



Mottisfont & Dunbridge

# ACORN



The Village Newsletter

October - November 2023

## MOTTISFONT VILLAGE HALL NEWS AND EVENTS

### ANNUAL VILLAGE FETE

The village fete was held on Sunday 13th August. The weather was kind to us in the afternoon, although the strong winds earlier in the day did damage a couple of gazebos.

The reptiles, bric-a-brac stall and Romsey ukulele group were particularly popular, and the burgers, ice creams and street food all did a roaring trade.

The committee would like to thank all the volunteers who helped set everything up and run the stalls. We did struggle to find enough helpers this year, but despite this the fete was a great success and was well attended.

The annual fete is one of the main sources of income for the Village Hall and this year we raised over £1,400. This money will go towards carrying out essential repairs and paying our utility bills. To ensure the future of the fete and the hall, we desperately need more people to get involved – either by joining the committee or by helping to organise and run the fete next year. Please let me know if you can help us in any way.

Lynn  
Tel: 340134

### OUR HERO

This is Greg, our hero. He saved this year's village fete!

We realised in the early hours the Friday morning two days before the fete that the old cesspit at the village hall was probably full! Sure enough, when we checked at 8.30am it was full to the brim!

Pat spent the morning trying to find a firm able to pump it out. After several failed attempts she contacted Wastewater from Ower. They are a lovely small company with only three employees. To add to our problems, that afternoon the M27 and Romsey were gridlocked due to an accident near



Junction 3, but Greg, Wastewater's driver, came via Salisbury, Stockbridge and Kings Somborne, meeting us at the village hall at 6pm. He pumped out the pit and, thank goodness, we were okay for the fete on Sunday. Otherwise, with no loos we'd have had to cancel.

We can't thank Wastewater enough, and thoroughly recommend them for any drainage issues.

Dave & Pat Francis

### THE VILLAGE HALL IS AVAILABLE TO HIRE

Do you have a special birthday coming up, a wedding in the family or a wedding anniversary? Mottisfont Village Hall is an ideal venue for all your parties and celebrations.

If you run a club, a local society, or would just like to get together with friends, the hall is also available for regular bookings.

Hire fees for residents are only £12 per hour (£8 for regular bookings) or £100 for a whole day. This includes all the facilities in the hall, including use of the kitchen. Fees for non-residents are slightly more, and weddings are negotiable depending on what's required.

Diane Roberts is the contact for bookings at [mottisfontvillagehallbookings@outlook.com](mailto:mottisfontvillagehallbookings@outlook.com) or mobile: 07488 358253.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO PLANT HEDGE

We were fortunate to get a donation of mixed hedging plants from The Woodland Trust last year. Although the hedge got off to a good start, half the plants didn't survive the hot weather last summer. The Woodland Trust have agreed to replace these, and we are expecting a delivery of 90 mixed plants sometime in November, but they are unable to give us an exact date.

So that we can arrange a day to carry out the planting please could you let us know if you are willing to help. We can then email everyone once we have news from The Woodland Trust

Many thanks.

Pat & Dave Francis  
[patfrancis\(dot\)romsey\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:patfrancis(dot)romsey(at)gmail.com)



On 21st September, the Parish Council heard from Vicky Fletcher and Ryan Scott of the National Trust about planned river restoration works that will happen this winter along their sections of the Rivers Test and Dun, and also plans for future fishing on the four National Trust beats. The fishing rights will be re-tendered after the lease

expired in March 2023 for a non-stocked model of fishing. More information will follow in the next edition of Acorn.

### **In the gallery...**

**Happy Families: Adventures with the Ahlbergs exhibition, until 5th November, 11am-4.30pm (closing at 4pm from 30th October, last entry 30 minutes before closing)**

A family-friendly exhibition exploring the much-loved children's books created by Allan and Janet Ahlberg, featuring original artwork from The Jolly Postman, Happy Families, Funnybones and more. This is the first full retrospective of the Ahlbergs' work and includes artworks that have never been shown publicly before. Over 70 original illustrations and text from the books are displayed in family-friendly ways, and big, bold wall displays provide photo opportunities with colourful backdrops and favourite characters. Outside, the Beech Circle has been transformed into an outdoor garden gallery with illustrations from Each Peach Pear Plum.

### **For families...**

**Adventures with the Ahlbergs autumn trail: Funnybones, until 5th November, 10am-5pm (closing at 4pm from 30th October, last entry 30 minutes before closing)**

Pick up a skeleton mask to begin your Funnybones-inspired adventure around the grounds. Take part in 'eerie exercises' and guess what's inside our trick or treat boxes. Shuffle bones to create creatures and craft your own dog skeleton to take home.

Property admission applies (free entry for National Trust members and under 5s), plus £3 per trail.

### **In the house...**

It's your last chance to see our medieval seal matrix on display this year, before we close the house to decorate for Christmas. The matrix – a carved mould used to make wax impressions to seal documents – lay buried in a Lockerley field for centuries until it was discovered in 2022 by a metal detectorist. Dated to between 1470 and 1520 and made of cast copper-alloy, the seal, which measures 60mm x 40mm, is inscribed in Latin with "sigillu[m] officii prioris p[ri]oretas sce trinitat[is] de Motesfont", which translated means Seal of the Official of the

Prior of the Priory of Mottisfont. It features a carved depiction of the Trinity and a figure of a praying cleric, likely representing Mottisfont's Prior or Abbot. It is most likely to have been used to authenticate "indulgences" - written pardons granted by religious institutions in return for a financial donation.

### **In the gardens...**

Our gardens are vibrant with autumn colour in October and November. The stately trees which frame our house and grounds are resplendent in shades of red, orange and gold, while the river reveals shimmering reflections of the overhead canopy. The great plane provides a dazzling display as you enter the grounds, and the chestnut trees lining the upper half of our main pathway glow with yellow-orange leaves. Two tulip trees also come into their own during this season, as their acid green summer foliage turns a magnificent pale gold. Families can help with our harvest, gathering leaves to supply our home-grown compost.

### **Planning for Christmas...**

**A Christmas Journey to the North Pole**

25th November – 7th January, 10am-4pm (whole property closed 24th and 25th December)

Follow letters to Father Christmas on a magical journey to the North Pole, from children dreaming in decorated bedrooms to a polar bear's ball, and experience the wonder of the northern lights. Outside, follow the activity trail to help deliver Christmas wishes, and step inside the Elves' Sorting Office.

### **Keep in touch...**

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

 **Skittles Night**  
at  
**The Mill Arms**  
on  
**Friday, 10th November at 7.30pm**

**Come and join us for a fun night with neighbours to raise funds for the Village Hall.**

***No Skittling Experience Necessary!***

**£12.50 per person to include a choice of basket meal**

Tickets in advance from  
Jo O'Brien tel. 341067  
[joannamobrien\(at\)btinternet.com](mailto:joannamobrien(at)btinternet.com)  
Dave and Pat Francis tel. 340609  
[pandafrancis\(at\)btinternet.com](mailto:pandafrancis(at)btinternet.com)

## 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.

So, why not come and join us for the next two *Meet the Neighbours* events from 7.30pm on:

**Tuesday, 24th October**  
and  
**Wednesday, 22nd November**

## Lockerley Primary School

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### Open Mornings

Tuesday, 17th October, 9.30 to 10.30

Wednesday, 8th November, 9.30 to 10.30

***Come and see how we make a real difference.***

We warmly welcome you and your child to come to see our school.

There will be lots of different activities for your child to get involved in, including pond dipping, gardening, sports and arts.

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### Caterpillars Playgroup



We invite you to come along to our new playgroup!

- From birth to 5 year olds
- Songs, stories, craft and toys
- Run by a qualified teacher
- Baby weighing scales
- Tea and coffee for the grown ups
- Every Tuesday during term time, 10am – 10.45am
  - £2.00 'play as you go'
- At Lockerley Primary School

***No need to sign up, just come along and join the fun!***

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### MacMillan Coffee Morning

A warm welcome with coffee and cake at  
Lockerley Primary School  
Tuesday 17th October  
8.30am - 11.00am

## EVENTS AT THE SOCIAL CLUB

### It's quiz season at the Social Club!

There will be a quiz on each of the following dates, starting at 8pm with your Quiz Master, Mike Hughes:

**Saturday 21st October**

**Saturday 11th November**

**Saturday 2nd December**

## WHIST

The next Whist sessions at the Village Hall are on:

- **Friday 20th October**
- and
- **Friday 17th November**

Both start at 7pm.



## KINDLING WOOD FOR SALE

£5 a bag

Contact David on 07967 657003

Can deliver locally



## 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, 19th November.

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



## From Rev Dr John Rennie

We know little about persecution for our faith in the UK. The Romsey deanery, of which we are part, has been linked to a diocese in south western Uganda for many years (South Rwenzori). There they become accustomed to churches and schools being burnt and whole families being displaced by the incursion of aggressive Islamic militias across the nearby border with the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In the UK most Christians agree that the culture around us is becoming more and more hostile to our faith, even though not on the scale experienced in East Africa. Just this last month in the UK we have had people arrested for praying outside abortion clinics, others sacked from their jobs for articulating Christian views on sexual ethics or some whose bank accounts have been cancelled because of their beliefs.

How should we respond? We might want to fight back to demand fair and equal treatment. Alternatively we might want to engage with those who challenge our traditional viewpoint. But there

are those who decide not to engage at all, preferring instead to turn the other cheek. Their argument follows that they would rather be known for what they stand for, than what they are against.

Writing in *Finding hope in a hostile world*, Glen Shrivener uses the story of Abraham to make a point. The patriarch Abraham usually stayed out of wars that were going on around him and instead used his energy and influence to build his household of faith. Just once he made an attempt at an alliance with a foreign king (Genesis 14).

Perhaps this is a guide for us especially if we are not adequately informed about controversial issues. Many Church leaders believe our role is to spread the good news of Jesus so that our culture is transformed by loving, praying Christians empowered by the Holy Spirit. The great social reforms of the 19th century came on the back of revivals in the Church. Rather than trying to create or even to recapture a Christian culture, we should concentrate on building up people who are committed to the Lord Jesus and who wish to live for him.

## CHURCH SERVICES FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

	Bossington	Broughton	Houghton	Mottisfont
1st October Trinity 17 Proper 21	-	9.30am Parish Eucharist	-	6pm Evensong
8th October Trinity 18 Proper 22	-	11am Parish Eucharist with baptism	6pm Evensong	11am Morning Worship
15th October Trinity 19 Proper 23	9.30am BCP Parish Eucharist	9.30am Bible Uncovered	-	-
22nd October Trinity 20 Proper 24	6pm Meditation	8am Holy Communion (CW or BCP) ----- 11am Family Service	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11am Parish Eucharist
29th October Last Sunday after Trinity Proper 25	10am United Benefice Eucharist St. Nicholas, Leckford			
5th November 4th before Advent	-	9.30am Parish Eucharist	-	-
12th November Remembrance Sunday	-	10.45am Remembrance Service	10am Remembrance Service 10.50am Act of remembrance at the war memorial	10.50am Remembrance service
19th November 2nd before Advent	9.30am BCP Parish Eucharist	9.30am Bible Uncovered	-	-
26th November Christ the King	-	8am Holy Communion ----- 11am Family service	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11am Parish Eucharist

## Generating green energy at home

### Save on bills, protect the environment

The group-buying scheme, Solar Together 2023, is now open to Hampshire residents looking to buy high-quality installations at the right price from pre-vetted installers.

The scheme is offered by Hampshire County Council in partnership with independent experts iChoosr. Residents who invest now in solar panels or battery storage for their homes will not only benefit from reduced energy bills, but also boost local renewable energy generation. Carbon emissions will be reduced, and resilience to climate change will be increased.

Residents have until 27th October to register their interest online, free and without obligation, at [www.hants.gov.uk/solartogether](http://www.hants.gov.uk/solartogether). The online form will ask some questions about your house, roof, and electricity usage.

If you already have solar panels, you can register your interest in battery storage to maximise the benefits of your system. Simply select this option when registering.

Romsey Deanery  
Overseas Partnership  
invites you to a

## FUN QUIZ

to raise funds for the work of  
the Ugandan Diocese of  
South Rwenzori  
in



**Romsey Abbey**  
**Church Room, SO51 8EN**  
**on Saturday 14th October**

Please arrive by 7:15 to start at 7:30.

Bring a team (up to 6 people),  
or come to join another team.

Bring a favourite pudding to share.

Prizes for the winning team!

Free entry, but must be booked via Ticketsource  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/romsey/romsey-abbey](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/romsey/romsey-abbey)

Donations (cash only, please) will be invited towards the vocational training and social education work of the South Rwenzori Diocese (the mission link for the Romsey Deanery) and to cover the costs of the quiz.

# SUNDAY @ 4

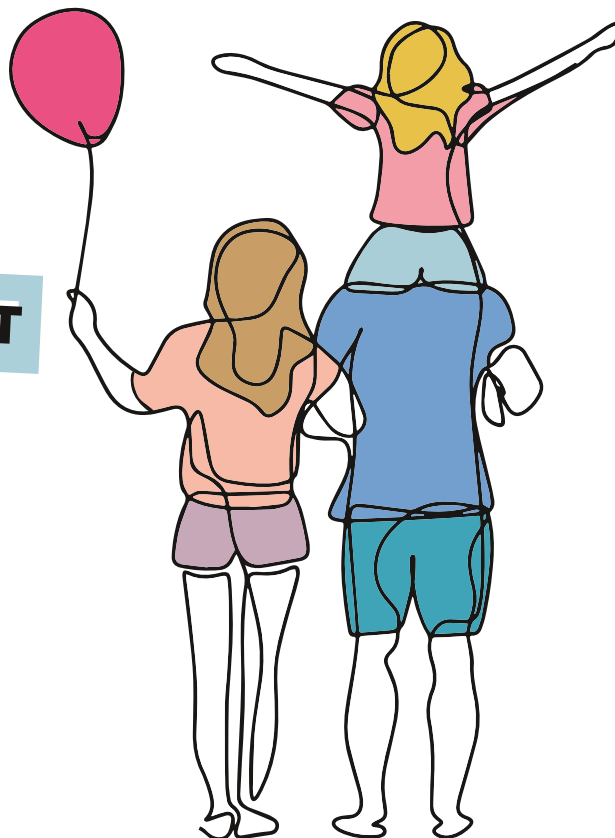
## FAMILY & CHILDREN'S EVENT

**15TH OCTOBER 2023**  
**LONGSTOCK VILLAGE HALL**

**SO20 6DL**

**4-5PM**

- games
- songs
- Bible story
- refreshments & hot dogs



### CONTACT

Rev John Rennie: [johnrennie47@gmail.com](mailto:johnrennie47@gmail.com)  
Paddy Melville: [paddymelville@hotmail.com](mailto:paddymelville@hotmail.com)

## STOCKBRIDGE CINEMA



**Friday 13 October, 7.30pm**  
**Saint Omer (15)**

Acclaimed filmmaker Alice Diop delivers a riveting and utterly unmissable courtroom drama. The film follows novelist Rama who attends the trial of Laurence Coly, a young woman accused of killing her 15-month-old daughter.

As the legal proceedings move forward, the words of the accused along with witness testimonies begin to shake Rama's convictions and call into question both her judgement and that of the viewer. [In French with English subtitles]

**Wednesday 18 October, 5pm and 7.30pm**  
**The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry (PG)**

Recently retired, Harold Fry (Jim Broadbent) is well into his 60s and content to fade quietly into the background of life.

Harold's life with his wife Maureen (Penelope Wilton) is uneventful and their marriage frozen, due to an unspeakable conflict relating to the absence of their son, until one day, Harold learns his old friend Queenie is dying. He sets off to the post office to send her a letter and decides to keep walking: all the way to her hospice, 450 miles away.

**Friday 10 November, 7.30pm**  
**One Fine Morning (15)**

Set in Paris, a young widowed mother, Sandra (Léa Seydoux) is faced with juggling her job as a translator as well as having twin responsibilities for a growing daughter and an ailing father. Sandra's life is further complicated when she embarks on a passionate affair with Clement, an old friend in an unhappy marriage.

A beautifully acted story exploring life's messy, complicated business, filled with moments of insight, great charm and haunting tenderness. [In French with English subtitles]

**Wednesday 15 November, 5pm and 7.30pm**  
**What's Love Got To Do With It (12A)**

For documentary-maker and dating app addict Zoe (Lily James), swiping right has only delivered an endless stream of Mr. Wrongs, to her eccentric mother Cath's (Emma Thompson) dismay. For Zoe's childhood friend and neighbour Kaz (Shazad Latif), the answer is to follow his parents' example and opt for an arranged marriage to a bright and beautiful bride from Pakistan. As Zoe films his hopeful journey from London to Lahore to marry a stranger, chosen by his parents, she begins to wonder if she might have something to learn from a profoundly different approach to finding love.

## Broughton and Mottisfont Village Bus



Car parks are just so expensive,  
And I can't do that pay-by-phone bit.  
I don't like driving in the dark/fog/rain,  
There are so many potholes to avoid.  
I don't really get out much or chat to anyone.

It's cold at home during the day.  
Do I have to pay ULEZ... whatever that is.  
It's nice just to sit and watch the countryside go by.  
Just a few reasons you should use your Village Bus,  
and if you have a bus pass... it's FREE!

Our regular services are:

### 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)

### Andover

Monthly (4th Wednesday of each month)

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

There's more on our web page at  
[www.broughtonvillage.net/village-bus](http://www.broughtonvillage.net/village-bus).

All films 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](http://www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk), or by telephone from TicketSource 0333 666 3366 (£2 charge per telephone booking in addition to the online ticket price).

Please visit our website for more details about all of our autumn season films.

In August members (and some friends) met for a Craft Evening, led by Sophie Baker. Sophie demonstrated how to make a variety of items, including paper flowers, small boxes, paper trees and some felted items. All the materials were provided, and after the demonstrations it was our turn!

Some people, of course are naturally gifted in such matters, whilst some of us are not! However, amidst great hilarity and some frustration, most of us managed to produce something (although perhaps it didn't quite match our expectations!). However, our teacher was very patient, and we were mostly pleased with our results.

Plans for the White Elephant stall at the upcoming Village Fete were finalised, (which, incidentally, was very successful) and a healthy bank balance was announced.

September brought something quite different. Jeremy Prescott, an ex-army officer, brought us the story of the poppy, "The Miracle Flower - from Flanders to the Tower". He told us how the poppy has become the flower of remembrance, following a poem written by Canadian physician John McCrae published in 1915. He also told of how silk poppies were first sold at a conference in America, and how a French woman was inspired to employ widows and

children of those service men killed in WW1 to make poppies for sale.

Major General Houston later bought a disused factory in Richmond and began to employ disabled war veterans to make the poppies, and so Poppies for Remembrance began.

In 2014, 890,000 poppies were planted in the moat of the Tower of London. This display was visited by over 5 million visitors, and later moved to other venues across the country. These poppies were subsequently sold, and raised £9.5 million pounds for the charity.

Jeremy emphasised how important it is that today's generation are made aware of the huge sacrifice made by all those who died or were disabled, both physically and mentally, by the horrors of war.

In October, some members will be going to a production of Little Women at the Plaza Theatre, whilst in November, others will be forming a skittles team for a competition at the Mill Arms.

The speaker on 10th October will be Stephen Beal, who will talk about "Hearing Dogs for the Deaf". If you feel you would like to know more, do come along to the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Visitors are always very welcome.



# 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



## MOTTISFONT PARISH COUNCIL

### REPRESENT YOUR COMMUNITY

Mottisfont Parish Council is allowed to have six councillors but currently has vacancies. Being a member of parish and town councils is about listening to local concerns and getting things done on behalf of the community, often with the help of our Borough and County councillors who have access to funding. There is quite a lot going on at the moment that will take up most of our existing parish council capacity, including the potential Dunbridge housing development reported below, and planning for emergencies – with winter approaching, think about how we would cope if torrential rainfall cut off parts of the parish. So we need more capacity to take forward projects that are already on the parish's to-do list, but also to involve more people in representing the community and suggesting new initiatives.

If you would like to be a parish councillor, drop a line to the parish council clerk via the website at [mottisfontpc.org.uk/pc/pc.php](http://mottisfontpc.org.uk/pc/pc.php) a few sentences about why you should like to be involved and what you would bring to the role. Or if you just want to put forward an idea, suggest a project or just offer a view, please do that too and come to one of our meetings (dates of meeting are in the calendar at [www.mottisfontpc.org.uk](http://www.mottisfontpc.org.uk)).

We are aware that some people would be happy to become involved but don't necessarily want the commitment of being a full councillor, so we will also be offering something called associate status which enables residents to become involved and promote particular initiatives but in a less formal way. Let us know if you are interested.

### MOTTISFONT AND DUNBRIDGE STATION GOODS YARD

You may be aware of longstanding proposals to develop the old station goods yard for housing. The landowners were unable to secure planning permission, and they put the land up for sale some months ago. The latest position is that Orchard Homes of Southampton has agreed terms with them, and we now have confirmation that Orchard is starting on the process of bringing forward a small housing scheme. The company's development team is continuing with survey work to establish the site's constraints - which include for example, flood risk, site access and noise attenuation - and these will determine questions like how many homes can be built on the site, their layout, and to some extent, their design.



The proposal for housing will be brought forward under a Test Valley Borough Council planning policy known as "community-led development". This means that our community must be consulted to establish support for the proposed redevelopment, and the parish council will consequently work with the developer and local residents to consider how the site could best be developed for housing. Precisely how the consultation will work has yet to be finalised but details will be published in the Acorn, updates will be circulated on the parish WhatsApp group, and there will be an exhibition of the proposals which you as a resident will be encouraged to attend and to give your feedback. Depending on the progress of survey work, consultation could commence later in the autumn. The final decision on a planning application will be taken by TVBC.

Jeff Channing

**BIG BAND BUFFET**

**Saturday 4 November 11am to 3pm**

**FREE TICKETS**

**OVER 55's**

**Test Valley School, Stockbridge**

Tuck in to delicious food, tea and coffee while you listen to a wonderful array of toe-tapping tunes from the Clive Fortune Big Band. The group performs an enchanting repertoire of big band classics and jazz standards, including originals from the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s, as well as a few contemporary hits.

Representatives of various agencies and groups will also be on hand to present information and answer your questions or concerns.

This is a ticketed event for the over 55's.

To book a place, or for more information, please contact 01264 368840.

Limited transport is available and must be requested at the time of booking.

Test Valley  
Borough Council

**Come along for a free afternoon  
of music and mingling!**

