



The Mottisfont & Dunbridge ACORN



Parish Newsletter

June / July 2026

Dear Neighbours

The delicate green haze of May has officially burst into full, vibrant life. Our gardens and hedgerows are looking spectacular, and the longer, warmer evenings are such a treat, and with them, our community spirit has come out in full force.

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to our recent Village Hall games nights. We've now had two of them, and both were absolutely brilliant fun - filled with healthy competition, plenty of laughter, and wonderful company. Between the games, our regular Meet the Neighbours gatherings, and the hard-working pups at the K9 training sessions, it has been wonderful to see everyone coming together.

Speaking of community support, we are incredibly grateful to the National Trust for kindly sponsoring this month's edition of The Acorn. We rely entirely on the generosity of local residents and organisations to cover our £35 printing costs, so a huge thank you to them for keeping us in print this month! If you or a local business would like to sponsor a future issue, please do get in touch.

Also to ensure The Acorn continues to reach everyone, we are currently looking for a volunteer or two to help with hand-delivering copies to residents in Mottisfont. If you fancy a bit of fresh air and a stroll around the neighbourhood once every two months, please let me know - your help would be appreciated.

A quick reminder on the digital front: my offer for a 'digital spring cleaning' still stands. If you would prefer to receive The Acorn electronically rather than a paper copy, just drop me an email and I'll add you to the mailing list.

Finally, thank you to everyone who took the last edition's April Fools' jokes in such good humour. As we head into a beautiful new month, let's keep enjoying the sunshine and looking out for one another.

Warm wishes,
Allis X

Mottisfont Cricket Club

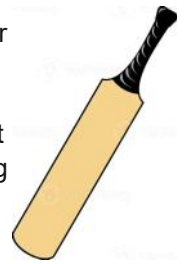


The Saturday team have started very well this season following promotion last year. Our first game of the season was away to Over Wallop and it's fair to say we gave them a fair walloping. We were one of only 14 games to be completed in the entire Hampshire League on a very wet day.

Winning the toss, we put them in to bat and skittled them out for just 43 runs, Captain Billy Allan striking with the first ball and finishing with an amazing 7 wickets for 18 runs. This put him top of the HCL Honours Board and he is to be paraded in front of the crowd at the upcoming Hampshire v Yorkshire T20 match. With the weather closing in it was a race to complete the match before it could be abandoned. We achieved a winning margin inside five overs which placed us top of the League in the first week.

The next two games, home to Longparish and away to Andover 2's were against two of the strongest sides in the division.

We were defeated in a very tight match against Longparish, falling at the penultimate ball with the match constantly ebbing and flowing. We then shocked Andover with a defiant batting performance, Richard Blake scoring 74 not out in a measured performance before the game was abandoned. Last year Andover were two divisions above us and have strengthened their squad which indicates the improvement in our own side this season.



Home fixtures

- June 9th - BL v. Romsey & OT's
- June 13th - HCL v. Great Durnford
- June 16th - BL. v. Totton & Eling
- June 27th - HCL v. Amesbury
- July 4th - HCL v. Over Wallop
- July 7th - BL v. Ampfield & N. Baddesley
- July 18th - HCL v. Andover

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:

Tuesday 23 June

Wednesday 22 July

Put these dates in your diary now!



The deadline for inclusion of any articles / information in the August / September edition of The Acorn is 24th of July 2026.

Please email any items to acornparishnews@outlook.com

The Mill Arms

The weather is starting to finally look up so we look forward to seeing many of you joining us in our large beer garden. This past year, the gardens and all hedges are being looked after by 2 regulars – Shaun Gray and Brendan Gilbert and they are doing a great job.

Skittles season finished in April, with another busy year and the league being won by Alex Drake's team. This now means there are more weekday evenings available should anyone be interested in booking the skittle alley for a fun filled evening, with family, friends or colleagues.

We have also been hosting regular training courses for Russ Hicks and his new venture – Kenai Training. With our 90in projector screen, overhead projector and lots of space in the function room, it's an ideal space for training or presentations.

Finally, Gina along with her 3 sisters, including Lorna who manages the Mill Arms, will again be taking on a MacMillan Mighty Hike in June. This time they will be hiking the Thames Path route from Windsor on Saturday 13 June. There is a sponsorship form up in the pub and customers have already been exceedingly generous again, along with direct donations via the Justgiving page for Gina and her sisters. <https://mightyhikesfundraising.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising/fundraising/sisterhood-gina>

We look forward to seeing you across the summer.

Whist Drive at Mottisfont Village Hall

Friday 19 June 7pm start
Friday 17 July 7pm start
New players always welcome.



Caterpillars Playgroup

Every Tuesday during term-time 10:00 – 11am
£2.00 'play as you go'

Lockerley Primary School

We invite you to come along to our new playgroup, from birth to 5year olds.

There will be songs, stories craft and toys.

Run by a qualified early-years practitioner

We have baby-weighing scales

Refreshments served

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

Starting up again on Tuesday 16th April



Rose and Wine evening in the Walled Garden of Mottisfont Abbey SO51 0LP

Friday 19 June 2026 - 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Tickets on entry

Adults £15, Age 12-18 £6, Under 12 free

Includes glass of wine or fruit cup

Parking in NT staff car park

Raffle, and Music by Wessex folk orchestra



The Acorn Photo Challenge

We're testing your local knowledge! Can you figure out where this close-up photo was taken within the village?



Answer in the next edition

Kid's Corner Riddles:

Riddle 1: I have a bark, but I have no bite. What am I?

Riddle 2: I have keys but open no locks. I have space, but no room. What am I?

Riddle 3: I run through the hills and fields but I never walk, I have a mouth but I never talk. What am I?

Answers on page 5

The National Trust - Mottisfont Abbey



**National
Trust**

'The Art & Craft of Print' exhibition - 9 May - 1 November

Curated in partnership with St Jude's Prints, The Art & Craft of Print brings together one of the most comprehensive exhibitions of UK printmaking to-date, showcasing the work of nearly 30 major printmakers working in Britain today, including Angie Lewin, Mark Hearld, Emily Sutton and Jonny Hannah, alongside prints by a selection of influential 20th-century artists.

Rose Season at Mottisfont 21 May – 13 June

Old-fashioned roses tend to flower just once a year, so their blooming is an extraordinary annual sight. Over 400 varieties of rose bloom in our walled garden during peak season. Make the most of rose season this summer, and take in the mass of fragrant roses filling the walled garden.

Enjoy a sunset visit to the Rose Gardens at Mottisfont

Experience the annual spectacle of Mottisfont's world-famous rose garden as day turns to dusk. Our beautiful walled garden, home to the National Collection of pre-1900 shrub roses, is at its most spectacular in early summer; a fragrant, romantic setting filled with colour and charm. Late evening openings offer a unique opportunity to enjoy the roses when the light is softer, the air is scented with rose perfume, and the atmosphere is peaceful. It's a particularly special time to visit, with fewer crowds and a more relaxed pace.

From Thursday 21 May to Saturday 13 June, the rose garden will be open late on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Normal admission applies (free entry for National Trust members). On Thursdays we add to the atmosphere of the rose-filled evening with acoustic jazz music. On Fridays, we're offering a tranquil evening visit, especially for rose lovers. On Saturday evenings we welcome families to bring a picnic or enjoy food from the Walled Garden kiosk.

Enjoy a selection of traditional outdoor games out on the lawn and take a stroll through the rose garden. It's the perfect way to unwind and welcome the weekend with friends and family in the beautiful surroundings of Mottisfont.

Guided walks along the River Test at Mottisfont

On Thursdays until September, join us on the River Test and discover the challenges chalk streams face. Learn about the essential, careful work of the Countryside team to restore these declining rivers and protect them for the future.

Romeo and Juliet - live outdoor theatre – 10 July 2026

Award-winning Immersion Theatre Company proudly presents an unforgettable adaptation of William Shakespeare's iconic, Romeo & Juliet. This powerful story of forbidden love and bitter rivalry is brought to life in a visual spectacle infused with comedy, heart-break, and danger. Moving, funny, and tragic in equal measure, this beautiful production will see Immersion continue to build on their reputation for producing Shakespeare for all, be it the seasoned theatre-goer or budding literary enthusiast. This is Shakespeare as it's meant to be: interactive, fun, and highly accessible!

(Pre-booking of tickets is required.)

Summer of Play at Mottisfont – 23 July – 6 September 2026

This summer, join us at Mottisfont to let off steam and get giggly outdoors with lots of family friendly play. Get active, get creative and fire up your imagination. Enjoy outdoor play here at Mottisfont and rest assured, facilities for little ones are close at hand. Whether you bring a picnic or visit our cafes, let us supply a beautiful backdrop to help you make memories with the family this summer.

Sherlock Holmes & The Hound of the Baskervilles – 23 July 2026

Join us for outdoor family theatre fun; will the famous detective duo Holmes and Watson discover the deadly secret of the Baskerville family curse before it strikes again? How can one show possibly contain so much action and adventure? Elementary, my dear! The critically-acclaimed Pantaloons Theatre Company present a brand-new riff on the fiendishly famous case. Will detective duo Holmes and Watson discover the deadly secret of the Baskerville family curse before it strikes again? Or are they barking up the wrong tree? Find out in this delightfully inventive show that will have you yelping with excitement and howling with laughter. Features live music, audience interaction and more mystery than you can shake a magnifying glass at. Stick that in your pipe and smoke it! (Pre-booking is required.)

The Jungle Book - 29 July 2026

Immersion Theatre are thrilled to bring their trademark energy to their wildly entertaining musical adaptation of the Rudyard Kipling family favourite, The Jungle Book! Filled with original music, audience interaction, and a host of larger-than-life characters, you are invited to join Mowgli and his friends, Baloo the bear and Bagheera the panther, on a madcap jungle adventure as they meet and attempt to outwit a slithering snake, some cheeky monkeys, and the fierce tiger, Shere Khan! Funny, exciting and wildly entertaining, this AOOO-some musical will have you howling with laughter: It's the perfect treat for the whole family! Genre: Musical / Recommended age: 4+

MOTTISFONT SOCIAL CLUB

EVERY THURSDAY at 8:15pm: BINGO - includes Mystery Envelope Draw and Snooker Ball Game (Snooker Ball Game tickets can be purchased throughout the week - purchaser to write their name on the reverse of the ticket if unable to attend the Club on the Thursday evening).

EVERY SATURDAY: National Lottery Bonus Ball (tickets can be purchased throughout the week) and Roulette Wheel and Meat Draw.

Membership Draw is held every evening that the Club is open.

WEDNESDAY, 10 June 8pm	COMMITTEE MEETING
FRIDAY, 12 June 8pm	QUIZ (Mike Hughes)
FRIDAY, 26 June 8pm	QUIZ (Mike Hughes)
TUESDAY, 30 June 7.30pm	BILLIARDS AGM & PRESENTATION NIGHT
WEDNESDAY, 8 July 8pm	COMMITTEE MEETING
FRIDAY, 10 July 8pm	QUIZ (Mike Hughes)
SATURDAY, 18 July	BBQ+DRAW+MUSIC (in aid of electricity fund)
FRIDAY, 24 July 8pm	QUIZ (Mike Hughes)
SATURDAY, 25 July 8pm	PARTY

Lockerley Walking Group



Join us for a moderate 6km walk in the New Forest on Saturday 6th June. Starting from Rockford Common National Trust car park (BH24 3NA), the walk takes us up to Ibsley Common with open views and we will visit the Huff Duff (an old directional station used in the war) before returning to Rockford Common Car Park.

A short drive from the car park will take us to The Alice Lisle pub where those who wish to can take lunch.
Meet at Butts Green at 9am to share transport.

Contact Dot 01794341020 or dot@mornington-west.com or Diana 00447960778342

Lockerley Primary School

Sir David Attenborough's 100th Birthday: A Whole-School Celebration of Nature, Curiosity, and Creativity

Our school community came together this week to celebrate the 100th birthday of Sir David Attenborough, a figure whose work has shaped how generations understand and care for the natural world. As featured in the Hampshire Chronicle, pupils and staff marked the milestone with a day filled with creativity, learning, and environmental awareness. In a whole-school effort, pupils created a large outdoor birthday message using school uniforms, natural materials, and PE equipment. This collaborative artwork echoed Attenborough's lifelong message: nature is everywhere, and we all have a part to play in protecting it.

Year 5 and 6 Step Back in Time for Victorian Day

Emperors Class experienced history in the most authentic way possible as they took part in a Victorian Day, making the most of our school's original Victorian building. Pupils arrived dressed in traditional Victorian clothing, from pinafores and flat caps to waistcoats and lace collars. Stepping through the doors of the old building felt like going back more than 150 years. Our children took part in a number of activities including dictation, deportment and handicraft. Out of the school archive, we shared our school's original Punishment Book which references children receiving the cane for disobedience, insolence and laziness!

Visiting Bentley Wood

Over the last couple of weeks, our Key Stage 2 pupils have enjoyed visiting local woodland at Bentley Wood. For Swallowtails Class, the highlight of the day was pond dipping, where children used nets and trays to collect and observe freshwater creatures. Excitement grew as pupils discovered tadpoles, water beetles, dragonfly larvae, pond snails and other tiny inhabitants. They learned how each species plays a role in the pond ecosystem and why clean, healthy water is essential for wildlife. Emperors Class worked in teams, taking on the challenge of den building using fallen branches, leaves and natural materials. This activity encouraged problem-solving, teamwork and creativity as groups experimented with different structures and tested how sturdy their dens were. We are so lucky to have such extensive grounds so close to our school.

Stay Connected: Follow our Facebook page or visit www.lockerleyprimary.co.uk to learn more about our school and enriched curriculum.

MOTTISFONT VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The village fete will take place on Sunday 9th August from 1 – 5 p.m. This is the major fund raiser for the village hall, but we do need lots of help. Weather permitting we will be setting up gazebos from 10 a.m. on Saturday 8th August and final setting will be from 10 a.m. on the Sunday morning.

Can you spare an hour or so to help with setting up on either day? Could you run a stall or just spare an hour or so during the Sunday afternoon to give a stallholder a break. Maybe you have an idea for a stall you would like to run yourself or have crafts to sell.

If you can answer yes to any of the above please get in touch with: Lynn Young 07501 034700 or Pat & Dave Francis 07402 212346

The village hall team are also pleased to report that the new boiler and 'smart' control system have been successfully installed. The heating is now directly linked to our booking calendar and will automatically warm the hall to a comfortable temperature before every booking.



We are grateful to the National Lottery 'Community Fund' for significant financial assistance with this project.



The K9 Club

Small group, confidence building classes at Mottisfont Village Hall focusing on calm focus and connection.

Reward based training with qualified Instructor Sandra offering weekly classes in Enrichment, Engagment, Trick Training, Hoopers, Life skills and 1:1 coaching.



visit www.k9club.uk to see our full schedule and book your spot.

The Thomas Dowse Trust

Are you (or is someone you know) under 25 and living in Broughton, Bossington, Mottisfont, or Dunbridge? The Thomas Dowse Trust offers confidential financial grants to help with educational costs, including:

Essentials: Uniforms, laptops, and textbooks.
Skills & Travel: Music/swimming lessons, school trips, and transport.

How to Apply: Applications are not means-tested, but should briefly demonstrate the need. Pick up a form at Broughton Primary, St Mary's (Broughton), or St Andrew's (Mottisfont), or email Tina Stuart at tinastuart1@gmail.com.

Wessex Rivers Trust.

Rivers Open Day - Sunday 16th August

Wessex Rivers Trust and the National Trust would like to invite Mottisfont parish residents to our Open Day on the Oakley, Rectory and Dun beats of the rivers of the Mottisfont Estate. Parish residents will be welcome to walk the beats, picnic and enjoy being next to the river. There will be opportunities to meet some of the team and learn more about the work we've been undertaking in recent years with a guided walk of the Oakley Beat.

Keep an eye out in the next issue of The Acorn for further details.

Answers to Kid's Corner Riddles:

1. A tree, 2. A computer keyboard, 3. A river

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.facebook.com/broughtoncommunityshop) 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

Village History: A Look Back Through Time

Have you ever wondered what was happening right here in Mottisfont and Dunbridge in eras past? Let's take a quick trip back through the archives:

50 Years Ago: The iconic walled garden at Mottisfont Abbey was being transformed. The National Trust, having recently taken over management, worked with legendary horticulturist Graham Stuart Thomas to plant his definitive collection of pre-20th-century old roses, saving many rare varieties from extinction.

100 Years Ago: Following the tragic loss of Claude Barker-Mill in the First World War, Mottisfont Abbey sat completely empty and quiet throughout the 1920s. Meanwhile, Dunbridge was a bustling hive of industrial activity, with steam trains regularly rattling through the station loaded with timber from the local sawmills.

200 Years Ago: The estate was under the care of the Reverend Sir John Barker-Mill. He was busy using his inherited fortune to alter the Abbey and build the grand stable blocks to indulge his absolute obsession with fox hunting and horse racing.

NEWS FROM THE WI



In April, we were pleased to welcome the 'belles' from Bishops Bells. The group are based in Bishops Waltham, although several members come from further afield.

It all began in 1983, when a dusty box of old handbells was discovered in the belfry of Bishops Waltham church. The enterprising vicar of the time had them restored, and it was proposed to start a handbell ringing group. At the first meeting over 30 people turned up, and after 40 years they are still going strong!

They gave lively renditions of well known tunes ,including 'In an English Country Garden' and 'The Floral Dance' - and then it was our turn! Members, each with an experienced ringer beside them, had a go at following the numbers (not notes) on the music, and really enjoyed the experience of chiming out 'The Ash Grove' and 'The Drunken Sailor' amid much hilarity.

May was our AGM meeting, surprisingly well attended! Several new members joined the committee , and some resigned for reasons of health and house moves etc. However, we are still in business! After refreshments, we had a floral quiz and a memory game, kindly arranged by our secretary, Caroline Egg. These tested the grey cells and enabled some of us to learn new names for familiar plants in our gardens.

Our new programmes were issued, and next month (9th June), we have May Martin, of the BBC 'Sewing Bee' programme who is a very entertaining speaker. Then on July 14th, Ruth Kerr will take us on 'A Wander Without Wellies' -(and without leaving our seats!) So where will we be wandering I wonder? Why not come along to join us to find out. Visitors always welcome at Mottisfont Village Hall at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of the month.

Your Local Voice at Test Valley

Our Borough Councillors are here to represent us. Please contact them if you need support for a community grant, have concerns about planning applications, or need help with borough services like recycling and housing:

Alison Johnston 01794 500610 cllrajohnston@testvalley.gov.uk
Ian Jeffrey 01794 388872 cllrijeffrey@testvalley.gov.uk
Stewart MacDonald 07803 594872 cllrsmacdonald@testvalley.gov.uk

SOMBORNE COMMUNITY CINEMA

Hamnet - Thursday 11th June 2026: 2h:05m

Historical drama based on the 2020 novel by Maggie O'Farrell. After losing their son Hamnet to plague, Agnes (Jessie Buckley) and William Shakespeare (Paul Mescal) grapple with grief in 16th-century England. As Agnes finds her inner strength to care for her surviving children while processing her devastating loss, William is inspired to write his timeless masterpiece "Hamlet".

Rental Family - Thursday 9th July 2026: 1h:49m

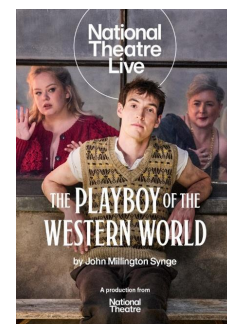
Set in modern-day Tokyo, RENTAL FAMILY follows an American actor (Brendan Fraser) who struggles to find purpose until he lands an unusual gig: working for a Japanese "rental family" agency, playing stand-in roles for strangers. As he immerses himself in his clients' worlds, he begins to form genuine bonds that blur the lines between performance and reality. Confronting the moral complexities of his work, he rediscovers purpose, belonging, and the quiet beauty of human connection.

Tickets for films are just £6 each and are available from the Somborne Community Cinema web site at www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk

or at the door on the night. **King's Somborne Village Hall**
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.

SOMBORNE COMMUNITY CINEMA

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE



Saturday 25th July
Doors Open 6:45pm Curtain Up 7:30pm

Tickets £10 + booking fee online
or at the door on the day

Showing at King's Somborne Village Hall

The Recreation Ground Romsey Road
King's Somborne SO206PP

Refreshments will be available at all performances
www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk



Tai Chi in Over Wallop

Join our gentle Tai Chi classes, suitable for beginners and all ages. Improve balance, relaxation, posture and wellbeing in a friendly atmosphere.

Place: THE CLUB HOUSE, Alan Evans Memorial Ground, Salisbury Lane, Over Wallop, Hampshire, SO20 8JJ

WhatThreeWords: above.third.corrode <https://what3words.com>

Day: Every Thursday Time: 2:00pm-3:00pm

No previous experience needed, no need to book.

For more information contact Gareth: 07596914380 or stillflowingtaichi@gmail.com
<https://stillflowingtaichi9.wixsite.com/wellbeing>



STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY CINEMA

Wednesday 19 June 7.30pm **Nouvelle Vague** (12A)

Richard Linklater's love letter to the revolutionary magic of the French New Wave, reimagining the making of Jean-Luc Godard's *Breathless*, which ultimately cemented Godard as a pioneer of global cinema. As critic turned director Godard makes and breaks the rules, a mix of fresh faces and daring talents bring his spontaneous, electric film to life.

Capturing the youthful dynamism and creative chaos at the heart of one of the world's most beloved and influential movies, *Nouvelle Vague* transports us to the streets of 1959 Paris for an ode to the transformative power of cinema.

Wednesday 24 June 4.45pm and 7.30pm **Hamnet** (12A)

Based on Maggie O'Farrell's best-selling novel, Academy Award-winning director Chloé Zhao directs a powerful story of love and loss. William Shakespeare (Paul Mescal) falls for the free-spirited Agnes (Jessie Buckley). Their whirlwind romance leads to marriage and three children, but as Will's theatrical ambitions draw him to London, Agnes remains behind to manage the household. When tragedy strikes, their bond is deeply tested - but through grief and resilience, their journey inspires the creation of Shakespeare's timeless masterpiece, *Hamlet*. Nominated for 8 Academy Awards, with an Oscar for Best Performance by a Leading Actress for Jessie Buckley, and 11 BAFTA nominations with awards for Best Actress and Outstanding British Film of the Year.

"Hamnet captures the beautiful aching that makes up life in all its forms, and it makes for one of the most profound and staggering works you'll see this year." (Collider Magazine)



Wednesday 17 July 7.30pm **It Was Just An Accident** (12A)

When auto mechanic Vahid unexpectedly encounters the man who may have been his torturer in prison, he kidnaps him with the intention to exact vengeance. He turns to a circle of other now-freed victims for confirmation. As they deal with their past, and diverging worldviews, the group struggles to decide: Is this him, without a doubt? What would retribution mean, in reality? Praised for its raw humanity, strong performances, and Iranian Director Jafar Panahi's courage in addressing systemic brutality, it offers a powerful emotional journey, appreciated for its bold narrative and important questions about justice and forgiveness. Academy Award nominations for Best International Feature

Film and Best Original Screenplay and winner of the Palme d'Or at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival.

[In Persian & Azerbaijani with English subtitles]

Wednesday 22 July 5.00pm and 7.30pm **Blue Moon** (15)

A dramatization of one evening in 1943 in the life of Lorenz Hart (Ethan Hawke), best known as the lyricist half of the successful songwriting team Rodgers and Hart. The evening spent in a bar is arguably the worst night of his life, being the opening night of the new Broadway musical "Oklahoma" written by Richard Rodgers (Andrew Scott) and his new lyricist partner Oscar Hammerstein II. By the time this night is over, Hart will have confronted both a world that no longer values his talent and the seeming impossibility of love. Academy Award-nominations for Best Actor (Ethan Hawke) and Best Original Screenplay (Robert Kaplow)



Information common to all films: Showing at Stockbridge Town Hall SO20 6HE. Tickets via www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk or free telephone call to TicketSource 0333 666 3366.

Please visit our website for full details of all films.

From the Rector - June Reflections

Dear friends,

June has arrived, bringing with it lighter evenings, flourishing gardens, and the unmistakable sense that summer is beginning to settle over our communities. After what has felt at times like a very long winter and spring, it is a joy simply to see sunshine returning and people lingering a little longer outside in conversation.

The church calendar remains busy too, and one of the pleasures of parish life is the great variety of ways people gather together. Traditional services continue week by week, but there are also new opportunities emerging to connect with one another and explore faith in different ways.

Last month saw our very first Bubble Church service, and it proved to be a lively and cheerful occasion. There was plenty of laughter, activity, storytelling, and of course puppets. It was especially lovely to welcome families and children in such a relaxed and informal setting, and we were delighted by how warmly the event was received.

We are looking forward to the next Bubble Church gathering in June (which will take place in the Cub Scout Hut behind the Grosvenor Hotel in Stockbridge). If you missed the first one, do come along and see what it is all about. It is designed particularly with young families in mind. There is no need to know anything about church beforehand - simply come as you are.

At the same time, June reminds us of the importance of community in all its forms. Churches in rural villages have always been about far more than buildings or Sunday mornings alone. They are places where people mark the important moments of life, support one another in difficult times, celebrate together in joyful times, and simply find companionship and encouragement along the way.

In a world that often feels hurried and noisy, our churches can still offer moments of quiet reflection and peace. Whether through a service, a shared cup of tea, a concert, a school visit, or a chance conversation in the churchyard, these small encounters matter more than we sometimes realise.

As summer unfolds, I hope we may all find opportunities to pause occasionally and appreciate the beauty around us such as birdsong early in the morning, roses climbing old garden walls, children playing outdoors, and the kindness of neighbours and friends. These ordinary blessings are often the things that quietly sustain us. Wishing you all a peaceful and joyful June.

With every blessing,
Revd Joe

Did You Know? The Secrets of St. Andrew's

While Mottisfont Abbey gets the tourist crowds, our parish church of St. Andrew is actually older! Built around 1150, it still features its original, beautifully carved Norman chancel arch. It's also home to incredibly rare 15th-century medieval stained glass that survived the fires of history. Next time you sit in the pews (which were installed in 1876), look closely at the woodwork on the south side - you can still see graffiti carved by a cheeky 14-year-old Victorian choirboy named C. Hutchens, who decided to leave his mark for posterity.



June & July 2026 Church Services

	Mottisfont	Broughton	Houghton	Bossington
7 June Trinity 1 Green	6pm Evensong Revd Joe	9.30am Parish Eucharist Revd Joe		
14 June Trinity 2	11.00am Morning Worship David S	11.00am Parish Eucharist John Rennie	6pm Evensong Sue Kipling	
21 June Trinity 3		4.00 Bubble Church Village Hall		9:30 BCP Parish Eucharist Revd Joe
27 June Saturday				
28 June Trinity 4	11.00am Parish Eucharist Revd Joe	8.00 Holy Communion (CW or BCP) Revd Joe 11.00am Pet Service Georgie/Chris	9.30am Parish Eucharist Revd Joe	6pm Meditation David Livermore
5 July Trinity 5	6pm Evensong	9.30am Parish Eucharist		
12 July Trinity 6	11.00am Morning Worship	11.0am Parish Eucharist	6pm Evensong	
19 July Trinity 7				9:30 BCP Parish Eucharist