copy of a utility bill with your name and address on it is usually the best way to do this). We will look forward to seeing you soon!

With all best wishes,

Louise

In the gallery...

Comedy and Commentary: the Best of British Cartoons

Until Sunday 19 April 11am-5pm

Witty works from some of Britain's best cartoonists commenting on current affairs, showcasing the distinguished history of contemporary British cartooning. You'll come across plenty of topical characters, including Boris Johnson and Donald Trump, in a show that explores social and political preoccupations that have gripped the nation. Humour is at its heart, with funny, beautifully drawn works from the likes of Matt of the Telegraph and Mike Williams of Private Eye alongside past masters such as Ronald Searle and John Tenniel.

For families...

February half term: Daft Doodles

Saturday 15 – Sunday 23 February

Enjoy family fun with a silly scribbling trail inspired by the comic exhibition in our gallery. Let your imagination run wild and create a cartoon creature as you explore. £1 per trail.

In the gardens...

The winter garden is ten years old in 2020, and we've created a new, self-led trail to help you explore it, highlighting some of our gardeners' favourite plants. The one-acre garden 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 white clusters of native snowdrops emerge

around the grounds in February, especially along the font stream and at the start of the river walk, where a woodchip path meanders through an ancient buxus plantation on the banks.

In the house...

The winter is a busy time for our house team, who are busy working on the annual 'deep clean'. You'll be able to get up close to some of this conservation work when you visit. Look out for the team using a huge array of interesting equipment to make sure our rooms are looking their best for the year.

On the wider estate...

Look out for overwintering birds such as redwings while you walk the wider estate; fieldfares and waxwings may also be spotted later in the season. As part of ongoing woodland restoration and improvement works we'll be planting 3,000 trees across the estate this winter to improve wildlife habitats. This includes large scale planting in areas previously cleared of soft woods and improving our orchard species mix with regional heritage fruit tree varieties. We'll also be carrying out other essential forestry works, including felling trees to improve light conditions along our ride networks, and thinning operations to allow the remaining trees to grow to maturity. Ongoing coppicing in Queen Meadow paves the way for displays of ground flora in spring and provides a supply of produce such as charcoal and faggots which you can buy from Mottisfont's shop. Please take note of safety signs and path closures; they are for your safety and the safety of the forest workers. We will try to keep disruption to a minimum.

Keep in touch...

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

BROUGHTON COMMUNITY SHOP

Village Hall, High Street, Broughton, SO20 8AX
Telephone number: 01794 502495

Opening Hours

Broughton Community Shop

Weekdays: 8.00am - 5.30pm

Saturdays: 8.30am - 12.30pm

Sundays: 9.30am - 12.30pm

Broughton Post Office

Weekdays: 9.00am - 5.00pm

Saturdays: 9.00am - 12.00pm

Sundays: Closed

Coffee Shop

Weekdays: 8.00am - 4.30pm

Saturdays: 8.30am - 12.00pm

Sundays: 9.30am - 12.00pm

Broughton Talks *(formerly Test Valley Villages Lectures)* **Secret Spitfires**

**Wednesday 19th February at 7.30pm in
Broughton Village Hall. Please note the earlier
starting time. Open doors and drinks from 7pm.**

For this special evening, we shall be showing the film of how the people of the south east rallied round to increase the production of the Spitfire aircraft. Hundreds of girls, boys, women, elderly men and a handful of engineers built the iconic fighter plane the Spitfire, in secret, hidden in sheds, depots, garages, barns and even a hotel. So hidden, Hitler's spies couldn't find them and have them bombed.

We shall also be showing the progress made so far with the Broughton Community Archive Project, with an opportunity to sign up as a volunteer and future member of the new Broughton Heritage Association. All local history fans are welcome.

For more details, see www.secretspitfires.com. For a trailer look at vimeo.com/263518889/0415486412.

The evening will be slightly longer than usual, as the film runs for 75 minutes.

Entrance is £5, to include a drink. Full time students free. No need to book.

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 40th Annual General Meeting will be held in the Broughton Village Hall on Monday 2nd March starting at 7pm. The bus will collect people who wish to attend, starting from Dunbridge at 6.30pm.

Anyone wishing to serve on the committee, or nominating someone else, should contact either the chairman, Peter Broome on 07715 055938 or the secretary, Andrew Illingworth on 301295. The latest date for such nominations is 24th February 2020.

Drivers We are always looking for drivers and volunteers to help support the village bus.

For more information see contacts above, or thevillagebus@outlook.com, 01794 234794

From the Rector

The first Sunday of the coming month of February is the Feast of Candlemas, which for the Church marks the end of our Christmas celebrations. Although much of the world may have long since moved on from the festive season, the Church has been marking in miracle of the "Word made flesh" for well over a month.

It seems like a good time to for me to express my thanks to all the many people who have been a great support to the parish and to me personally as we arranged all the different events and services over this period.

We are truly blessed here in the Test Valley, because of the willingness of local people to support the structures and organisations that make up our communities.

As an example, Leckford church recently celebrated the completion of a project to replace the chancel roof on the church building. This £35,000 project was only possible because of the generosity of many local people who were able to give substantial sums towards the project, and also those who worked tirelessly to successfully seek out grant funding and to fundraise.

There will likely be other major projects in the

parishes of the Mid-Test Benefice in the coming years which will only be possible because of the support that local people are willing to give to the Church.

So whether it is for the long term, strategic business of ensuring there is a place of worship in the village in 50 years, or just the short term business of fortifying the vicar with a mince pie and some encouragement during the busiest times of the year, please accept my deepest gratitude.

BROUGHTON BRIGHT HOUR

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

Events for February

6th: Members' Meeting
13th: Mr. David Stone
20th: Members' Meeting
27th: Mr. Ron Caddy

Everyone welcome, please come and join us.

Barbara Perry, Booking Secretary, 301466

CHURCH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

	2nd February Candlemas	9th February Proper 1	16th February 2nd before Lent	23rd February Sunday next before Lent
8am	-	BROUGHTON HC	-	BROUGHTON HC BCP
9.30 am	BROUGHTON Parish Communion	BOSSINGTON Parish Communion BCP ----- BROUGHTON The Bible Uncovered	BROUGHTON Parish Communion ----- MOTTISFONT Parish Communion BCP	BROUGHTON Family Service CHRISTINGLE ----- HOUGHTON Parish Communion
11am	-	MOTTISFONT Messy Church	-	MOTTISFONT Parish Communion
6pm	-	HOUGHTON Evensong	-	BOSSINGTON Meditation

Ash Wednesday, 26th February: Ashing Service at St. Mary, Longstock, 7.30pm

HC = Holy Communion

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

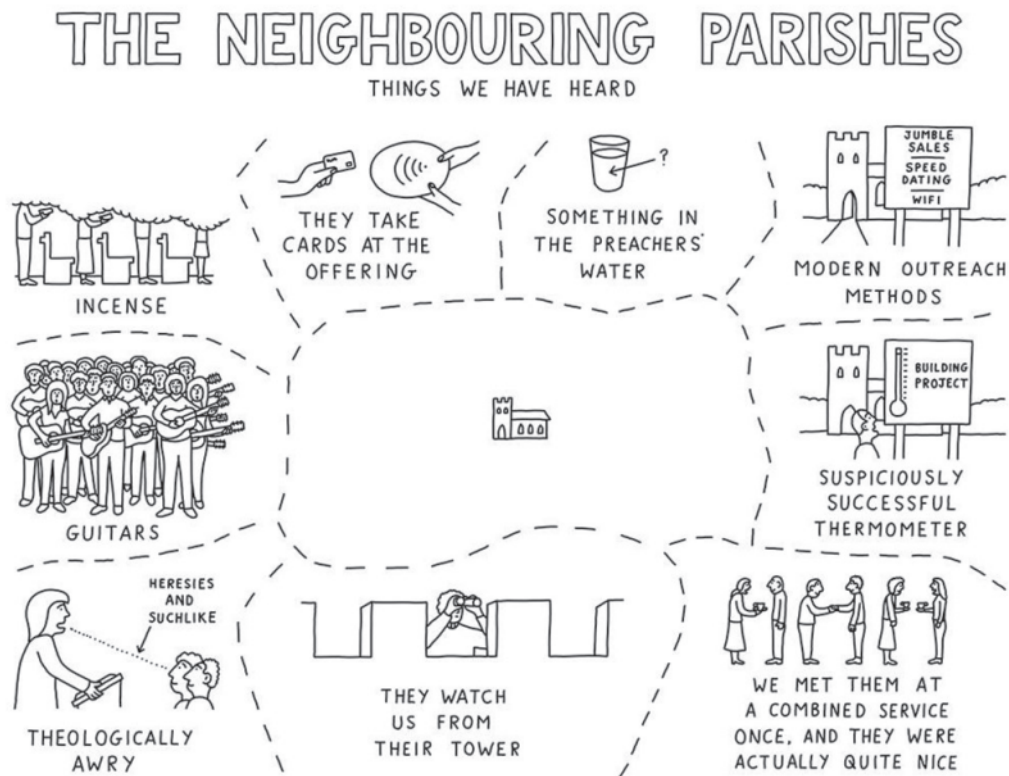
From the Area Dean

This year there are going to be plenty of changes in Romsey Deanery (although there always seem to be changes!). Amongst the changes will be: the appointment of a new associate priest ('Team Vicar') in Romsey; a new Rector in Braishfield; and, a new name for the Lockerley etc Benefice – the Thorngate Benefice. One thing that we can be sure of is more change!

In all of this change, my hope is that the people of the parishes and benefices in Romsey Deanery can get better at working together and supporting each other.

There have been signs of

that working better in recent years. One area where things are going well is with our Schools. In January, we appointed Revd Jane Thompson as the Deanery Youth, Schools and Children's Officer. She helps to coordinate the work amongst the Under-18s across the Deanery.



Cartoon supplied by the Area Dean, James Pitkin. ©cartoonchurch.com

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Annual Village Fete

It's only February but it's not too early to start planning this year's fete. It's the major fundraiser for the year and provides vital income that keeps our village hall open.

There will be an initial organising meeting on Thursday 27th February at 7.45pm at the village hall after the village hall committee monthly meeting. Each year it's the same small and dedicated group organising and running the fete and they would really like to welcome new people with fresh ideas. Please come along.

Village Hall AGM

This will take place at the village hall on Thursday 19th March at 7.30 pm. Please come and learn about our future plans for the village hall and tell us what events you would like planned. You may also like to join the village hall management committee, although it's not compulsory!

Beetle Drive

This was very popular two years ago, and we plan to run another Beetle Drive on Saturday 28th March. The cost will be £5 per person, which will include a ploughman's supper. Proceeds will go towards funding our two village defibrillators. Look out for posters on the village notice boards and next

month's *Acorn*.

Building Work at the Village Hall

You will probably have noticed we have builders working at the village hall. This is to improve the surface water drainage from the old rainwater pipes that currently discharge onto the car park. Work is also being carried out to reinforce and replace cracked brickwork inside and outside the hall. The work shouldn't disrupt any village hall bookings, but areas of the car park will be fenced off to enable the builder to have safe access to the work.

Future Plans

This year we are planning some alterations and improvements to the village hall. These include:

1. Refurbishment of the old outside toilets to form a store for garden machinery and general items.
2. A new metal ramp to the side fire exit to comply with Building Regulations and The Equality Act 2010. This will provide safe access and emergency exit from the building for wheelchair and semi-ambulant users of the village hall.
3. Sand and re-seal the wooden floor in the main hall.
4. Improve the insulation above the ceiling in the main hall. This will reduce heat loss through the roof and reduce our heating costs.

We will be applying for funding for this work through the National Lottery and other grant providers.

MEET THE NEIGHBOURS

Come and join neighbours and friends for a chat over a drink at the Mill Arms.

**Tuesday, 18th February,
from 7pm**



Whist Drives

at Mottisfont Village Hall

The next monthly whist drives will be on:



Friday 28th February
Friday 27th March
Friday 24th April



All commencing at 7pm

We would like to say a huge thank-you to everyone who donated a prize for the Christmas raffle!

MOTTISFONT PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting dates

18th March: Ordinary Meeting

22nd April: Annual Parish Meeting

13th May: Annual General Meeting

***Don't forget the parish web site:
www.mottisfontpc.org.uk***

BEETLE DRIVE

The Beetle Drive will be held on Saturday 28th March at the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

More details to follow in the March Acorn, but please put the date in your diary now.

Lockerley Primary School

**PTA Quiz Night
Friday 20th March at 7pm**

Tickets £10 to include jacket potato and chilli supper, available from the school office

Bar and Raffle

STOCKBRIDGE CINEMA

**Friday 14th February
Capernaum (15)**

After running away from his negligent parents, committing a violent crime and being sentenced to five years in jail, a hardened, streetwise 12-year-old Lebanese boy sues his parents in protest at the life they have given him. Winner of the 2018 Grand Jury prize at Cannes. [In Arabic with English subtitles]

Showing at Stockbridge Town Hall, SO20 6HE, at 7.30pm.

**Wednesday 19th February
Downton Abbey (PG)**

The Crawleys and their intrepid staff prepare for the most important moment of their lives. A royal visit from the King and Queen of England unleashes scandal, romance and intrigue that leaves the future of Downton hanging in the balance.

Showing at Stockbridge Town Hall, SO20 6HE, at 4.30pm and 7.30pm.

Tickets £5.00 from Garden Inn and John Robinson in Stockbridge or online via our website www.stockbridgcinema.org.uk



STOCKBRIDGE MUSIC

**The Brompton String
Quartet**

**Town Hall, Stockbridge
20th March, 7.30pm**



Tel: 01264 810 601
timlowden@gmail.com

The fantastic Brompton String Quartet from The Royal College of Music is comprised of musicians from the UK, Austria & Slovenia. Formed in 2018, they were winners at the St. Martin-in-the-Fields Chamber Music Competition in 2019.

PROGRAMME

Beethoven String Quartet Op. 95
Schubert String Quartet No. 14 in D Minor
(Death of a Maiden)
Panufnik Memories of my Father
Tickets: £15 available from:

John Robinson, Butchers
www.jumblebee.co.uk/stockbridgemusic
The Lights Theatre Box Office (01264 368368)
Roger Tym, The Old Manse, High Street,
Stockbridge (01264 810363)

www.stockbridgemusic.uk

TIPS ON WASTE DISPOSAL

At the beginning of a new year, householders often have a clear out or begin house improvements.

All householders have a duty to check who they pass their waste onto. Any third parties must have the correct licence to show that they can carry the waste and to confirm where it will be taken for disposal.

If a householder's waste is found fly tipped and they did not take the correct measures, they could be liable and face an unlimited fine – even if they didn't do it themselves.



You must use a licensed waste carrier to dispose of waste, or take it to a household waste recycling centre (hants.gov.uk/recyclingcentres).

You must show you took reasonable steps to prevent your waste being fly-tipped. This is called your duty of care. When using a waste carrier:

1. Check if your waste carrier is licensed. You can do this quickly with their name or licence number at hants.gov.uk/fly-tipping.

2. Ask what will happen to your waste. A licensed

waste carrier should not object to this.

3. Keep a record of their waste carrier licence number by taking a photo of the licence, or take a screenshot when you check online.

4. Keep a waste transfer note or receipt to say where the waste was collected from, by who, and where it is going.

SPEARYWELL HANDBAG THEFT

In mid-January, Test Valley Rural Police received a report that a handbag had been stolen from a vehicle parked in Spearywell car park. Please be aware that thieves will take the opportunity to break into parked vehicles and take valuables if this is presented to them. Putting items in the footwell is not enough to hide them.

The police include beauty spot car parks in their regular patrols but they can't be everywhere at once.

If you see anyone acting suspiciously at beauty spot car parks then report this to the police. You can report on the phone via 101, or by using the 'Report' button on www.hampshire.police.uk/.

Mottisfont and Dunbridge WI

May I take this opportunity to wish all readers a very happy New Year, although a bit belated!

Our 2019 Christmas celebration evening took the form of a flower demonstration, and all members were able to make a Christmas table decoration to take home. This was followed by a tasting event where members were asked to compare festive products from two of our local supermarkets and to mark which was best.

As a group we collected mugs filled with sweets and goodies, and these were donated to Romsey Young Carers.

Unfortunately due to a power cut and stormy weather, the January meeting had to be cancelled at short notice, which meant hasty phone calls to members.

The meeting in February will be on the 11th at 7.30pm at Mottisfont Village Hall. The speaker will be Pip Hollingsworth, who will tell us all about hedgehogs. Guests will be very welcome on this evening.

Mary Batten



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, including such things as the cost of school trips, music tuition, overseas educational trips, uniform, 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.

Applications for consideration at the next meeting should be received by the secretary at least 10 days before the next meeting (i.e. by Sunday, 16th February).

Grant applications should be made on the new application forms which have the Trust's Privacy Notice attached for your information. These are available from St. Mary's Church, Broughton, Mottisfont Church, Broughton Primary School or by email from tina-stuart-1-at-gmail-dot-com. (remove the dashes, and change "at" to "@" and "dot" to ".").

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Having a single operator carrying out both duties should simplify day-to-day operations and make it easier for passengers to contact the company if problems arise.

Signage at the station will be changed to recognise SWR as the new operator.

However, SWR's plans could soon hit the buffers because doubt has been cast over the long-term future of the train operator following the announcement that the company has made colossal losses.

Auditors for SWR have warned that the company is on the brink of collapse after it was announced the rail operator had lost a staggering £137million during the financial year ending March 2019.

In January, the company's auditor, Deloitte, issued a stark warning that SWR's future is in serious doubt and the company's franchise could be terminated by the Department for Transport (DfT) and transferred into public ownership.

Deloitte warned there is "significant doubt" over the future of the strike-hit firm, which could be nationalised by the DfT in order to keep its rail franchises running. The DfT may even insist that First Group and MTR submit proposals for a short-term contract to keep running South Western's rail franchise.

South Western Railway says it holds a "reasonable expectation that the discussions with the DfT will have a positive conclusion".

During December, would-be passengers at Mottisfont & Dunbridge Station were left without any train services because of strike action by SWR employees and more industrial action is planned in the near future.

Numbers are up

A record number of train passengers are now using Mottisfont & Dunbridge station.

Figures released by the Office of Rail and Road show that there has been a steady rise in passenger numbers since 2006 when the dual name Mottisfont & Dunbridge was applied.

For the period 2018 - 2019, 33,622 passenger journeys were made using our station, nearly two thousand up on the previous 12-month period.

These encouraging statistics are good news for rail

MOTTISFONT SOCIAL CLUB

Forthcoming events

► Saturday, 22nd February: Phil Stoner Disco

Saturday, 29th February: Monthly Quiz, 8pm

Wednesday, 18th March: AGM, 8.15 start

Saturday, 28th March: Quiz, 8pm

Mondays:

Ladies' Darts Teams in the Romsey and District Ladies Dart League
Snooker Team in the Southampton Snooker League

Tuesdays:

Billiards Team in the Test Valley Billiards League

Thursdays:

Bingo - this is very popular with a chance of winning up to £100.
Find the Joker game

Fridays:

Darts Team - Romsey Men's Darts League

Saturdays:

Quiz (last Saturday of the month)

Sundays:

We have our own Skittle League, 10 people in a team. We are always looking for new teams to join us.

Most of these activities take place between September and May apart from Ladies' darts and bingo which take place all year round.

If you are interested in any of these activities please contact the club on 340521 or pop in for a drink.

authorities and the community in general, because they should help ensure the long-term future of the station.

However, figures due out later this year or early 2021 may see a slight fall in passenger numbers because of last December's rail strike, when no passenger trains stopped at Mottisfont & Dunbridge Station.

Andy Simmonds
Mottisfont Parish Council's rail representative.