



Mottisfont & Dunbridge

ACORN



The Village Newsletter

April - May 2022

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

HEDGE PLANTING

Thanks to a successful application to The Woodland Trust, we were able to obtain 60 mixed hedging plants to fill up a gap in the hedge at the Village Hall. On Saturday 19th March 16 volunteers and Teddy the dog managed to complete the planting in around twenty minutes. It will eventually be a haven for wildlife and it was a great opportunity to bring the community together.

After the planting we enjoyed a coffee and chat in the beautiful sunshine. A big thank you to everyone who helped make this possible.

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION

As reported in the last *Acorn*, the Village Hall has been reserved from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June for any of the village organisations to hold their own commemorative event.

Sunday 5th June has been booked for a village picnic. Tea, coffee and juice will be available all day. Everyone is welcome, so please bring friends and family, whether or not they live in the village.

Come along to the hall from 11.30am and bring your own chairs and a picnic.

This will be an opportunity to meet your neighbours and make new friends.

VILLAGE FETE

After missing two years, we plan to hold a mini village fete on Sunday 14th August. It will not be possible to have such a big event as previous years, but we hope there will be some of the usual stalls.

Are you willing to help organise the fete and perhaps run one of the stalls? For example: tombola, barbecue, street food, raffle, teas or ice creams. If you can help in any way, please let us know.

Dave and Pat Francis

Tel. 340609

pandafrancis*at*btinternet*dot*com

(replace *at* with "@", and *dot* with ".")



Local "work events" investigated

Following the Met Police's issuing of fines over lockdown parties in Downing Street, the *Acorn* has learned that investigations are under way locally into similar events on our own turf.

Triggered by reports of shady characters lugging clinking suitcases along the road near the entrance to Hildon, the investigations are said to focus on certain notables in the community, who coincidentally each claim to have been "ambushed by a cake".



"We don't want any cover-ups here," said one local resident, "not like up in the smoke where they will be getting a sugar-coated version of the civil servant's report, as the French might say, a sort of Sue Gray sucré."

The *Acorn* strongly protects its sources, but we have been told that our source's chief executive said he wanted to nail the leak in his organisation, until it was pointed out to him that a nail would probably make the leak worse.

So, given our wish to abide by the relevant sections of the Official Secrets Act, and in the absence of any more compelling puns, our lips will remain sealed for the next 25 years.



**National
Trust**

Hello from Mottisfont Abbey on a lovely sunny spring day. The bulbs are emerging across the grounds, the winter garden is still looking and smelling fabulous, and we have plenty going on. Our shop is 'under new management' and the plant centre is looking fantastic, with a selection of seasonal flowering plants, plants

grown at Mottisfont, pots and compost (all peat free).

We will be introducing a booking system for our busiest times this year, such as the Easter Bank Holiday period and Rose Season in June. This is to help us manage our car park as well as giving everyone a great visit. Details will be online shortly, and we'll keep you updated in the next edition of the *Acorn* too. The booking system will be more responsive than last year, so you can book right up until the day before your visit. It will act a bit like a cinema or restaurant booking whereby a booking guarantees you entry but you can still come along on the day and see if we have space. Those with residents' or tenants' passes still get in free (so won't be charged for booking), so do check your passes are up to date and contact Mottisfont@NationalTrust.org.uk if you need to renew. As the booking only relates to car parking spaces, if you are not bringing your car you don't need to book!

Vicky Fletcher
General Manager,
Mottisfont & South West Hampshire Group

For families...

Easter egg hunts, Saturday 9th April - Sunday 24th April 10am-5pm

Treat your little ones to a world of adventures on the Easter nature trails. Find ten activity points within the gardens, helping you get active and engage with the season using all your senses. £3 per trail, includes a trail map, pencil and a chocolate egg at the end.

There'll be more family fun in May half term, too, with an activity trail running from **Saturday 28th May – Sunday 5th June**.

In the gardens...

Discover delightful displays of blossom and greenery as our gardens develop their late spring colours. Daffodils make way for tulips, the parterre is full of richly-scented hyacinths planted in honour of the Queen's Jubilee, and the cherry orchard is full of blossom. The winter garden continues to showcase bright colour and fragrance throughout the season.

The first of our old-fashioned roses will begin to emerge in May, ahead of their peak flowering in June. Following on from Easter we'll also be

encouraging booking in June to help manage our car park capacity. Booking will be advised for daytime visits, however we'll be offering extended opening hours, so local visitors can take advantage of an early evening visit. We'll be sharing more information on our digital channels closer to the time.

In the house and gallery...

Comedy and Commentary, 11am - 4.30pm daily until Sunday 24th April

A second edition of our popular exhibition showcasing comedic works from newspapers and satirical magazines. The exhibition evokes Britain's long history of pithy political commentary: simple jokes raise a smile while sharp satire provides perspective on current affairs. You'll see works by some of the best cartoonists working today, including Matt and McLachlan, alongside old favourites Thelwell, E H Shepard and William Heath Robinson.

Joan Eardley mini exhibition, 11am - 4.30pm daily until 30th May

Discover three of Eardley's works from the Derek Hill Collection displayed together for the first time in the Red Room.

The house will be closed from Monday 30th May - Sunday 3rd July inclusive.

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.

The Thomas Dowse's Trust 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.

Please email the secretary, Tina Stuart, for an application form or collect one from Broughton Primary School, St. Mary's Church (Broughton) or Mottisfont Church. Applications received will be considered at the next meeting of the Trustees. The closing date for applications in time for the next meeting is Sunday, 12th June 2022.

Email address: tinastuart1atgmaildotcom (change "at" to "@" and "dot" to ".").

From the Rector

Joy after sorrow

At the time of writing, it seems almost impossible to preach a sermon or make a public comment without making reference to the shocking events unfolding in Ukraine. Events on the ground have been fast moving and I cannot be sure what further developments there might be before you get to read these words that will render my thoughts out of date.

The one question that everyone has been asking me, and is of course the hardest to answer, is “why does God allow these terrible things to happen?” This is not a new question. It has been asked across the centuries. The answers to it are also well rehearsed, and yet still generally unsatisfactory in the face of the unspeakable horror that human beings are able to inflict on one another.

Some might make the “free-will” defence: that God does not seek to control or coerce human beings’ behaviour. Others might refer to the fallenness of humanity – that this ugly side of our human nature is not the way God created us to be, but that we have fallen from grace, and the image of perfection that God created us to be. Yet more might point the arguments from the book Job, that to question God’s purpose is simply more than we are able to comprehend.

Personally, I find it more helpful to consider “where is

God in this situation?” The one thing we know about God is that in the person of Jesus Christ he has shared in the experience of living a messy, broken human life. He knows our pains and sorrows, he has shared in our joys and fears. He knows what it is to be betrayed, to suffer and to die. So, what is God’s role in the war in Ukraine? My guess is that he is hiding in the basement of a partially destroyed apartment building in Mariupol, terrified for what is happening and sharing the trauma of the people hiding alongside Him.

Over the next couple of weeks, we will again recall the account of Jesus’ arrest, trial and execution, and be reminded that he suffered in our place the consequences of our own sin. It is the same human brutality that is creating such suffering in towns and cities across Ukraine, that Jesus bore in his body on the cross.

However, this suffering is not the end of the story. After Good Friday comes Easter Sunday, and after suffering and death comes the hope of new life. Just as God has shared in our broken humanity, we have the opportunity to share in his divinity. This Holy Week as we reflect on the fallenness of the world, and the darkness in our human nature, we can also cling to the hope that we will be restored to God’s intention, that in His recreation we bear His own image, and restored into relationship with Him.

CHURCH SERVICES

	Bossington	Broughton	Houghton	Mottisfont
3rd April Passion Sunday	-	9.30am Parish Eucharist	-	6pm Evensong
10th April Palm Sunday	-	11am Parish Eucharist	6pm Evensong	11am Morning Worship
15th April Good Friday	-	2pm Good Friday Reflections	-	-
17th April Easter Sunday	9.30am Parish Eucharist BCP	10am Easter Sunday Service	9.30am Easter Sunday Eucharist	11am Easter Sunday Eucharist
24th April Easter 2	6pm Meditation	8am Holy Communion CW or BCP ~~~~~ 11am Family Service	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11am Parish Eucharist

The WI

Mottisfont and Dunbridge WI was playing 'away from home' in March. Instead of the Village Hall, they visited Poppies at Timsbury, and enjoyed a fun evening of decoupage and decorating unglazed pottery items ready for their final glazing in the kiln.

Patchwork trays, photo frames, animals and even a miniature Eiffel Tower appeared as if by magic, using just scraps of tissue paper and a little PVA glue. Meanwhile plain plant pots, vases and dishes were transformed into decorative works of art, whilst the artists chatted and laughed together. They even had time to enjoy coffee, tea and a delicious variety of cakes. Everyone agreed it had been a most enjoyable evening spent in good company and doing something which most of them had never done before.

Next month, on 12th of April, we have a visit from Bronda, whose talk is called 'A Passion For Dance'. We would welcome any visitors who would like to join us - why not come along and give it a try?

Yvonne Goodridge



Broughton & Mottisfont Community Bus

It seems that the Bard of Broughton, who had better remain nameless for reasons that will become clear, has been inspired by the recent spring sunshine to come up with some doggerel to promote the Community Bus, viz.:

*The Broughton and Mottisfont Village Bus
Will take you shopping without fuss.
It's more passengers that we seek
To Romsey on Thursday and Friday - that's twice a week!
On Tuesday for Salisbury your fare you hand over,
But on Wednesday it's Southampton, Winchester or Andover.*

We understand that there is a promise that nobody will recite verse while the bus is in motion.

Excursions for 2022: 18th May: Weymouth, 15th June: Swindon, 20th July: New Forest, 17th August: Swanage, 16th November: Street.

For more details, ring 234794,
see www.broughtonvillage.net/village-bus
or email thevillagebus@outlook.com



BROUGHTON COMMUNITY SHOP

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

Broughton Community Shop

Weekdays: 9.00am - 5.00pm

Saturdays: 9.00am - 12.30pm Sundays: 9.30am - 12.30pm

Broughton Post Office

Weekdays: 9.00am - 5.00pm

Saturdays: 9.00am - 12.00pm Sundays: Closed

Coffee Shop

Indoor and Outdoor seating and takeaway drinks

(Closes 30 minutes before Shop closure)

Follow on FB at BroughtonVillageShop or check on our website www.broughton.shop.

Email news@broughton.shop to be included in the shop's mailing list for updates, promos and more.

Local produce, essentials and treats, fresh and frozen goods, wine and spirits, cigarettes, newspapers, magazines and much more plus, centre stage, a great range of dry and liquid refillables – just bring your own container!

Broughton Community Shop (Hampshire) Limited is a Community Benefit Society registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefits Societies Act 2014
Registration no: RS007762. VAT Reg no: 302 2080 69. Registered Office: Ford Springs, The Hollow, Broughton, Stockbridge SO20 8BB

Parish Council Meetings

Thursday 19th May: 7pm AGM, 7.30pm Annual Parish Meeting - your chance to hear what your councillors have been up to in the last year.

Guest Speaker - TBA!

Thursday 21st July: 7.30pm Ordinary Meeting

Both at the Village Hall.

HIGHWAY CODE CHANGES

Neighbourhood Alert wants to remind everyone that as of 29th January 2022, The Highway Code has changed. Every road user still has a responsibility to keep themselves and each other safe, and the changes mean being ready to give priority, leave space and be considerate of others.

In summary, irrespective of your method of transport, including cyclists, a new hierarchy of road users has been introduced to ensure those who can do the greatest harm have the greatest responsibility to reduce the danger or threat they may pose to others.

The changes can be viewed in full at www.gov.uk/dft/highway-code-change.

THE HOUGHTON TRAIL



Through the heart of
the Test Valley

**SUNDAY 8th MAY
2022**

**REGISTRATION 9:00 AM
EVENT START 10:15AM**

**4K/11K
RUN**



**11K
CANICROSS**



**14K/32K
MTB**



ADVANCE ONLINE ENTRY ONLY

at

www.houghton-trail-event.org.uk

STOCKBRIDGE CINEMA



**Friday 22nd April, 4pm and
7.30pm**

West Side Story (12A)

Steven Spielberg's 2021 adaptation of the 1957 musical explores forbidden love and rivalry in New York City. Love at first sight strikes when young

Tony spots Maria at a high school dance and their burgeoning romance helps to fuel the fire between the warring Jets and

Sharks - two rival gangs vying for control of the streets.



**Wednesday 27th April, 4.30pm and 7.30pm
Spencer (12A)**

The marriage between Princess Diana and Prince Charles has long since grown cold. Though rumours of affairs and a divorce abound, peace is ordained for the Christmas festivities at the Queen's estate. There's eating and drinking, shooting and hunting. Diana knows the game, but this year, things will be profoundly different.

**Friday 20th May, 7.30pm
House of Gucci**

When Patrizia Reggiani (Lady Gaga), an outsider from humble beginnings, marries into the Gucci family, her unbridled ambition begins to unravel the family legacy and triggers a reckless spiral of betrayal, decadence, revenge - and ultimately murder.

**Wednesday 25th May, 5pm and 7.30pm
Belfast**

Kenneth Branagh's semi-autobiographical film which chronicles the life of a working class family and their young son's childhood during the tumult of the late 1960s in the Northern Ireland capital.

Showing at Stockbridge Town Hall, SO20 6HE. Tickets can be purchased online (£6 incl. £0.50p booking fee per ticket) via www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk or by telephone from TicketSource 0333 666 3366 (£1.80 charge per telephone booking in addition to the online ticket price). Visit our website for more details. Drinks and ices will be on sale with payment by debit or credit card. *Please wear a face covering (unless exempt) when not seated.*

THE SOCIAL CLUB

Events at the Social Club

Sunday 10th April: Easter Club Skittles at 8pm.

Saturday 16th April: Easter Raffle. Tickets on sale at the bar.

Saturday 23rd April: Quiz at 8pm with Mike Hughes as the quizmaster, and a raffle to raise funds for the village defibrillators.

Saturday 28th May: Quiz with Mike Hughes at 8pm.



WHIST IS BACK!

Whist is running again at Mottisfont Village Hall. There will not be any refreshments, but we are going to have cash prizes and a lucky whist card draw. Cost will be £3 each.



Whist dates and times are 7.30pm on the following Fridays: 22nd April, and 20th May.

From The Borough Councillors

What does Affordable Housing mean?

Affordable Housing means many different things to different people, but one key factor is the cost of buying or renting a home. Obviously, the cost of running that home also contributes to the affordability factor, but we are only covering here the cost of buying or renting a home.

There is an affordability index used by Government and others looking at house prices and people's income and ability to buy.

The median property price in Test Valley was £310,000 in 2020 and the median gross income £35,083. Dividing house price by income gives a ratio of 9.76 – this is called the affordability index. A household is considered able to afford to buy a home if it costs 3.5 times the gross household income or an index of 3.5!

What does this really mean? For an average cost house in Test Valley and a 20% deposit you need a mortgage of £248,000. Generally, a mortgage company will loan 3.5 times salary or £122,790 if you earn the average. This is simply not enough and first-time buyers, unless they have very big deposits or earn well above the average, cannot enter the market unless there is additional help.

Many households with low incomes have no realistic chance of getting onto the property ladder, or struggle to find suitable private rented housing which is affordable.

The median average private rent across the whole of Test Valley is £825 pcm. Based on a household spending no more than 30% of their household income on rent, a household would need income of at least £33,000 for a private rented home to

be affordable to them.

The Council uses the term Affordable Housing to describe the different ways it tries to provide that additional help for first time buyers, low-income families and other groups afford homes they need to achieve a good quality of life.

Cllrs Alison Johnston, Ian Jeffrey, and Tony Ward

Carole Collins

Gordon, Andrew and Paul Collins would like to thank everyone for their cards, tweets and phone calls in sympathy with the death of Carole.

They were very much appreciated.

Have your say on the future of Test Valley

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#### Submit your comments on the draft Local Plan 2040

The Local Plan will shape the future of our communities. If you and your community are seeking to influence the future of Test Valley, this public consultation is a key opportunity.



To view the draft Local Plan 2040 or to find out more, scan the QR code or visit [www.testvalley.gov.uk/localplan2040](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/localplan2040)

Consultation ends noon Friday 8th April 2022.

Email: [planningpolicy@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@testvalley.gov.uk)  
Call: 01264 368000