



Peter White
R.I.P.
26th April, 2020

To all the village residents who generously came outside of their homes to show respect to Peter and support for Valda as the hearse made its way to Ridge Crematorium, thank you so much. The family were really moved by this gesture.

Peter lived at the old Mottisfont Railway Station Cottage for almost all of his life and he loved the village. He was a keen footballer and cricketer and worked behind the scenes for village events. He was a quiet and reserved person. He loved gardens too – his own and those he could visit – including Mottisfont Abbey.



In the 1950s he spent a few years in the Hampshire Regiment War Dog Section working alongside the Gurkhas in Malaya. Treasured photos of this were discovered recently and were valuable in enabling discussion during his illness with Alzheimer's disease. He was very aware of this disease and its effects and distanced himself from village activities not wanting others to notice his incapacity. A few village people were aware, and regularly offered friendship and help in his latter years.

Peter lived under the same roof as his sister Valda for over 70 years with a few gaps in between.

He will be missed.

Valda White

Hampshire Helpline

The Coronavirus Hampshire Helpline, HantsHelp4vulnerable, is available for frail or vulnerable residents who do not have support from families, friends or their local community, and who need urgent assistance with essential food or household supplies, collection of medication, or who are at risk of loneliness.

The Coronavirus Hampshire Helpline can be contacted on 0333 370 4000. The helpline is available seven days a week, from 9am-5pm.

VILLAGE FETE

It's with great regret that this year's village fete must be cancelled. Social distancing would not be possible, and it's unlikely organisers or visitors would feel comfortable attending an event here in the summer.

Of course this is a huge disappointment, but hopefully if things look more positive, we may be able to organise something later in the year. Please look for further news in The Acorn.

The Acorn

The Acorn continues to be half its normal size because there are still no activities and events that we can cover. However, in due course this will change, so if you are planning anything that you would like to publicise across the parish, get in touch at acornnews@mandercom.co.uk.



National
Trust

Hello everyone,

Lovely still to be here for a couple more months – I've deferred moving to my new job until the middle of July. So, one last rose season for me, albeit a rather different one!

As you'll no doubt have noticed, we reopen(ed) on 3rd June, by pre-booked timed tickets only. These are deliberately set at a low number to start with, as we have to be sure that we can operate the site (and especially the rose garden) with safe social distancing. Unsurprisingly, our ticket allocation had all gone within a few hours; the same has been true for most properties, but of course the general pent-up demand for visiting has in our case also been compounded by the flowering of the roses.

More tickets for the public will be released next Friday morning, and every Friday after that. We are being extremely clear that you can only come in via a pre-booked ticket, and we will turn around (safely within the car park) anyone who doesn't have one, without exception. Therefore, I am confident that this will not impact on the local community in terms of traffic difficulties.

As I anticipated that all of our public slots would be snapped up by members, I am putting in place a different scheme for Parish Pass holders. You still need to book a slot – but it will be via email with us, and not on the oversubscribed online system. That way, I can be sure that we will be able to welcome everyone who wants to come.

There will be three time slots available every day from Friday 5th June onwards for Parish Pass holders who need to arrive by car: 10am-12 noon, 12.30-2.30pm, and 3-5pm. If at all possible, it would really help if you were flexible about which day and time you could visit, as the people booking you in will have many other people's desires to juggle too. It's really important that you do stick to your departure time, as we have a great many staff and volunteers who also want to visit while the roses are in bloom, and this is the only way we can fit you all in alongside the public.

Here's what you need to do to book a slot:

Wait until 3rd June before you do anything, please – we need to focus on the other booking system until then.

Email Helping.Mottisfont@nationaltrust.org.uk.

Say if you are bringing a vehicle or not: there are a limited number of vehicle slots in each time period, but much more space for Parish Pass holders arriving on foot and by bike.

If possible, leave the date and time open. If you need to state a preference, a range of possible

options is best and we'll try to make it happen. If there's no space, we'll get back in touch to find an alternative.

If you cannot email, ring the estate office on 01794 344 001 Monday to Friday, and they will take your details and pass them on to the bookings person, who is working remotely; once it's sorted, they will ring you back.

You will get confirmation of your booking by email, saying which day and time slot you have.

The estate office is also the place to go if you need to renew your Parish Pass – email mottisfont@nationaltrust.org.uk or ring 01794 344001 Monday to Friday.

On the day of your visit, you must come to the visitor car park, both if you're driving and if you're coming on foot. Give your name to the people checking tickets, and you will be on the list. **Please don't just come hoping to get in if you haven't booked** – I'm really sorry, but we will have to turn you away. Sticking absolutely to this is the only way that we can ensure that no one – Parish Pass holder, staff member, volunteer or visitor - ever thinks it's worth coming on spec, thereby causing queues on the road as we turn them around.

Once you come in, you'll see that there are a number of social distancing measures in place, and not everywhere is open (including the house). We will be reopening very limited take-away food and beverages from 8th June, and retail from 15th June (in line with government guidance), all by card only – it's a cash-free operation. We have one way systems in place in a couple of areas, particularly the river walk and the Rose Garden, again the only way to keep everyone safe. The Kitchen Garden will be accessed in the usual way, and we'll have the toilets open and the kiosk from 8th June, but you'll access the Rose Garden from the side gate, as we did when Jonny was building the Kitchen Garden.

There may be a queue there as we will be letting people into the Rose Garden periodically so that they can keep their distance, and then it's really a stroll around most of the paths following a one-way system. You can't I'm afraid go on the lawns, and there are a couple of corners you can't go into or paths that we just couldn't work into the one way route, but we're having to go with 'something is better than nothing'! We can't have everyone crammed in and crossing each other on narrow pathways. You exit via the North gate, so to go to the loos then, you do need to walk back round to the front of the Kitchen Garden.

It's a lot of rules, I know – but it will be so lovely to have you back, and this is the only way we can do it. Please be aware that we have had a tiny team in the property during lockdown, again to keep everyone

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safe, and many are still on furlough, so without our usual full team of talented gardeners and army of volunteers, the rose garden doesn't look as it normally does. There are gorgeous roses for sure, but also a fair few weeds! In many ways, it's a reminder of why we do need the Trust, because when we aren't able to be in to look after our places as we want to, the difference is very quickly visible. As we can bring people back in, we can start to get back on top of it, but we wanted to open up to share now and hope that you won't mind if we're not looking quite as groomed as normal. It could be said of us all!!

There are still many, many beauties to behold, and of course, all the lovely spaces of our lawns and shady trees. I know that as I write this, I am condemning us to heavy rainfall – Murphy's law always applies! Well, the gardens do need it, even if the rest of us have forgotten what umbrellas are. If it does remain hot, please do think about bringing a hat or umbrella for sun shade, especially as you may need to wait in the sun to access the rose garden. And a water bottle; we don't want anyone feeling faint!

I hope that you are well, and surviving these strange times. It has been good to open up the estate car parks as the government regulations have changed, and to welcome fisherfolk back on the rivers.

I hope I'll see you if you visit – I will be around, no doubt some of the time in my favourite spot in the car park, with my high vis jacket on for old time's sake!

With all best wishes,

Louise
Louise Govier
General Manager, Mottisfont & South West Hampshire National Trust Group

Romsey car parks expected to remain free for up to two hours until July

Test Valley Borough Council is expected to extend free parking in Romsey until early July to help businesses and their customers through the initial reopening of the High Street due to take place from 1st June.

Cabinet members will meet on 29th May to consider proposals that parking remains free all day up to and including Sunday 7th June, enabling businesses access to restock shops, and to give residents and town centre workers time to prepare for the parking changes. From Monday 8th June all TVBC car parks will be free for up to two hours, with normal charges applying for those staying for longer periods.

If restrictions continue to be relaxed, then the authority plans to reintroduce standard parking charges from Wednesday 8th July. This will be at the new rate that came into force from 1 April, which enables customers to park for two hours for £1. People will also be able to continue to park free for up to three hours at Romsey Rapids.

Volunteer Shopping Cards

Alongside the social distancing measures supermarkets have implemented, many have introduced volunteer shopping cards designed specifically to help at-risk customers pay friends and neighbours who shop for them. The cards are ideal for those who might be self-isolating, older or medically vulnerable, and provide a contactless, safe and secure way to allow others to shop for them.

These cards are actually virtual vouchers which work in the same way as other e-gift cards: you buy them online and send the details to your volunteer's email address for them to use in the shop. Your volunteer won't need to spend the full balance of the card each time they shop; the remaining amount will stay on the card, meaning you could load it with enough money for multiple trips if you wanted.

Aldi, Asda, Morrisons, Sainsbury, Tesco and Waitrose are among the brands providing Volunteer shopping cards.

(Source: Rushmoor Borough Council)

DOG MESS

Lots of us are taking our exercise more locally and it's worrying that dog mess on footpaths and in the village hall field has become a real problem.

We've put up notices at the village hall welcoming dog walkers, but asking them to pick up and bag their dog mess and take it home. We've even provided poo bags on both entrance gates, so no excuse. Please don't put these in the bin at the village hall though, as someone has to dispose of it. Not a pleasant job!!!

If you see someone letting their dog mess around the village it's unlikely to be a local. Please have a friendly word and ask them not to leave their mess in our beautiful village.

Dave Francis

From the Rector

As the lockdown is starting to ease a little, I wanted to update you with what is going on in the life of the Church, both here in the Test Valley and more widely.

When the lockdown first came about, the national church leadership sought to support the central message from government that people should stay at home. A large part of leadership is about setting an example, and modelling behaviours, and so we saw the Archbishop preaching from his kitchen. I have also sought to set such an example, and so have been confined to the rectory, and followed the guidance that all church building should be closed, to both public and clergy alike.

During the last couple of months my time has been spent reaching out to churchgoers remotely, mostly by telephone. We now have effective email communications across the benefice, and for the more technology-enabled are able to gather to worship using video conferencing. For those who are not online, spiritual and prayer resources have been sent out each week electronically and delivered in printed form by supportive neighbours. Sadly, I have had to respond to an increased number of funerals, while also helping disappointed wedding couples and families come to terms with the fact that the weddings and baptisms that they had been planning for this year will not be able to take place.

At the diocesan level the pandemic has resulted in something of a crisis. All diocesan staff have had to work from home, however a crisis in parish finances caused by a loss of hall rentals, collections in services fundraising events and tourist income has resulted in most diocesan staff and all curates being furloughed. This summer's ordinations have been cancelled, so people who gave up their secular careers three years ago to train for the priesthood will now need to seek secular employment once more. Vacant clergy posts will not be filled, and some pioneer-clergy posts are now being cut in the diocese.

At the national level, the Church Commissioners are trying to support struggling dioceses by liquidating historic assets, and the National Church Institutions are also facing furlough and cuts.

This is a challenging time for the Church just as it is for everyone in the country, and there will doubtless be more challenges to come as our society undergoes rapid change. However in amongst the difficulties, the Church's central mission remains unchanged and is more relevant than ever – to proclaim a message of hope, and a better future by the grace of a God who has shared in our human suffering on the cross.

Bonfire smoke and the effect on health

Test Valley Borough Council normally recommends that smoky garden bonfires should be avoided due to the annoyance that can be caused to others in the area, and because exposure to smoke can be harmful. Bonfire smoke may cause particular problems for people with underlying health conditions such as asthma, bronchitis and heart conditions.

We all now know that the coronavirus is a respiratory disease. During the coronavirus pandemic, more people than normal are at home, working, caring for their family and/or self-isolating. Your neighbour may be suffering breathing difficulties due to the virus. People with underlying health conditions have been strongly advised to self-isolate in their homes for 12 weeks. They need to go into their gardens for fresh air and they need to be able to open their windows for ventilation; they have nowhere else to go. Breathing could be worsened due to bonfire smoke inhalation and put a further burden on the NHS. Therefore, during these difficult times, we would particularly ask all residents to cooperate in protecting everyone's health by not lighting bonfires

during the government's lockdown period.

At present the Council's waste collection services are being undertaken as normal, and Hampshire's household waste recycling centres are open between 10 and 4 with social distancing. As we are spending more time at home, we are perhaps finding time to declutter and do lots of gardening. You may then be tempted to dispose of some of your extra household and/or garden waste by having a bonfire. As the lockdown throws up new challenges for us all, we are kindly asking everyone to be a good neighbour and not burn any of this extra waste.

We thank you for your cooperation in doing all you can to protect the health of your family and that of your neighbours, many of whom may be more vulnerable to the effects of bonfire smoke than ever before, and who are presently restricted to their homes.

The waste you are likely to burn can wait. Store it for now; please do not burn it.

Source: Test Valley Borough Council