



Mottisfont & Dunbridge

ACORN



The Village Newsletter

February-March 2023

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Two dates for your diaries:

The Village Hall Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 28th March at 7.30pm. This is the opportunity to come along to meet the committee and give us your ideas for activities or events you would like to see at the hall. Even better, you may like to join the committee! *There will be wine and nibbles for everyone.*

The second important date is the annual village fete. This will take place on Sunday 13th August from 1pm to 5pm, and is a vital event to raise vital funds for the upkeep of the hall. Lynn Young will be co-ordinating the event again, so if you can help in any way, please email her at [lynnhenmatt at aol dot com](mailto:lynnhenmatt@aol.com) (*replace " at " with "@" and " dot " with "."*).

SMASHED CAR WINDOWS

There have been two instances of smashed car windows of two different cars on two different dates.

Both cars were parked near the gate towards the top of Barley Hill (just before the white fencing that marks the exit to the village as you go up the hill).

The first incident was on 13th December, when the driver's side window was smashed, and the second incident was on 26th December, when the rear window was smashed.

In both cases a ball bearing was found in the car, and these are believed to have been used to smash the windows. Both incidents have been reported to the police.

Also on Barley Hill in the last few months there have been two cases where car wing mirrors have been hit and broken, presumably by passing vehicles.

If you have any information that could help the police in their enquiries, please call 101 and reference ball bearing incidents in Barley Hill. We would also ask you to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the police.

A Barley Hill resident.

Local elections in May: voter ID required

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.

Test Valley Borough Council is urging residents to make sure they are prepared for the introduction of voter ID. By law, from 4th May 2023, 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.

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.

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.

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

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Our 'Whats on' spring and summer programme is set out below.

The snowdrops and winter aconites are just starting to emerge and will be in flower soon, and are a hopeful sight amongst the long spells of frosts and the heavy rain we have been experiencing.

The Thelwell exhibition is well worth a visit, even for those who know his cartoons well. The landscapes he painted for fun are delightful!

I am very aware that Mottisfont was particularly busy over the Christmas week and on 2nd January, with some resulting traffic issues. My apologies for those who were affected by this. As we get back to normal post pandemic visitor numbers, we are planning ahead for Easter and June to look at what our options are for car park and traffic management.

Our ranger teams meanwhile have been out with volunteer groups undertaking winter woodland management for the benefit of biodiversity. You will see their efforts along some of the Mottisfont estate paths.

Vicky Fletcher, General Manager

What's On

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 fifty artworks, many never shown before, and takes the 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.

For families...

February half term: Giddy Gallops

11 – 19 February, 10am-5pm

Trot around the gardens, taking part in energetic and creative activities inspired by Thelwell's beloved cartoons. Let your imagination run wild as you create your own cartoon character and take part in country capers including hobby horse hurdles. £2

per trail.

In the gardens...

The winter garden is at its best at this time of year. Bright colours from winter bark and berries stand out in frosty mornings, alongside early-flowering perennials such as hellebores. Daphne, wintersweet and witch hazel all create a delightful fragrance in the cold air. Although January floods may have affected our snowdrop displays beside the river, clusters of this delicate flower will still appear beside the font stream and within the winter garden.

As the season begins to turn, our first spring bulbs will begin to emerge: look under trees in and in the winter and walled gardens. Big, bright daffodil displays spread out near the font.

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.

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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.

Mottisfont Parish Council

As well as the Borough Council elections, there will be an election for councillors for Mottisfont Parish Council on 4th May.

If you are interested in standing for election to Mottisfont Parish Council, further information about being a Parish Councillor can be obtained from the clerk at parish.clerk@mottisfontpc.org.uk. Nomination papers and forms of consent must be deposited by Tuesday 4th April.

WhatsApp privacy features every user should enable

WhatsApp is owned by the same company that owns Facebook. Their business model is to gather information about you to sell to advertisers. This is how they can offer their services free of charge.

Some people find the idea of being tracked around the internet like this a bit creepy. If this concerns you, and you use WhatsApp, you may want to improve your privacy by using the steps clearly described at www.androidpolice.com/best-whatsapp-privacy-features.

From the Rector

Charging your batteries

The last month has involved a bit of car maintenance for me. The car that I have driven for the last 7 years, an early model electric car, is showing its age, and has lost its range. Really it needs to be upgraded, or to be sold off, however neither of these is easy to achieve, and so it is off the road, and I am driving a banger for a while until I work out what to do.

In the meantime I have been servicing the brakes, however when I turned on the car after doing this work, for the first time in several months, the small 12 volt battery had gone flat, and so the car would not turn on. It seemed ironic that a car with a huge 400 volt lithium battery could not function because its much smaller 12 volt lead-acid cousin did not have enough power to send the signal that starts the car. I am sure once the 12 volt battery has been charged or replaced we will be back in business!

It made me realise how when we neglect the small routine things, the big things can stop working. This is a helpful way of viewing our spiritual lives. Often time for stillness, reflection and prayer get squeezed out by the large, complex and overwhelming realities of daily living. It is only a very few for whom spiritual pursuits are main substance of daily living, and those people likely live in a monastery! However, for the rest of us, the small portion of our time we devote to keeping our relationship with God “charged up” is no less important. If neglected, then we discover that letting that little 12 volt battery run flat renders many other parts of our lives inoperable too!

CHURCH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

	Bossington	Broughton	Houghton	Mottisfont
5th February Proper 1	-	9.30am Parish Eucharist and Baptism	-	-
12th February 2nd Sunday before Lent	-	11am Parish Eucharist	6pm Evensong	11am Morning Worship
19th February Sunday before Lent	9:30am BCP Parish Eucharist	9.30am Bible Uncovered	-	-
26th February Lent 1	-	8am Holy Communion (CW or BCP) 11am Family Service	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11am Parish Eucharist
5th March Lent 2	-	9.30am Parish Eucharist	-	-
12th March Lent 3	-	11am Parish Eucharist	6pm Evensong	11am Morning Worship
19th March Mothering Sunday	9:30am BCP Parish Eucharist	9.30am Mothering Sunday Service	-	11am Mothering Sunday Service
26th March Lent 5	-	8am Holy Communion (CW or BCP) 11am Family Service	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11am Parish Eucharist

In December we had our usual pre-Christmas Bingo Night, which once again caused great hilarity, mostly as a result of the rhymes which Linda made for the numbers called! We then enjoyed a buffet supper prepared by our hard working committee members. Everyone went home with a Christmas gift. It was a great start to the Christmas festivities.

The first meeting of the New Year was well attended, especially considering the dreadful weather we had to drive through to reach the hall. There was a fascinating talk by John Richards about the letters of Sir Winston Churchill. He was a prolific letter writer and actually wrote more words than Charles Dickens and Shakespeare put together. He started at a very early age, writing to his mother when he went to boarding school aged eight. This was not a happy experience for him, and had a profound effect on his life.

Later he wrote many letters to his wife Clementine, often several a day, when they were actually living in the same house! He also wrote many letters when he was serving in the Army and the Royal Navy in other parts of the world. Always very affectionate, they were obviously deeply in love.

In all, he wrote forty books, and in 1979 was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. His State Funeral in 1965 was attended by six monarchs and fifteen heads of state. Truly he was a great

statesman. The whole talk was fascinating - not at all like the history lessons most of us remember from our schooldays.

Next month's meeting on 14th February at 7.30 pm will include a talk on Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. The March meeting will be on the 14th, when local historian Phoebe Merrick will talk on Royalty and Romsey. Visitors are always welcome!

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, 5th March.

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



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](https://www.facebook.com/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

STOCKBRIDGE CINEMA

Friday 10th February
7.30pm
Azor (12)



Argentina, the late 1970s in the midst of a dictatorship. Private banker Yvan arrives from Geneva with his wife Ines to replace a colleague who has mysteriously disappeared in military-ruled Buenos Aires.

Moving through the smoke-filled lounges and lush gardens of a society under intense surveillance, he finds himself untangling a sinister web of colonialism, high finance, and a nation's "Dirty War". (In English French and Spanish with subtitles)

Wednesday 15th February
4.45pm and 7.30pm
Mrs Harris Goes to Paris (15)

In 1950s London, a widowed cleaning lady (Lesley Manville) falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress, deciding she must have one of her own.

After working to raise the funds to pursue her dream, she embarks on an adventure to Paris that will change not only her own outlook - but the very future of the House of Dior.

Friday 17th March
7.30pm
Official Competition (15)

A wealthy businessman in search of fame and social prestige hires neurotic director Lola (Penelope Cruz) to produce his crowning achievement, a brilliant art film.

She engages two well-known actors who boast not only an enormous talent, but also an even bigger ego and are not exactly the best of friends. (In Spanish with English subtitles)

Wednesday 22nd March
5pm and 7.30pm
See How They Run (12A)

In the West End of 1950s London, plans for a movie version of a smash-hit play come to an abrupt halt after a pivotal member of the crew is murdered.

When world-weary Inspector Stoppard (Sam Rockwell) and eager rookie Constable Stalker (Saoirse Ronan) take on the case, the two find themselves thrown into a puzzling whodunnit within the glamorously sordid theatre underground, investigating the mysterious homicide at their own peril.



All the above 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) from the 1st of each month. Visit our website for more details.

STOCKBRIDGE MUSIC

**Friday, 3rd March, 7.30pm, St Peter's Church,
Stockbridge, SO20 6HE**

The Morassi Quartet

*Giving young musicians a platform:
the first concert of 2023 in Stockbridge Music's
young musicians series*

Natasha Humphries (violin), Katie Mazur (violin),
Toby Warr (viola), Iza Stefańska (cello)

Formed in 2018 at the Royal College of Music by violinists Natasha Humphries and Katie Mazur, the members of The Morassi Quartet have already had exceptional starts to their musical careers. As well as performing in many RCM concerts, including the annual Chamber Music Festival, the quartet have also performed at the Royal Festival Hall. They have also toured abroad extensively, including to France, Austria, Germany, Poland, Russia and China.

The programme has yet to be finalised, but will include a selection from pieces by Rachmaninov, Puccini, Haydn, Mendelssohn and Bacewicz.

Tickets £20 (U18s £7.50) are available from stockbridgemusic.uk or on the door.

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**Saturday, 18th March, 7.30 pm in
St. Peter's Church, Stockbridge**

Mozart's Requiem: Salisbury Chamber Chorus

We are delighted that Salisbury Chamber Chorus has chosen Stockbridge as a venue for a performance of Mozart's famous Requiem, both his final piece, and also one of his most familiar. In addition, the Salisbury-based choir will be performing four choruses from Mozart's opera Idomeneo; less well-known, but perfect curtain raisers.

Salisbury Chamber Chorus members comprise a number of gifted amateurs and semi-professionals who are also happy to sing solo. Indeed, the soloists for this concert will all be members of the Chorus.

The concert, in association with Stockbridge Music, takes place on Saturday, 18th March, 7.30 pm in St Peter's Church, Stockbridge.

Tickets £15 (U18s free) are available from stockbridgemusic.uk or on the door.

Broughton and Mottisfont Village Bus

The bus service has been in operation for more than 30 years, providing a regular and useful service to local villagers.

Fares are set at the lowest level to reflect annual operating costs.



However, since it is not feasible to generate the large sums needed to pay for a replacement vehicle every six years or so, we are reliant on generous grants from Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) and Hampshire County Council.

TVBC has a generous Free Fare Pass scheme, which is valid on our 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.

WHIST

The next Whist sessions at the Village Hall are on:

- Friday 17th February
- Friday 17th March

Both start at 7pm.



THE SOCIAL CLUB

Mottisfont Social Club subscriptions are now due. The cost is £15 for ordinary members or £8 for concessions, which are over 65, or under 21 and in full time education. New membership is £20.

To vote at the AGM, members must pay their subscriptions before the end of February.

Time to get walking again!

With Spring on its way, we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?



Walking in Hampshire (www.walkinginengland.co.uk/hants) has loads of walks to download and print, free of charge. It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county, and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group, all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said "There is so much walking information on the web, but it is difficult to find. Walking in Hampshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place, so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you."

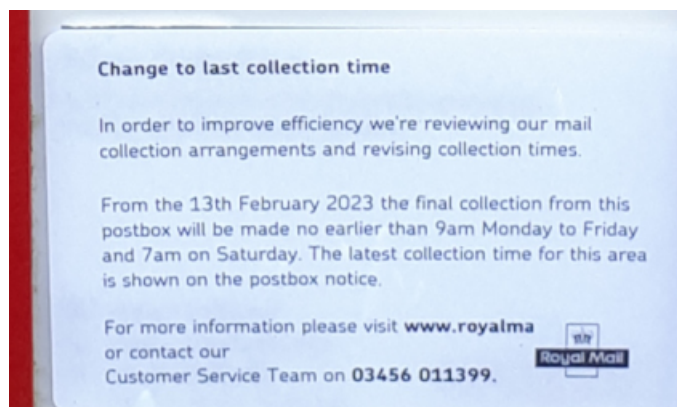
With walks from half a mile to over twelve miles long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the website and get walking!

John Harris

Mail collection times changing

You may not have spotted that the post box in the centre of Mottisfont village now bears the following small notice:



We had to read it a few times before we thought we understood what they meant. It seems to be saying that if you want to catch the collection, you must post before 9am Monday to Friday, and before 7am on a Saturday (but they may collect it any time they like after that).

How convenient for us customers!

The Blue Lamp Trust

The Blue Lamp Trust, of which Hampshire Constabulary's Chief Constable, Olivia Pinkney, is a trustee, helps protect vulnerable residents in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight from becoming victims of crime, as part of their crime prevention advisory service.



The scheme from the Blue Lamp Trust offers FREE home visits providing both general and specific crime and fire prevention advice to improve home safety.

They visit residents of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight who are:

- Vulnerable due to age (over 65)
- Disabled
- A victim of crime
- A victim of burglary
- A victim of domestic abuse

Their trained, police vetted, Bobby Scheme Fitters will visit and carry out a full survey and, as appropriate fit items free of charge, such as:

- Locks
- Spy Holes
- Door Chains
- Smoke Alarms
- Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Installing Key Safes

They can also supply and fit Supra C500 Key Safes. These are ACPO Police Accredited, have a 5-year guarantee, and cost £75.

All of the Blue Lamp Trust advisors are police vetted and carry ID cards to reassure local residents that they are genuine. Please remember, they will not be offended if you ask to see their ID to validate their identity.

Referrals

If you, or anybody you know, is eligible (based on the criteria above) and would benefit from a Bobby Scheme referral, please enquire via the Blue Lamp Trust website at www.bluelamptrust.org.uk/bobby-scheme-choice/.

Alternatively, you can make an enquiry by calling the Blue Lamp Trust directly on 0300 777 0157.



Parish Council Initiative to Improve Security

Following discussions with representatives of neighbouring areas, Mottisfont Parish Council has facilitated the appointment of a security co-ordinator for our parish.

Phil Cox, who has taken on this role, said: "I'd like to tell you more about my role in reporting and sharing crime intelligence with surrounding villages and ourselves.

"From January 2023 I will be meeting eight others and Test Valley Police to share and gather intelligence, information, and advice on crime, vehicles, methods, etc.

"We will have our own WhatsApp group, but I will be sharing with you any and all relevant key information both electronically and [in a] paper bulletin eventually.

"For now, can I ask anyone to continue reporting anything suspicious here, so that I can record and share with others.

"If anyone wants to pass on info privately to me please feel free to text or call 07796 938122, or email me philDOTcox42ATgooglemailDOTcom*. Thank you. (Please bear with us whilst we consider and decide in the future on any Internet based site for posting info, but in the meantime please carry on reporting your concerns here.)"

Jeff Channing, chair of Mottisfont Parish Council, encourages every household in our parish to have someone who uses the Mottisfont Neighbours WhatsApp group. If you would like to join the group, please contact Jeff at jeffmottisfontATbtinternetDOTcom*.

** Change AT and DOT to make the correct email address. We show email addresses this way to help avoid increasing spam.*

KINDLING WOOD FOR SALE

£5 a bag

Contact David on
07967 657003
Can deliver locally.



Check who is removing your waste

Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) is warning residents to check if the people removing their waste are licensed, after a woman from Romsey found herself in court when someone dumped her rubbish in Foxes Lane, West Wellow early last year.



No Fly Tipping

Fly tipping is an offence under the Environmental Protection Act (1990) Offenders will be prosecuted

The large waste deposit contained wardrobe doors, wood, broken furniture, an old TV, a heater, some metal, a large tarpaulin, cardboard boxes and other items of general household waste.

TVBC officers found evidence within the rubbish that led them to the owner who lived in Malmesbury Road in Romsey.

They invited the owner to attend an interview under caution where she stated that she had transferred her waste to a man who had cold called at the property.

The man did not provide any transfer notes, and the owner did not check to see if he was an authorised waste carrier before handing over £100 for him to remove the rubbish.

Appearing at Southampton Magistrates' Court on the 18 January 2023, the owner pleaded guilty to failing to ensure that her waste was disposed of properly and was handed a conditional discharge for six months and ordered to pay costs of £153 and a victim surcharge of £150.

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.

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

**Tuesday, 21st February
and
Wednesday 29th March**

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