



# Mottisfont & Dunbridge ACORN



The Village Newsletter

February & March 2024

## **FUN QUIZ**

**MOTTISFONT VILLAGE HALL**  
**Saturday, 2nd March**  
**7pm for 7.30pm start**

**Teams of up to 6 people**  
**£1 per person**

**Bring your own drink,**  
**we'll bring the nibbles.**

**Contact Dave & Pat Francis on 340609 to**  
**book a table, or email us at**  
**patfrancis(dot)romsey(at)gmail.com**

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**Mottisfont Village Hall Association**

### ***Annual General Meeting***

**Monday, 18th March, at 7.30pm**

**This is your opportunity to meet the**  
**committee, hear what we've been doing over**  
**the past 12 months and, most importantly,**  
**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.**

## **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:

**Wednesday, 21st February**  
**and**  
**Tuesday, 26th March**

***Put it in your diary now!***



## **Proposed housing development: Dunbridge**

A public exhibition of proposals for new homes on the old station goods yard at Mottisfont and Dunbridge Station was held on 4th December, and was attended by over 40 local people. It was arranged by the developer, Orchard Homes, and attended by the architect and planning consultant, as well as representatives of Mottisfont Parish Council. There were also 44 views of the proposals on the Orchard Homes website after the event. The proposals are for 12 semi-detached homes on the site, of which half would be 3-bed and half 2-bed. A lot of information about the design and layout of the proposed development was presented, and there was some lively discussion of the proposals, including questions about car parking and drainage.

Those attending the exhibition were asked to complete a questionnaire, and the results are now being analysed by the planning consultant. A report will be submitted to Orchard Homes and to the Parish Council, and this will

*continued on page 6*

## **FREE MATINEES AT KINGS SOMBORNE VILLAGE HALL**



**No tickets | Free to all**  
**Tea | Coffee | Biscuits**



Supported by the Lottery Community Fund, Somborne Community Cinema is running a series of free matinees, open to all, this winter:

12th Feb: Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 3 (12A)  
4th Mar: Book Club The Next Chapter (12A)  
25th Mar: Summerland (12A)

The Broughton and Mottisfont Community Bus will provide **FREE TRANSPORT**: 1.25pm at Mill Rise, and 1.30pm at the Social Club. Supported by Broughton and Mottisfont Parish Councils, and by Test Valley Borough Council.



Doors open at 1.45pm, films start at 2.15pm. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.



### **Coppice products for sale**

If you would like some hazel coppice products for your garden or allotment, we have some available. We have been cutting some of the hazel coupes on the Mottisfont estate and have a supply of stakes and bean poles, or if there is something specific you require for your projects perhaps we could help.

Stakes 5ft 8" pointed: £1 each.

Bean Poles 8ft, bundle of 10: £10 (great for making wigwams)

Please contact Kurt Love, countryside Ranger, National Trust, Mottisfont. Mob: 07967 657007.

### **What's On**

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

##### **Heath Robinson at War**

20 January – 14 April, 11am-4pm (finishing at 4.30pm from 10 February)

Over 50 artworks of humorous drawings from both World Wars, demonstrating Heath Robinson's ability to counter the horrors of war with gentle satire and absurdity. You'll also be able to hear transcripts of letters from the troops and the public thanking him for his morale-raising efforts.

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

In the winter garden, 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. And as the season begins to turn, our first spring bulbs begin to emerge all over the grounds: look under trees in the winter and walled gardens. Big, bright daffodil displays spread out near the font.

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

##### **February half term**

##### **Saturday 10 - Sunday 18 February, 10am-5pm**

Choose one of our themed activity packs to help you explore Mottisfont at your own pace, whether you want to discover art, the garden, or the natural world. Packs include activity and identification sheets, and a pack of coloured pencils. £2 per pack.

##### **Easter**

##### **23 March - 14 April, 10am-5pm**

An energetic Easter trail with fun activities for all the family, including welly wanging, 'eggs-ercises', hoopla, and the ever-popular Easter fete will return to the Stables. There'll be a make-and-take craft activity, and a spring-themed selfie station, too. £3 per trail.

#### **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 X (Twitter) @MottisfontNT for regular updates.

#### **National Trust winter update**

We have been doing some work to restore and improve our orchards across the village, and the foundations of this have been to set up an orchard volunteer group. The aim is to have the group learn and take on management of the orchards to help us keep the fruit trees in healthy condition, as well as making the orchard areas beneficial for both wildlife

and visitors. The group started in the Millenium orchard off Hatt Lane back in September, by cutting the long-overgrown grass, getting the hedge back into shape, mulching the struggling trees, and digging off the turf from both old and new wildflower areas. We plan to sow the wildflower areas with seed this spring to encourage a few flower power patches, and we have also planted some bulbs in other areas to provide some colour in early spring and through to summer.

The aim with the grass is to give it a good cut back all over in April and September, and then allow it to grow uncut – except for pathways – throughout the spring and summer. This way, flowers can grow and set seed, and by taking a full cut off in September reduce the dominant grasses from outcompeting everything else. The April cut gives a short sward to allow things to emerge in spring.

The group has just started on the winter pruning of the fruit trees (except the stone fruits which require summer pruning) and will be working through this before winter's end. This also includes the orchards in Fox Field and Woodyard Field. Fingers crossed for a bountiful harvest this year!

We also have been working in Mason's Field on a project that came about when we applied for and won Plant A Tree funding from an internal funding stream. The aim of this project is to change the field from horse pasture back to wood pasture/scrub habitat. Twenty chestnut timber tree cages will be being installed within which a broadleaf species will be planted, surrounded by 50 thorn scrub species, which will act as a natural browsing barrier. As the old forestry saying goes, 'the thorn is the mother of the oak' – a good life lesson all round!

There will also be a scrub block of 4,000 saplings going into the lower corner, to create a dense scrub thicket of blossom and fruits, of benefit to birds, mammals and invertebrates. Species include guelder rose, crab apple, wild pear, rowan, willow, spindle and various types of thorn. This will be deer fenced to allow for the thicket to grow without being hindered by relentless nibbling.

All the planting areas have had the grass and top turf removed to allow for easy planting into the soil, and this should also aid tree establishment. The turf has been put to good use – nothing wasted – by aiding in the creation of a hibernacula bank. We took down a couple of the large trees from the field edge, including an ash with dieback. We stacked all the brash and timber in a linear bank running west to east which created a long south facing mish-mashed pile of nooks and crannies. This was then covered by the turf from the planting areas, and the result is a ready-made hibernacula/basking bank for reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates to utilise all year round.

A scrape has been dug out in the wetter area, and is already half full of water even without any rain having fallen since its creation. It will likely be an ephemeral pond which holds its own value to many types of wildlife, even if not wet all year round.

Meanwhile, we are enjoying the blue skies and cold sun after the endless weeks of rain – makes work a lot easier if the frozen ground doesn't turn to slop wherever we go! The first snowdrops have been

sighted poking up through the lawns of Mottisfont, a sure sign that despite being in the deep chill of January, spring is on the way.

Cat Hadler and the NT SW Hampshire ranger team.

### **River report from Ryan Scott**

The National Trust cares for 5 out of 40 miles of the world-renowned River Test, including watercourses, streams, and ditches. It's one of the most species-rich lowland rivers in England, with a moderately uniform flow pattern and gradual succession of habitats downstream. Over the centuries, this river has been modified, deepened, and realigned for various historical uses, from water mills and navigation to water meadows and land drainage. Almost the entire river is currently managed to maintain and facilitate fishing, which contributes to the highly recognisable, idealised, and manicured appearance of the river. Industries such as watercress farms, fish farms and water abstraction for public and agricultural use also contribute to the pressure put on this watercourse, and it's subject to multiple sources of pollution, the most well-known being water companies discharging raw sewage into the once gin-clear waters.

In recent years the Trust-owned reaches of the river have been managed as a successful commercial fishery. Mottisfont has a widely celebrated past as the birthplace of modern dry fly fishing. The offer focused on a 'world-class quality fishing experience while realising the highest ecological benefits possible'. Although heavily managing vegetation for the best benefit of angling has been lucrative, there's growing concern across governing bodies, nature conservationists and wildlife monitoring groups about the state of all rivers, with a particular concern for the resilience of their native ecosystems.

Only 200 chalk stream rivers are known globally - 85% of them are found in southern and eastern England. Arguably, aquifer-fed chalk streams are rarer than the rainforests. Yet despite their rarity, they have all been modified in some way, and many are currently in poor condition. The growing number of threats from climate change (extreme drought and flood events) water pollution (fertiliser, nitrogen and ammonia run off from agricultural land), water abstraction (reduced water levels, increased temperature, threat of running dry, sewage treatment works), intensive management (bank stabilisation, alterations, fish stocking) and overall loss of biodiversity, place our rivers under the threat of irreversible decline and the potential loss of this habitat altogether.

The fishing lease for the Test came up for renewal in 2023. This gave Mottisfont an opportunity to re-evaluate the current offer to make sure it aligns with national environmental strategies, with a new focus on restoring the SSSI habitat, a new access remit and science-based management. Governing bodies and partner charities were invited for consultations and advice, most notably visits from the Environment Agency's Senior Environmental Monitoring Officer and a report by Wild Trout Trust in 2021, which produced a blueprint for habitat restoration, shifting the usage of our waterbodies from commercial fishing into a self-sustainable wild fishery that can self-regulate and withstand future change without costly interventions. The Test and Itchen Catchment Plan and Natural England's SSSI citation were studied to make sure any

change is aligned with the restoration plans of the whole catchment. Transitioning to a wild fishery honours our duty to preserve the cultural history of the site without surrendering our core values, giving priority to the global importance of this SSSI habitat and the value of our rivers for nature, forever, for everyone.

The most urgent action was recognised as stopping the further decline, and improving the current SSSI rating of an Unfavourable Condition. Leading experts in chalk stream management were invited to visit the rivers and offer their advice on the implemented changes and how we can best protect the river in the future. Both the River Test and Dun were assessed, with immediate works identified as a less intensive management regime (stepping away from the traditional fishery style and the removal of a weir (stopping the free passage of migrating fish throughout the River Dun), with a series of habitat restoration works on both rivers. Alternative uses for the river were also explored in the transition period as currently the public have access to only 3% of rivers across the country. The trials included a yoga class on the river bank, and we are working on a programme of guided walks ready to launch in 2024. These will celebrate the cultural heritage and history of the rivers at Mottisfont, and we are keen to be able to share these with you next year.

In autumn 2023, Wessex Rivers Trust delivered a river habitat project focused on improving the habitat quality and diversity of the reach. The project focused on providing complex marginal habitat and increasing sinuosity and diversity of flow through previously straight areas of the river channel. Historically, many sections of the bank were boarded up or restricted by concrete sandbag revetment, offering a 90-degree angle drop between the riverbed and the bank, instead of natural marginal transition of plants from terrestrial to aquatic. This fully funded project used a mixture of external contractors and the resources of the National Trust's own ranger team, who were able to lend their skills. The concrete bags were broken up and the bank regraded to provide a more natural, gently sloping margin. Flood plain gravels were sourced from Oakley Copse (a small woodland block neighbouring the river) to avoid importing foreign materials, whilst whole trees with root plates were placed across the river channel to provide more connectivity between banks.

The changes in bankside management regime have already brought noticeable wildlife benefits: there have been more frequent wetland bird sightings, more species of fauna (pyramidal orchids have been spotted on riverbanks previously dominated by grass), and increased numbers of butterflies in the summer months. Work carried out over autumn has created a variety of features instead of the previous straight channel. The presence of deep holes, shallow ripples, fast and slow flows, tree cover and, eventually, marginal plant growth will offer a variety of different temperatures, flows, and oxygen levels. This will help support fish through all life stages, whilst increasing the number of invertebrates, birds, and mammals.

With more projects planned in upcoming years, our hope is to continue these improvements, helping the river to use its natural processes once more, and, through increased access, to share this journey with the wider public.



## Mid Test Benefice - Interregnum

As many parishioners are already aware, our Rector, the Rev'd Philip Bowden, took his last service with us on 31st December. He will thereafter be taking up an appointment at Acocks Green which is about 4 miles south east of Birmingham.

In the four plus years that he has been with us, his administrative skills in particular have enabled our Churches in the combined MidTest Benefice (encompassing the parishes Broughton, Bossington, Houghton, Leckford, Longstock, Mottisfont, and Stockbridge) to function efficiently and be used regularly for a wide variety of purposes such as Sunday worship, weddings and funerals and, equally importantly, social occasions such as concerts, plays and lectures. Additionally there are many families and indeed individuals who have benefitted from his pastoral care at times most needed.

During what is known as the Interregnum (or vacancy), the church wardens become sequestrators, together with the Area Dean, Revd. James Pitkin. This means they, with the Area Dean, are responsible for ensuring the rota of services continues, with responsibility for all church activities. The Benefice Council asked the Ministry Team to ensure cover for each service, so, with the help of Rev'd Sue Kipling and Rev'd John Rennie, together with our talented licensed Lay Worship Leaders, the pattern of services will be maintained. We will also use the Clerical Registry, a service offered by Winchester Diocese and they provide, mostly retired clergy who have Permission to Officiate (PTO), to fill the gaps we have. We also have an excellent Benefice Office run by Lois Opperman who will take care to make sure that we are all informed (as in the past) of what is going on throughout the Benefice. Likewise, the churchwardens in each parish will undertake their duties as normal assisted by members of the Parochial Church Council.

The churchwarden teams are working together and we have met with the Archdeacon for Bournemouth, The Venerable Revd Jean Burgess. A pack will be given to each PCC member so they, as trustees, can understand the process.

Firstly, we have to

*continued on back page*

## WHIST AT MOTTISFONT VILLAGE HALL



- Friday 16th February, 7pm start
- Friday 15th March, 7pm start

## 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 3rd March.

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

## Lockerley Primary School

### Travelling Pantry

We are really excited to announce that the Travelling Pantry will be visiting Lockerley every Tuesday morning 11 - 12am in the village hall carpark. The Travelling Pantry is a community van run by the Unity charity, offering a selection of fresh and packaged food to customers in order to help them make their food budget go further. The cost is £5 each time you visit the pantry, selecting twelve items per visit along with any free items (one visit per week). Food in the pantry is either grown, surplus, donated or purchased food through funding received by Unity.

### Lockerley Community Hub

In collaboration with the Lockerley Village Hall, we will be hosting the first *Lockerley Community Hub* at the Village Hall on Monday 11th March, 10:45-11:45. The coffee shop will be open as usual, along with pupils from Lockerley sharing stories. There will also be a coat exchange, secondhand uniform, baby weighing scales, pantry, and other guest organisations from the village. Everyone is welcome!



**Caterpillars Playgroup**  
Every Tuesday during term-time  
10:00 – 10:45am. £2 'play as you go'

We invite you to come along to our new playgroup, from birth to 5-year olds. There will be songs, stories craft and toys. Run by a qualified teacher. We have baby-weighing scales. Refreshments served.

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

## A CHURCH VIEW

I'm writing this piece as the USA and UK have agreed to bomb the Houthis in Yemen. Yet another conflict arena is opening up, and just how do we as Christians respond? When under such pressure how do we react?

There is no doubt how Jesus would have responded. When he was threatened as he was many times, he took time out to pray to his Father. In Luke 6 the authorities had decided that they had had enough of his teachings and they would do away with him. Jesus instantly withdrew to the mountainside and prayed.

Why do we find it so difficult to turn to prayer rather than become anxious, exhausted by uncertainty and begin to lose our sleep? Perhaps it is because we haven't discovered the power of prayer described by a saint of old as "the Christian's Vital Breath".

In our own villages we must be praying for the appointment of our new rector. Praying that God will identify the man or woman who will lead our churches. We need someone who will bring renewed vision, whose priorities will be to build up and spiritually feed the faithful, as well as reaching out to those who search for faith or are of no faith.

Until we pray we have no idea of the impact prayer can make. Through prayer we begin to see challenges and different people from God's perspective, and begin a journey with Him which can lead to transforming relationships in our communities. Jesus' ability to change us and the situations we find ourselves in, continues to this day. We may not find any other solution. It is that urgency that prompted Pope Francis recently to encourage us all to be involved with spreading the good news of Jesus. He says, "The success of a mission can no longer be measured by the number of confessions heard, but by how many people have passed from being nominal Christians to real Christians, that is, convinced and active in the life of their parish."

The Pope goes on to explain what this personal encounter with Jesus may look like for any of us experiencing it today. "Let us try to understand what this famous personal encounter with Christ actually consists of. It is like meeting a person live, after having known him or her for years only from a photo."

In our churches, in our homes let us resolve to make prayer a priority.

Rev Dr. John Rennie

## CHURCH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

	Bossington	Broughton	Houghton	Mottisfont
<b>4th February Epiphany 5</b>	-	9.30am Parish Eucharist	-	11am Christingle
<b>11th February Sunday before Lent</b>	-	11am Parish Eucharist	6pm Evensong	11am Morning Worship
<b>18th February Lent 1</b>	9.30am BCP Parish Eucharist	9.30am Bible Uncovered	-	-
<b>25th February Lent 2</b>	-	8am Holy Communion (CW or BCP) 11am Family Service	9am Parish Eucharist	11am Parish Eucharist
<b>3rd March Lent 3</b>	-	9.30am Parish Eucharist	-	-
<b>10th March Mothering Sunday</b>	-	11am Parish Eucharist	6pm Evensong	11am Mothering Sunday Service
<b>17th March Passion Sunday</b>	9.30am BCP Parish Eucharist	9am Bible Uncovered	-	-
<b>24th March Palm Sunday</b>	6pm Meditation	8am Holy Communion (CW or BCP) 11am Palm Sunday Service	9.30 am Parish Eucharist	11am Parish Eucharist
<b>29th March Good Friday</b>	-	2pm Good Friday Reflections	-	-
<b>31st March Easter Sunday</b>	9.30 am Easter Eucharist	10am Easter Eucharist	9am Easter Eucharist	11am Easter Eucharist

## STOCKBRIDGE CINEMA

**Friday 16 February, 5pm  
and 7.30pm**

### **Past Lives (12A)**

Nora and Hae Sung, two deeply connected childhood friends, are wrested apart after Nora's family emigrates from South Korea. Two decades later, they are reunited for one fateful week as they confront notions of destiny, and the choices that make a life, in this heartrending modern romance.

The film received five Golden Globe nominations in 2024 including Best Director, Screenplay, and Drama. [In English and Korean with subtitles]

**Wednesday 21 February, 4.45pm and 7.30pm**  
**The Old Oak (15)**

Directed by Ken Loach, this is the story of a village in the Northeast of England, where the mine has closed, and people feel deserted by the system. Many young ones have left and what was once a thriving, proud community struggles to keep old values alive. But there is growing anger, resentment, and a lack of hope. Houses are cheap and available which makes it an ideal location for the Syrian refugees that have been accepted into the country in recent years.

How will they be received and what will be the future for the last remaining pub in the village?

**Friday 15 March, 7.30 pm**  
**Alcarràs(12A)**

For as long as they can remember, the Solé family has spent every summer picking peaches in their orchard in Alcarràs, a small village in Catalonia. But this year's crop may well be their last, as they face eviction.

The new plans for the land, which include cutting down the peach trees and installing solar panels, cause a rift in this large, tight-knit family. For the first time, they face an uncertain future and risk losing more than their orchard. [In Catalan with subtitles]

**Wednesday 20 March, 5pm and 7.30pm**  
**The Great Escaper (12A)**

In 2014, near-nonagenarian Bernie Jordan (Michael Caine) is sad to miss out on an official group outing



to the D-Day anniversary in France. Encouraged by his wife Rene (Glenda Jackson), he sneaks out from his care home and goes on one last big adventure to cross the Channel, while



reminiscing about his wartime experiences.

Showing at Stockbridge Town Hall SO20 6HE. Tickets are available online from the first of the month in which they are shown (£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 full details of our films.

## **Broughton and Mottisfont Village Bus**



Here are our regular services:

Romsey: Thursday mornings and Friday afternoons

Salisbury: Tuesday mornings

Southampton: 1st Wednesday of each month

Winchester: 2nd Wednesday of each month

Andover: 4th Wednesday of each month

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

You can use these services free of charge if you have an older person's bus pass. And the pass is free too!

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/villagebus](http://www.broughtonvillage.net/villagebus).

*continued from front page* be considered at the next PC meeting on 15th February. The headline result from the consultation is that local residents are overwhelmingly in favour of housing development on this site. Thank you to all who attended the exhibition or visited the website and gave their views.

## **St. Andrew's Church**

St. Andrew's Church, Mottisfont, invites you and your families to join us for our Christingle celebration on 4th February at 11am. We look forward to meeting you to tell you more about Christingles.

Please stay after the service for refreshments and a chat with members of the congregation.

## **KINDLING WOOD FOR SALE**

£5 a bag

Contact David on 07967 657003

Can deliver locally





As usual, our Christmas Party proved to be an evening of great hilarity! The Balloon Lady was our guest, and after an initial demonstration, she took us step by step through the process of making gingerbread men - from balloons! Long, sausage shaped brown balloons, made of extra strong rubber and, thankfully, already inflated, were twisted and turned, until amazingly they resembled the shape of little brown men - and not one burst! These were then decorated with facial features, and a group photograph was taken of members proudly holding the results of their efforts. Mulled wine and seasonal nibbles were then enjoyed, followed by slices of a delicious Christmas cake made by our secretary, Caroline Egg.

The new year started on a high! Our wonderful guest speaker was Alan Matlock, one time English teacher at Romsey School, who is now chairman of the Spitfire Makers Charitable Trust. Alan told us how, in September 1940, both Supermarine factories in Woolston and Itchen were bombed, forcing production of the iconic Spitfire fighting planes to be dispersed across Southampton and beyond. Many small businesses and buildings were utilised to produce the components needed to complete the production of this very special fighter plane, which had been designed by R J Mitchell who lived in Highfield, Southampton. The Spitfire made its maiden flight from Eastleigh Airport, and in 1936 an order for 310 planes had been received. These were in the process of manufacture when the factories were bombed. Alan had many stories and anecdotes of the ordinary men and women, some very young at the time, who played their parts in this vital work. Some members and visitors on the evening also had tales to tell, and the Village Hall was buzzing with conversations, so much so that coffees became cold and other business was all but abandoned.

One of the main functions of the Spitfire Makers is to erect blue plaques to commemorate the people and places where all this took place, some almost on our doorsteps in Romsey, Awbridge and Lockerley for example. If you have any knowledge of such activities, please email [spitfiremakersresearch@btinternet.com](mailto:spitfiremakersresearch@btinternet.com). They would love to hear from you.

Next month on 13th February local historian Phoebe Merrick will talk about *The Highways of Romsey*. Visitors are always welcome.

## Somborne Community Cinema

### Thursday 8th February The Great Escaper 12A



A 2023 drama. The true story of Bernard Jordan escaping from his care home to attend the 70th anniversary of the D-Day Landings in France. 1hr36m.

### Thursday 14th March The Old Oak 15

A 2023 drama. The future for the last remaining pub, The Old Oak, in a village of Northeast England, where people are leaving the land as the mines are closed. Houses are cheap and available, thus making it an ideal location for Syrian refugees. 1hr53m.

Shown at King's Somborne Village Hall, tickets for these films are just £6 each, and are available from the Somborne Community Cinema web site at [www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk](http://www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk), or at the door on the night.

Doors open at 7.15pm and the films start at 8pm, leaving plenty of time to get your drinks and snacks from the well-stocked bar.

# BROUGHTON COMMUNITY SHOP

Village Hall, High Street, Broughton SO20 8AX. Tel.: 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 us on FB or Instagram at [broughtoncommunityshop](https://www.broughtoncommunityshop.co.uk) and 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, newspapers, magazines and much more plus, centre stage, a great range of dry and liquid refillables – just bring your own container!*

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

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update and amend the Benefice Profile. This is important as this is the document which will go to prospective candidates for the role of Rector of the Mid Test Benefice.

The PCCs at something called a Section 11 Meeting need to agree:

- a). The Benefice Profile
- b). The person who will be the Parish Representative for the recruitment process
- c). Items related to the recruitment process.

Things are already moving in that we have a date for the Section 11 meeting – 12th March, 2024, and dates for the recruitment process which will take place in July.

Please pray that suitable candidates will apply, so we will be able to select the most suitable person for the needs of this Benefice, with the help of God.

Please also pray that we will continue to work in harmony as a team, meeting the needs of each Parish.

From the MidTest Benefice Council

## Do you have information about the Grace family?

The *Acorn* has been contacted by Phil Grace in Australia who is looking for information about his 18th and 19th century ancestors, who he believes had connections in this area.

Phil's great-great-grandfather William Grace (c.1816-1877) was baptised on 21st January 1816, in Southampton, his parents being shown as John and Elizabeth Grace. He has recently discovered reference to a burial headstone in St. Andrew's Churchyard, Mottisfont, bearing the names Elizabeth and John Grace, but is not sure whether they are the same people. He has also found reference in the 1861 Census to a John Grace, who is recorded as a resident of the Dunbridge Work House, his occupation being shown as bricklayer.

Another intriguing thread that Phil is following up is that someone with the surname Grace in Sydney, Australia, named his house Mottisfont!

If you have any information that would help Phil in his research, please forward it to the *Acorn*, or to Michael Horne (horne-at-btinternet-dot-com, tel. 340105).

## SOCIAL CLUB

Mottisfont Social Club subscriptions are now due: £15 for ordinary members, £8 for concessions, who are over 65, or under 21 and in full time education. New membership cost is £20. To vote at the AGM, subscriptions must be paid before the end of February.

The AGM will be on Wednesday 27th March at 8.15pm. Should any member wish to raise an item for discussion at the AGM, it must be delivered in writing to the secretary at least 7 days prior to the meeting. Matters arising at the AGM will be deferred until the next full committee meeting. Information on the AGM to follow.

### QUIZ TIME!

Mike Hughes will be running a quiz every other Friday, starting at 8pm. £2.50 per person; teams of up to six.

- 9th & 23rd February
- 8th & 22nd March
- 5th & 19th April



On Saturday 17th February there will be a quiz and draw to raise money for Planets Cancer Charity. £2.50 per person, with teams of up to six.

### SKITTLES EVENINGS

- Saturday 3rd February, 8pm start. £2 per person, cash prizes, and a draw.
- Saturday 23rd March, Easter skittles, 8pm start. £3 per person, prizes, a draw, and food.

## "The Trumpet Shall Sound"

Friday 1st March, 7.30pm  
St. Peter's Church,  
Stockbridge SO20 6HE



David Hill - Organ  
Crispian Steele-Perkins - Trumpet

Tickets £20 (U18s £5) from stockbridgemusic.uk,  
on the door, or from  
Romsey Visitor Information Centre,  
13 Church St., Romsey SO51 8BT