



The Mottisfont & Dunbridge ACORN

Parish Newsletter

December 2025 - January 2026



Dear Neighbours

Whether we feel ready or not, Christmas is certainly on its way. Stir up Sunday, the traditional day for mixing cakes and puddings, has already passed, but there is still plenty to be done. I know how quickly the days can fly by at this time of year, transforming the 'most wonderful time' into a scramble. My advice is simple: take it slowly and savour the season. Don't let the pressure to make everything 'perfect' steal your joy

In this issue you'll find plenty of inspiration (and a few fun Christmas facts), from Christmas Fairs, Pantomines and Festive Fun Runs to a magical Cinderella Christmas at the Abbey. And if you fancy a break from the kitchen, why not treat yourself to a meal at The Mill Arms (don't forget your loyalty card).

Amidst all the bustle of shopping, wrapping, and party planning, remember to pause now and then to enjoy the things you love. Curl up with a good book - I recommend *Fox Among the Chickens* (see page 2) - bake something warming or take a peaceful winter walk.

The festive season is special not only for its beautiful decorations and precious traditions, but for the sense of community that shines so brightly when we gather - and as we approach the close of another year, it feels fitting to reflect on all that has brought us together. This year has once again shown me the strength of our village spirit. Whether you joined in events, lent a hand, or simply shared a smile and a friendly wave, you have helped make our community a wonderful place to live.

Here's to a joyful Christmas and a bright New Year for us all.

Warm wishes,
Allis X



The Acorn is very grateful to Sandra founder of the K9 Club, who has kindly sponsored this edition.

A Little Christmas Quiz:

1. Which two of Santa's reindeer share names with meteorological terms?
2. Which country was the first to use the tradition of the Christmas tree?
3. If there are 365 days in a year, what number day is Christmas Day?
4. What colour are the berries of the mistletoe plant?
5. A Christmas Carol is a popular novel by what British author?
6. 'Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents' is the opening line from which classic novel?

Answers on page 2



A 2025 Quiz:

1. Three men went on trial accused of stealing a solid gold what from an exhibition at Blenheim Palace?
2. Which long-running TV series broadcast its final live episode on CBBC on March 21, 2025?
3. Which dog breed took home the Best in Show title at Crufts 2025?
4. Angela Rayner resigned after acknowledging she had underpaid which form of tax?
5. Which artist created a piece showing a judge assaulting a protester?
6. Which nation did England defeat to claim the Women's Rugby World Cup title?

Answers on page 3

MEET THE NEIGHBOURS

Meet the Neighbours is an opportunity to get to know the people who live nearby over a drink at the Mill Arms.

Come and join us for the next two Meet the Neighbours events from 7.30pm on:

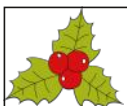
Thursday 11th December

Wednesday 28th January

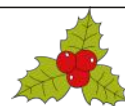
Put these dates in your diary now!



The deadline for inclusion of any articles / information in the February / March edition of the Acorn is the 23rd of January 2026. Please email any items to acornparishnews@outlook.com



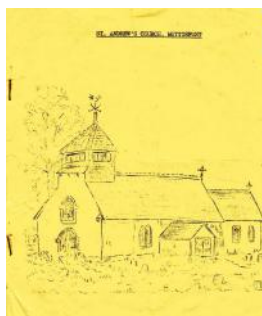
Local News & Interest



Look what Martin Fletcher found in his old bedroom at his parents place, the Old Stores in Dunbridge: a copy of the **1st Edition of St Andrews Mottisfont Church Newsletter**.

It features many locals from back in the day, some of whom are still very much an integral part of village life.

Thanks Martin for sharing - the full edition is available for everyone to see at <https://www.mottisfontpc.org.uk>



Local author, David Stone, has announced the publication of his first novel.

No 1 in a projected series, **'Fox among the Chickens'** introduces Detective Inspector Thomas Fox.

Set in the era of the late 1950's, Fox and his small team investigate murders within the fictionalised towns and villages of the Mid Test Valley. Local readers will recognise familiar locations and environs such as the New Forest, the market town of 'Walmsbury' (Romsey) and Fox's home village of 'Danesfield' (Mottisfont).

'A headless chicken nailed to the door of a rich man's riverside home. The discovery of a body in a shallow grave in the wilds of the New Forest. The suicide of a young soldier in 1944. Detective Inspector Tom Fox of the Hampshire CID is drawn into a case which will shock the Nation, and very nearly cost him his life!'



FOX AMONG THE CHICKENS



DAVID G. STONE



The paperback book is published by KDP and is available from Amazon, priced £9.99. £1 from the sale of each copy will be donated to the St Andrew's Church Restoration Fund.

In Honour of John Rolfe (A Few Words Written by Tracy Sheppard - Nee Holmes)

Born at Spearywell Farmhouse in 1935, he lived at No 5 Spearywell, Yew Tree Cottage and then Newlyn's Farm, John Rolfe (JR) was Mottisfont through and through.

I can't recall the first time I met John, I just know he and his family have always been part of our lives. My Great Aunt Mada tells me that she can remember the first time John and my Great Uncle Billy rode up to Scotland on motorbikes for a visit and John was 16. He and my father (Rob Holmes) have been the best of friends since dad was young - a long time ago!! I remember being at my grandparents, the house I now live in at Spearywell and conversations would often begin with 'You won't believe what JR has done now!' or more often than not 'Speak to JR, he'll sort it'. That's what he did, sorted things for whoever needed them sorted at the time. He was hard working and out from the crack of dawn until late at night in his tractor, feeding cattle or later in life flailing the hedgerows. Always looking for the next deal to be had but not always doing things 'by the book'; a bit like the Mottisfont version of Delboy Trotter. He loved whole heartedly and spoke his mind freely whether you wanted to hear it or not.

It has been an absolute pleasure to spend one on one time with him these past few months at Greenview and then Fleming House. During those weekly visits we have discussed past events and laughed about his past escapades. John talked about my family and his, and also about my great grandparents on my granddads side whom I had never met but John had.

John knew everyone and I know that he will be missed by all who knew him.

Whilst reunited with his son Paul, he leaves behind his 2 daughters; Julie and Maria, his grandchildren Matthew, Daniel, Ava and Paul and his great grandchildren.

For all those who would like to join us, there will be celebration of his life at Test Valley Crematorium 14.30 Friday 5th December. There are a few tractors forming a convoy to lead John on his final journey out of the village. If you have a tractor and would like to be part of the convoy please let me or Matthew know.

A Mottisfont & Dunbridge Neighbour Recommendation for Bear & Badger: Professional Horticulturalists.

Sandra can't recommend Bear and Badger enough:

'Maddy & Robin have been invaluable during their weekly visits. Their attention to detail and knowledge of all things horticulture has transformed my garden. Always reliable, friendly, and full of great ideas. Would highly recommend - and Maddy grew up in the village!'

<https://bearandbadger.co.uk>

The Little Christmas Quiz Answers:

1. Donner and Blitzen (meaning 'thunder' and 'lightning' in German).
2. Germany.
3. 359.
4. White.
5. Charles Dickens.
6. Little Women.



History in Every Sip.

Did you know mulled wine goes all the way back to the Romans in the 2nd century? As they marched across Europe, they spread their love of spiced, warmed wine, believed to boost health and fend off illness. Fast forward to the Victorian era, and mulled wine became a Christmas classic — a tradition that still warms hearts today.



2025 Quiz Answers:

1. A gold toilet
2. Blue Peter
3. Whippet
4. Stamp duty
5. Banksy
6. Canada



Village Hall News

We are delighted that we have sold all the tickets for Forest Forge Theatre's production of Pinocchio on Tuesday 23rd December at 6 pm. However, if you would like your name to go on the waiting list, please phone Lynn on 01794 340134 or Pat on 01794 340609.

Another piece of good news. As many of you will know, the heating system at the village hall has been unreliable for some time. We have been successful in gaining a grant from the National Lottery to replace the boiler. As well as the new boiler we plan to have a system to switch the heating on remotely so that the hall is warm for all bookings. We hope to have the new system installed as soon as possible.



Bookings are going well at the hall with very positive reviews from our hirers. Remember Mottisfont residents can hire the hall at a discount. Just £13 per hour or £110 for a whole day. **If you want to hire the hall**, please contact andy: andy-mvh@hotmail.com or 01794 755315 (telephone or WhatsApp).

"We hired the hall for my son's 3rd birthday. The hall is so sweet and perfect for a little party. We had a bouncy castle which they were happy for us to hire. The facilities were very clean and in great condition. Andrew who deals with booking was so helpful and answered all my emails quickly. I couldn't recommend enough."

"One of the best venues we as a family have used exceeded all our expectations lovely outdoor and indoor area beautiful nature and has lots of character and facilities. Thanks to Andy who was very helpful in every way and communication and support was brilliant will 100% be using the village hall again."

"Fabulous for functions as we are mainly outdoors but has good facilities. It's rural = close to nature. You have to drive. But I think it's amazing."

News from the WI

In October, nutrition expert and dietician Natasha Beatty talked to us about 'Eating for our Health'. We were advised to read carefully the details on the packaging of our foods before adding them to our shopping trolleys. Who knew, for instance, how much sugar is in a single savoury biscuit, or a portion of bran flakes? A diet high in protein but low in carbohydrates is the aim. Myths were also dispelled; fats are not the enemy we once believed, as long as they are natural and not processed. Full fat yogurt is better for us than the low fat variety, and eggs, whatever a certain female politician once led us to believe, are a wonder food - so be sure they are on your shopping list! We all went home determined to take our reading glasses with us when we next visit the supermarket.



In November our visiting speaker was Peter Ashburn, joint chairperson of the Wessex Orchid Society, who told us many fascinating facts about this seemingly rare plant. However, amazingly, orchids are not rare at all. Indeed, they are the second most common flower in the world, with over 28,000 species world wide and 1 in 12 wild flowers is an orchid. Global warming means that their numbers are increasing rapidly, and in Britain there are 55 native species, although the British only discovered them some 200 years ago, when Joseph Banks, who sailed with James Cook, brought some plants home. The Victorians developed Orchid Mania and tried to impress their friends with their collections. The orchids which we now display in our homes are all hybrids, totally dependant upon fungi for germination. We were given several tips on how to keep our orchids at their best and perhaps some of us might be adding a new plant or two to our Christmas wish lists!

Thinking of Christmas, several members are planning to see 'It's a Wonderful Life' at the Plaza in early December and even more will partake of our Christmas meal at the Wheatsheaf in Braishfield. But before that, on 9th December, we will welcome Richard Light, with a wine and spirit tasting evening to get us in the party mood. Who said the WI was 'all jam and Jerusalem?'

What's Happening in your Neighbourhood?

MOTTISFONT SOCIAL CLUB

Every Thursday - Bingo
Every Saturday - National Lottery Bonus Ball (tickets can be purchased throughout the week)
Membership Draw is held every evening that the Club is open

December 2025 & January 2026 Events

MONDAY, 1 December 8pm	SNOOKER
SATURDAY, 6 December 8pm	CHRISTMAS DRAW/MEAT DRAW (Liz, Robbie & Peter Holmes)
FRIDAY, 12 December 8pm	QUIZ (Mike Hughes)
SATURDAY, 13 December 8pm	PRIVATE PARTY (by invitation only - reference MSC Rule 19)
SATURDAY, 20 December 8pm	CLUB CHRISTMAS SKITTLES With refreshments. Prize for best Christmas outfit (jumper/hat, etc)
SUNDAY, 21 December 12 noon	SLOE GIN COMPETITION (Tracy Holmes) £5 entrance fee. 50% proceeds to winner & Club respectively.
WEDNESDAY, 31 December 7pm	NEW YEAR'S EVE - with music
MONDAY, 5 January 8pm	SNOOKER
FRIDAY, 9 January 8pm	QUIZ (Mike Hughes)
MONDAY, 12 January 8pm	SNOOKER
WEDNESDAY, 14 January 8pm	MSC COMMITTEE MEETING
FRIDAY, 16 January 8pm	DARTS (Men's League)
MONDAY, 19 January 8pm	SNOOKER
FRIDAY, 23 January 8pm	QUIZ (Mike Hughes)
SATURDAY, 24 January 8pm	CLUB SKITTLES (Peter Simmonds)
FRIDAY, 30 January 8pm	DARTS (Men's League)
SATURDAY, 31 January 8pm	QUIZ (proceeds to Roy Castle Lung Cancer Fund)



Christmas Opening Times

Christmas Eve: 7pm - 11pm
Christmas Day: 12noon - 2pm
Boxing Day: Closed
27th/28th/29th/30th December 7pm - 11pm
31st December: 7pm - 12:30am
New Year's Day: Closed

Lockerley Primary School

Is your child starting school in September 2026? We would love to welcome you for a tour of our school. We offer individual appointments where we can answer any specific questions you may have, discuss any special need or circumstances and find out what's important to you as a family.



School Update: We have had a wonderful time at Lockerley School for far this term. We have welcomed our new Year R children to Skippers Class and have been incredibly proud of how they have settled into school life. We have seen children compete in sporting events, go on school trips, enjoy our school grounds for their outdoor learning and take part in activities to support our local community. Updates are on our Facebook page and website.

We have a busy few weeks coming up:

Friends of Lockerley School (FoLS) are hosting a Table Top Sale. Saturday 15th November 1pm – 3pm in the School Hall. £5 per table. Free entry. EVERYONE welcome to buy or sell - jewellery/clothes/crafts/home baking/toys and more! Raffle tickets and refreshments will be available to buy. To reserve a table, please email friendsoflockerleyschool@gmail.com

Festive Fun Run Saturday 6th December at 2pm. Join us for a run/walk 2 mile route around the village starting from Butts Green. Festive fancy dress is optional. Entry £1 per child/ £2 per adult. Refreshments available

Lockerley Primary School Christmas Fair Friday 12th December, 3.15pm – 4.15pm. There will be raffles, Christmas produce stalls, refreshments, tombola, face painting, Santa's Grotto, carol singing and our school calendars; to which all children have contributed. We look forward to seeing you there.

Christmas Service - We warmly invite you to our Christmas Church Service at St John's Church on Thursday 18th December at 9am.

Support Lockerley School when you shop without spending anything extra.

Friends of Lockerley School have set up an account with easyfundraising.org.uk, which means everytime you shop online with participating retailers they will make a donation to the school at NO extra cost to you! Simply follow the steps below:

- Go to easyfundraising.org.uk or download their app onto your phone and set up an account with your email address
 - Search for Friends of Lockerley School and nominate us as the cause you would like your donations to go to
- Remember to do your shopping from the easyfundraising website or app (or if you install the browser extension, a message will pop up on relevant retailer websites to ask if you'd like a donation to go to the school)
- It doesn't matter how small your purchase is, literally every penny counts, and we are grateful for anything.



The Mill Arms

During 2025 we completed our eighth year at the Mill Arms and had our busiest year to date.

We do appreciate that times are tough for all of us and are thankful for all our customers who continue to support us. We are blessed with a great front of house team to welcome you here at the Mill Arms, along with an amazing kitchen team who serve up excellent meals week after week. We are truly thankful for such a great team.

Gina took on 2 MacMillan Cancer Mighty Hikes following her successful treatment in late 2024. During the Jurassic Coast Hike she was joined by her sisters and nieces and raised a magnificent £6,000 across both Hikes with the support and generosity of a number of our customers.

We continue to host the Tytherley Skittles League, Hampshire Sheep Farmers, Upper Test Valley Tractor Club and Hursley Pony Club on a regular basis along with many family celebrations for birthday and christenings, and other local groups that now use us as their venue of choice for gatherings. We are also delighted to again be hosting Christmas Wreath making classes for Bluebells Flower Design in early December. Check our Facebook page and website, and the Facebook page of Bluebell Flower Designs for dates and prices.

Our Loyalty Card scheme also continues to be a favourite with customers, and we are now over 750 members who not only enjoy discount but also free meals for birthdays and wine on the house for anniversaries. If you haven't signed up, then do ask next time you are in.

Christmas/New Year Openings:

Tues 16 December: Quiz (8.00pm) and Raffle (9.00pm) Teams of up to 6 people, £2 entry per person
Prize for the winning team and mince pies all round.

Christmas Eve: 12 noon to 9pm (food served 12-6pm)

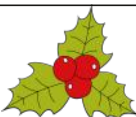
Christmas Day: 11.30am to 1.30pm (bar only)

Boxing Day: 12 noon to 4pm (food served 12-3pm)

New Year's Eve: 12 noon to 6pm (food served 12-3pm)

New Year's Day: 12 noon to 4pm (food served 12-3pm)

We will be closed on Mondays during January (5th, 12th, 19th, 26th), along with a couple of days at the beginning of the month (Monday 5th to Wednesday 7th) - reopening on Thursday 8th)



The Christmas menu is now available (but must be pre booked) and will be served Monday to Saturday from Monday 1st December until Saturday 20th December. Friday and Saturday dates are going fast so if you are planning on dining with us can we suggest you get in touch soon.

Our Christmas Quiz will be on Tuesday 16 December and we will combine that evening with our Christmas Draw. First prize this year will again be a Firkin of Beer (that's 72 pints for on-site consumption) or 12 bottles of our 'By the Glass' wine, along with spirits, chocolates, toiletries and toys. The Draw sheets are pinned up in the bar. Purchase a square for £1 and the more squares we sell the more prizes we buy. Tables are going fast.

We look forward to seeing you over the festive season and raising a glass or two. Gina, Lorna and the staff wish you a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2026.

The Thomas Dowse Trust

The Thomas Dowse Trust 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 things such as uniform, school trips, music tuition, overseas educational trips, swimming lessons, transport to educational establishments, laptops and books. Applicants are treated in strict confidence and must demonstrate need. There is no means testing.

Please email Tina Stuart for an application form or collect from Broughton Primary School, St Mary's Church Broughton, or St Andrew's Church Mottisfont.
Email: tinastuart1@gmail.com

Whist at the Village Hall

Friday 19th December
Friday 16th January (7pm)



The K9 Club

Do you want to bond with your dog ? Why not join the weekly sessions at the Village Hall, bringing together interactive enrichment, cognitive games, problem-solving activities, and fun trick training to engage your dogs mind, build focus, and nurture calm, confident behaviour. See the website for details:



www.k9club.uk

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

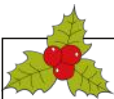


Coffee Shop: Indoor and outdoor seating, and takeaway drinks. Dogs are welcome outside and on a lead. Closes 30 minutes before shop closure.

Follow us on FB or Instagram at [broughtoncommunityshop](https://www.broughtoncommunityshop.com) and 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, newspapers, magazines, fresh flowers and beautiful greeting cards, and of course parking is FREE!

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



Bach at Christmas – Bach Winchester Voices Choral Concert. St Peter's Church Stockbridge 7th December 2025 4.00pm

Stockbridge Music's concert for December will be brought to you by Bach Winchester Voices choir accompanied by a group of ten instrumentalists conducted by Andrew Hayman. This afternoon concert of Christmas music by Bach will begin with the appropriately named 'Wachet Auf', which translates as 'Sleepers awake', one of Bach's best known sacred cantatas. This will be followed by his short but beautiful Motet 'Der Gerechte kommt um' and his highly popular 'Air on the G string'.

The second half of the concert will feature two excerpts from the Christmas Oratorio, Bach's masterpiece which tells the Christmas story through a series of exciting and dramatic choruses and beautiful arias. The choir will perform parts two and five of the Oratorio. Bach Winchester Voices under the leadership of Jonathan Newman has become one of the most widely respected choral groups in the South. They specialise, as their name suggests, in the works of

Bach and we are delighted to welcome them to Stockbridge.

Tickets are now on sale at www.stockbridgemusic.uk



Sparkling slippers and hungry caterpillars at Mottisfont Abbey this winter

'A Cinderella Christmas' - until 4 January (closed 24 and 25 December)



This festive season, escape into the enchanting worlds of fairytale and pantomime as Mottisfont sets the stage for 'A Cinderella Christmas'. Step into a world of glittering ballgowns, lost slippers and larger-than-life characters as the house is transformed with theatrical flair, seasonal sparkle - and a generous pinch of fairy-godmother magic - into Hardup Hall and the Royal Palace.

There's plenty of fun along the way. Discover your pantomime persona, design your own dazzling invitation to the Grand Ball, try on a variety of different panto costumes, and strike a regal pose on thrones fit for fairy-tale royalty.

Outdoors, the festive fun continues with themed games, interactive stations including a colourful stage for impromptu panto performances, a charming Cinders-themed spotter trail for little ones, and a life-size Cinderella carriage cut-out that's perfect for family photos.



Festive fun for little ones

4 and 10 December, 11.30am and 2.30pm: Professional storyteller, Amanda Kane-Smith of Merry-go-Round will bring the story of Cinderella to life with high-energy, interactive performances full of fairytale magic and imaginative fun on 4 and 10 December, 11.30am and 2.30pm. The sessions are free but pre-booking is essential.

3 and 12 December, 10.15am and 11.45am: Festive-themed crafts for pre-schoolers Your little ones can enjoy our popular free drop-in craft sessions special Christmas gift or decoration whilst you explore the gardens and grab a coffee. No need to book. Usual entry applies.

Useful to know

'A Cinderella Christmas' runs until Sunday 4 January 2026 (closed 24 & 25 December). No pre-booking.

Admission: Normal property admission applies (free for National Trust members, Art Fund members, and under 5s) – includes entry to decorated house and all Christmas activities

Timed tickets: There is no pre-booking for 'A Cinderella Christmas' but visitors need to collect a timed ticket upon arrival to enter the house

House: Opens daily at 10.30am with last entry at 3.30pm. Get your timed ticket to enter on arrival.

Gardens: Open daily, 10am–4pm

Cinderella Storytime: Pre-booking is required via the Mottisfont website

Full details at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/hampshire/mottisfont/christmas-mottisfont

The Very Hungry Caterpillar™ comes to Mottisfont: 19 January to 15 March

Join us for one of nature's greatest transformations as you become the world's most famous caterpillar from Eric Carle's best-selling book The Very Hungry Caterpillar™.

Wiggle along the garden trail to spot juicy fruits and tasty snacks before emerging as a beautiful butterfly. Along the way you'll digest fascinating facts and scan the codes to reveal extra augmented reality fun. Feast your eyes, feed your mind and spread your wings with us at Mottisfont.

Perfect for children aged 3 to 6 years.

Check the Mottisfont website for the latest gallery exhibitions, displays, activities, trails and guided walks – or follow Mottisfont on social media.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont



SOMBORNE COMMUNITY CINEMA



Thursday 11th December 2025 The Naked Gun (15) 2025 Comedy

Lieutenant Frank Drebin Jr (Liam Neeson) becomes a police officer like his legendary father and must save the police department from shutting down by solving a case in his own chaotic and inimitable style. A laugh out loud, action-packed film complete with the hilarious antics that make this true to the original. Not to be taken too seriously; just enjoy the comedy!

Thursday 8th January 2026 The Ballad of Wallis Island (12) 2025 Drama, Music, Romance

An eccentric lottery winner who lives alone on a remote island, dreams of getting his favourite musicians, McGwyer Mortimer back together. His fantasy quickly turns into reality when the bandmates and former lovers accept his invitation to play a private show at his home on Wallis Island. Tensions resurface as they try to salvage the dream gig.

Information common to both films: Tickets for films are just £6 each and are available from the Somborne Community Cinema web site www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk or at the door on the night.

King's Somborne Village Hall

Doors open: 7.15pm. Films start: 8pm - leaving time to get your drinks/snacks from the well-stocked bar

In a change to the “Monday Matinee” films which have run in previous years, the Somborne Community Cinema has signed up to “National Theatre Live”. Supported by Test Valley Borough Council and King's Somborne Parish Council they will be screening special events throughout 2026, both matinees and evenings, kicking off with “Hamlet” on

Monday 26th January. Doors open 1:30pm: Curtain up 2:15pm. Tickets £10 online at www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk or at the door on the day. Free Refreshment: tea/coffee/biscuits.

Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult.

STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY CINEMA



Wednesday 3rd December 2025 5pm & 7:30pm Van Gogh: Poets & Lovers (12A)

Van Gogh is not only one of the most beloved artists of all time, but perhaps the most misunderstood. This film is a chance to re-examine and better understand this iconic artist. Focusing on his unique creative process, Van Gogh: Poets and Lovers explores the artist's years in the south of France, where he revolutionised his style. Explore the passion which drove one of the world's favourite artists to change art forever. Van Gogh: Poets & Lovers celebrates Van Gogh's genius, enabling its audience to truly understand this iconic artist in a brand new way...

Wednesday 10th December 2025 4:45pm & 7:30pm The Salt Path (12A0)

Based on the controversial memoir by Raynor Winn, this is the story of how she and her ailing husband (played by Gillian Anderson and Jason Isaacs) set out on a 630-mile trek along the Cornish, Devon and Dorset coastline. After being evicted from their home, they make the desperate decision to walk in the hope that, in nature, they will find solace and a sense of acceptance. With depleted resources, only a tent and some essentials between them, every step along the path is a testament to their strength and determination.

Friday 16th January 2026 7:30pm La Traviata (12A)

La Traviata is one of the best-known operas in the repertoire. OperaGlass Works bring something fresh to it, to appeal to lovers of the work and to audiences who have never seen opera before. This is not a live capture of a stage performance; it is filmed on location with a diverse cast of singers and a troupe of magnificent dancers. An ensemble full of character and wit creates something traditional, truthful and quite different. Portuguese soprano Susana Gaspar delivers a tour de force performance as the tragic Violetta, while the British tenor Thomas Elwin and baritone Roderick Williams complete a stellar cast. The Royal Scottish National Orchestra provides the sumptuous musical backdrop, with innovative choreography creating magical cinematic moments.

Wednesday 21st January 2026 5pm & 7:30pm The Roses (15)

Life seems easy for picture-perfect couple Ivy (Olivia Colman) and Theo (Benedict Cumberbatch): successful careers, a loving marriage, great kids. But beneath the façade of their supposed ideal life, a storm is brewing – as Theo's career nosedives while Ivy's own ambitions take off, a tinderbox of fierce competition and hidden resentment ignites.

Information common to all films: Showing at Stockbridge Town Hall SO20 6HE. Tickets on sale via www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk or TicketSource 0333 666 3366. Please visit the website for details.

Church News

Hey everybody...it's that time again!

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH
SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2025
11AM



WE WILL MAKE
OUR CHRISTINGLES
IN CHURCH
DURING SERVICE.
PLEASE BRING YOUR
OWN ORANGES.

EVERYTHING
ELSE WILL
BE SUPPLIED!

Come and share the light

THE St ANDREW'S CAROL SERVICE 2025

Sunday 21st December
at 3 pm 🎵🎵🎵

Followed by mince
pies,
Soft drinks and mulled
wine.

Do come along
All warmly welcomed



From the Rector

Dear friends,

As we approach the end of another year and the beginning of a new one, I am reminded that my first year here has now been completed – and hasn't it gone quickly!

But these winter months can be times of both quiet reflection and joyful, noisy chaos filled with anticipation. December brings us closer to the mystery of Christmas as God coming among us in the most unexpected way, as a child born in a dirty, draughty stable. Amongst the rush of preparations, it's easy to miss the stillness at the heart of the story. This is the moment when heaven touches earth and love takes on flesh.

Each year, the familiar carols, the glow of candles, and the warmth of fellowship remind us that light shines brightest in darkness. Whether we gather in church, at home, or around a table with friends, Christ's presence meets us where we are. My prayer is that everyone in our benefice will know that they are part of this story, that they are loved, valued, and held in God's grace.

As January dawns, we look ahead with hope. The new year offers fresh beginnings, with opportunities to serve, to forgive and to grow. We may not know what lies ahead, but we can step forward in faith, trusting that the God who came to dwell among us still walks beside us.

So let us carry the light of Christmas into the new year through the kindness shared, in prayers offered, in the simple acts of love that speak louder than any sermon. May Christ's peace be born again in our hearts and homes this season, and may the coming year be filled with faith, hope, and joy. I look forward to seeing you all at the various Christmas Services throughout December.

With every blessing for Christmas and the New Year,
Rev'd Joe

December & January Church Services

	Mottisfont	Broughton	Houghton	Bossington
7 th December Advent 2		9.30am Parish Eucharist		
14 th December	11.00am Christingle	5.00 Carol Service	6pm Evensong	
Tuesday 16 th December			6.00pm Carol Service	
Friday 19 th December				6.00pm Carol Service
Saturday 20 th December		6.30pm Carols in the Churchyard TBC		
21 st December Advent 4	3.00pm Carol Service	No service		9.30am Parish Eucharist
24 th December Christmas Eve		4pm Crib Service 11:30pm Midnight Mass Registry		
25 th December Christmas Day	11.00 Parish Communion Registry	10:30 Parish Communion – Registry	9:30 Parish Communion – Registry	9:30 Parish Communion BCP – Registry
4 th January Epiphany		9.30am Parish Eucharist		
11 th January Baptism of Christ	11am Morning Worship	11.00 Parish Eucharist	6.00pm Evensong	
18 th January Epiphany 2				9:30 BCP Parish Eucharist
25 th January Epiphany 3	11.00am Parish Eucharist	8.00 Holy Communion (CW or BCP) 11.00 Family service (Christingle)	9.30am Parish Eucharist	

Mottisfont & Dunbridge Acorn is edited by and published by Allis Sandiford, Trokes Cottage, Romsey, SO51 0LH. Email: acornparishnews@outlook.com. Opinions expressed in The Acorn are not necessarily those of the Editor. I do my best to ensure the accuracy of items in The Acorn, but I am not responsible for the consequences or omissions. Please check with organisers of events in case there are any changes to schedule.