



Mottisfont & Dunbridge

# ACORN



The Village Newsletter

April-May 2023

## DON'T FORGET YOUR VOTER ID!

Elections will be held on Thursday 4th May for all the seats on Test Valley Borough Council, and on Parish and Town Councils across the Test Valley area. By law, all residents will need to show photographic ID when they go to a polling station before they receive their ballot paper.



People can use various forms of photographic ID, including a driving licence, passport, Older Person's Bus Pass, a blue badge or Disabled Person's Bus Pass. The full list of accepted ID can be found at [www.testvalley.gov.uk/voterID](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/voterID).

Residents can also use expired ID as long as the photograph is still a good likeness.

Anyone who doesn't have an accepted form of identification can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) at [www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate).

Those unable to apply online can contact TVBC's electoral services team to request a paper form on 01264 368000 or 01794 527700, or by emailing [elecereg@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:elecereg@testvalley.gov.uk).

Anyone who needs help completing the VAC form in person can also visit the council offices at Beech Hurst in Andover or the Former Magistrates' Court in Romsey.

The deadline to apply for a VAC for the Test Valley borough elections set to be held on 4 May 2023 is Tuesday 25 April, *but residents are being encouraged to apply as soon as possible*.

There will be no need for people to provide photographic ID if they vote by post.

For people with a proxy vote, which is where someone else votes on their behalf, then their proxy will need to provide their own ID, not the elector's.

More information about the changes can be found at [www.testvalley.gov.uk/voterID](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/voterID).



AT  
**MOTTISFONT VILLAGE HALL**

12 noon to 3pm

**Sunday, 7th May**

*Bring a picnic, friends and family*

Tea and coffee will be available

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## MOTTISFONT VILLAGE FETE

**Sunday, 13th August**  
**1 – 5pm**

To make this popular event a success we need offers of help to run stalls. Please contact Lynn Young on 340134 if you would like to be part of the team!

## MEET THE NEIGHBOURS



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

The next two *Meet the Neighbours* events will be on:

**Tuesday, 25th April**  
**and**  
**Thursday, 25th May**

both from 7.30pm.

Put it in your diary now, and we'll look forward to seeing you!



## What's On at Mottisfont

### For families...

#### Mottisfont's Easter fete

1 – 16 April, 10am-5pm

Treat the whole family to a world of adventure at Mottisfont on our Easter trail, inspired by the classic village fete. Our trail is packed with traditional springtime activities, including egg rolling, bean bag throwing, and other energetic outdoor games, plus spring-themed crafts.

Normal admission plus £3 per trail includes a trail map, pencil and a chocolate egg, or vegan and free from chocolate egg, made here in the UK from cocoa that's responsibly sourced from Rainforest Alliance Certified farms.

### In the gardens...

Daffodils bloom beneath our giant plane trees and brighten up the beds of the winter garden. The parterre in front of the house is filled with Delft Blue hyacinths, and a flood of tiny star-shaped chionodoxa sweeps down the lime avenue in early spring. 15 Mount Fuji cherry trees burst into frothy white blossom in April. This small orchard is established in a bio-diverse meadow which reveals bright spots of colour from narcissi and fritillaries. Tulips flower in the walled gardens, and the Kitchen Garden is planted with produce once the risk of frost has passed. The first roses start to emerge in May, particularly wall-climbing varieties, building up to rose season in June.

Looking ahead to rose season, we'll be offering extended opening hours again, with the gardens open until 8pm on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 1 June - 1 July.

### In the gallery...

#### 100 years of Norman Thelwell

Until 7 May 2023, 11am-5pm

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 visitor 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.

### Keep in touch...

Visit our website, [nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont](https://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.

## EVENTS AT THE SOCIAL CLUB

Easter Skittles will be on Saturday 1st April, 8pm start.

Easter Draw will be held on Saturday 8th April. Tickets on sale from the bar.



Quizzes will start at 8pm on:

- Saturday 15th April
- Saturday 6th May
- Saturday 3rd June

Each quiz will have a raffle to raise funds for Romsey Opportunity Group.

## 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, 11th June.

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

## KINDLING WOOD FOR SALE

£5 a bag

Contact David on  
07967 657003  
Can deliver locally.



## From the Rector

At the time of writing this piece, four people who have been living on my street have passed away. This is unusual and surprising, but surely just a sad coincidence. Towards the end of last year, it was Broughton parish where there was a series of funerals, now it is Stockbridge's turn. The pain and sadness that come with losing loved ones can be overwhelming, and it is natural to feel a sense of despair in such difficult times. However, as

Christians, we have a hope that goes beyond this life, a hope rooted in the promise of resurrection.

The Easter season, into which we will soon enter, is a time when we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Through his death and resurrection, Christ conquered sin and death, and opened the way for us to eternal life. As we reflect on this central

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## CHURCH SERVICES FOR APRIL AND MAY

	<b>Bossington</b>	<b>Broughton</b>	<b>Houghton</b>	<b>Mottisfont</b>
2nd April Palm Sunday	9.30am Parish Eucharist	-	-	6pm Evensong
7th April Good Friday	2pm Reflections	-	-	-
9th April Easter Sunday	9.30am Easter Eucharist	-	9.30am Easter Eucharist	11am Parish Eucharist
16th April Easter 2	9.30am Parish Eucharist BCP	-	-	-
23rd April Easter 3	8am Holy Communion (CW or BCP) ----- 11am Family Service ----- 6pm Meditation	-	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11am Parish Eucharist
30th April Easter 4	-	-	10am United Benefice Eucharist	-
7th May Easter 5	9.30am Parish Eucharist	-	-	6pm Evensong
14th May Easter 6	11am Parish Eucharist Rogation	-	6pm Evensong	11am Morning Worship
21st May Easter 7	9.30am Parish Eucharist	-	-	-
28th May Pentecost	8am Holy Communion (CW or BCP) ----- 11am Family Service ----- 6pm Meditation	-	9.30am Parish Eucharist	6pm Evensong

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message of our faith, we are reminded that death is not the end, but a new beginning.

For those who have lost loved ones, this promise of resurrection can bring comfort and peace. Although we may grieve for those we have lost, we can also take comfort in the knowledge that they are now in the loving arms of our heavenly Father, and that one day we will be reunited with them in the fullness of life.

As a community, we can also support one another in

these difficult times. We can offer our prayers, our presence, and our love to those who are hurting. We can share stories and memories of those we have lost, and celebrate their lives and the impact they had on our community.

In the midst of our grief, let us also hold fast to the hope of resurrection. As we approach Easter, may we be reminded that death does not have the final word, and that through Christ, we have the promise of new life. May the love of God surround you all this Easter, and may we find comfort in the hope of the resurrection.

**It's back! After 3 years, due to Covid and its aftermath:**

## **The Rose and Wine Evening**

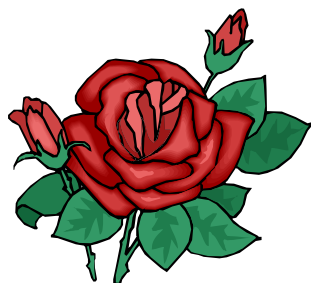
at  
**Mottisfont**

on

**Friday 26th May, 6.30 - 8.30pm**

**in the famous Walled Rose Garden of Mottisfont**

**Tickets: adult £12, age 16 and under £5, under 5s free**



To include a glass of wine or a fruit cup  
Further glasses/bottles will be available to purchase  
Home made jams and preserves for sale  
And a RAFFLE  
(All transactions cash only, please)



We are delighted to be able to re-establish this previously annual event which has reportedly been much missed. It is a lovely opportunity to take in the unique beauty and peacefulness of this treasure on our doorsteps whilst enjoying a glass with friends.

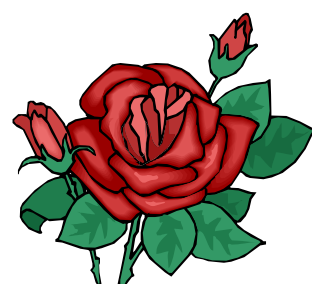
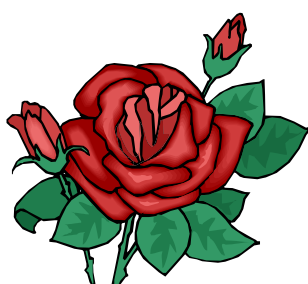
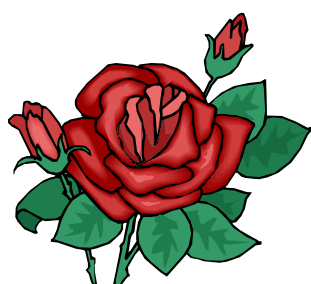
It is to raise funds to help preserve the functioning and fabric of our precious 12th century village church. A large scale renovation of St. Andrew's is urgently required, is currently in planning, and will be announced asap.

**Please do come, and bring friends and family.**

Tickets are available in advance from Mrs. Clutterbuck 01794 340475, or Dr. Armstrong 07879 055040, and on the night at the gate (cash only please).

PARKING will be in the staff car park, via the entrance adjacent to Mottisfont Social Club, which will be signposted.

The event is by kind permission of National Trust's Mottisfont House and Gardens (SO51 0LP), with thanks from St. Andrew's PCC.





## STOCKBRIDGE CINEMA



**Friday 14 April, 7.30pm**

### **Decision To Leave (15)**

From a mountain peak in South Korea, a man plummets to his death. Did he jump, or was he pushed? When detective Hae-joon arrives on the scene, he begins to suspect the dead man's wife Seo-rae. But as he digs deeper into the investigation, he finds himself trapped in a web of deception and desire. (In Korean with English subtitles)

**Wednesday 19 April, 4.45pm and 7.30pm**

### **The Banshees of Inisherin (15)**

Set on a remote island off the west coast of Ireland, the story follows lifelong friends Pádraic and Colm, who find themselves at an impasse when Colm unexpectedly puts an end to their friendship. A stunned Pádraic, aided by his sister Siobhán and troubled young islander Dominic, endeavours to repair the relationship, refusing to take no for an answer. But Pádraic's repeated efforts only strengthen his former friend's resolve, and when Colm delivers a desperate ultimatum, events swiftly escalate, with shocking consequences.

**Sunday 23 April, 3pm**

### **Matilda the Musical (PG)**

An adaptation of the award-winning musical version of Roald Dahl's Matilda. Matilda Wormwood lives with her brother and parents, who are unappreciative of her. An extraordinary girl, she discovers her superpower and summons the remarkable courage, against all odds, to help others change their stories, whilst also taking charge of her own destiny. Standing up for what is right, she is met with miraculous results. This is a fund-raising film for the Friends of Stockbridge School - Tickets £5 (incl. booking fee) for this film only.



**Friday 19 May, 7.30pm**

### **Aftersun (12)**

At a fading vacation resort, 11-year-old Sophie treasures rare time together with her loving and idealistic father, Calum (Paul Mescal). As a world of adolescence creeps into view, beyond her eye Calum struggles under the weight of life outside of fatherhood. Twenty years later, Sophie's tender recollections of their last holiday become a powerful and heartrending portrait of their relationship, as she tries to reconcile the father she knew with the man she didn't.

**Wednesday 24 May, 5pm and 7.30pm**

### **Living (12)**

The story of an ordinary man (Bill Nighy), reduced by years of oppressive office routine to a shadow existence, and who makes a supreme effort to turn his dull life into one he can say has been lived to the full after a shattering medical diagnosis.

### **Information common to all films**

Showing at Stockbridge Town Hall, SO20 6HE. Tickets can be purchased online from the 1st April - price per ticket £6 (including 50p booking fee) via [www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk](http://www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk) or by telephone from TicketSource 0333 666 3366 (additional £1.80 charge per booking). Visit our website for more details.

## TREETOP FUN COMES TO SPEARYWELL WOOD

In a bid to improve countryside recreation facilities, treetop walkways and zipwires are to be installed in Spearywell Wood.

The controversial decision to proceed with this project was made at short notice as the end of the financial year approached. At that point it became clear that the recreation facilities budget was showing an unexpected underspend, and the principle of "use it or lose it" should be applied.

A spokesperson said, "This new state-of-the-art facility will turn Spearywell Wood into a very popular attraction, so we will be expanding the car parking area to cope with the increase in the number of visitors". It is anticipated that the increased traffic level may at last lead to improvement of the B3084, something that local people have been campaigning to achieve for many years.

Noting that the wood is widely used by dog-walkers, it has been agreed that owners may take their dogs onto the overhead walkways and zipwires, provided that all dogs wear a specially developed harness that not only keeps them safe from falling off, but also retains any "rear end substances", as they have euphemistically been described. A range of harnesses will be available, covering Chihuahuas to Great Danes, but owners will be responsible for fitting them. The harnesses are expected to eliminate any claims for cleaning or replacement clothing costs from those walking below.

Work is due to start on 1st April 2023.

## Flood risk insurance

According to the Environment Agency, over five million people in England live and work in properties at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea, whilst more face flood threats from groundwater, surface water, sewers, and reservoirs.

In extreme conditions you won't be able to stop flood water, and you should always put personal safety above attempts to protect property and possessions.

Despite this, there are steps that you can take to keep water out, to buy yourself time to preserve property and possessions, and to limit the damage that flood water causes.

A guide to preparing for a flood and protecting your property is available at [www.gocompare.com/home-insurance/flooding-and-home-insurance/](http://www.gocompare.com/home-insurance/flooding-and-home-insurance/) (note: this is a commercial site selling insurance).

## Broughton and Mottisfont Village Bus

*Get out and get about!*



**Bad news:** some local bus services are being cut this year.

**Good news:** The Broughton & Mottisfont Village Bus keeps rolling along!

Why not take advantage of this wonderful service with pickups in Mottisfont and Dunbridge?

Fares are low and **bus passes can be used.**

Take life easy...hop on YOUR local village bus!

For full timetable and prices, see [www.broughtonvillage.net/village-bus](http://www.broughtonvillage.net/village-bus).

### 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 more information, please call 01794 234794, or email [thevillagebus@outlook.com](mailto:thevillagebus@outlook.com).

## WHIST

The next Whist sessions at the Village Hall are on:

- Friday 21st April
- Friday 19th May

Both start at 7pm.





The February speaker was unable to come, so local historian, Phoebe Merrick stepped into the breach and gave a most interesting talk on 'Royalty and Romsey.'

She began her talk by giving a brief resume of the Abbey's history, beginning around 900AD when King Alfred's granddaughter was the first Abbess, and mentioned that there are pillar capitals and kneelers in the Abbey depicting early royal visitors to the church.

She then moved on to visits by more recent royalty, showing slides of Queen Elizabeth II and Princess Margaret when they were bridesmaids at the wedding of Lord Louis' elder daughter, and some of the regular visits by the late Queen and her husband Prince Philip.

There were slides depicting the way in which Romsonians celebrated royal events. Images of tea parties for the last coronation and street parties for the late Queen's diamond jubilee had WI members searching for familiar faces.

In March we had another local speaker, Roger Savage from Choice Plants at Timsbury. Roger gave a potted autobiography of his life before setting up his nursery. His early life in India instilled a love of colour, and he found his first job with a law firm to be too drab and grey. He therefore changed his idea of

a law degree to one in horticulture, which he thoroughly enjoyed. The world of horticulture opened up a wealth of opportunities, and after working for a fruit grower in Suffolk ( where he lived on a bus), he worked for ICI, which increased his confidence in building relationships with others.

Eventually, in 1989, he and his wife, Mary, bought a plot of land and opened Choice Plants. It was VERY hard work, and he was soon busy supplying hanging baskets to Sainsbury's Homebase stores nationwide, and about 60 pubs around the south - at the peak, around 15,000 hanging baskets!

The seasonal nature of the business meant he was forced to diversify, and opened the Poppies Cafe and a craft centre within the nursery. There is now an ice cream parlour as well, which proves popular in the summer. All of his talk was peppered with amusing anecdotes which caused great hilarity among the members.

There are trips in the offing to Plaza Theatre productions, a visit to Mottisfont House where we can enjoy a walk around Mrs. Clutterbuck's beautiful garden, and a farm visit to the home of Lyburn cheese. We have also been awarded a grant to enable us to celebrate the forthcoming coronation with a party and 'Royal Quiz' on Tuesday 9th May. We foresee a busy time ahead. Next month we hope to hear John Wood tell us of his life as Head Gardener at Hinton Ampner. This will be on Tuesday 11th April at 7.30pm.



# 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](http://www.broughton.shop)  
Or email [news@broughton.shop](mailto: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

## GET FREE EXTRA SUPPORT DURING POWER CUTS

### Register for Priority Services

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) maintains a register of people who may need special support in the event of a power failure.

SSEN is the company that operates the electricity network in this area of the country, and is distinct from the company that sends people electricity bills.

You may want to be on SSEN's register if you:

- Are deaf or hard of hearing
- Have a disability
- Live with children under five
- Are blind or partially sighted
- Have a chronic illness
- Use medical equipment/aids reliant on electricity
- Are over 60
- Temporarily need extra support

SSEN aims to offer:

### Priority treatment during planned or unplanned power cuts

The Priority Services line is available 24 hours a day. They will contact you, or your nominated contact, if they need to switch off your power to carry out essential maintenance.

### Connection to local emergency services

They work with local authorities, emergency services, and agencies like the Red Cross, to provide extra support to people on the Priority Services Register.

### Emergency power supplies

If you use medical equipment/aids reliant on electricity, they aim to provide extra support during prolonged supply interruptions.

### Safety advice tailored to your needs

When requested, they will offer you advice on how to prepare for a power cut, in a format that suits your needs, e.g. Braille, textphone, Easy Read, audio CD, or a language other than English.

### Provisions for your community

During severe weather events and prolonged power outages their access to local welfare vehicles helps them to provide meals, drinks, warmth and charging points.

### Peace of mind

They offer a service where you can agree a

## MOTTISFONT PARISH COUNCIL



Mottisfont Parish Council's AGM will be held on Thursday 18th May. This will be the first meeting after local elections on 4th May, and the PC will be electing its chair.

Come and hear what the Parish Council has been up to over the last year, and bring your ideas for 2023!

password to use when dealing with the staff at SSEN. That way they can look after your personal safety and home security.

### FREE ENERGY EFFICIENCY HELP

SSEN can arrange FREE expert advice for you on:

- Saving energy and reducing bills
- Switching energy suppliers
- Funding or grants to pay for insulation or energy saving measures
- Financial help that is available, including free benefit entitlement checks
- Making the most of your heating, hot water, appliances, lighting and thermostats in your home

You can get these FREE services by:

- Calling SSEN free on 0800 294 3259, and they will arrange the righthelp for you, totally free of charge, from YES Energy Solutions
- Calling YES Energy Solutions directly on 03301 359 110 (calls charged at local rate)
- Visiting [ssen.co.uk/energyadvice](https://ssen.co.uk/energyadvice) and completing the on-line form.

### BE PREPARED FOR POWER CUTS

- Have some warm clothes and a batter-powered torch to hand
- Check you have back-up power for any medical equipment
- Check your stairlift can be operated manually, or has battery back-up
- Ensure that your mobile phone is charged so that you can call 105 if a power cut occurs
- Ensure that you have essential medication to hand.