



Mottisfont & Dunbridge

ACORN



The Village Newsletter



December 2022
& January 2023

MOTTISFONT & DUNBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

CHRISTMAS FOLK CONCERT

featuring local group 'Beggars Belief'

Friday 9th December
7 for 7.30p.m.

This is a **FREE** event
Hot punch & mince pies will be
available during the interval.

(A donations bowl for the group's expenses)

Beggars Belief will give us songs, old and
new, borrowed and blue (not too blue!!!)
with light-hearted moments and the
occasional thought-provoking lyric.
There will also be two new Christmas songs
composed by the group.

Beggars Belief are Ali Campion, Barry Wake,
Hamish Gavin, Liz Trueman & Mary Lea

SOCIAL CLUB EVENTS

Saturday 3rd December: Christmas Skittles
Evening with teams of five. 8pm start.

Friday 9th December: Christmas Quiz with
seasonal prizes. 8.15pm start.

Saturday 10th December: Christmas Meat Draw.
Dust off your festive jumpers because there will be a
free drink for the wearer of the best festive outfit!

Saturday 17th December: Gin Tasting, 2.30pm
start, and in the evening the Christmas Raffle with
lots of prizes.

Christmas Eve: we will be holding our usual
cheese and biscuits evening, and the last 100 Club
draw of the year. First prize is £100.00!

Christmas Day: we will be open from midday until
2pm. All welcome! A lunchtime of fun, Christmas
carols with a twist, and good company.

New Year's Eve: Traditional New Year's evening
with in-house music of your choice, and fireworks at
midnight. Please bring your own buffet supper.

***For the Social Club's opening hours over
Christmas and the New Year, see page 4.***

MEET THE NEIGHBOURS



Meet the Neighbours is an
opportunity to have a proper
chat with and to get to know
people who live nearby, over
a drink at the Mill Arms.

On 25th October we held the
first *Meet the Neighbours*
since lockdown, and it was
good to get together with
people we had only seen

briefly in previous months.

The next one will be on **Wednesday 7th
December**, from 7.15pm, and in the New Year,
Thursday 19th January.

Put the dates in your diary, and we'll see you there!

For Sale

Large Doll's House, with furniture, £60

Put U Up Bed, £15

Phone 340065

KINDLING WOOD FOR SALE

£5 a bag

Contact David on 07967 657003

Can deliver locally





Happy Christmas from Mottisfont, and wishing you all a Happy New Year!

Mottisfont has been a hive of activity over the last few weeks as we decorate the house and grounds for Christmas, and we have a really spectacular Narnia theme this year, so do dust off your Parish and Tenant passes and come and visit. Do phone our office Monday to Friday if you need to renew, and speak to Alison Broom.

Our Christmas sale starts on 23rd December in the shop, which is likely to be very popular, and as usual we are closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas day, 24th and 25th December, reopening on 26th.

We have a great programme for next year, set out below.

Break-in at the Farmyard

Sadly on a rather less festive note, our main Farmyard Barn was broken into on 17th October, and vehicles were taken. We understand this to be a professional and targeted job, focusing on a specific type of vehicle.

If you see or hear any suspicious activity after normal working hours, please do phone the police (but please don't investigate yourselves). We use the services of a security firm every night, who check the property thoroughly. However, it is a noisy process to angle grind your way into a barn and take things away, so if you hear any suspicious noises that could involve power tools, see unfamiliar vehicles parked up or people who aren't security guards, do phone 999. Having spoken to the police, it is clear that we would all rather get 10 false alarms than miss a real one.

We are looking into our own security measures as well.

What's on

Christmas...

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: Christmas at Mottisfont

26 November - 8 January (whole property closed 24 and 25 December), 10am-4pm

Step into the world of Narnia this winter, with decorations and a family trail inspired by C. S. Lewis's beloved story, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Follow in the footsteps of wartime evacuees Edmund, Lucy, Susan and Peter, to pass through that famous wardrobe and into icy the kingdom of the White Witch. But the festive spirit

triumphs with a lavish display in the Whistler Room, where Aslan presides over tall trees resplendent with baubles, and piles of brightly-wrapped presents. The art gallery hosts 16 watercolour illustrations from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by Pauline Baynes - the original and most prolific artist for the *Chronicles of Narnia* series - in celebration of her centenary year.

Children can spot miniature wardrobes decorated with for iconic objects from the story as they travel through the rooms of the house. Outside, a family adventure trail reveals more of the story. Life-size wardrobes frame iconic scenes, including Aslan's triumph over the White Witch. There are Narnia-inspired activities to take part in and loads of great photo opportunities as you enter the Beaver's cottage, find Father Christmas's sleigh, and sit in the throne room at Cair Paravel. £1 per trail.

In the gallery...

100 years of Norman Thelwell

21 January – 7 May 2023, 11am-4pm (finishing at 4.30pm from 11 February)

We're celebrating the legacy of one of Britain's most popular cartoonists, Norman Thelwell, with a new exhibition for his centenary year. Thelwell's much-loved ponies and other humorous illustrations will be on show, alongside exquisitely rendered local landscapes, including the village of Mottisfont and other local landmarks.

The exhibition features over 50 artworks, many never shown before, and takes visitors on a journey through the artist's life, from childhood sketches, painting equipment and family memories, to an exploration into the subjects Thelwell felt passionately about, including environmental concerns and his love of the countryside.

In the gardens...

The winter garden glows with brilliantly coloured winter bark from dogwood and ornamental bramble, while berries, fruit and late- and early-flowering perennials such as bergenias 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. Look out for the first snowdrops appearing 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. You can also find us on social media – look out for us on Facebook, Instagram and follow us on Twitter @MottisfontNT for regular updates.



From the Rector

The onset of December of course means one thing in the life of a parish church, and that is the onset of Christmas preparations. Just as in domestic life where there is much to prepare for the celebrations later in the month, so in the life of the Church there is also much to do.

In practical terms this can mean lots of cleaning and decorating in order to ensure that church buildings are looking their best, but also in planning the many, many events that will take place in the coming month in our churches. In particular, after having to cancel many Christmas celebrations over the last two years because of COVID-19, we all hope that this year we will be able to have a full sweep of Christmas celebrations.

Having to wait, and having to prepare is very much the spirit of the Advent Season, and while there is a practical outworking of this, it is also important that we engage with a process of spiritual preparation and patience. At Christmas time we celebrate the concept of God entering into our world, which brings us face to face with Him. In doing so, we also turn our attention to our own lives that he comes to share in, and of course our own failing that He came to redeem.

Although the Christmas story tells the way in which God came to us in great humility, do not allow that, for you, to overshadow the reality that by His incarnation God enters into our world. Perhaps something for us to ponder this Advent season is what sort of world will he find, and what is our role in making it the way that it is?



CHURCH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

	Bossington	Broughton	Houghton	Mottisfont
4th December Advent 2	-	9.30am Parish Eucharist	-	6pm Evensong
11th December Advent 3	-	11am Parish Eucharist	-	11am Morning Worship
14th December	-	-	6pm Carol Service	-
15th December	-	6.30pm Churchyard Carols	-	-
16th December	6pm Carol Service	-	-	-
18th December Advent 4	9.30am Parish Eucharist BCP	6pm Carol Service	-	3pm Carol Service
24th December Christmas Eve	-	4pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass	-	-
25th December Christmas Day	9.30am Parish Communion BCP	10am Parish Communion	9.30am Parish Communion	11am Parish Communion
1st January Christmas 1	-	9.30am Parish Eucharist	-	6pm Evensong
8th January Baptism of Christ	-	11am Parish Eucharist	6pm Evensong	11am Morning Worship
15th January Epiphany 2	9.30am Parish Eucharist BCP	9.30am Bible Uncovered	-	-
22nd January Epiphany 3	6pm Meditation	8am Holy Communion CW or BCP 11am Family Service	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11am Parish Eucharist
29th January Candlemas	10am: United Benefice Eucharist at Broughton			

The Mill Arms



Time to reflect on another 12 months, and as is now becoming the norm, a year of extraordinary events that have had a significant impact on our economy and cost of living. We appreciate that times are tough for all of us, and appreciate our customers who continue to support us.

We had 2 weddings this year, one ceremony being on the first anniversary of a lockdown wedding that was only allowed 4 guests, and the other for one of our ex-employees. Both were lovely days, and we were honoured to be part of the celebrations.

We continue to host the Tytherley Skittles League and Hampshire Sheep Farmers and are delighted to be hosting Christmas Wreath making classes for Bluebells in December.

By the time you read this, the England football team will have completed all of their group stage matches, which will have been shown on our 90in screen in the function room. If they progress, we will continue to show the matches, so why not join us and soak up the atmosphere.

The Christmas menu is now available (but must be pre booked) and will be served Tuesday to Saturday from Thursday 1st December until Wednesday 21st December. Friday and Saturday dates are going fast so if you are planning on dining with us can we suggest you get in touch soon.

Our Christmas Quiz will be on Monday 19th December, and we will combine that evening with our Christmas Draw. First prize this year will again be a Firkin of Beer (that's 72 pints for on-site consumption), along with wine, spirits, chocolate and toys. The Draw sheets are pinned up in the bar – purchase a square for 50p; the more squares we sell, the more prizes we buy.

Dates and times for Christmas/New Year openings are as follows:

Monday 19th Quiz (7.45pm) and Raffle (9.30pm)
December: Teams of up to 6 people, £1 entry per person
Prize for the winning team and mince pies all round
Christmas Eve: 12 noon to 11pm (food served 12-6pm, regular lunch menu)
Christmas Day: 12 noon to 2pm (bar only)
Boxing Day: 12 noon to 4pm (food served 12-3pm, reduced menu)
New Year's Eve: 12 noon to 5pm (food served 12-3pm, regular lunch menu)
New Year's Day: 12 noon to 4pm (food served 12-3pm, roasts and reduced menu)

We look forward to seeing you over the festive season and raising a glass or two. Gina, Lorna and the staff wish you a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2023.

We will be open on New Year's Day which is a Sunday, and then closing for the first week of January, re-opening on Tuesday 10th January 2023.

The Social Club

CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Christmas Day: 12.00 - 2pm. Evening CLOSED.

Boxing Day: CLOSED

New Year's Eve: 7pm - 12.30am

New Year's Day: CLOSED

*Wishing you all a
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

LOCKERLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday, 2nd December

Christmas Fair

3.30 - 5.00pm

Please come and join us for an
afternoon of fun and entertainment.

Whist at the Village Hall

Friday, 16th December, 7pm start.
Friday, 20th January, 7pm start.



STOCKBRIDGE MUSIC



"Christmastide" Harriet Adie, Harp

As part of the national tour of her new programme, "Christmastide", we are delighted to welcome renowned harpist and composer Harriet Adie.

The perfect way to start your and your family's Christmas!



Wednesday 14th December 2022, 7.30pm
Stockbridge Town Hall, SO20 6HE

Adults £15, children £7.50

For programme details and tickets:
www.stockbridgemusic.uk



Broughton & Mottisfont Community Bus

Well, what a jolly year we've had! Hardly had the first green shoots of spring appeared, when Russia barged into Ukraine, and the price of energy went up and up. Boris led us on a merry party dance, while the sun beat down and dried us all out. Then, so sadly our dear Queen slipped quietly away, whilst Prime Ministers came and went, dropping budgets that made a great dent. And still the Covid lurked away!

But on the Village Bus we had a grand old time. Driving past the fields and trees, our hearts skipped high and our spirits free! We smiled and chatted, making friends anew. No parking, no worries, and a really good view. (*Very nearly poetry! - Eds.*)

Join us for more fun and adventures in 2023!

Bus Schedules Summary

Andover Monthly (4th Wednesday of each month)

Romsey Twice weekly (Thursday mornings and Friday afternoons)

Salisbury Weekly (Tuesday mornings)

Southampton Monthly (1st Wednesday of each month)

Winchester Monthly (2nd Wednesday of each month)

For further details, see:

www.broughtonvillage.net/village-bus
or telephone 234794.

theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

There was almost a full house at the October WI meeting, when Mike Smales from Lyburn Cheese was the guest speaker. He told us the history of his farming career, starting in 1953, with his father at Lower Buckholt Farm, and then moving to Lyburn with a herd of 170 Holstein/Friesian cows.

He began making cheese to use surplus milk, and is now a very successful cheese maker, supplying not only village shops, Farmer's markets and well-known supermarkets, but also many cruise liners.

Lyburn cheese is also exported to America and Australia. Mike took us through the cheese making process and showed us the different varieties of cheese which he produces.

Of course he brought along tasters for us to enjoy, and did a brisk trade in selling as a result!

He also grows organic vegetables, and at the time of the meeting was in the process of harvesting a quarter of a million pumpkins for Hallowe'en.

Mottisfont WI plans a visit to his farm next summer, when the tours will hopefully begin again.

In November we welcomed back an old friend, Judith Long, together with her willing helper, Gwyneth. Judith is a farmer's wife, and retired head of Domestic Studies at Brockenhurst College. She is also very involved with the Food Tent at the Romsey Show.

As Christmas is looming on the horizon, she demonstrated a few recipes which would be useful for entertaining, as well as for everyday catering.

We began with a delicious cheese and leek tart, and progressed to mincemeat and frangipane croissants, chocolate bark snowmen and reindeer, quick pickled onions and an easy winter salad. All this was accompanied by amusing anecdotes of life on the farm and with her family.

This was better than Bake Off in that we actually got to taste everything afterwards - scrummy!

There are several forthcoming events at Romsey

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Stockbridge Cinema



Wednesday 7 December 2022

4.00pm and 7.30pm

Elvis (12A)

Elvis Presley's story is seen through the prism of his complicated relationship with his manager, Colonel Tom Parker. The story explores the complex dynamic between the two over a period of 20 years, from Presley's humble beginnings to his unprecedented stardom, against the backdrop of the evolving cultural landscape and loss of innocence in America. Central to that journey is one of the most significant and influential people in Elvis's life, Priscilla Presley.

Friday 13 January 2023

7.30pm

The Quiet Girl (12A)

Set in rural Ireland in 1981, this delicate drama follows shy nine-year-old Cáit who has been separated from her immediate family and left in the care of two distant relatives for the summer.

After sun-dappled days spent milking cows, peeling potatoes and fetching water from the well, the initially uncommunicative child soon opens up to her foster parents.

Textural and tender, this award-winning film shows that home is where you feel loved.

Wednesday 18 January 2023

4.30pm and 7.30pm

Where The Crawdads Sing (15)

Based on the best-selling novel, this is the story of Kya, an abandoned girl who raised herself to adulthood in the dangerous marshlands of North Carolina.

For years, rumours of the "Marsh Girl" haunted Barkley Cove, isolating the sharp and resilient Kya from her community.

Drawn to two young men from town, Kya opens herself to a new and startling world; but when one of them is found dead, she is immediately cast by the community as the main suspect. As the case unfolds, the verdict as to what actually happened becomes increasingly unclear, threatening to reveal the many secrets that lay within the marsh.

All films...

...will be showing at Stockbridge Town Hall, SO20 6HE. Tickets can be purchased online (£5.50 plus £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.

Cost of Living Support Hub

Find help and advice on

Fuel and energy



Access a range of energy grants and schemes and get tips and advice on how to save energy in your home.

Food and essentials



How to access services such as the foodbank if in need, food voucher schemes and where to get help.

Staying well and resilient



From physical health to mental Wellbeing, we can signpost you to a range of support services.



Scan me

Visit www.testvalley.gov.uk/CostOfLivingSupport

Test Valley
Borough Council

Marie Stubbington and Michaela Cavuoto are two newly appointed Community Engagement Officers from Test Valley Borough Council, covering the Mid Test Ward including Mottisfont and Dunbridge. They form part of the Community Safety Team who work with partners to help reduce crime, fear of crime and promote good citizenship. They are looking forward to working with us.

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Plaza to interest members, and there is early information about the HCFWI (Hampshire County Federation of WIs) Spring Council meeting at Portsmouth, when the guest speaker will be Eddie the Eagle - remember him?

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

December will see our Christmas Social Evening, which is always full of fun and laughter, and will include silly games and Bingo, together with seasonal nibbles - all arranged by the hard-working committee. We are asked to bring along gifts for the Romsey Food Bank, which we are supporting this year.

The Social Evening will be on Tuesday 13th December at 7.30pm, and we look forward to seeing everyone then.





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
Or 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 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

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became known as "The Pit" to locals and became a place for youngsters to congregate, play football and cricket, and generally let off steam (we had no recreation ground until the early 1970s).

In the early 1960's, Tommy Aylward had offered to sell the Mill site to my father, who had already purchased The Stores and Rose Cottage from him. The price he wanted for the whole Mill site was three thousand pounds, but that was a lot of money in those days, especially given the huge concrete structures that remained on site. It therefore remained in Aylward's ownership until 7th June 1966, when it was purchased by Roy Henry Bailey of Braishfield Stores.

The site remained undisturbed until 1971 when a narrow part along the eastern edge was sold to Romsey & Stockbridge District Council for a pumping station.

Finally, in 1979-1980, the remainder of the site was redeveloped with a terrace of three houses: Lynette, Mill Cottage, and Sidings, plus three garages.

I grew up at Dunbridge Stores which was run by my grandparents George and Lilian Fletcher from 1935. After George died in 1959, Lilian and my father Angus ran the business until Lilian retired to no. 2 Woodlands (three doors up Barley Hill).

My parents Angus and Cynthia Fletcher moved from Awbridge to live at The Stores in 1965. They retired and the shop closed on 3 June 1989, which ended 54 years of family business.

The Thomas Dowse's Trust

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, 5th March, 2023. Email address: tinastuart1atgmaildotcom (change "at" to "@" and "dot" to ".").

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Dunbridge Flour Mill

A History by Martin Fletcher

Erected about 1890, Dunbridge "Flour Mill" (as it said on the building) was steam powered, not water powered as some may think (the River Dun is the other side of the railway line, to the north).

Prior to the Mill, a house called "Yucca Villa" was erected on the land, and can be seen on later photographs. It was integral to the evolution of the Mill until about 1920, when the house was demolished to make way for the Mill's re-modelling.

T Aylward and Sons were owners and operators of both Dunbridge Mill, and Lockerley Mill. Thomas Aylward lived in Dunbridge House, and owned many houses on Barley Hill, some being rented to mill workers.

My father, Angus, and his family moved to The Stores, Dunbridge, in 1935. He told me that Dunbridge portrayed an established industrial scene, with a busy railway station, gravel pit and bucket line running across a gantry over the road to the rail sidings, and next door to The Stores was the large flour Mill.

The Mill was very noisy and could be heard in the neighbouring village of Awbridge. It operated 24 hours a day in the week (Monday to Friday) but not over the weekends, when it fell silent. Dunbridge was suddenly very peaceful.

Two lorries would bring corn to the Mill and deliver flour locally. Occasionally they would collect corn from Southampton docks.

Corn would also arrive by train as there were two large doors which opened from the mill onto the railway tracks; flour would have been loaded onto them in the same way.

Coal was also delivered by train to run the mill's steam engines. In the 1930s the railway sidings went all along the back of the houses in Barley Hill, and one went about half way to Kimbridge crossing.

Bricks to build the Mill's office in about 1937 arrived by rail.

On Friday evening, 27 October 1939, Angus was with his father, George, delivering groceries in Awbridge when a local man told them: "You'd better get back to Dunbridge because the Mill is on fire". They returned to Dunbridge to find a fire so intense that it was too hot for Angus to stand outside in the driveway of The Stores and watch the events taking place next door; instead he looked out through the window.

The fire was still burning on Saturday morning. The Mill was completely destroyed by the fire, which was reported widely in the newspapers. There was speculation over what started the fire, whether it was sparks or cinders from a passing steam train, or even a German bomb (bearing in mind that World War 2 had started barely two months before).

When the Mill burnt down, it was a disaster that changed everything, including the livelihoods of many families in the village whose jobs depended on it like old Mr. Young and his son Leonard; also members of the Glasspool, Fryer, Curtis, Windibank, Beasant, and Leat families, to name a few. At this time the Mill had given work to over 20 men.

The premises had been shut and locked as usual at 6pm, so there was no-one there when the fire started. It was reported at 7pm by Jack Harwood, a signalman at Dunbridge Station, who happened to be on the station platform and saw flames "licking the windows at the rear of the Mill" (facing the railway) and ran up the road to report it to Mr Leat (the manager, and who had been with the company since 1903) who telephoned the fire brigade, and immediately went to recover ledgers and other records.

He also managed to save three lorries parked on the premises, as the fire had already taken a good hold.

Romsey Fire Brigade, led by Mr A H Cheater, attended with auxiliary firemen. However, with the main buildings primarily constructed of timber, the flames spread quickly and there was little hope of saving the buildings.

Events are recorded in a detailed report in the Romsey Advertiser on 3rd November 1939.

What was left of the debris from the fire was later cleared. This left the small brick office building which had escaped the fire, and it continued in use by Aylwards as an office for Miss Leat, who did the books, until about 1960 when use ceased.

From about 1960, the Mill site appeared seemingly abandoned, overgrown, save the concrete basement of the old Corn Store, and the old office building, which soon started to suffer vandalism.

Some teenagers from the village took it upon themselves to clear weeds, debris and soil from the concrete basement, so they could use it as a football kick about area. It took a group of them a whole weekend, but by Sunday evening it was ready. After that it became an adventure playground for the youth of Dunbridge. The sunken concrete basement

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