

**APRIL 2024**

**BENTWORTH, LASHAM, AND SHALDEN PARISH MAGAZINE**

**St. Mary's Bentworth; St. Mary's Lasham;  
St. Peter and St. Paul Shalden**

Dear Friends

This is the first time I write a piece for The Villager and it is my privilege to do so. As many of you will know pastoral re-organisation has now taken place and the new ecclesiastical parish of Bentworth, Lasham & Shalden comes into place from 1st April and I become the Vicar alongside my existing responsibility as Vicar of The Parish of the Resurrection in Alton. It has been a reasonably long period of legal process since Revd Ed Pruen retired. This is not the place to go into the details of how the new parish will work but please be assured that it will, and we have been working successfully together through the process of the last couple of years. Medstead now forms a new benefice with Four Marks and Revd Howard Wright becomes Vicar.

It hasn't escaped my notice that the new parish comes into effect straight after Easter. Easter is a season of new hope, new future and new life. Jesus Christ crucified and then risen gives us reason to have all the expectation and anticipation that "all things are possible with God". Please pray that we will have eyes to see, ears to hear and hearts open to transformation to all that lies ahead of us in this new era for the church in our villages. The bewildered disciples of Good Friday find themselves filled with joy and thanksgiving on Easter Sunday. May it be the same for us again this year.

I rather like this story.

Once upon a time there was a bunch of tiny frogs.... who arranged a climbing competition.

The goal was to reach the top of a very high tower. And so a big crowd gathered around the tower to see the race and cheer on all the contestants.

The race began but quite honestly no one in the crowd really believed that such tiny frogs would reach the top of the tower. They were saying, "It's way too difficult, they will never make it to the top," and "Not a chance that they will succeed. The tower is too high!"

The tiny frogs began collapsing - one by one except for those who were a bit stronger and kept climbing higher and higher. The crowd continued to yell, "It is too difficult! No one will make it!" More tiny frogs got tired and gave up. But one continued higher and higher and higher long after all of the others had given up and dropped back down to the bottom and he, after a big effort, actually made it to the top.

All of the other tiny frogs naturally wanted to know how this one frog managed to do it. One contestant asked the tiny frog how he had found the strength to succeed and reach his goal! But he didn't hear him, and he shouted the question again but he still didn't hear, so he shouted at the top of his voice, which was really loud for such a tiny frog. But he still couldn't hear him, he was deaf!

How much more could we do if we, like the frog, turned a deaf ear to all those who say we can't and it's impossible?

It has resonances with the Easter story which we will celebrate in our

churches. Surely people were saying that man can't really do that. Many people thought it impossible that this man could promise so much and actually fulfill it. It was obvious really that once he was dead he would stay dead. It can't be true that he has promised eternity to the man on the cross next to him. It's impossible that Jesus really came alive again, it must be.

The Easter story of Jesus' death and resurrection means we have to turn a deaf ear to all the doubt and the doubters. I encourage you to turn away from all those who say this is too difficult to get our heads around. And new and seemingly impossible things are suddenly and certainly possible.

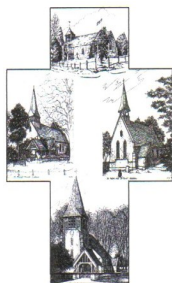
Please join us as we celebrate the fact that Jesus did indeed rise from the dead and he did indeed prove that in him all things really are possible. Join us to hear and respond to this amazing Good News again and look forward to all that God has in store for us in the Parish of Bentworth, Lasham & Shalden.

Revd Canon Andrew Mickelfield

## THE VILLAGER

the editor

Please send copy for the **May** Magazine to the Editor or your Village Correspondent **by 12 noon on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April** .



Did you notice the changed cover? On 1st March Medstead left our Benefice and joined Four Marks, so we sadly say goodbye to them. However – all the club and event information will still be in the magazine, just in different places. We will also publish their service schedule, for those who like to go there. The information on the inside back cover has also changed as from 1st April Bentworth, Lasham and Shalden will be one Parish, with one PCC. Isn't change wonderful!!

**Donations:** Thank you to Mary Hart, Shalden, for her gift this month, as always much appreciated.

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# PERSONAL LETTER OF THANKS.

9<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Friends,

For the last few years, Revd. Ingrid and I have had the task of writing the monthly Pastoral Letter for the Villager Magazine.

Now that the Pastoral Reorganisation is upon us, as of 1st April 2024, the Benefice of Bentworth, Lasham, Medstead and Shalden (BLMS) ceases to exist and in its place are two new Parishes: Bentworth, Lasham and Shalden; and Medstead and Four Marks.

Along with new Parishes come “new” Vicars, or rather existing Vicars taking on additional pastoral responsibilities. They will now take on the task of providing the Pastoral Letters.

It has been an enormous privilege, and we are grateful not only for the opportunity of writing the letters each month but also the generous feedback we have received. Thank you for taking the time to read our letters and also for the individual feedback of how they have been of help. God has been good in this branch of our Ministry.

There is a second reason for writing this personal letter of thanks: Ingrid’s Accident.

I expect many of you will by now have heard what has befallen Ingrid. For those who haven’t yet heard, on Thursday 29th February, we were about to set off to the Lenten talk by our new Bishop Philip when Ingrid tripped and landed face down on our tarmac drive.

The Ambulance rushed her to Southampton General Hospital where she was admitted to the Wessex Spinal Unit. Tests have shown there are no broken bones, but she did sustain a significant spinal injury (in layman’s terms, I liken it to a very severe whiplash type injury) which has severely curtailed her mobility. Sadly, it is inaccessible to surgery.

Subsequently I have been showered with many messages of shock, yes, but also of love, prayer, best wishes, offers of help and more. I have passed these messages onto Ingrid in my daily visits to Southampton.

I am therefore taking this public opportunity to say an enormous THANK YOU to all of you who have and continue to support us at this difficult time. I have tried to answer individual calls, emails and messages but if the odd one has slipped through, I am sorry.

Ingrid and I are hugely grateful for the love, prayer and practical support we have and continue to receive.

We have no idea how the future will unfold. I am told she is in very good medical hands. She may get transferred to a specialist rehabilitation unit. It will be a long-term recovery journey.

She is of course in God’s hands and is well supported by your prayers.

Thank you again and may God bless you all.

Revd. Peter Owen-Jones.

Medstead

[peter@ipoj.co.uk](mailto:peter@ipoj.co.uk)

01420 446467



**THE PARISH OF  
BENTWORTH, LASHAM & SHALDEN**

**INVITE YOU TO THE FIRST  
SPECIAL PARISH MEETING  
TO APPOINT THE NEW PCC**

**ON MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AT 6 PM  
IN SHALDEN VILLAGE HALL**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**CELEBRATE WITH US AT THE LAUNCH  
MEETING FOR YOUR NEW PARISH**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### MARCH

To 30 Penny Peters beautiful exhibition of work by this local quilter

27 Shalden Parish Council meeting

29 Alton Choral Society Good Friday Music Methodist Church 6pm

### 29 – 31 EASTER

### APRIL

2 AOS: Organ Recital Gerard Brooks St Lawrence Church 7.30 for 8pm

2 Medstead Gardeners' Club: Nick Bailey *Revive your garden* see info on Page 23

3 Roedowns WI: Maggie Cole-*Watercolour art* Wiltshire Room Medstead Village Hall

4 Library: Easter with Thomas the Tank Engine for 4 – 8year olds Page 28

### 5 Villager deadline for May magazine by noon please

6 St Andrew's Medstead Jumble Sale Church Hall 1.30-3.30pm Page 29

8 Lasham Coffee Morning: Station House with Sandra and Tony Knight

9 ASA: Tyler Butterworth *A bit of a Carry On* Alton College 7.30pm Page 22

11 Medstead WI: Jackie Dimmock -Hampshire Police in Mini Quilts 2 Page 23 & 34

11 Allen Gallery Talk: Barrie Lees - George Wither, Bentworth poet - a loveable idiot?

12 Medstead Players: *Meet the Neighbours* Medstead Village Hall Page 30

13 Medstead Players: *Meet the Neighbours* with supper 7pm Page 23

13 Alton Farmers' Market High Street 10 - 2pm

15 Special Parish meeting to appoint new PCC Shalden Village Hall 6pm Page 4

16 Bentworth Garden Club: Antony Powell *The Scented Garden* 7 for 7.30pm

17 ANHC: Field Meeting – Hollow lanes of Selborne 10.30 -1pm Page 21

18 Cardiac Rehab: Bridge Afternoon Beech Village Hall 2-5pm Page 18

18 ACAN *Alton Sustainable Eating* Community Centre 7.30pm Page 31

22 Library: start of course on Watercolour painting Page 32

27 ANHC: Field Meeting – Pamber Forest for botany 10 – 1pm Page 21

27 Alton Choral Society: St Andrew's Medstead Music Recital 6pm Page 33

27 Bentworth Cricket Club: Annual Quiz Bentworth Village Hall 7 for 7.30pm Page 9

### MAY

1 Roedowns WI: AGM and supper

9 Medstead WI: Annual Meeting

### 10 Villager deadline for June magazine by noon please

12 Cardiac Rehab: Open garden 3 Timber Croft Close, Four Marks 2–5pm Page 18

13 Lasham Coffee Morning: Avenue Farm with Anthea and Michael Del Mar

14 ASA: Vivienne Lawes *What have the Huguenots ever done for us?* Page 22

18 Medstead Plant Sale Village Hall 10.30 -12 Page 33

# BENTWORTH

## BENTWORTH CARE GROUP

Jackie Cleveland

The Care Group members on duty for medical appointments in April are:

Melanie Day 07412 938 583

Sarah Gore-Brown 563122 / 07713 147 012

Jackie Crawford 561281

We are also happy to do shopping and pick up prescriptions for those unable to do so themselves.

## THE MUCK IN COFFEE MORNING

Monday morning at Parsonage Farm barn is the place to be!

!0.30 – 11.30am see how many folk come!



Just £1 per person for coffee, tea and as many biscuits as you like!!!



Even though it's only a £1, we make a profit, so another charity donation has been made. This time the one voted for, and chosen, was the RNLI, who have been sent £100.

## WELCOME TO BENTWORTH

'Fred' Moir

The family that have moved into Farm Cottage are India and Charles MoreNisbett, together with baby Elizabeth. They have come from London, in order to enjoy the countryside around us here.

We hope that they will enjoy all the benefits of living in Bentworth.

## THE COMMUNITY HUB AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Mervyn Dunwoody

Last month, I talked about the work inside the church, where the first phase of clearing the rear of the church and making the new sliding door into the Belfry has been completed. This area will now be paused for a few weeks. The contractor and Architect have confirmed the actual measurements on site which has allowed the new under floor heating pipes to be ordered. These will be delivered after Easter in a number of pre-fabricated sections, on top of which the new floor will be laid.

Despite the wet weather, the works outside have also started and the 10 piles to support the new building have been installed founding in the good chalk about 3 metres below ground level. The picture below shows the reinforcement cage being installed by two men with the piling machine beyond them. To minimise vibration, a continuous flight auger is used (the spiral object in the background and on the ground in front of the mini digger).

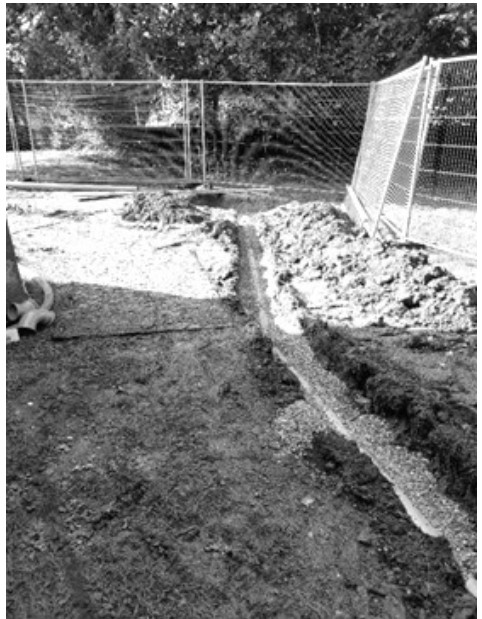


Archaeologist present.

The drains and piling complete the under- ground work. The next job will be the construction of the concrete base slab.

We have also received confirmation from the Garfield Weston Foundation that they will financially support the project. This great news brings us within £10,000 of our target.

Again, very many thanks to all who have contributed so far. Now that building works are progressing rapidly, we need a final effort to complete the project funding and make The Hub available to the village in the late Spring. The current state of funding is shown on the thermometer on the Village Green. If you are in a position to make a donation or to sponsor one of the new chairs in the Hub area at the rear of the church, please contact us on the project Email:- [Bentworthextension@yahoo.com](mailto:Bentworthextension@yahoo.com)





## SCARECROW COMPETITION

Jenny Lewis

In this month's magazine, if you live in Bentworth, you should have a form for your Scarecrow entry.

If you don't please contact Jenny on  
scarecrowsofbentworth24@gmail.com  
or phone 07831 452 014

## BENTWORTH FETE

The Bentworth Fete Committee

The Bentworth Fête is back this year on **Saturday 6th July**, and we're delighted to say it will be opened by former sub-postmaster turned campaigner Jo Hamilton - whose story of determination and fortitude was brought to life by Monica Dolan in ITV drama *Mr Bates vs The Post Office*.

Our fête's focus this year is on community and Jo embodies this principle, so it's brilliant that she has agreed to be our special guest.

As usual, the fête will be at Bentworth's St. Mary's School and will have something for everyone - including art displays, a dog show and dog races, face-painting, gardening and craft stands, family games, traditional stalls, the RDA, raffle, tombolas, food, and beer and Pimms tents. Proceeds will go to local causes that benefit the community, including the school.

We still have a few stalls left that need overseeing on the day, (including Water Bombs, Crockery Smashing and Coconut Shy), so please let Charlie Phillips know on: cp1@btinternet.com, or contact us via the Bentworth WhatsApp or Facebook group, if you'd like to step up to the volunteering oche and help run one. If you can only spare an hour or two you can sign up on a rota basis - it's a great way to get to know more Bentworthians if you're new to the area.

Thanks to all who've volunteered so far, and those who've come along to our very well-attended monthly fête planning meetings at The Sun.

Whatever the weather (though we're hoping for sunshine) Saturday 6th July is set to be a fun day celebrating beautiful Bentworth, so put the date in your diary!

## BENTWORTH GARDEN CLUB

Maryanne McEvoy

Hello Villagers

Our speaker for April is Antony Powell. He is highly qualified in horticulture and has worked at many local nurseries. His topic will be 'The Scented Garden'.

Please join us on **Tuesday 16th April 7pm for 7.30** start.

It should be a 'scentsational' evening.

Also please remember that we have the Bentworth plant sale coming up in May so while you are busy on your plot or greenhouse please pot up a few plants for us. Without your help we wouldn't be able to fill our tables with gardening goodies, annuals, perennials, veg plants, houseplants ~we look forward to your offerings.

Happy gardening







## Bentworth Cricket Club

**Richard Hill**

Bentworth Cricket Club is holding its devilishly entertaining **annual quiz** evening at Bentworth Village Hall on **Saturday 27th April**, doors open at 7pm for a 730pm start. We are looking for tables of 6 players at a cost of £15 per head including a choice of hot suppers of either pheasant curry or chilli con carne. BYO drinks. The winners will be able to hoist the Brick of Knowledge proudly above their heads as well as enjoy a more practical bottle of wine for each player.

There will be a Heads and Tails competition to start the evening so if players can bring a £1 coin for the game and we leave you to decide what you want to contribute to join the game. There will also be a raffle with a selection of excellent prizes.



All proceeds will be used on the maintenance costs of our beautiful cricket ground.

Contact Richard Hill ([rich101264@gmail.com](mailto:rich101264@gmail.com)) or

Ken Thomas ([kenthomas899@gmail.com](mailto:kenthomas899@gmail.com)) to register your teams.



## Bentworth Cricket Club

Bentworth CC is looking for new cricketers to join the club for the 2024 season. Matches are played on Saturday afternoons in the lower echelons of a relaxed Hampshire league. Followed of course by celebratory or commiseration drinks in our second home, The Sun pub, afterwards. A friendly team where we aim to ensure everyone gets a game and playing at our delightful home ground on Holt End Lane.

Winter nets will be held at Dummer cricket centre.

Please contact: Richard Hill (07887821326), Nick Gay (+44 7743 334514)

or Ken Thomas (+44 7769 947033) to register interest or with any questions

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## LASHAM

### SENIORS LUNCH

A very happy and much appreciated lunch was held at Avenue Nurseries for the 65year old + villagers, thanks to the generosity of the Village Committee.

Peter and Jean produced again a delicious lunch for us all and it was lovely to have lively, interesting, relaxed conversations with our neighbours.

Very good fun was had by all, a big thank you to all concerned.



# LASHAM COFFEE MORNING

Anthea Del Mar

It was great to have Joe and Lynn with us and to do a little early celebrating of Joe's 80th birthday. Can he really be 80?



Caroline and Maurice compared notes on their various injured limbs.



Charlie and Maggie from Alton. It was so lovely to have them with us.

Maurice and Antonia were their usual hospitable selves and Antonia produced brownies, of course.



Everybody enjoyed lots of chat and the glorious views across the fields.

Another happy morning.



The next coffee morning dates are a bit more random because of the various Bank Holidays to come.

**April 8th** at Station House with Sandra and Tony Knight.

**May 13th** at Avenue Farm with Anthea and Michael Del Mar.

\* \* \*

## SHALDEN

### THE ARCHDEACON VISITS SHALDEN CHURCH

**Peter Rankin**

Archdeacon Richard Brand presided and preached at our Communion Service on Sunday 3rd March on a chilly but bright morning. He was made very welcome and after the service was able to stay for coffee, cake and a catch up with our congregation.



### ST PETER & ST PAUL GUILD OF MARTHA

**Kirsty Ennever**

#### April

- 6 Jane Shirvell / Lin Baxter
- 13 Sarah Floyd / Karen Saponaro
- 20 Michele Rankin / Kirsty Ennever
- 27 Rozanne Wilson / Rosalind Ommanney

#### May

- 4 Jane Shirvell / Lin Baxter
- 11 Sarah Floyd / Karen Saponaro
- 18 Michele Rankin / Kirsty Ennever
- 25 Rozanne Wilson / Rosalind Ommanney

The “Who’s Who” of Parish Councillors continues with an introduction from one of the members elected in May last year:

"I am Luke Howard Taylor and have lived in Shalden since 2016. We took over a small farm with a plan to grow hops for local breweries and maybe produce our own beer eventually. It is likely that in medieval times the Manor would have had a brew house when our water supply was not as fresh as today. Maybe Shalden Pale Ale will return after a brief batch was brewed in secret in 2018.

I am now self employed as an investor and enjoy gardening, old cars and antiquarian studies when not looking after my young family. I also find time be Footpath Officer which principally involves escalation of matters not already very well covered by our Clerk and Warden. I like walking our extensive paths and especially to the Church or a local Pub.

I am interested in town planning and the future development of Alton as well it's historic importance as a brewery town. I hope that being a councillor will allow me to learn more about the history of Shalden and contribute in some small way to it's future."

Since joining the Parish Council, Luke and the other Councillors have been working hard to develop good working relationships with other parish organisations. On joining the Parish Council last May, Cllr Ben Jones, took on the liaison role with the Village Hall Committee and notes the hard work of the group in preparing the Hall for a busy year: there was been a structural upgrade, a new cooker and new fencing installed. The Committee have also secured funding to improve acoustics at the Hall for all users and have been working on ensuring best value for the service contracts.

The Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for **7pm on Wednesday 1st May** with both County Councillor Kemp-Gee and District Councillor Costigan scheduled to attend. The meeting is for all electors of the Parish and provides a chance for suggestions and comments, on matters pertinent to the residents, to be raised. We look forward to seeing you there.

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## **COMMUNITY INFORMATION**

### **EAST MEON BEES AND THE ASIAN HORNET**

**Jean Frost**

#### **– why should you care?**

You may have heard about Asian Hornets in the news recently, as last year the UK has suffered its biggest incursion to date of this non-native species. We have gone from just a single nest in 2016 to 72 nests in 2023.

#### **Why should any of us care, though?**

Whilst the Asian Hornet does not pose any more danger to people than our native European Hornet, it is a prolific hunter of insects – eating ALL pollinators – but especially a threat to honeybees. Honeybees are conveniently housed in hives by us humans and this has made their colonies something of an Asian Hornet’s equivalent to a MacDonalds drive-thru.

France was particularly badly hit last year, and the fear is that the hornets are homing in on the UK to take up permanent residence next. Number-crunchers have estimated that the economic impact of the loss of bee colonies in France could amount to €30.8 million per year and other estimated losses throughout Europe are huge.

For all you keen gardeners, walkers, tree surgeons ... it is worth knowing that Asian Hornets are much more aggressive than our native European Hornet if you get too close to their nest. Beekeepers who have been to talks by the experts have heard first-hand witness to an Asian Hornet attack and they say it is not something that they would want repeated ...

### **So, what is being done and what can you do to help?**

A public awareness campaign has been initiated by DEFRA, the NNS (Non-Native Species Secretariat), APHA (Animal & Plant Health Agency) and NBU (National Bee Unit). Among them, these departments aim to make as many people and organisations as possible aware of this species, to both help control its spread and to protect employees and the public.

Beekeepers across the nation – and across Europe – are uniting to try and stop the spread. It is an uphill battle, and we need as many eyes as possible to help us! Research by experienced insect geneticists is revealing that just one queen introduced to France in 2004 may be responsible for the spread of the entire invasion we have now. But when a nest is spotted and destroyed, the rate of proliferation is considerably slowed.

Most beekeeping associations will have a team of volunteers to help raise awareness, assist the NBU and monitor sightings, etc.

If you think you spot an Asian Hornet, try to take a photo and note exactly where you are.

Download the Asian Hornet Watch App on your phone and report your sighting, using the photo you took. 'Or if you prefer you can send a photo via: [www.bit.ly/asianhornetreport](http://www.bit.ly/asianhornetreport).

The photo will be automatically sent to the NBU and inspectors will come to the site as soon as possible. Please do not attempt to catch or kill the hornet. It is essential that it can be traced back to its nest and for the nest to be destroyed. licensed staff from APHA and the NBU take over to track down and destroy the nest. It is illegal for non-licensed organisations to do this.

We are grateful for all the help you can give to keep this invasive insect out of our area, keep all our pollinators safe and let the honey flow from our busy bees! Thank you in advance.

There is further information about Asian Hornets on the British Beekeepers Association website <https://www.bbka.org.uk/Listing/Category/asian-hornet-vespa-velutina>



\* \* \*

## GENERAL INTEREST

### WILD LIFE

Diana Tennyson

**Verges:** In the Spring our verges literally spring to life with primroses, buttercups, cowslips, daffodils, anemones and other important plants for



pollinators. Most of the verges in our villages are owned by Highways and we have no right to cut them or keep them tidy. Road verges of ecological importance are marked with a white post and telephone number for HCC.

All trees on our verges are therefore also owned by Highways who will deal with cutting or pruning them back. We are not permitted to deal with this ourselves. Last year local tree wardens took part in 'observatree' walks to help identify any trees affected by pests or diseases and we reported any trees of concern to Forest Research based at Alice Holt near Farnham. Chalara Ash Dieback was one of the diseases we covered.

**Symptoms of Ash Dieback:** Symptoms are not obvious on young trees, saplings and re-growth. The first signs to appear after infection are small necrotic spots on the leaves caused by airborne spores. These 'expand into lesions which develop on the bark of branches and stems of affected trees. The colour varies from dark to light brown and can have a purple hue'. They penetrate deeply, killing the bark tissue and staining the wood to a darker brown. Lesions can eventually form a girdle around a tree stem or branches which prevents nutrients reaching its branches and leaves, so clumps of leaves tend to wilt, wither away and eventually die, but very often remain hanging on the tree.

As a large number of Ash trees are now affected Councils are identifying the problem and making arrangements to fell any affected trees. If you are concerned about any particular tree you are welcome to take pictures and contact the Forestry Commission (Website: [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestresearch](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestresearch)).

**Big Garden Birdwatch:** The RSPB contacts everyone on their mailing list to remind us to record numbers of garden birds every January. Hopefully you will have seen Blackbirds, Blue Tits, Coal Tits, Great Tits, Chaffinch, Collared Doves, Dunnocks, Goldfinch, Greenfinch, House Sparrows, Long-tailed Tits, Magpies, Robins, Starlings and many Woodpigeons. Starlings have dramatically decreased in number by 82 per cent since 1979. However the Long-tailed Tit has increased over the last ten years. You may have also seen the Red Kit, Sparrowhawk and Buzzard, and some of these birds appear at our recreation grounds as well as in our gardens.

Other wild birds we might spot are the Waxwing, noted as fairly prominent on the *Winterwatch* programme this year. This bird is distinctive with its grey plumage and extraordinary crest. It gets its name from 14 the waxy tips coating some of its wing

feathers. The Waxwing is fond of Rowan, Hawthorn and Cotoneaster berries and likely to be seen in the south east, in gardens and orchards, as well as in hedges in supermarket car parks.

We may also see the Redwing, distinctive with red patches on the underside of each wing. These birds belong to the Thrush family but are smaller than Fieldfares. They can be seen along hedgerows, in open fields and sometimes in country gardens.

The Brambling is a beautifully marked bird, but very often the male's bright colours have faded by the time it arrives in the UK. It is similar in size to the Chaffinch, but slightly smaller. If you put out sunflower hearts in your bird feeders, you are likely to see both birds during winter months. (See below for information on the oldest wild bird thought to be in existence!)

Survey results will be announced on the RSPB website in April, 2024. Do contact the RSPB if you would like to become a member, or if you would like to purchase bird food and feeders.

**Gilbert White's House Museum (GWHM):** I cannot count the number of interesting talks I have attended at this Museum, but I have been visiting for many years and over the last five years, I have enjoyed organising art competitions for school children on various wildlife subjects. The winning entries have always been displayed here as well as at the Allen Gallery, Alton, The Phoenix gallery, Bordon, and at the Alton Climate Change yearly events in Alton. Various events are planned here throughout the year. In particular to mark the 100th Anniversary of Herbert Ponting's film, the *Great White Silence*, the Museum will be putting on a display in the Discovery Room celebrating Ponting's life and work.

**Oates' Collections:** The Museum hosts the 'Oates' collections, both Captain Lawrence Oates, the brave Antarctic hero, and his uncle, Frank Oates, who explored Africa and in particular noted the magnificence of the Victoria Falls. Captain Lawrence Oates is remembered for being chosen to be part of Captain Robert Scott's team to undertake an epic journey to the South Pole in 1911/12. There is a picture of Oates with the ponies he cared for *en route* to Antarctica at the Museum. This was a scientific exhibition, but became a 'race to the pole' when the explorers learnt of a Norwegian team led by Amundsen. Sadly, Scott's team suffered from inadequate supplies of food, and in severe weather conditions Oates sacrificed himself in the hope of saving his comrades.

**Anniversary of the Exhibition:** However, GWHM is probably one of the most interesting museums in Hampshire, partly because it was Gilbert White's home, and also attractive during the winter months for families with school-age children. Marking the anniversary of the Scott Antarctic Expedition and death of Captain Lawrence Oates, the gallery was redesigned using funds from the Heritage Lottery, and many other generous gifts and donations. The new galleries also tell the story of his early life and distinguished service in the Boer war. The scientific importance and legacy of the Scott expedition reflects almost all climate change science which originates from the work done by Scott's team.

**Albatrosses:** On display are various penguin species which are interesting because these fascinating birds are also threatened by climate change, but if you want to see penguins contact Birdworld near Farnham. At GWHM you will find a huge stuffed Albatross hanging from the ceiling. The bird had died from natural causes, and was brought to GWHM to exhibit and illustrate the size and wingspan - almost ten feet - of this extraordinary bird. They are able to lock their wings to remain outstretched even while sleeping, enabling them to stay aloft and cover vast distances over open water to reach their favourite food, squid. They breed only once a year and produce only one egg, so vitally important their own chick survives. The parents are pelagic birds as they take turns flying out over the water to bring 15 back food, sometimes leaving the chick for

up to a week while they go hunting.

The challenges facing Albatrosses are enormous, they are vulnerable to rising seas destroying their eggs as well as plastic and other marine debris which can harm their chicks. **'Wisdom'** is a 67 year old Laysan Albatross who, at the time of filming, was about to become a mother again. She was banded in 1956, and although she spends most of her time gliding over the Pacific, she returns every year to the Midway Atoll to raise another family - one egg which, all being well, hatches every spring. Wisdom is now the oldest known wild bird in existence.

**Rainfall:** February, 2023, was the eighth driest month since 1993. We had an average of only 15.3mm of rainfall recorded during the third and final month of the winter season, so a shortfall of approximately 45 per cent of the UK's normal rainfall. However, this February, 2024, the reverse is true, as it has been one of the wettest months on record. It is currently in the top ten for rainfall and up to Sunday, 25 February, 96.6mm of rain had fallen at the University of Reading which makes it the eighth wettest February since records began in 1908. The University of Reading says it is also set to be the warmest on record!

Personally I found it very difficult to keep dry and used two raincoats constantly while out dog walking. On Tuesday, 5th March, we had a day of sunshine and showers, and some spectacular rainbows ensued. Records for rainfall first began in 1659, and the Hadley Centre has a few measurements dating back to 1850, but there are too few for scientists to estimate average temperatures for the planet as a whole.

**Newton Valence (toad patrol):** The stalwart volunteers were out again between February and early March helping toads and other amphibians to the ponds in the village. Unfortunately I was unable to help this year due to knee surgery, but have just heard back and they report helping:- 586 toads, 7 frogs and 4 newts, across the road to the pond where they began life. Sadly there were 43 fatalities. Figures are passed to the Froglife charity for their records and for comparison with other areas.

\* \* \*

## EVENTS

### THE CURTIS MUSEUM AND ALLEN GALLERY

Jill Line

OPENING TIMES Tuesday to Sunday Curtis 10am – 4.30pm. Allen 10.30 – 4pm

[www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum) [www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery)

### ALLEN GALLERY

#### EXHIBITIONS

**Echoes of Iceland** - this group of four professional textile artists presented a most interesting and popular exhibition in 2023. They are returning to the Gallery in April - watch the website for dates.

**Penny Peters** till 30th March.

FREE

A beautiful exhibition of work by this local quilter (Bentworth)

#### TALKS

##### George Wither, Bentworth poet - a loveable idiot?

A talk by **Barrie Lees**. George Wither was born and bred in Bentworth. He had a penchant for upsetting people with his writings, and was jailed 4 times as a result. He also surrendered Farnham Castle to the Royalists without a shot being fired. Truly an interesting subject!

**Thursday 11th April** at 7.30. FREE



## ACTIVITIES

**OUR MAJOR NEW PROGRAMME OF POTTERY WORKSHOPS for young people aged 11-17.** Supported by The Murray Parish Trust, these country-wide workshops are intended to promote positive mental health and provide regular, long-term opportunities for young people in Hampshire to use creativity to build their well-being. The high-quality workshops are delivered by professional artist **Jill Maguire**. **Every Saturday 10.30 - 12.30, until 1st June.** (No session on 6/04).

For more details and booking, please see [www.hampshireculture.org.uk/stepping-stones](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/stepping-stones).

### EASTER for children and families

**Make and Take:** Seasonal pottery session. Join our popular holiday clay adventure where you can make and take home your own seasonal project! Cost: £5. Please pre-book online via the gallery website. **Saturday 6th April, 10.30 -11.15, and 11.30 - 12.15.**

**Easter Trail** round the Gallery and garden from **26th March to 19th April**. Can you find the Easter items hidden in our Gallery collection? Drop in and pick up a trail (There will be a trail round the Museum also.)

### ALLEN GALLERY FILM NIGHT

We will be presenting another movie in May - details tba.

For further information of any of our events please email [allen.gallery@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk](mailto:allen.gallery@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk) or see the website

## CURTIS MUSEUM

### PRE-LOVED DOLLS HOUSE ITEMS NEEDED

The pre-loved dolls house items range is very popular with collectors of all ages at Dolls House Day. With stock now low if you have any pre-loved items relating to dolls houses and would be happy to donate them to The Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery for this year's Dolls House Weekend (27/28 July) please contact Caroline Taylor, [carolineanntaylor@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:carolineanntaylor@hotmail.co.uk).



All profits from the sale of these items will contribute to supporting these venues.



### ALTON ORGAN SOCIETY

**Elsbeth Mackeggie Gurney**

In March we were delighted to welcome Joshua Stephens, sub organist of Winchester Cathedral, who gave his first recital at St Lawrence, Alton. And what a recital, brilliant virtuosic playing throughout was rewarded with a standing ovation from the thrilled audience at the end.

Joshua opened his recital with the flashy & somewhat meandering (his words!) Prelude & Fugue on BACH by Liszt, at the time of composition, an innovative piece, using all three manuals of the organ sometimes in very quick succession. There followed two

pieces by J S Bach; the chorale prelude, "Schmucke dich, O liebe Seele (BWV 654), a contemplative and lyrical piece, written towards the end of Bach's professional life; and the well-known Prelude & Fugue in D major (BWV 532), a younger piece, designed to demonstrate exceptional virtuosity & starting with a stunning pedal scale.

The music then moved into the 20th century. Prelude on East Acklam was composed by Francis Jackson, the founding patron of the Organ Society, and is based on his hymn tune of the same name. It was played on the choir & swell manuals & described by Joshua as an understated piece, understated in a Yorkshire way!

The recital concluded with Durufle's Suite Opus 5, comprising a dark & brooding Prelude, the Sicilienne, a lilting & graceful dance and the dazzling Toccata which is fast & sometimes very fast, a truly blazing piece.

Throughout, the playing was technically outstanding & the choice of registrations brought out the immense colour range of the instrument.

The next recital in the series is to be given by **Gerard Brooks** from Westminster Central Hall whose programme includes works by Elgar, Bach Dubois & Vierne as well as pieces by Corrette & Stanley and concludes with the fabulous Dubois Toccata.

We look forward to welcoming you – the recital starts at 8pm Tickets £10 - more details are available from Tony Willman 01420 543628 or [tony.willman@mac.com](mailto:tony.willman@mac.com)



## CARDIAC REHAB

Events in aid of Alton-based heart charity Cardiac Rehab, which also supports people recovering from cancer, strokes and those awaiting joint surgery.

**Thursday 18th April** – Bridge Afternoon and social tea at Beech Village Hall, GU34 4AQ, 2pm/5pm.

Tables £60/£15 per person.

**Sunday 12th May**, Open garden, new for 2024, at 3 Timber Croft Close, Four Marks, GU34 5BB, between 2pm and 5pm.

Entry £7.50 to include tea and cake, children free.

A spectacular spring flowering garden with an ornamental pond and village views.

For details and to buy tickets see:

[cardiac-rehab.co.uk/events](http://cardiac-rehab.co.uk/events)

## Isobel Bretherton



## ACAN

Alton Climate Action Network is holding an event on sustainable eating on Thursday 18th April from 7.30 – 9.00 pm at Alton Community Centre GU34 1HN, to share tips and practical advice accompanied by a plant-based food tasting session.

It is often thought that plant-based cooking is too difficult, needs lots of weird ingredients and makes it difficult to eat out. This informal event aims to disprove these myths.

All are welcome, but please email [altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com) to register (for catering purposes).

## Jenny Griffiths

# CLUBS

## ALTON



### ALTON CAMERA CLUB

Renee Smith

It's been an exciting month at Alton Camera Club. Our member Wendy Davies' image 'Victorious Festival 2023' has been shortlisted in the Music round of the London Camera Exchange Photographer of the Year competition. Wendy's image will be displayed at the upcoming Photography and Video show at Birmingham's NEC. The results of the competition will be announced on Sunday 17th March.

There was also exciting news for club member, Renee Smith. Her image 'L'Ombrello Rosso' has also been selected for display at the The Photography Show,



this time by SheClicks. SheClicks is the fastest-growing photography community in the UK and is aiming to raise the profile of female photographers. They have recently been awarded the Amateur Photographer Community of the Year Award 2024. We look forward to a day trip to "Brum" to see our images in all their glory!

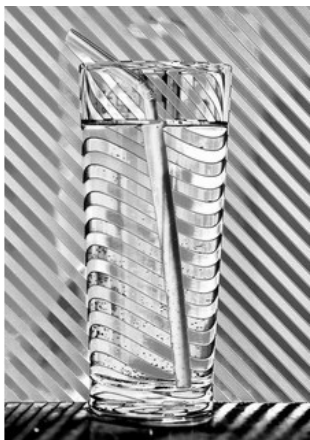
Programme Secretary, Andrew Sorrell, organised a very successful, but chilly, light painting session in the grounds of Hartley Mauditt church. Light painting expert, Michelle

Essenson, came along and gave us hints and tips on how to create interesting images using torches, light wands and the camera's slow shutter speed settings.

Our field trips took us to London for the lively Chinese New Year celebrations. In contrast, our second field trip of the month was a more sedate affair, with a leisurely stroll around Winchester.

Competitions-wise, last month saw the third round of our Print League Competition, with marks of 10 awarded to Tony Cole, Kelvin Perry, Barry Clark, Lynne Harles and David Quick.

We also held the third round of our Print Challenge Competition on the theme of 'Stripes'. Judged by Tim Clarke, he was so impressed with the images on show that he awarded full marks of 10 to ten images. Tim awarded first place to Andrew Sorrell for 'Refraction', second to Tim Higgs for 'Don't Stand on the Stripes' and third place to



Renee Smith for 'Ready for Summer'.

Highly Commended awards went to Katy Matthews, Wendy Davies, Kelvin Perry and Tony Cole.



David Quick *Wing Walker*



Adrian Corser *Winchester (Bookshop)*

Tony Cole

*That Moment of Love and Happiness*

Alton Camera Club, meet weekly, every Wednesday from September to April, 7.30 pm at Holybourne Village Hall, GU34 4HD.

New members are always welcome. Please see [www.altoncameraclub.co.uk](http://www.altoncameraclub.co.uk) for more details and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



**75th anniversary celebrations**

The Annual General Meeting was held on the morning of 2nd March when the reports for the year 2023 were read and this was followed by a celebration of our 75th anniversary at 12.00 noon that was attended by around 40 members and 20 invited guests who were welcomed by the President William Selborne. The Chair, Cathy Wilson, then gave an account of the history of the society which was formed in 1947. She referred to an amusing article in a previous *Annual Report* giving a “fly-on-the-wall” account of her views and experience of going on a society field meeting with her parent in the 1950s when she was about 11. Her father was then the first Chairman of the society.

A buffet lunch was served and guests and members then circulated to view the various exhibitions put on by the society and other natural history organisations. A cake made for the occasion by the Butterfly Cake House in Alton, beautifully decorated with plants and animals was cut by a link with our early years, Julia Couchman (nee West) who was the first Chairman Horace West’s daughter and Erin Hills our youngest and newest member aged 11.



The snail was accurate



enough to identify as the Brown-lipped Snail and it had the eye spots in the correct place at the ends of the tentacles.

**Field meetings in April**

Wednesday 17th April, 10.30-1.00pm Selborne: a 1-2mile walk along the hollow lanes and footpaths of Selborne exploring the geology, plants and local history. Led by June Chatfield, Ian Chisholm and Chris Webb. Contact June Chatfield 01420 82214. Meet in the car park by the Selborne

Arms GU34 3JB SU 7421 3351 at 10.30am

Saturday 27th April, 10.00-1.00pm Pamber Forest for botany. An approximately 2.5 mile walk through woodland with ancient indicator species, areas of coppice, rides, open pasture and heathland. Paths may be muddy. Led by Isobel Girvan 07811 440892. Meet at off-street gravel area in Impstone Road, Pamber Heath, Tadley RG26 3EQ SU 6166 6211



## THE ROTARY CLUB OF ALTON

Roy Roberts

### Lending World-wide

Alton Rotary is a global lender, helping to provide finance to support and expand small businesses in developing countries around the world.

The club works with Lend with Care, which is part of the international charity Care, and has now made a total of 252 micro-loans, as a result helping to create 400 jobs. The lending is done on a crowd-funding basis and repayments of previous loans help to fund further lending.

In the past month Alton Rotary has supported 16 entrepreneurs - the majority female - in a number of countries - in Vietnam, Togo, Cambodia, Pakistan, Malawi, Philippines, Ecuador and Rwanda. The selection of borrowers is made by a group of members who study the borrowers' business plans.

The borrowers have included buffalo and cattle farmers needing to buy extra livestock in Vietnam and Rwanda, and rice and wheat growers in Cambodia and Pakistan needing to buy extra land to expand production.

**Mercy** (pictured), who grows tomatoes in Malawi, will use her loan to buy a greenhouse which will enable her to produce more crops each year.



Also supported have been a women's collective running a cafe in Togo and a cafe proprietor in the Philippines wishing to expand. A school-bag maker in Pakistan and clothing retailers in the Philippines and Ecuador have also been supported, as has a coffee producer in Ecuador.

Of particular interest is a group of wheat and rice growers in Pakistan, whose diesel-powered irrigation well will now be converted to solar power, which will benefit the local environment as well as their business.

The organiser of the club's lending, Roy Roberts, said, "The Lend with Care scheme seems a very practical way to support economic growth in the developing world in a self-sustaining way - as money loaned out is repaid, it can be put to good use again." He added that the scheme is supported by a number of Rotary clubs as well as individuals, contributing a minimum of £15.

Find out more about Alton Rotary at [www.altonrotaryclub.uk](http://www.altonrotaryclub.uk) or call Mike Sanders on 0708 093953.



THE ARTS SOCIETY

**ASA**

**Vanessa MacMahon**

### Forthcoming Lectures:

Tuesday 9th April : Tyler Butterworth *A bit of a Carry On*

The remarkable untold story of Carry On actor Peter Butterworth,

Tuesday 14th May : Vivienne Lawes *What have the Huguenots ever done for us? Mass migration and the Arts in Britain*

The mass migration of the French Huguenot Protestants in the 16th and 17th centuries due to religious persecution, had an impact on the arts, the military and finance sectors. It is estimated...

Both at Alton College at 7:30pm (doors open 6:45pm)

## MEDSTEAD

### MEDSTEAD GARDENERS CLUB

Chris Webb

Spring is coming and its lovely to see the snowdrops, daffs and camellias' coming out in the garden. It's a welcome sight and reminds us that summer follows spring and we hope this year it's better than last year.

Seed planting is well underway and there are many plants being pruned or divided at this time of year. We can take stock now of what we have in the garden and see if anything needs updating, replacing or just that we need a change of direction and opt to put something completely new in the garden.

On Tuesday 2nd April we welcome back Nick Bailey who last came to



talk to us in June 2019. This year he will be talking on the subject of "Revive your garden" which is something we all feel might need doing from time to time!!

#### **Please note T&C's of entry to the meeting**

Guests ticket required - £10 (max 20 guests).

Name of guest will be required.

Pre-registration required by 11/3/24 (No on-night sales or new membership will be available.)

Pre-payment required via BACS only by 11/3/24 (*no refunds unless event cancelled*)

Contact: [treasurer@medsteadgardenersclub.org](mailto:treasurer@medsteadgardenersclub.org)

Members who have paid 2024 subs by 5/3/24 meeting will not require pre-registration/or tickets

Our **Plant Sale is on 18th May** and will be held back in Medstead Village Hall.



There will be lots to choose from (shrubs, perennials, vegetables including the "Great Tomato Sale").

We open at 1030 through until noon. Entrance is 50p and we look forward to welcoming back all you eager bargain hunters out there.

[www.medsteadgardenersclub.org](http://www.medsteadgardenersclub.org)



### THE MEDSTEAD PLAYERS

**Anthony Warnum**

Ted and Carol have just moved house. They have an unhappy history of not getting on with their neighbours. But this time, even though most of their possessions haven't arrived yet, Carol is starting off by inviting the new neighbours round for a meal. How could it possibly go wrong?

The performance is a one act comedy. Tickets include a "posh ploughman's" meal, served from 7.30pm. The performance will commence after the supper, at approximately 8.30pm. There is a licensed bar available. Tickets may be reserved at the Box Office 07709 553 804 or online at [www.medsteadplayers.co.uk](http://www.medsteadplayers.co.uk)

## HAMPSHIRE FEDERATION OF WI - MEDSTEAD

Gill Siddall

On April 11th Medstead WI will be welcoming Jackie Dimmock back for the second part of her excellent talk – Hampshire Police in Mini Quilts. Then on May 9th it's time for the Annual Meeting when the last year is reviewed, the President and committee elected for the coming year and with the 2024/25 programme all in place time to look forward to the year ahead.

Medstead WI always looks forward to new members joining and visitors attending who we hope will want to join. Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 2pm in Medstead Village Hall so come along and enjoy an afternoon of fun and friendship.

## HAMPSHIRE FEDERATION OF WI – ROEDOWNS

Diana Constantine

Our February meeting required some last minute change after our speaker was unable to join us. But being the WI we were not deterred and managed to organise a fun evening playing games, with a little bit of wine to help us along !

Traditional games such as Jenga, Dominoes, and Shove Ha'penny were enjoyed by all and the opportunity to have a chat with each other was a bonus to the evening.

Such a good evening, it's going to be repeated at some point.

### Forthcoming meetings

- 3rd April. Watercolour art with Maggie Cole.
- 1st May. AGM and supper.
- 5th June. Operation Moonlight - Louise Morrish
- 3rd July. Crazy golf at Worldham.

We will be having a stall at Medstead Fete on the 13th July selling books/ second hand items / puzzles. Donations on the day are welcome.

Roedowns WI meet in the Wiltshire Room, Medstead Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 19.30hrs. Guest speakers, outings and good company.

Tea/coffee, biscuits, raffle with gift voucher prize at each meeting.

Visitors and new members are very welcome.

Contact : Secretary on [roedownssec@hampshirewi.org.uk](mailto:roedownssec@hampshirewi.org.uk) or President Jill Kerr 01420 564116.

\* \* \*

## REGULAR FEATURES

Tim Gordon-Jones



Welcome to the first edition of 2024 season. Due to the mild winter, so far, all three colonies have survived and are often flying when the sun comes out and temperatures are above 10 degrees. When there is no sun or the temperature is colder, I've been putting my ear against the hive and giving it a tap. The response is a reassuring buzz. The speed and volume indicating how strong the colony is.

As soon as it gets consistently warmer and the fear of frost has passed, I will turn the mouse guards from the holes to a slot. This will allow more traffic through while keeping the worst of the weather out.

Once I see that the bees are flying every day I will open the hive and inspect the brood chamber. I will be looking for the queen, eggs and brood. I will also look for any sign of poor conditions that will prevent all of the space from being used. The honey supers are clean and ready to go on as soon as the honey flow is on.

Hopefully, this year will be better than last year. I'm looking for an early harvest before the end of May as I'm down to my last 1/2 24 jar.



### – Wildlife Spotting (without politics).

The grey and wet weather continues so just a few notes to quantify how wet. The rainfall total for the 29 days of February was 155.5 mm (6.3 ins) which takes the rolling 12 month to 1284 mm (52ins). The comparative figure to the end of February 2023 was 856.5 mm (34.6 ins) – 50 % wetter - with the really wet months beginning in October 2023. The weather is cyclical and logic suggests that before long wonderful dry and sunny weather will appear for a long spell.

Lambing should start around 14th April which takes place outside so I do hope the weather improves by then – cold and wet conditions do not help lamb survival in the first few hours of life. We have just returned from a week near St Davids in Pembrokeshire

where the weather was dry and sunny apart from one wet night. I was chatting to a couple of the local farmers one of whom was lambing a flock of around 1500 ewes in the fields. His sheep were a cross breed that were very hardy and produced lambs with very little assistance from the shepherd. The lambs were very strong and needed no help with suckling – just started suckling and knew straight away



who was mum. The other advantage of this cross breed is that the ewes do not need shearing – they shed the wool by themselves. The disadvantage is that the hedges, fences and gates have wool blankets where the ewes rub themselves to lose the wool. As shearing costs about £2.50 per ewe and the wool is worth only about 30 pence the self-shearing ewes are a good idea. The downsides (there always are)

- being that the wool looks very untidy blowing around the fields although birds appreciate the nesting material
- the resultant lambs sold for meat are lightweight so worth less – his average about 17 kgs carcase weight whereas the lambs from my ewes would average about 25 kgs.

Farming in that area has arable crop with winter and spring barley grown, wheat and

quite a lot of early potatoes. The livestock enterprises include large dairies, beef cattle and sheep utilising the mild winters and plentiful early season grass. The summers tend to be dry and grass growth slows considerably in those months. The sheep farmer I spoke to aims to sell 1500 lambs before the end of July when the grass growth slows.



Many farms in the area have old barns that are converted to accommodation that are rented by visitors and supplement the income from agriculture.

The Pembrokeshire Coastal Path is about 186 miles long and stretches from Amroth in the South to St Dogmaels and is probably the best part of the Welsh Coastal Path that starts at the Bristol Channel and stretches to Chester. I walk parts of the Pembrokeshire



Path regularly and it is spectacular every time with easier walking sections and some that are quite long with steep climbs. Apart from close to a few beaches the area is very quiet and it is possible to walk for hours without seeing anyone – this may differ in the summer school holiday period. This time the sea life spotted whilst walking included a lot of seals on a walk north of Whitesands Bay with one group of 19 resting on a pebble beach seen



from the cliff above. On a separate walk with Jenny we were walking from St Justinians around the coast towards Porthclais when we stopped for a break looking out to Ramsey Island. I spotted a movement in the water and thought it was a seal but then more splashes picked out the fact that they were dolphins who were feeding in Ramsey Sound as the tide had turned. The dolphins were breaking the surface and then diving again – a wonderful display in warm sunny conditions. I have seen porpoise on previous occasions whilst on boat trips. The porpoise tend to be solitary creatures. The birdlife is magnificent with Puffins, Gannets, Manx Shearwaters, Kittiwakes, Guillemots, Choughs and raptors amongst others which can all be seen from the spring to late summer. Taking a boat trip is exhilarating and allows you to see the nesting colonies at close range.



## HAMPSHIRE FARMERS MARKETS

The vast range of beautiful foodstuff are available throughout the County in  
**Alton Saturday April 13th**

Saturday 6th	Alresford Watercress Line	Sunday 7th	Petersfield
Sunday 7th	Romsey	Sunday 14th	Winchester
Saturday 20th	Emsworth	Sunday 21st	Southsea
Saturday 27th	Ringwood	Sunday 28th	Winchester

*Most markets open 10am until 2pm except Winchester which opens at 9am.*

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - ALTON LIBRARY

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9.30am to 1.30pm	9.30am to 5pm	Closed	9.30am to 5pm	9.30am to 5pm	9.30am to 5pm

**BUS TIMETABLE** run by Cresta Coaches of Alresford (01962 773236) only on Tuesdays and Fridays (NOT Saturdays) - **SERVICE 208**

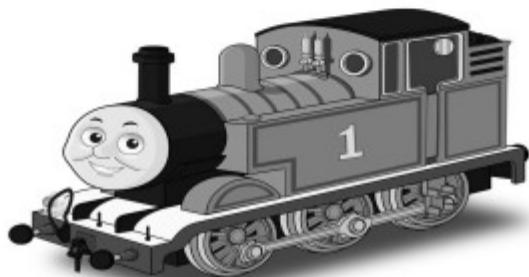
Alton High Street	9.35	11.35	13.35
Beech Well House Road	9.43	11.43	13.43
Medstead War Memorial	9.49	11.49	13.49
Bentworth The Star	9.55	11.55	13.55
Alton High Street	10.09	12.09	

## EVENTS

# Easter with Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends



**Hampshire  
Libraries**



Come and join us for some Easter stories and activities. If you have your own Thomas or any of his friends do bring them along!

**Thursday 4 April, 2pm – 3.30pm**

Suitable for ages 4 – 8 years. Parent/Carers to stay and join in the fun.

For more information, please speak to a Library Team Member.

[www.hants.gov.uk/library](http://www.hants.gov.uk/library)   



**Hampshire**  
County Council

[www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)



# St Andrew's Church



**JUMBLE  
SALE!**



Saturday 6th April from 1.30 - 3.30.

St Andrew's Church Hall.

Items can be delivered from 10am to midday.

**ONLY** new or good quality used goods.

**Please, please NO unsaleable items.**

Enquiries

[medsteadchurchbookings@gmail.com](mailto:medsteadchurchbookings@gmail.com)

07709 553804

# THE MEDSTEAD PLAYERS

present

## MEET THE NEIGHBOURS



A one act Comedy by John Peel

**MEDSTEAD VILLAGE HALL**

**Friday 12th & Saturday 13th April**

**Tickets: £15 including supper**

**Doors open: 7pm Food served: 7.30**

**Box Office: 07709 553 804**

or book online at  
[www.medsteadplayers.co.uk](http://www.medsteadplayers.co.uk)

◆ Licensed Bar ◆ Raffle



by arrangement with Lady Bee Scripts

# **Alton Sustainable Eating**

Healthy Food Healthy Planet

## **Making it work**

**Plant-based cooking is too difficult!  
You need all sorts of weird ingredients.  
You can't eat out.**

**Join us for tips and practical advice  
and an all important food tasting**

**7:30-9pm on Thu 18th April**

**Alton Community Centre, GU34 1HN**

Register at  
[altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:altonclimatenetwork@gmail.com)

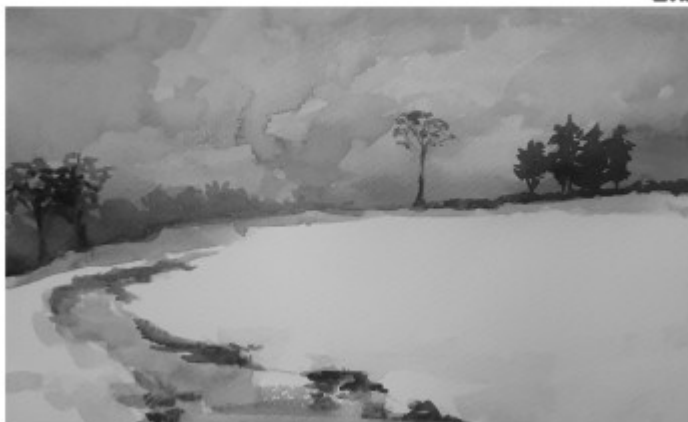




**Participation &  
Lifelong Learning**



**Hampshire  
Libraries**



## **Using Watercolour – Painting the Seasons at Alton Library**

**Monday 22 April – 3 June, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**  
(No session 6 May and 27 May)

FREE tuition, £10 for materials payable directly to the tutor

Booking is essential, please visit <https://shop.hants.gov.uk/collections/library-courses> to book your place. If you have issues booking online please contact branch staff or call 02392 232957



[www.hants.gov.uk/library](http://www.hants.gov.uk/library)   



**Hampshire**  
County Council

[www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)



**St Andrew's Medstead Music Recital  
Saturday 27th April at 6pm**



*Come along and enjoy a mix of well-loved classical and light music, performed by local artists*

*Tickets - £12.50 (concessions for children) include: Finger Buffet and a Glass of Wine or Soft Drinks which will be served in the church hall after the concert.*

*For tickets please contact:*

*Sharon Blackshaw on 01420 563937*

*E-mail: [seblackshaw@gmail.com](mailto:seblackshaw@gmail.com) or*

*Wendy Busby on 01420 564168*

*E-mail: [wendy.busby@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wendy.busby@hotmail.co.uk)*

*Raising money for:*

*The British Red Cross Israel & Occupied Palestinian Territory Appeal,*

*The Gumbi Alton Paradise Project supporting Sustainable Agriculture in Malawi*

*St Andrew's Fabric Fund*



**MEDSTEAD GARDENERS' CLUB  
ANNUAL PLANT SALE  
SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024  
10.30 A.M. to 12 NOON**

**MEDSTEAD VILLAGE HALL**

**Shrubs, perennials, fruit bushes, vegetable plants, herbs and much more**

**Admission: 50p**

For more information visit our website: [www.medsteadgardenersclub.org](http://www.medsteadgardenersclub.org)

Maybe subject to change without prior notice

# MEDSTEAD WI



Would you like the opportunity to relax in a pleasant environment for a couple of hours, listen to a talk on an interesting topic and follow this with tea and a biscuit and a natter with some friendly ladies?

You can do all of this for a £4 guest fee at Medstead WI.

Meetings take place on the second Thursday of the month at Medstead Village Hall.  
Doors open at 1.30pm for a 2.00pm start.

Ladies sometimes tell us that they're not old enough to go to WI meetings but the minimum age is 18, so give it a try. You might enjoy it.

There's no need to book a place, just turn up. We'd love to see you.

[medsteadsec@hampshirewi.org.uk](mailto:medsteadsec@hampshirewi.org.uk)

## Thursday 14th March

2.00 pm

### **Easter Cookery**

Debbie Towlson



## Thursday 11th April

2.00 pm

### **Hampshire Police in Mini Quilts 2**

Jackie Dimmock



## Thursday 9th May

2.00 pm

### **Annual Meeting**



## Thursday 13th June

2.00 pm

### **Tickle Your Tastebuds**





## 2024 PROGRAMME



# ALTON WALKING CHURCH FOR MEN

**Wednesday 28th February** 10.30am meeting at The Flower Pots Inn in Cheriton

**Wednesday 17th April** 6.00pm meeting at The Hen and Chicken in Froyle

**Friday 7th June** 6.00pm meeting at The Hawkley Inn

**Wednesday 10th July** 6pm meeting at the Sun in Bentworth

**Saturday 10th August** 2.30pm meeting at The White Hart in Holybourne with family & friends invited

**Wednesday 18th September** 6.00pm meeting at The Yew Tree in Lower Wild

**Friday 1st November** 10.30am meeting at The Three Horseshoes in East Worldham

**ROBIN KEMP**

familykemp@tiscali.co.uk  
07957 653 403

A gentle 90 minute walk with time to pause and reflect. Refreshments after at the pub  
[www.potr-alton.co.uk](http://www.potr-alton.co.uk)

# SERVICES FOR APRIL 2024

## BENTWORTH LASHAM MEDSTEAD SHALDEN

### 7th April - THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

White

Holy Communion (CW)		10.00a.m.		
Holy Communion (CW)				10.00a.m.
Parish Communion (CW)			11.00a.m.	

### 14th April - THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

White

Holy Communion (BPC)			8.00a.m.	
Holy Communion (CW)	10.00a.m.			

### 21st April – THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

White

Holy Communion (CW)		10.00a.m.		
Parish Communion (CW)			11.00a.m.	
Evensong				6.00p.m.

### 28th April - THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

White

Holy Communion	10.00a.m.			
Cafe Church (in the church hall)			11.00am	

### 5th May - THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

White

Holy Communion (CW)		10.00a.m.		
Holy Communion (CW)				10.00a.m.
Parish Communion (CW)			11.00a.m.	

## POTR Services for April 2024

### 7th April

8am BCP Holy Communion	St Lawrence
10.30am POTR altogether	St Lawrence

### 14th April

9.15am Communion Service	St Peter's
9.30am Communion Service	Holy Rood
10.30am Communion Service	St Lawrence
3pm Afternoon Worship	All Saints

### 21st April

9.30am Communion Service	Holy Rood
10.30am Communion Service	All Saints
10.30am Morning Worship	St Lawrence
4pm Church@4	Parish Centre
6pm Choral Evensong	St Lawrence

### 28th April

9.15am Communion Service	St Peter's
10.30am Communion Service	St Lawrence
4pm Afternoon Worship	Holy Rood
6pm Evening Worship	St Lawrence

### 5th May

8am BCP Holy Communion	St Lawrence
10.30am POTR altogether	St Lawrence

Every Wednesday : Holy Communion  
10am All Saints Church