The Mottisfont & Dunbridge
ACORN
Parish Newsletter October / November 2026

Dear Neighbours

What a wonderful couple of months we've had here in Mottisfont and Dunbridge. From sunny summer days to the fantastic turnout at the village fete, it has been brilliant to see everyone coming together to celebrate the very best of our community spirit. A huge thank you to everyone who helped organise the fete, ran a stall, or simply turned up to support it and help drink the bar dry! It was a fabulous day.



As the evenings start to draw in and we feel that familiar crispness in the air, there is still so much to look forward to. Autumn is always a lovely time in our village - the changing colours across the countryside and along the river make it the perfect season for cycling and walking, and our local calendar is packed with activities.

Can I say how grateful I am for all the brilliant contributions sent in for this issue? Having such a rich variety of articles keeps us all connected and updated on our local wildlife, school news, and upcoming events - it really goes to show just how vibrant and active our community continues to be.

A very special thank you goes to Hatt Farm for generously sponsoring this edition. Your continued support makes it possible to keep The Acorn running and distributed to everyone.

Finally, a massive shout-out to our dedicated team of delivery volunteers who walk the streets and lanes of Mottisfont and Dunbridge, come rain or shine, to ensure a copy lands on every single doorstep. I couldn't do it without you.

So, dear neighbours - grab a drink, get comfortable, and enjoy the local news.

Warm wishes,
Allis X



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

It would not be possible to name everyone who made this year's village fete such a great success, but a huge thank you goes out to everyone who helped and coped with the heat. Some amazing prizes were donated for the raffle and silent auction. Great music from Birnie Boozle Band and Lockerley & District Silver Band. Volunteers worked hard on Saturday and Sunday to set up gazebos and run the stalls in the heat. As ever the barbecue run by the Cricket Club was popular and it was good to welcome the collection of cars. There was an overall profit of over £2,300, which will go to the upkeep of the hall.

Looking to the future: Lockerley & District Silver Band will hold a Christmas Carol Concert at the hall on Saturday 19th December at 6 p.m. This is a free family community event. All welcome. Provided it is not raining this will be held on the patio, so wrap up warm, and have a glass of mulled wine and mince pies. There will be a non-alcoholic option.

We are awaiting confirmation from Bumblefly Theatre Company as to the name of their Christmas show, but if previous years are anything to go by it will be very popular. Whatever they decide to do it will take place on Tuesday 22nd December with doors opening at 5.30 p.m. at the village hall. Watch our Facebook page and Mottisfont Village WhatsApp for final details.

You will be able to book for both these events on our new website by following the link to Events at the Hall.
www.mottisfontvillagehall.co.uk

If you haven't already seen it, please check our new website where you can book the hall for events or set up a regular group. Maybe you would like to start a craft group, knit & natter, gardening club or a yoga class. Remember villagers and charities get a discounted rate.

The Barn Owls of Mottisfont

By Catherine Hadler, Lead Ranger, National Trust



The Mottisfont estate is home to definitely two, but possibly three, species of owl. The tawny owls reside in our woodlands, their hooting calls evocative of the soft hush of dusk. I have seen little owls in one of the arable fields between Hatt Lane and Dunbridge, but I have yet to ascertain where they breed. I would dearly love to know if anyone sees or hears any little owl activity in the village.

Thirdly, we have the barn owls: ghosts of the twilight, gliding along on silent wings as they patrol the fields looking for prey. We have several barn owl boxes up around the estate, and one box in a barn is a year-round roost for a breeding pair. We have monitored their breeding over the years with Dr Matt Stevens from the Hawk Conservancy, who checks the boxes under licence and rings the chicks.

Last year was a terrible season for raptors—a lack of voles and mice resulted in a shortfall of food, and our barn owls didn't even bother to lay a single egg.

This year, small mammal numbers recovered, and when Matt came to check our barn owls, I kept my fingers crossed after last year's no-show. They didn't disappoint! Making up for a lost season, there were seven fluffy owlets in the box—the largest brood we have ever had!

Getting to hold and observe these birds as Matt rings them is one of the highlights of my summer: the beauty of their feather patterns, the pure white snowy chests of the males, and the speckled, golden buff of the females. While they are all just bundles of fluff at this stage, the deathly keenness of their talons hints at the assassins they will become.

All seven successfully fledged, but our owl pair didn't stop there. They went on to raise a second brood of two, who were ringed in mid-September. So, nine chicks in total for our barn owl pair this year! A staggering achievement! Around 70% of barn owls die in their first year, so having such a large brood gives them a good chance of boosting their numbers. If you ever find a dead barn owl on the estate and can check to see if it has a ring on its leg, please report the ring number to me at **catherine.hadler@nationaltrust.org.uk**.

THE MILL ARMS

We've had a glorious summer and it's been lovely to see so many of you enjoying the garden. Now as we turn to autumn, the fire will soon be lit again and our thoughts turn towards the run up to Christmas.

Our Christmas menu is now available online and brochures in the pub and we are already up to double figures in bookings, so do pop in and reserve if you are thinking about joining us. The menu will be available lunchtime and evening from Monday to Saturday, commencing on Tuesday 1st December until Wednesday 23rd December.

We will update on opening hours for the festive season in the next Acorn issue, but one date for those of you keen to participate, is the Christmas Quiz and Raffle night, which will take place on Tuesday 15th December, quiz starting at 7.45pm. We had over 70 participate last year, so make sure to get your booking in early.

In addition to the Christmas wreath workshops being run in our function room by Tracy at Bluebells Flower Design, there is also an Autumn wreath workshop taking place on Friday 23rd October from 6.30 to 9pm. There are only 15 places available so do take a look at their Facebook page or email Tracy at tracy@bluebellsflowerdesign.co.uk.

Finally, an update on the MacMillan Mighty Hike that Gina and Lorna undertook with their sisters (Julia & Victoria) back in June. A mighty £1,500 was raised, in no short part due to the generosity of our customers. Thank you for all for giving to this great charity.

We look forward to seeing many of you across the autumn

A Note on Commercial Dog Walking From Your Local National Trust Ranger Team - Protecting Our Countryside Together.

As many of you know, our local landscapes—both the beautiful Mottisfont estate and our surrounding countryside sites across Hampshire—are wonderful places to explore with our four-legged companions. We love seeing so many people enjoying these special spaces!

The vast majority of dog walkers and local businesses use our land with immense care and respect. However, as commercial dog walking has grown, we've occasionally run into challenges with groups where dogs aren't properly managed. Issues like uncollected waste, large packs out of control, and dogs chasing deer or disturbing sensitive wildlife in reed beds can cause lasting harm to these precious habitats.

To help protect the wildlife we all enjoy, the National Trust operates a simple licensing scheme for commercial dog walking businesses (£150 per year). This agreement ensures walkers follow clear guidelines—such as limiting group sizes and avoiding vulnerable wildlife areas—so they can run their businesses while keeping our countryside thriving.

A quick note for local dog owners:

If you use a professional dog walker, it's always a good idea to check if they hold a valid licence for the specific land they use. Importantly, carrying out commercial activity on private land without the landowner's permission actually invalidates a business's insurance. Asking your walker to show their signed agreement ensures your dog is fully covered in the unlikely event of an incident on National Trust land.



If you run a dog walking business and would like to find out more or apply for a licence to use our sites, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch with us at Mottisfont@nationaltrust.org.uk.

The National Trust - Mottisfont Abbey

We're Going on a Ghost Hunt™ Halloween Adventure - 3 October - 1 November 2026

We're Going on a Ghost Hunt this Halloween at Mottisfont. Come and join the fun! Can we find them all? Yes! Run, run, run! Based on the bestselling children's books, this Halloween the Bunnies of Hoppity Hill are setting off on an adventure to find the ghosts hidden around Mottisfont with heaps of exciting things to see and do along the way. Pick your bunny name, play Halloween hoopla, race your broomstick, and watch out for the warty toads as you cross the stepping stones, before joining the celebration party and collecting your sticker.

This trail (free with normal admission) is ideal for preschoolers and young children.

Richard Grudzinski, Senior Lead - Visitor Programming - "We're thrilled to bring the magic of We're Going on a Ghost Hunt to National Trust properties this Halloween. Our stunning autumnal gardens, houses and parklands create the perfect backdrop to bringing the bunny adventures to life, and with spooky storybook fun, playful games, and enchanting activities waiting around every corner, it's a hauntingly delightful way for families to celebrate the season together.

Standby for We're Going on a Ghost Hunt™ storytelling sessions led by Bloomsbury. The sessions will be free of charge, 45 minutes in duration and pre-bookable.

Saturday 10 October
Sunday 11 October
Sunday 25 October
Thursday 29 October

Live clarinet music at Mottisfont - 3 October - 11.00 - 1.00pm

From The Beatles to songs from the musicals - take time out with all the family to enjoy some live music by the wonderful clarinet ensemble the BWCB Liquorice Allsorts.

A Jack and the Beanstalk Christmas at Mottisfont - 21 November 2026 - 3 January 2027

Magic comes to Mottisfont this Christmas, as we invite you on a fun and festive adventure into the much-loved tale of Jack and the Beanstalk. The house is transformed with sparkle and theatrical flair, lights and laughs as you journey from a towering beanstalk to a castle in the clouds and a Giant's Christmas banquet. But be careful; can you hear the fe-fi-fo-fum?

Art & Craft of Print exhibition (until 1 November)

From 9 May - 1 November, the National Trust celebrates the art and craft of printmaking with a major show at Mottisfont in Hampshire.

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.

For the first time, visitors are also able to explore the printmaking techniques behind the art, from screen print and linocut to wood engraving, letterpress and lithography. Displays and behind-the-scenes material reveal the intricate, often complex processes involved, encouraging the viewer to look beyond the finished image to discover how prints are conceived and developed. Tools, materials, sketchbooks and proofs offer insight into the stages of experimentation and decision-making that underpin each final work.

The exhibition highlights a rich spectrum of printmaking techniques, from Angie Lewin's bold, multi-coloured linocuts to Jonathan Gibbs's finely detailed wood engravings. Visitors will encounter the layered colour and graphic clarity of screenprints by Mark Hearld and Emily Sutton, alongside the delicate line and subtlety of hand-coloured etchings by Chloë Cheese. Together, the work of 28 artists reveals the diverse approaches, tools and traditions that define printmaking, offering insight into the craftsmanship and experimentation behind each limited-edition print.

Featured artists are John Broadley, Christopher Brown, Chloë Cheese, Clare Curtis, Anne Desmet, Melvyn Evans, Beatrice Forshall, Jonathan Gibbs, Linda Green, Peter Green, Alistair Grant, Jonny Hannah, Sharon Hannah, Mark Hearld, Clive Hicks-Jenkins, Justin Knopp, Ed Kluz, Edwin La Dell, Angie Lewin, Mick Manning, Penfold Press, Sheila Robinson, Charles Shearer, Bronwen Sleigh, Emily Sutton, Robert Tavener, Typoretum and Matt Underwood.

Film footage and photography offer an additional perspective on the artists' working environments. Drawn from their studios and print workshops, this material sits alongside tools, proofs and finished works, gently illuminating aspects of printmaking practice. Together, these elements invite a deeper appreciation of the care, skill and time involved in making contemporary prints.

"It's a real honour for St Jude's to be working with the National Trust on this exhibition at Mottisfont," says Simon Lewin, co-founder of St Jude's. "Printmaking has been at the heart of everything we do for over twenty-one years, and this exhibition celebrates not only the beauty of the finished prints, but the extraordinary craft, skill and quiet dedication behind them. To share that story in such a special place, and with so many artists we've worked with over the years, feels particularly meaningful."



Say Hello to SID

No, nothing to do with the 1986 campaign to sell shares in British Gas!

SID stands for **Speed Indicating Device.**

You may have noticed a few new aluminium poles appearing recently by the side of the road across the parish. They have been installed to carry the Parish Council's new SID, which as you have probably guessed from the name, will tell drivers how fast they are travelling. It will also record information about how many vehicles pass the sign, at what time, and of course their speed – but it will not record anything else about the vehicle, such as the number plate, or who is driving.

We are hoping of course that it will encourage people to stick to the speed limit, but importantly the data we collect will allow us to form an objective view of traffic behaviour, and put us in a good position to present the facts to Hampshire Highways and traffic police.

We plan to start using the SID shortly, and will be moving it from one pole to another from time to time. Give SID a wave as you pass!

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 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

MOTTISFONT SOCIAL CLUB

What's On: October & November 2026

Thu, 1 Oct (8pm) – Bingo
Fri, 2 Oct (8pm) – Quiz Night (with Mike Hughes)
Mon, 5 Oct (8pm) – Snooker
Wed, 14 Oct (8pm) – Darts / MSC Committee Meeting
Thu, 15 Oct (8pm) – Bingo
Fri, 16 Oct (8pm) – Quiz Night (with Mike Hughes)
Tue, 20 Oct (7:30pm) – Cricket Club AGM
Wed, 21 Oct (8pm) – Darts
Thu, 22 Oct (8pm) – Bingo
Sat, 24 Oct (8pm) – Cricket Club Quiz
Thu, 29 Oct (8pm) – Bingo
Fri, 30 Oct (8pm) – Quiz Night (with Mike Hughes)
Sat, 31 Oct (8pm) – Club Skittles

Mon, 2 Nov (8pm) – Snooker
Wed, 4 Nov (8pm) – Darts
Thu, 5 Nov (8pm) – Bingo
Mon, 9 Nov (8pm) – Snooker
Fri, 13 Nov (8pm) – Quiz Night (with Mike Hughes)
Thu, 19 Nov (8pm) – Bingo
Sat, 21 Nov – Party
Wed, 25 Nov (8pm) – Darts
Thu, 26 Nov (8pm) – Bingo
Fri, 27 Nov (8pm) – Quiz Night (with Mike Hughes)
Mon, 30 Nov (8pm) – Snooker

WEEKLY CLUB DRAWS & GAMES

Bingo Nights: Includes Mystery Envelope Draw & Snooker Ball game. (Can't make it on Thursday? Buy your Snooker Ball tickets during the week and write your name on the back!)
National Lottery Bonus Ball: Drawn every Saturday (tickets on sale all week).
Membership Draw: Held every evening the Club is open.

LOOKING AHEAD: SLOE GIN COMPETITION

Get picking and making! Our annual Sloe Gin competition will take place on Sunday, 20 December at 12:00 noon.

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 events from 7.30pm on:
Tuesday 20th October
Thursday 26th November

Put these dates in your diary now!



Whist Drive @ Mottisfont Village Hall

Friday 16th October
Friday 20th November
(7pm start)

NEWS FROM THE WI

Firstly, a big thank you to all who helped with our stall at the fete in early August. It was a lot of hard work on a very hot day, but yielded a good result.

Our speaker in August was Sheely Lozano, and her talk was entitled 'Amazing adventures and animal encounters'. Sheely had always had a passion for wildlife and adventure, and her work on cruise ships had given her the opportunity to visit and explore many different countries and to encounter the creatures who lived in them. For instance, in Barbados she swam with turtles - an unforgettable experience, whilst in Antigua she encountered Stingrays , not such a pleasant meeting. In Costa Rica she met with sloths hanging from the trees, and in the Cloud Forest of Monteverdi saw many mammals, birds and amphibians. Whilst in Borneo she visited an Orangutan Sanctuary, where the orphaned and injured are rescued and rehabilitated. Together with amusing anecdotes and glorious coloured slides this talk was really entertaining.

In September, Mandy, from 'New Forest for Ukraine' gave quite a different side to life. This group, based in Lymington, was started at the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine . Run by volunteers, they deliver vital support to the thousands of Ukrainians suffering unbelievable hardship. Winter temperatures can drop to - 27 degrees, and electricity is often only available for 3 hours in 24 , usually in the middle of the night! So far the group have supplied 950 tonnes of aid - food, medical supplies, clothes, bedding , toiletries etc.. All this is sent in lorries, which cost £3, 500 for each journey to the borders and into the country itself. They also support a 10 bedded Care Home not far from the border with Russia, and supply tote bags of toys and other treats for the children and boxes for new -borns containing essential baby items. Candles in tins are made for those on the front line, not only for light and warmth, but to heat up canned soup, and children are supplied with whistles on lanyards, to use should they become buried in the rubble from the constant bomb attacks. Pets too are not forgotten. 90% of all this is donated by the general public, and , unknown to most of us, any donations may be left at the old Council Offices (former Magistrate's Court) in Church Street, Romsey. Their motto is ' Together we deliver a future of hope' - and they certainly do that! Members of course had brought donations suitable for the collection.

Next month (Oct. 13th) we welcome Jane Glennie, who will tell us about 'Titanic People', and on 10th November Mark Heighway's talk is entitled 'Noor Inayat Khan' - Google it! We always welcome visitors.

Are you prepared?

We have been part of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Resilience Forum, and working with Test Valley Borough Council, to identify key areas of importance should an emergency occur in Mottisfont parish. It is clear that the one-size-fits-all approach suggested by central government would not be appropriate or feasible in smaller communities. It has also become clear that in the case of a widespread emergency, smaller communities such as ours need to be proactive, and more self-sufficient than larger communities.

Ask yourself this: if your home lost its electricity supply for a few hours this winter, how would you cope? Could you make a simple hot meal, or even a cup of tea? Could you heat a room? Could you see what you are doing after dark? Many of us rely heavily on electricity, and haven't given a second thought to dealing with the effects of even a few hours' break in supply. For example, if your central heating runs on gas, it still needs electricity for the boiler to operate.

A few minutes of thought now could make dealing with failure of the electricity supply much easier, and it need not cost a large amount of money. Did you know that a portable gas camping stove with carry case and four canisters of gas can cost less than £20? Other items to think about include a (wind-up) torch, bottled water, tinned and long life food, cash (credit cards may not work), essential medication, and supplies for children and pets.

If you would like to see more ideas, try the web site of the Local Resilience Forum for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight at hiowprepared.org.uk. Be sure to have a look at their booklet "Preparing for an emergency" on the households page. Keep an eye on the Acorn for further helpful household tips, and any news from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Resilience Forum and Test Valley Borough Council.

Julia and Peter Barnett Email: resilience1@mandercom.co.uk

The deadline for inclusion of any articles / information in the December / January edition of The Acorn is the 27th of November 2026. Please email any items to acornparishnews@outlook.com

SOMBORNE COMMUNITY CINEMA
King's Somborne Village Hall

We have a full programme in October/November with the regular Thursday films and also two National Theatre shows.

Films:

Dead Man's Wire, Thursday 8th October, 7:15 for 8pm
You, Me & Tuscany, Thursday 12th November, 7:15 for 8pm

National Theatre:

The Misanthrope, Saturday 24th October, 6:45 for 7:30pm
Golden Boy, Sunday 22nd November, 6:45 for 7:30pm

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. 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.

A Summer of Wellbeing on the River Test

This year, something special has been taking place along the banks of the River Test at Mottisfont. In partnership with the National Trust, the Chalk Stream Experience, run by Wessex Rivers Trust, has been inviting people to slow down, reconnect with nature and discover the restorative power of one of Hampshire's most beautiful chalk streams.

The fishing season began in mid-April and, apart from a single day in the opening week, has been fully booked ever since. Anglers have enjoyed exceptional sport, with healthy numbers of wild brown trout caught and an unexpectedly prolific population of grayling adding to the excitement.

But the story of Mottisfont this year has been about much more than fishing - stretches of river normally closed to the public have been transformed into spaces for wellbeing, creativity and community. Local practitioners, artists, schools and charities have come together to offer activities that celebrate both the natural environment and the wellbeing of those who experience it. Yoga, Pilates, willow weaving, sound baths, river dipping and outdoor art sessions have all taken place beside the clear waters of the Test, offering participants the chance to pause, breathe and experience the river in a different way.

Supporting local community groups is at the heart of the project, with income from wild fishing helping to fund free, nature-based activities. In June, Romsey Young Carers joined artist James Aldridge for a riverside creative workshop, with one young participant describing the experience as "therapeutic". The group returned in July to take part in activities with Wessex Rivers Trust, enjoy a family picnic and make the most of free access to Mottisfont's grounds and summer programme.

Community access for residents of Mottisfont and Dunbridge is also an important part of the Chalk Stream Experience. This year, local residents have had opportunities to take part in parish fishing, a parish open day across three stretches of river, and a bat walk along the River Dun in September. And there is more to come:

This autumn, Wessex Rivers Trust will be carrying out improvements to a stretch of the River Dun, helping to restore and enhance this important chalk stream habitat. The Trust will be running an event for residents to come along, learn more about the restoration work and discover how it will benefit the river and its wildlife. Details will be announced soon through local social media channels.

To find out more about the Chalk Stream Experience and sign up for updates, visit: https://www.wessexrt.org.uk/ChalkStreamExperience.html



Lockerley School Village News

A Fantastic Start to the New School Year

We have enjoyed a wonderful start to the new academic year. The children have returned enthusiastic and ready to learn, and it has been lovely to see our school community come back together. We are particularly proud of our new Year R children, who have settled into school life exceptionally well during their first few weeks with us. They have shown great confidence and enthusiasm as they begin their educational journey, and we are delighted to welcome them to our school family.

Open Mornings for September 2027 Reception Starters

Families considering a Reception place for September 2027 are warmly invited to visit us at one of our upcoming Open Mornings. Come experience our welcoming environment, meet our staff and pupils, and see what makes our school such a special place to learn and grow.

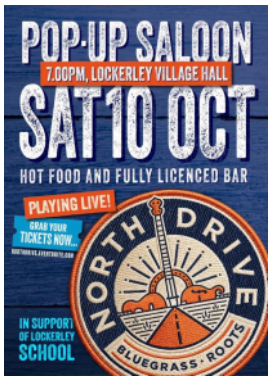
Visitors can also learn more about our recent Ofsted success, where we were awarded green success ratings in every area. Inspectors praised our caring ethos and ambitious curriculum.

Open Morning Dates:

Tuesday 13th October: 9:30am
Tuesday 17th November: 9:30am
Tuesday 12th January: 9:30am

To book a place at an Open Morning, please contact the school office: adminoffice@lockerley.hants.sch.uk.

We look forward to welcoming you



Pop-Up Pub with Live Music from Local Bluegrass Country Band, North Drive!
A fabulous night of bluegrass and folk music with the amazing North Drive, a Hampshire Based band specialising in Bluegrass, Americana and Roots music. With their own unique combination of original songs and carefully chosen covers accompanied by the guitar, banjo, mandolin and bass, this is bound to be a night to remember – book now to avoid disappointment!
Licensed bar, hot food and games available!
Tickets in advance from northdrive.eventbrite.com: Adults £5 / Kids £2.50
Tickets on the door: Adults £6 / Kids £3
Find out more about the band at www.northdrivebluegrass.site
Any queries please email friendsoflockerleyschool@gmail.com All profits will go to Friends of Lockerley School

The National Trust are delighted to have welcomed a very special addition to Mottisfont's seating collection which has been positioned in the Millennium Orchard. A bespoke wooden bench was delivered and installed by the Nursling Men's Shed, who have painstakingly created a beautiful piece of outdoor furniture using sustainable, hand-crafted methods. The bench has accessibility at its core, with generous space for wheelchair users and buggies built into it so that everyone can enjoy sitting together to have a rest, admire the view, or stop for a quick cuppa.
The commissioning of this beautiful bench was made possible thanks to the South Hampshire National Trust Volunteer group and we are hugely grateful.

STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY CINEMA

Friday 16 October 7.30pm
The Secret Agent (15)
In 1977, in a Brazil still torn apart by military dictatorship, the story of Marcelo comes to life. A forty-year-old teacher who, leaving behind a troubled past, arrives in the city of Recife hoping to build a new life and reconnect with his family. Upon arriving, he quickly realizes that the new city is very different from the idyllic refuge he hoped to find. A tense and gripping tale of surveillance, paranoia, and the shadows of power. Nominated for four Oscars, including Best Picture, Kleber Mendonça Filho's anarchic political thriller stars Wagner Moura in a risky cat-and-mouse hunt. Mixing taut suspense with sly absurdism, this epoch-defining marvel reconstructs memories of the Brazilian military dictatorship in vivid colours. [In Portuguese with English subtitles]

Wednesday 21 October 5.00pm and 7.30pm
My Mother's Wedding (15)
Heartfelt and funny, the film follows three sisters who return to their childhood home for a momentous weekend: the third wedding of their twice-widowed mother, Diana Frost (Kristin Scott Thomas). The three daughters are from vastly different walks of life: Katherine (Scarlett Johansson) is a Captain in the Royal Navy; Victoria (Sienna Miller) is a Hollywood star; and Georgina (Emily Beecham) is a hospice nurse. Over the weekend, the family gathers to celebrate the new marriage, but mother and daughters alike are forced to revisit the past and confront the future, all with help from a colourful group of unexpected wedding guests.

Friday 6 November 7.30pm
The Love That Remains(15)
Anna, an artist, and Magnús, a fisherman, live with their three children and charismatic sheepdog in the quiet grandeur of the Icelandic countryside. As the fractures in their marriage come to the surface, the couple try to hold onto the afterimages of a life together and make sense of a deep and lingering devotion. Filmmaker Hlynur Pálmason brings surprising humour and emotional weight to this gorgeous, intimate, and brilliantly expansive scenes from a marriage, amidst the majestic backdrop of the changing seasons. [In Icelandic, French and English with English subtitles]

Wednesday 11 November 4.45pm and 7.30pm
Tuner (15)
Leo Woodall stars as a gifted young piano tuner whose heightened sense of hearing draws the attention of criminals, who see his talents as useful for opening safes as well as for tuning Steinways. With his once-promising musical career over, he works across New York with his mentor Harry Horowitz (Academy Award-winner Dustin Hoffman), encountering a range of characters, including composition student Ruthie, with whom he forges an unexpected connection. Niki's safecracking work threatens his budding romance with Ruthie and pulls him into increasingly dangerous territory. Blending romance, drama, and the taut suspense of a heist thriller.

Showing at Stockbridge Town Hall SO20 6HE. Tickets £6.00 on sale online via www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk or by free telephone call to TicketSource 0333 666 3366. Please visit our website for full details of all films.

Advance Notice of Christmas Services at St Andrew's



CHRISTINGLE
Dec 13th at 11am
CAROL SERVICE
Dec 20th at 3pm with mulled wine and mince pies to follow.
CHRISTMAS DAY EUCHARIST
Dec 25th at 11am

Caterpillars Playgroup



Come along to our friendly playgroup @ Lockerley Primary School for children from birth to 5 years old - Every Tuesday during term time 9:45am to 10:45am - £2.00 per session (pay as you go)
Sessions are led by a qualified Early Years Practitioner and include a variety of engaging activities each week, including toys, songs, stories, crafts and plenty of opportunities for children to play, learn and make new friends.
We also have baby-weighing scales available for parents and carers to use.
No need to book. Just come along and join in the fun! Refreshments are provided.

From the Rector – October Reflections

Dear Friends,

October is a month that seems to catch us slightly by surprise. One minute we are enjoying the last golden days of September and reminiscing about the scorching heatwaves we had, and the next we are reaching for a jumper, wondering where on earth we put the umbrella, and discovering that it is dark by teatime!

Here in our villages, the changing season is particularly beautiful. The hedgerows begin to turn golden and red, the fields take on their autumn colours, and there is something wonderfully satisfying about the sight of a tractor bringing in the last of the harvest. Even the trees seem to be putting on their best display before winter arrives.

Autumn has a way of reminding us that change is a natural part of life. We can sometimes resist change - particularly when it involves things we rather like! But there is something reassuring in the rhythm of the seasons. Summer gives way to autumn, autumn to winter, and eventually spring comes round again. We don't have to make it happen; we simply live through it.

Perhaps there is a lesson here for us. Life doesn't always go according to our carefully planned timetable. There are times of growth and times of letting go, times when everything feels full of energy and times when we need to slow down. Faith can give us the confidence that, even when we cannot see what lies ahead, we are not travelling alone.

October also brings us Harvest Thanksgiving, when we have the opportunity to pause and give thanks for the food we enjoy, for those who grow and produce it, and for the many people whose work often goes unnoticed. It is good to be reminded that much of what sustains us is received rather than achieved.

And perhaps October is a good month simply to notice things: the crispness of a morning, the sound of leaves underfoot, a friendly conversation, or a cup of tea that is actually still hot when you finally get to drink it!

As we move into the darker evenings, may we remember to look for the light - in our homes, in our communities, and in the kindness we show to one another.

With every blessing, Revd Joe

October & November 2026 Church Services

	Mottisfont	Broughton	Houghton	Bossington
4th Oct Trinity 18	6pm Evensong	9.30am Parish Eucharist		
11th Oct Trinity 19	11.00am Morning Worship	11.0am Parish Eucharist 2.30pm Baptism	6pm Evensong	
18th Oct Trinity 20 Or Luke				9:30 BCP Parish Eucharist
25th Oct Last Sunday after Trinity	11.00am Parish Eucharist	8.00 Holy Communion 11.00 Family service	9.30am Parish Eucharist	6pm Meditation
1st Nov All Saints		9.30am Parish Eucharist		
2nd Nov All Souls			7:30pm All Souls Service	
8th Nov Remembrance Sunday 3 before Advent	10:50am Remembrance service	10.45am Remembrance service	10am Remembrance service – 10.50am Act of remembrance at the war memorial	
15th Nov 2nd Before Advent				9:30 BCP Parish Eucharist
22nd Nov Christ the King	11.00am Parish Eucharist	8.00 Holy Communion 11.00 Family service	9.30am Parish Eucharist	
29th November Advent Sunday	10.00am Benefice Service			

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.