



The Parish Magazine for

£1

STOCKBRIDGE LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD

November 2023



The Parishes of Stockbridge, Longstock and Leckford in the Mid-Test Benefice

Rector: The Rev'd Philip Bowden

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Website: <http://www.2day.ws/stockbridge>

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Please contact our Rector (see details above)

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St Peter's Stockbridge	St Mary's Longstock	St Nicholas' Leckford
<i>Churchwarden</i>	<i>Churchwarden</i>	<i>Churchwarden</i>
David Williams 811072	Madeleine Hedley 810284	Vacancy
<i>Hon Secretary</i>	<i>Hon Secretary</i>	<i>Hon Secretary</i>
Micki Nadal 810567	Richard Robinson 810388	Micki Nadal 810567
<i>Hon Treasurer</i>	<i>Hon Treasurer</i>	<i>Hon Treasurer</i>
Jean Farnan 07590 532460	Madeleine Hedley 810284	David Barnes 810516
Beavers	Pastoral Visitors	Stockbridge Parish Council
Frances Waghorn 01962 776048	Vacancy	Chair: Derek Halle
Bell ringers (Longstock)	RBL (Houghton branch)	Derek@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Chris Reynell 810569	David Williams (Chair) 811072	Clerk: Belinda Baker 07770 406607
Bell ringers (Stockbridge)	New Secretary to be appointed	clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org
Micki Nadal 810567	Angela McMeekin: Poppies 810236	Stockbridge Pharmacy 810624
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Clr David Drew 357024	Stockbridge Church Flowers Sec	Stockbridge Surgery 810524
mob 07738 289902	Angela McMeekin 810236	<i>Out of hours urgent treatment /advice</i>
Kent Hill Scout Hall	Stockbridge Community Cinema	<i>Hants Doctors On Call freephone 111</i>
Leigh Dance 811074	Paul Kidd 811179	Stockbridge Town Hall
Leckford Parish Council	Stockbridge Community Market	Kim Candler (Chair) 811776
Vacancy	Carol Preston 07925 287870	<i>On-line bookings</i>
Longstock Garden Club	Stockbridge Court Leet	www.stockbridgetownhall.co.uk
Peter Moore 07881 573493	Guy Boney (Lord of the Manor)	or phone 513299
peter.r.moore@gmail.com	810614	Test Valley School
Longstock Parish Council	Diana Tym (Bailiff) 810363	Ms Jo McKeown (Exec. Head) 810555
Chair: Selina Musters 810459	Stockbridge Dramatic Society	Trout 'n About
Clerk: Gill Bulpitt 07763857512	Mark Frank 810562	Bob Powell 01264 810966
Longstock Village Hall	Stockbridge Football Club	TVBC Councillor
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Sue Hill 811779	Email: stockbridgefc@hotmail.com	
Neighbour Care 0845 0943713	Stockbridge Music	
<i>Calls cost 7p/min +network charge.</i>	Karen Malim 07964 194530	

From the Clergy

Hope

In recent weeks several people have tried to engage me in difficult conversations based on world events. The news from the Holy Land has been particularly hard to read and, like most other people, I have been both horrified by the outbreak of violence as well as stunned into silence while questioning how to make sense of it all.

Along with other long running conflicts, injustices and enmities around the world such as those in Ukraine and Yemen, such events can cause us to question why these things occur, or are allowed to happen, and can make us feel helpless. The widespread nature of conflict tells us more about human nature and ourselves than it does about the history, politics and socio-economics of particular parts of the world. There may always be a justification clung to by each side in a conflict; however, the fact that such conflicts arising is a near universal human experience, suggests that it is humanity that is the common feature.

Scripture tells us that God created a world that was good and humanity, the very pinnacle of that creation, is described as being "very good". However, the story of the Fall also explains why we are in need of redemption and are unable to flourish as God intended us to. It is through Jesus Christ that that gracious gift of redemption is offered to us, and it is through his resurrection that we can find reason for hope.

The Rev'd Philip Bowden

Contents

Autumnal Mists and Mellow Fruitfulness	11	Prayer for November	31
Bag to School - update	16	Recipe: Christmas Cake Wreath	23
Barbara North - A Tribute	15	Remembrance - Poppy Appeal 2023	25
Big Band Buffet - Test Valley School	20	Remembrance Commemorations	28
Church News	29-31	Stockbridge at Christmas	27
Church Tapestry Kneelers - British Folk Art	13	Stockbridge Cinema - Special Events	19
Editorial	4	Stockbridge Community Market	23
From The Rector	3	Stockbridge Parish Council	9
Ivan Gibson Remembered	12	Stockbridge Practice	9
Music Director of Stockbridge Music	12	Stockbridge Primary and Pre-School News	16
National Trust Update	21	Stockbridge Vintage Club Tractor Event	17
Poem for Peace	31	The Column for October	31
Poppy Fields at Winchester Cathedral	28	Unity - Travelling Pantry	19
Potting Shed Cuttings for November	25		

Cover Photo: Autumn Leaves

Footers this month bring you a much-loved and oft-quoted poem celebrating the season.

Israel and Gaza Conflict A Statement from the Archbishops

“We are grieved and deeply concerned at the violence in Israel and Gaza, and we unequivocally condemn the attacks by Hamas. We pray for those who are mourning, those who are injured, and all those fearing for their safety. We pray for restraint on all sides, and renewed efforts towards a just peace for all. The way forward must be for both sides to build confidence in a secure future through which Israel and its people can live in security within its internationally recognised borders, and Palestinians have their own state and live in their lands in security and with peace and justice.”

Archbishop Justin Welby
& Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



From Archbishop Hosam Naoum

Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem

We pray without ceasing for justice, reconciliation, peace, and an end to hatred and war.

We also pray for God to change the hearts of all leaders and decision-makers in our countries and around the world,

For we are in dire need of hearts that love, show mercy, and are willing to live in unity with others – hearts that respect human dignity and choose life rather than death.

We entrust the countries of our Lord’s earthly home into the hands of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, asking him to have mercy on us all and to give us his peace and blessing. Amen

From the Editorial Team

It is deeply painful that in this month of Remembrance, when we are recalling the lives lost in two world wars, we are yet again looking on in horror at a brutal escalation of violence in, of all places, the Holy Land. And it is not, as our Rector reminds us (p3), as if this is the only theatre of conflict in the world today. We are particularly aware of the plight of Ukraine, but there are ongoing emergencies in Sudan, Yemen, the Sahel countries of West Africa, Haiti, Myanmar . . . the list continues.

We turn for understanding and guidance to the words of our Archbishops.

Frances Candler, Jennifer Kidd and Thea Taylor



Stockbridge Community Cinema



One Fine Morning ⁽¹⁵⁾ Friday 10 November Time 7.30pm (1hr 53min)

In Paris, a young, widowed mother juggles her job as a translator with caring both for her young daughter and her elderly father, who suffers from a degenerative illness. Her life is further complicated when she embarks on a passionate affair with an old friend in an unhappy marriage.

What’s Love Got To Do With It? ^(12A) Wednesday 15 November Time 5.00pm & 7.30pm (1hr 42min)

Zoe is a documentary filmmaker who uses a dating app that only delivers an endless stream of Mr. Wrongs. For Zoe's childhood friend and neighbour, Kaz, the answer is to follow his parents' example and opt for an assisted marriage to a bright and beautiful bride from Pakistan. As Zoe films his hopeful journey to marry a stranger, she begins to wonder if she might have something to learn from a profoundly different approach to finding love.

See special film events in December on p21

Tickets £6.00 (£5.50 + £0.50 booking fee)
available online via our website

stockbridgecinema.org.uk or via the
Ticketsource telephone booking service

0333 666 3366 (additional £2.00 fee per booking)



The Royal British Legion Houghton and District Branch

Contact David Williams (Chairman)
01264 811072

Social evenings are held on the first Wednesday of most months in the Greyhound on the Test

Copy for Magazine

Copy date for the December / January Magazine:

15 November 2023

Please send emails to:

editorsstockmag@gmail.com

or phone Frances Candler on 01264 811776

Jennifer Kidd on 811179 or Thea Taylor on 811101

Music for Remembrancetide

Durufle: Requiem
Finzi: Lo, the full, final sacrifice

Conductor:
Jamal Sutton

St Paul's Church, Winchester
Saturday 11th November
7.30pm



Tickets: £18 (Concessions £1 for age 21 and under)

Online at ticketsource.co.uk/southern-voices (booking fee applies)
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SADS

SUNDAY @ 4

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S EVENT

26TH NOVEMBER 2023
LONGSTOCK VILLAGE HALL
SO20 6DL
4-5PM

- games
- songs
- Bible story
- refreshments & hot dogs



CONTACT
Rev John Rennie: johnrennie47@gmail.com
Paddy Melville: paddymelville@hotmail.com



Stockbridge Community Market

Every Thursday morning
9.30 - 11.45am
in Stockbridge Town Hall

Selling the very best local and home-made produce

Pies, cakes, breads, soups, eggs and vegetables.
Handmade crafts, toys, books, plants & bric-a-brac.

Please come along and browse
Free Wi-Fi access

Test Villages u3a

Thursday 2nd November
at 2pm in Chilbolton Village Hall

Test Villages u3a AGM

followed by
'Trekking in Nepal'

Carol Watson is a lover of the natural world and an accomplished photographer. Together with her husband, she has trekked in many countries. In her talks she gives a very definite sense of what life is like on her journey. We also learn about the many plants and animals she encountered along her way trekking through Nepal.

Thursday 7th December Christmas Social

This will be a **members only** event.

A fun afternoon including an Entertainer, Quiz and Festive food and drinks. **Tickets costing £5** can be purchased at our November meeting or email Mary Coleman at mescoleman@gmail.com

Test Villages u3a meets on the first Thursday of every month in Chilbolton Village Hall. Meetings start at 14.00h (doors open at 13.40h).

Find out more about our Test Villages group at
u3asites.org.uk/test-villages

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Stockbridge Town Hall Events



Weekly

Mon am	Pilates with Paula Fletcher
Mon am	Pilates Unlimited with Clare
Tues am	Iyengar Yoga - Melissa Liversedge
Tues am	Michelle Buhl-Nielsen Art Class
Wed am	Yoga with Dionne Sanders
Thu am	Stockbridge Community Market
Thu am/pm	Su Joy Art Class
Thu pm	Joga with Jo Caley
Fri am	Moo Music

This Month

Nov 1	Wessex Art
Nov 1	Stockbridge Drama Society
Nov 3	Claudia Bradby Ltd
Nov 4	Antique Fair
Nov 4	Stockbridge Drama Society
Nov 5	Jules At No.43
Nov 6	Jules At No.43
Nov 7-8	Infinito
Nov 7	Stockbridge Drama Society
Nov 8	U3A
Nov 8	Wine Utopia
Nov 10-11	Cocoon
Nov 10	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Nov 12-15	Wild Bazaar
Nov 15	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Nov 16	U3A
Nov 16	Stockbridge Parish Council
Nov 17	South Central Makers
Nov 17	Trout n' About
Nov 18	Stockbridge Drama Society
Nov 18-19	Hawkmoor Books
Nov 18-19	Antiques and Curios
Nov 21-22	Cotton House Interiors
Nov 22-24	Stockbridge Drama Society
Nov 24	Maudlifestyle
Nov 25	South Central Makers
Nov 26	Jules At No.43
Nov 27	Camilla Craig
Nov 28-29	Infinito



Houghton WI

10am Monday 21 November
Houghton Village Hall

Beatrix Potter

- dispelling the myths and misconceptions
with Speaker David Stocks

Visitors welcome. Further information from
Jane Anderton 01264 810928



LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD WI

Stockbridge Town Hall 6.45pm for 7pm start

Tuesday 28 November Bulging Bookcases & Overflowing Wardrobes

Speaker Sue Spencer

Guests always welcome.

Please contact Sue Hill on 811779 for further details

Wherwell History Group



Friday 17 November
at 8.00pm

Medieval Wall Paintings in Hampshire Churches

a Zoom Presentation by

Dr Ellie Pridgeon

Please book in advance by checking our website:
www.wherwellhistory.com/about/programme



Longstock Garden Club

Martin Cox

'Big Ideas for Small Spaces'

Join us on Tuesday 14th November 2023
at 7.30 pm in Longstock Village Hall
(Doors open at 7.00pm)

Don't forget the raffle tickets are still only £1 or
bring a prize

<https://longstockgardenclub.com/>
Peter Moore 07881573493

Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society's

Curtain Calls . . .

Come and be entertained by readings and
performances from plays, poems and novels
- and often songs

Tuesday 7th November
at 7.30pm

Stockbridge Town Hall

You don't have to be a member of SADS to come
along, (but we'd love it if you'd join). We're also
looking for new blood to act, direct and be part of
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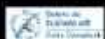
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Stockbridge Parish Council News

Stockbridge Parish Council met in the Scout Hut in September which the Council agreed was a suitable location for the meetings. There is still a vacancy for one Councillor at Stockbridge PC and the Clerk would like to hear from anyone interested in becoming a Councillor and contributing in this way to their local community. The vacancy will be filled by co-option and the requirements for co-option as a Councillor at Stockbridge are the same as they are for standing at an election.

At the September meeting, residents from Old London Rd attended to talk about HCC's proposal for changing the layout of the road. A number of residents expressed disappointment that what was being proposed at this stage was not a one-way street. This proposal had been the solution for solving the traffic safety problems outside the school at the start and end of the schooldays, that had been agreed at the public meeting held in autumn 2019. HCC has said they are not prepared to install a one-way street without some form of cycle lane that allows cyclists to travel safely both ways down the road. It is unfortunate to note that an installation of a cycle lane will be expensive.

The Parish Council has now acquired the site of the old Victorian Workhouse, Lancaster House. The Council is keen to ensure that the site becomes an asset for the community. If you have any preferences as to what it could be used for – a wild camping site perhaps, or a nature trail, or a tiny forest, please let the Clerk know; all suggestions will be given consideration.

Hampshire CC, like many areas in England, is facing challenges in caring for an ageing population. Many people are living longer but often doing so in very poor health. HCC wants to ensure more of their own care home places are available for those with complex conditions, including dementia, and are proposing to dedicate the County Council care homes to provide this type of care. HCC would like to hear your views because this suggestion will focus more on delivering nursing and complex dementia services in the future. HCC's proposals aim to increase the current 900 beds used to care for older people to around 1,000 – and would see three new care homes built, three existing care homes modernised and expanded, plus the closure of existing residential care homes. Visit HCC's website www.hants.gov.uk/News/20230718HCCCareestateCabinet to have your say. The public consultation closes on 12 November

Stockbridge Parish Council will meet next on 16th November 2023 in the Town Hall.

Belinda Baker,
Clerk to Stockbridge Parish Council
clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk



Patient News

Are your details up to date?

We regularly receive requests for information regarding firearms requests, or insurance forms, where the address given on the form is not the same as the address we have for you.

It is very important that you ensure we have your correct address and telephone number on your medical records.

Getting help and advice when the surgery is closed, or you have had an injury.

If we are closed, or you have experienced an injury which may require an x-ray, stitches or other treatment that we cannot provide at the surgery, you can access 111 in the following ways:

- Telephone 111
- Go to 111. nhs.uk online.
- Via the NHS App

For children, the *Healthier Together* App or website is a useful way of checking symptoms and getting advice on the best service to contact.

Dementia Advice and Support for Carers

Mind offers advice on dementia for patients and carers. They can be contacted by calling 01264 332297, Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm or by emailing enquiries@andovermind.org.uk

You can also contact *Carers' Together*, based in Romsey, on 01794 519495 or by emailing admin@carerstogether.org.uk

Next of kin information

Please ensure that we have your correct next of kin details on your medical record, particularly if you live alone. There is a form which can be completed on our website or you can write to us to let us know.

Ann Spooner
Practice Manager

A Defibrillator Near You!

Defibrillators for public use are located at: -

Stockbridge Fire Station (available 24 hrs)

Longstock Village Hall (available 24 hrs)

Leckford Estate Office (restricted hours).

Leckford Farm Shop (restricted hours)

For further details, and for other UK locations, go to www.defibfinder.uk

Instructions for use are given when the device is commandeered but for anyone who would like prior understanding of how to use one, see <https://www.aeddonate.org.uk/events/>

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Autumnal Mists and Mellow Fruitfulness of Stockbridge



Mist over the Marsh

(Photo by Katherine Williams, visiting from Valencia)



October at Marsh Gate

(Photo by Janet Williams)

Harvest Festival in Old St Peter's



Traditionally, a loaf of bread was placed on the altar at Harvest Festival in Stockbridge.

We included an 'Apostle loaf' in our display. It has 12 buns attached to the main loaf. The loaf was placed on a side table near the altar.

Jill Goodwin



(Photo Helen Hughes)

And at St Peter's Harvest Festival, in keeping with offering local produce, plump pumpkins adorned the entrance and plump trout were sourced by Peter Hughes and decorated by Helen.



(Photo Peter Hughes)

... With thousand others down the lane

Music Director of Stockbridge Music Retires



Stockbridge Music has become an integral part of the cultural life in the Test Valley for over a decade. It all began in 2012 when a resident of Stockbridge, Tim Lowden, who is a highly respected and experienced contributor to the musical scene in the wider Winchester area, decided that the charming village of Stockbridge would be a perfect venue to hold a series of classical concerts throughout the year.

The aim of the organisation is to bring top quality musicians to Stockbridge at affordable prices and, more importantly, to help talented young musicians further their careers by providing a platform for performances in public.

The combination of using St Peter's Church and the historic Town Hall has allowed audiences of between 70 and 180 to enjoy a wide range of the musical repertoire. Stockbridge is also recognised for its easy parking and excellent eating houses which concert-goers frequent before and after the concerts.

As a result, Stockbridge Music has attracted a multitude of performers such as *Sansara* who have since become a household name. We are honoured that Professor David Owen Norris, the widely-acclaimed musician and composer, agreed to become our Patron.

Tim Lowden has been instrumental, with his team of experienced Trustees, in establishing Stockbridge Music as a major force of music-making in Hampshire.

Sadly, Tim has announced his retirement and his outstanding service was recognised at the final concert of this year given by the Beaufort Singers on Friday October 20 in St Peter's Church Stockbridge at 7.30pm. A sponsorship fund is to be established to ensure the ongoing future of Stockbridge Music, details of which were announced at the concert.

See stockbridgemusic.uk for further information

Michael J Woodhall BEM FRICS

Ivan Gibson Remembered

It is with great sadness that we mourn the loss of Ivan Gibson.

I have lived in Longstock since 1977 and in all that time he has been an essential part of our village life. He and Anne, his wife, and his two children, Simon and Kirsty, were well-established village residents when we arrived. His children and our daughters are of similar ages so this was an area



Ivan the firefighter

of common ground that caused us to share similar experiences. He and Anne came to Wales with us to share community weekends in the mountains. Closer to home we shared times with the community youth group 'Tadpoles'. I have photos of Ivan dressed in a gorilla costume running in a pancake race through the village on Shrove Tuesday. Another photo shows him dressed in a tutu for a community musical night in the old village hall. I think that this is symptomatic of the Ivan that we all knew – Community. He held a post on the Longstock Parish council for forty years, many as tree warden. I was fortunate to see him awarded a certificate and medal for twenty-five years' service as retained firefighter for Stockbridge fire station.

Ivan was a key member of our community. He knew most of what was going on and was always willing to help in any way possible. He was a founder member of Longstock allotments. Because he ran his own company based on farming activity, he was a common sight as he cut hedges, road verges, the cemetery, raking the village hall car park; the list is endless.

In church at St Mary's, on Plough Sunday you would see him helping to carry a plough up to the altar. He always supported any village occasions including shared meals when we enjoyed his ability to tell a good story. In recent years, he had not enjoyed the best of health but he continued working and would stop his vehicle when passing and enquire about your health. He maintained a keen interest in our community. The week before he died, he rang me to tell me that the village hall light had been left on overnight!

People like Ivan are the reassuring platform on which solid village communities are based. We will all miss him greatly.

Dane Oliver

Church Tapestry Kneelers - a British Folk Art

For centuries churchgoers have used kneeler cushions, or 'hassocks', to protect their knees from cold, hard floors while they prayed. In the 1930s, the artist Sybil Blunt and the broiderer Louisa Pesel created decorative kneelers for Winchester Cathedral, stitching wool designs onto a canvas base. As the practice spread across England and Wales, a new form of folk art was born. As well as Biblical stories, amateur embroiderers depicted plants, wildlife and scenes from their own local area. When Old St Peter's Church was restored in 1963, twenty-six tapestry kneelers were made by local parishioners. The kneelers were in place when the church was re-hallowed as Old St Peter's Church by the Bishop of Southampton on Sunday 13th October 1963.

Most of the kneelers are still in the church. The scenes from Stockbridge life were drawn freehand onto canvas before the pictures were worked in tapestry wool.



Old Test Bridge
Jean Johnston



Robert of Gloucester approaching the church
Iris de Latour Parker (Houghton Lodge)



Trout Fisherman on the Test
Mrs Skelton



Stockbridge High Street
Mrs Skelton



St Peter's Keys
Anne Merridale



Stockbridge Mace and Seal
Prof. Rosalind Hill (Lord of the Manor)

There are many other examples of these inventive designs in our local churches. There are long tapestry kneelers in Stockbridge Parish Church and complex designs of local flowers sewn in an exquisite small tapestry stitch in Kings Somborne Church.

As kneeling in church becomes less common, the cushions are becoming increasingly redundant and in many places are being reworked into seat cushions, giving a new and useful purpose to the old tapestries.

Several churches have formed sewing groups to restore old kneelers or to make new modern designs to complement the old.

In Well Hill in Kent, an adults and children's group, working under the guidance of a retired embroiderer from the Royal School of Needlework, has introduced new designs depicting local amenities and landmarks through the seasons. The bright new complex works contain many different types of stitches to give the tapestries a three dimensional effect. Fine tapestry wools have been used for the background infill stitch and softer embroidery threads for an array of different stitches to give texture to the tapestry. Metallic threads are used to highlight Coats of Arms.

These scenes of 'Spring from Well Hill' include the local motorway, the M25, and electricity pylons.



In summer, a traditional oast house and a mulberry tree represent this area of Kent.

Elizabeth Bingham has just published a book on this subject, which captures the preoccupations of different parishes in different decades. From the River Test and its trout in Stockbridge to the oast houses and motorways of Kent, the skills and traditions of local areas are documented in wool for future generations to enjoy.

Jill Goodwin

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Barbara North - a Tribute

1 May 1950 – 2 August 2023



My mother, Barbara, grew up in Sutton Scotney with her twin brother Eddie and younger brother Andy. She passed her 11+ and went to Winchester County High School for Girls. After finishing school, she enjoyed a period of time living away from home. Lord Rank, who owned Sutton Scotney Manor Estate, arranged for her to live with his relations, the Cowans, during which time she experienced a very different kind of life. She was much loved by the Cowan family and, after her death, Huxley Cowan wrote: "I felt your mother was one of our family and we will all miss her terribly... she was like (another) big sister and was great fun to have around". Later, in 1977, she married Robin, my father, who she had known since childhood.

Mum was always ambitious and, by the early 80s, was one of the most senior females in banking at TSB. We would often have conversations about her experience as a woman working in a male-dominated environment and the challenges involved. She returned to full-time work at TSB just 6 weeks after having me, but would still come home every lunchtime to feed me. Despite working full-time she also built us our family home in Chilbolton. She project-managed it from start to finish, sourcing and purchasing all the materials herself, and achieved all this, with hard work and determination, on a modest budget. She never forgot how much she didn't have growing up, so she counted and valued every penny for the rest of her life. She often told my boys how she remembered asking her mother for money for sweets at the end of the week and her mother would open her purse and turn it upside down to show her there was nothing in there.

When her job relocated to Birmingham in the early 90s, Mum left TSB and full-time work. She quickly got involved with other pursuits including becoming a governor of Wherwell Primary School and a Lay OFSTED Inspector. She was also very involved in village and church life in Chilbolton. It wasn't long before she wanted something more stimulating so she took on a series of non-executive roles in the NHS, including becoming Chair of Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust.

In her work, as in all aspects of her life, she displayed unerring integrity, holding not just herself, but those she worked with, to high ethical standards. When working for the Trust, she would never shy away from difficult decisions if she felt they would benefit the people the Trust served.

After leaving the Trust, my mother continued to play a big part of the local communities she lived in.

When she and my father moved to Stockbridge 14 years ago, she became a prominent and active member of the Parochial Church Council for many years. When Michael Ford, the treasurer sadly died, she took on this demanding position and excelled in the rôle. She also took on responsibility for the care of the two church buildings, only giving up both onerous duties when the pressure of caring for my father became too much. She played a valuable rôle in church fundraising activities, and notably, managed the entire bell restoration programme, spearheaded by Gerald Lambert, for which the church community and the whole village were, and still are, incredibly grateful. She also supported this magazine for a time as a management committee member and by writing the St Peter's News column.

Barbara was an organiser, planner and researcher who didn't believe that many things in this life happen by accident, and that you have to go out and make it happen. Unsurprisingly, her parenting and grandparenting style was unique but powerful. She had an absolute and unshakable belief in me. Whatever the endeavour, she backed me to the hilt and it has been the same for her grandsons, Charlie and George; every achievement big or small was celebrated. She came to every school concert, play, sports match, and prizegiving event. She was immensely proud of them and was a wonderful hands-on grandmother who would feed them, have them overnight for sleepovers and even took them on trips to explore places as distant as Rome and Northern Ireland, always on her own. My boys were lucky to have such a strong, capable and loving grandmother in their lives.

When my father became ill and decided not to have treatment, she was totally dedicated to caring for him. She made sure that he was able to stay at home and pulled on every old NHS string and contact she had to ensure he had everything he needed. Dad had relied on her throughout their relationship because she was so capable, resourceful and organised, but in these last few months of his life, he needed her like never before and I know he shared with her in his last few days how much she meant to him. Theirs was a long and devoted bond.

Finally, many Stockbridge residents have shared their deep sadness at her loss. She was a large personality with a good sense of humour and much loved by her many friends. They miss seeing her out with the labrador puppy she acquired after Robin's death, stopping for a chat on the Test Way, outside the shops, or dropping in on someone living alone to keep them company.

My mother always ensured that we were all part of an extended family with the children of Robin's first marriage and it is thanks to her that I have strong ties with my brother and sister. We will all miss her.

Briony White



Stockbridge Primary and Pre-School News

An Inspector Calls

We knew we'd get the call - we just didn't know when! After waiting almost all of last year (we were due to be re-inspected from February '23 onwards), it didn't come, and we ended the academic year without an inspection. I hadn't even given it a second thought when we came back to school; after all, what we do in the four walls of our building is for the children and their families, not for an inspector. Nonetheless, when the call came, just 5 days into term, realisation dawned pretty quickly!

Because we were a 'good' school already, our inspection was what they call an 'ungraded inspection' which means that, unless there were serious weaknesses, particularly around safeguarding, we wouldn't have our grade changed.

This is extremely frustrating given how far the school has come in the last 4 years, but this is how it is. After a rigorous two-day visit by a lone inspector who spoke to children, staff and governors and heard from parents via the 'parentview' questionnaire, I am pleased to share with you some of the comments from the report below.

- *Pupils are proud to be part of this inspirational school...one pupil said, 'I am so lucky because this school has everything!'*
- *The school is ambitious for all pupils ... staff work closely with outside agencies ... to remove barriers to learning.*

- *Staff have secure subject knowledge. The school ... makes good use of expertise within and outside of the school.*
- *The school develops pupils' talents and interests in an exemplary way.*
- *The school has developed the curriculum well, and pupil outcomes are generally high. Pupils share their learning confidently.*
- *The school has a positive team approach that is known and valued.*

None of this isn't what we already knew. We are all, pupils and staff, very proud of our school and Stockbridge itself and we are keen to ensure it continues to thrive, but it won't do so off the back of an inspection alone. The best outcome of the whole visit was how the staff and governor team all came together to support each other and ensure the inspector saw the very best of all we have to offer and how we work. Some of them had only been in post for 5 days when the call came! Children were still settling into learning routines and September expectations, and Governors hadn't even met this academic year yet!

Now we can get on with the day-to-day business of school without an inspection hanging over our heads although, if they called again tomorrow, I know we'd be ready to show them our best!

Emma Jeffries, Headteacher

Thank You from Stockbridge Primary School



The Bag2School turnout in October was very good and we raised £293.50. This time, donations will make their way to Eastern Europe, Africa and even Asia, where they will be passed on to local charities and second-hand shops.

In terms of the money raised, we are going to put the money towards 'hi-vis' vests; all the children wear them on walks, and at this time of year it is especially important that they are visible. And they are surprisingly expensive!

We are extremely grateful to all members of the community for their support.
Thank you,

Kat Brown



Stockbridge Vintage Club Vintage Tractor Event

The Stockbridge Vintage Club held their first ever Vintage tractor event between September 30th and October 1st, near Middle Wallop.



The event was being held to help raise funds for the Countess of Brecknock Hospice in Andover.



Day 1 of the event was bright and sunny, day 2 was a bit overcast but still had lots going on in the working field.

Watching tractors working has always been something I have enjoyed. The thing that struck me at this event was just how relaxed and friendly the event was.



So good to see how keen people were to have a go, with the more experienced tractor and plough experts helping and passing on some of the knowledge that they have gained over the years.



No pressure, plenty of time for a chat ...



In between all that talking and helping there was still time for a bit of ploughing ...



I would like to pass on my congratulations to everyone involved in putting on such a fantastic event.

Ryan Bundy



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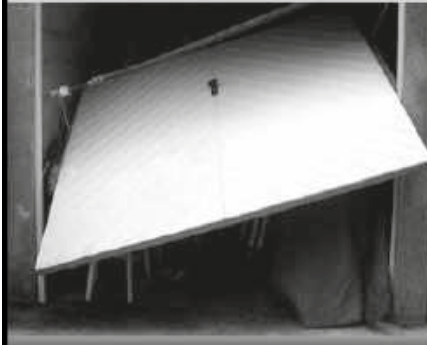
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Stockbridge Community Cinema special events coming soon



Tickets will be going on sale on November 1 for two special events in December. The first of these is a film *Alex Lewis - Mountain* which documents the extraordinary expedition to climb the largest

mountain in Ethiopia undertaken by Stockbridge resident, and quadruple amputee, Alex Lewis. Many will be aware that, 10 years ago, Alex developed sepsis which resulted in him losing all four limbs. Far from giving up hope, Alex was determined to push himself to show himself and his eight-year-old son Sam that his disability never stopped him doing the things he wanted.

Alex's story has been featured regularly in the media but this professionally-made film, by award-winning director Simon Ratigan, follows his personal challenge to climb the highest mountain in Ethiopia with an off-road, solar-powered mobility hand cycle. The film takes audiences from the A&E department to the Design and Technology laboratories of the University of Southampton and to the spectacular scenery of the Ethiopian Highlands for his 14-day expedition. On arrival in Ethiopia, he meets Emebet, with similar disabilities, who is keen to climb the high peak with him. This led to Alex co-founding the *Wild Wheels Project*, a partnership between the UK and the *Cheshire Foundation - Action for Inclusion* developing sustainable wheelchair production in Ethiopia where many needs go unmet due to lack of resources. This is a truly remarkable film, beautifully shot, uplifting and ultimately inspirational and heartwarming. It is an opportunity not to be missed.

ALEX LEWIS - MOUNTAIN (Cert 12A) will be screened on **Wednesday 6 December at 4.30pm and 7.30pm** with a Q&A session for 30 minutes after both screenings. This will include Alex, Executive Producer David Collinson (who also appears in the film) and Director Simon Ratigan.

Tickets cost £10.00 and all proceeds from sales for this event are being donated to the Alex Lewis Trust (*set up to maximise the support for Alex to allow him the opportunity for a full and independent life*).

The second special event in December is the screening of **THE NUTCRACKER** (Cert U) - a Royal Ballet production that was recorded live in December 2018. It was choreographed by David Wright and performed at the Royal Opera House.

Presented in a festive period setting, this charming and magical production features Marianela Nuñez as the exquisite Sugar Plum Fairy, Vadim Muntagirov as her charming Prince, Anna Rose O'Sullivan (Clara), and Marcelino Sambé (Hans-Peter/The Nutcracker).



Vivid designs and spellbinding stage effects, which include authentic Christmas tree decorations that magically come to life, and Tchaikovsky's sumptuous iconic score, combine to create the quintessential Christmas ballet – an opulent treat for the senses for audiences of all ages.

The film will be screened at 5.00pm and 7.30pm on Saturday 9 December. Tickets cost £10.00. To book please visit stockbridgecinema.org.uk

Paul Kidd



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Stockbridge Primary School is very pleased to welcome this mobile food pantry to our site on a Friday morning weekly. It's not just for school use; anyone can take advantage of this valuable service. Some who have already shopped there paid £5 but got back over £10 of shopping. In these straitened times, it's an effective way of doubling your money shopping so do go along to the school on Friday mornings.

Goodworth Clatford Art & Craft Weekend

Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th November

The weekend showcases many of the most popular exhibitors from last year's successful show, along with a number of artists new to the event. The weekend features the works of professional artists and artisans alongside pieces from an array of talented amateur exhibitors, including the ever-popular Goodworth Clatford Art Group, making the show a truly rich and varied affair.

Works on display will include:-

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Prices start from just a few pounds, with something for every taste and every pocket. There's a Prize Draw, too, with prizes donated by some of the talented artists at the event.

Entrance is free, and tea, coffee and home-baked refreshments will be available. So put the dates in your diary now and visit the Goodworth Clatford Art & Craft Weekend.

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Big Band Buffet returns to Test Valley School



Big Band Buffet 2022

Test Valley Borough Council's Big Band Buffet is coming back in November, bringing residents some great live music and the chance to meet old friends and make some new ones.

The popular free event got national recognition in 2022 for its positive impact in reducing anti-social behaviour and promoting community confidence, after being highly commended in the 'Best Project' category, at Resolve's ASB Awards.

This year's event, for residents over 55, will be held at Test Valley School in Longstock near Stockbridge on Saturday 4 November between 11am and 3pm.

The Clive Fortune Big Band will perform some of their best big band classics and jazz standards, including originals from the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s, with a few contemporary hits thrown into the mix.

The event will also see speakers and representatives from a wide range of organisations including the Police, Fire Service, Southern Electricity Networks, Southern Water, Citizens Advice, I-Can Therapy and more, offering advice on how people can stay safe and well at home.

Community, Leisure and Tourism portfolio holder, Councillor Terese Swain, said:

'The Big Band Buffet is always a wonderful event and a brilliant way to spend a Saturday. You can enjoy food and entertainment with people of a similar age, but you can also get some vital support and advice from the number of organisations in attendance.

I thoroughly recommend anyone over the age of 55 to apply for a ticket.'

The Big Band Buffet is a free event, but you will need to apply for a ticket which will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis. A limited amount of free transport is also available from Andover and Romsey.

To book a place, or for more information, call 01264 368840.

(Photo credit Michael Gourlay)



National Trust Update

As I write this, Autumn is upon us at last, despite some impressive temperatures at the start when October felt more like the run-up to midsummer rather than Halloween! But the river mists roll in every evening and the glut of autumnal berries has ripened to be feasted upon by fattening birds and mammals, ready for the winter months.

We have some works planned for the sites across the autumn and winter for which we are just awaiting Natural England consent. Both the Down and the Marsh need some control of the ever-emerging smaller scrubby thorn bushes which pop up like a spiny army every few years across the grassland areas and threaten to take over should we not manage them. With both sites containing SSSI grassland habitats, it is vital that we don't lose any grassland areas to scrub encroachment. The cattle grazing, and rabbits for their part, help us keep some of the scrub in check but on their own they cannot tackle the speed of scrub growth. Given that the scrub is mainly thorny species (if you had tens and tens of hectares of grass to eat, would you necessarily focus on a mouthful of spikes?), we can't blame them for focusing their mouths more on the softer vegetation, which is just as important as they help create a diverse sward in both age and structure. So you will see me at some point trundling around in the tractor with a mulcher mounted on the back, mashing the thorn bushes into oblivion. Do, please, ensure you keep yourselves and your children/dogs at a safe distance in case of any shards of woody debris flying off the mulcher blades.

We have also been assigned the task of removing the small, self-seeded poplar trees that are growing ever bigger as a result of seeding from the large mother poplar on the eastern edge of the Marsh. Natural England does not want a line of poplar trees to emerge so we will be keeping the self-seeded ones in check.

On the Down, an area of hazel will also be cut and cleared as part of the ongoing rotation. I cut this area about 8 years ago as I wanted to make a start with getting all the roadside hazel edges into a rotational cycle. This first area is now due to be done this winter, consent permitting. I have been amazed at how well the hazel has come back, after only one initial cut, from being an overstood, derelict and not exactly dreamy coppice. With the lack of deer pressure, it has responded and grown beautifully, which gives me high hopes for the other hazel areas and the produce we could get from them in the future. This also ties in with keeping the area down near the lower carpark open on rotation to allow for ground flora for Duke of Burgundy and Pearl-Bordered Fritillary butterflies, as well as allowing their migration from their stronghold sites across the road. The Pearls have

suffered badly during the last few years and are almost extinct in Hampshire now; we haven't logged any on the Down for the last two spring seasons so whilst I keep my fingers crossed that they may bounce back on site, I am not hopeful. If anyone thinks they see them on site in April/May do let me

know (not to be confused with Dark Green and Silver Washed Frits, also found on site which are much larger and emerge much later).



Pearl-Bordered Fritillary

Finally, it came to my annoyed attention that both the carpark height barriers on the Down carparks had been vandalised and made inoperable. They had been bent out of shape, we think with a chain that would have been hooked to a vehicle and pulled, which bent the metal but failed to break it. The thoughts behind this banal behaviour, given that it achieved them nothing, are anyone's to guess at. It may be a message to us for not allowing high vehicles in the carparks, or it may have been a failed attempt to break in and use the carparks for whatever sordid purposes they had in mind. We have managed to straighten them both out again so we can now open the barriers for emergency access as required.

In case people do wonder why we have barriers we would remind them that, unfortunately, our carparks that do not have height barriers suffer a far higher proportion of antisocial behaviour including fly-tipping and illegal camping, and the associated waste that can often come from this. The lay-by halfway between the Down carparks is open to all and can be used by high vehicles should they wish to access the site, as it is right opposite an entrance gate. It is worth noting that this open lay-by regularly gets waste fly-tipped in it which is exactly the kind of thing we are trying to prevent in our carparks. As a charity, we don't have the time, money and staff resources necessary to continually deal with clear-ups (and we get a lot of it on our other sites) and therefore the barriers will remain in place.

That's all from us for now, may Stockbridge enjoy the run-up to the festive season and get those chestnuts roasting on these dark nights!

Godspeed to the winter solstice and the promise of the light beyond.

Cat Hadler, National Trust Lead/Area Ranger

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Christmas Cake Wreath

I might well have said this in previous years but there is nothing lovelier than a home-made gift, but you need to start making it now. It is honestly so simple, so why would you buy?

This recipe - a beautifully-flavoured cake - came from the mother of a Polish friend. It is adaptable so you can make smaller cakes, just right for Granny or a friend without it costing the bank. It also does not need marzipan just a lovely soft floaty icing and decoration to suit your own style.

This recipe is suitable for an 8in (20cm) savarin cake tin (wreath shaped) or two smaller 4in loose bottom cake tins (available from suppliers such as B&M, keenly priced too!)

Cooking time is the same for either size as long as you ensure you protect the top as detailed below with the collar of baking paper around the tins.

Ingredients

- 100g / 3½ oz chopped dried apricots
- 175g / 6oz sultanas
- 150g / 5½ oz raisins
- 100g / 3½ oz glace cherries washed and halved
- 75g / 3oz stem ginger, chopped
- 125ml / 4 fl oz single malt whisky plus extra for feeding
- 1 orange, zest and juice
- 3 free range eggs
- 175g / 6oz plain flour
- 175g / 6 oz soft dark brown sugar
- 175g / 6 oz butter softened plus a little extra to grease the tins
- 1 tsp ground mixed spice
- 1 tsp ground ginger

(Icing information to follow next month!)

Method

Place the apricots, sultanas, raisins, cherries and stem ginger into a bowl and pour over 100ml / 3 ½ fl oz of the whisky.

Stir in the orange zest and juice and then cover and set aside overnight or for 24 hours until the fruit has completely absorbed the liquid.

Preheat the oven to 140°C/120°C Fan, Gas 1. Grease the inside of the cake tin / tins with butter.

Fold a large sheet of baking paper into a strip that is 3 layers thick and big enough to wrap around the outside of the tin to make a collar which will help the cake bake evenly and prevent it over-browning as it bakes. Secure the collar with string.

Beat the sugar and the butter in a free-standing food mixer or a large bowl with a hand whisk for 3 – 4 minutes, or until it has turned a light caramel colour and is fluffy. Crack in the eggs one at a time and beat well after each addition.

Fold in the flour, mixed spice, ground ginger and the soaked fruit until they are completely combined. Spoon the cake mixture into the prepared tin and smooth the top using a palette knife or similar.

Bake the cake for 1½ hours, or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. If it doesn't, keep in the oven for another 10 minutes and check again.

Remove the cake from the oven and drizzle over the remaining whisky.

Now wrap the cake in foil and store in a tin and, once a week, very carefully drizzle a little more of the whisky over the base of the cake. It helps to put a few skewer holes into the base so the whisky soaks in easily.

In 4 weeks (next issue) we will be ready to ice and decorate it along with some good nibble recipes for those pre-Christmas drinks parties. *Linda Hotchen*

Stockbridge Community Market

Thank you so much for the wonderful support we have had from you in the local community this year.

We have had a very happy and financially more encouraging year – the card reader has proved a very popular introduction for our customers.

We have welcomed several new Marketeers, extending the excellent locally-made crafts and produce we can offer, including two new enthusiastic bakers who are very keen to take your orders for Christmas.

Cakes, puddings, mince pies, as well as all the other sweet and savoury goodies they produce weekly can be ordered now to help make sure your Christmas food is delicious and home-made.

Come and buy your locally handmade Christmas presents here as well: beautiful soaps and luxury bath and body products; wooden crafts of all kinds including our most popular Bird, Bee and Bug hotels; unique jewellery, bags, purses and aprons and knitwear for all ages; homemade preserves, chutneys and locally produced honey.

Although the season for locally grown vegetables and hand-tied bouquets is coming to a close, they'll be back in the spring.

We welcome everyone for tea, coffee and friendly chat from 9.30am – 11.30am on Thursdays, so why not meet your friends here each week?

Dates for your diary:

Last market in 2023: **21st December**

First market in 2024: **1st February**

Carol Preston

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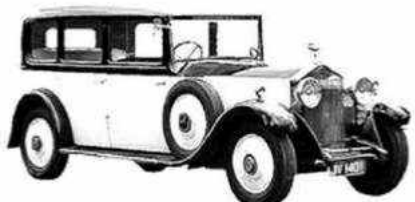
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Potting Shed Cuttings for November



Pre-Christmas Events at RHS Wisley:

Christmas Craft & Design Fair - 8-12 November
Glo 2023 - 24 November to 2 January
Capturing Autumn Colour - 4 November

Pre-Christmas Events at Hilliers:

Launch of Christmas - 2 November
Evening of Festive Foods - 16 November
Tree & Lights - 30 November

General Maintenance

With weather predictions for November of colder, drier weather (but who really knows?), aim to protect outside pipes with insulating foam and by turning off outside water supplies. Pots and containers needing some protection, but which cannot be moved, should be wrapped in bubble wrap or hessian. Where possible, stand pots on feet to prevent waterlogging (just in case the long-range forecasts are wrong!). Leaves can be shredded by running the lawn mower over them before storing in black bin liners. Remember leaves decompose at different rates: beech, horse and sweet chestnuts and sycamore will take around 2 years, whilst oak, hornbeam and alder will compost down in 12 months.

The Flower Garden

Tidying up the flower borders is a priority this month: decide whether you want to cut back all spent perennials or leave seed heads for the birds over the winter. Where containers have been emptied of summer bedding, don't waste the spent compost, but use it as a border mulch or in the compost bin. Lift dahlias and cannas if you haven't already done so and start to cut back ornamental grasses if they have moved into their dormant period. Plant bare-rooted roses, tulips and winter bedding; cut off old leaves from hellebores, to make room for emerging flower shoots. Take root cuttings of oriental poppies, verbascum and phlox and divide congested perennials. Clear away annual climbers and collect fallen rose leaves, particularly any with blackspot. Do not compost these but burn or destroy them, to avoid passing on the disease.

The Vegetable Garden

Check over vegetables you have already harvested and stored, removing any showing bruising or rotting. Prepare beds now for planting asparagus plants and rhubarb crowns. Plant out onions, garlic and shallots and, if you have protected over-wintering beans, salad crops or peas with cloches, leave the cloche ends open to allow ventilation. Net brassicas if you haven't already done so and stake any top-heavy plants against wind damage. Where beds are cleared and are being prepared for future use, walk on planks to avoid soil compaction.

The Fruit Garden

This is a good time to take hardwood cuttings of fruit bushes; use the wood taken when you cut back currant bushes and gooseberries. Autumn raspberries can be pruned between now and late February; these should be cut down to ground level. To increase stock, look out for suckers growing from the main plants. Finish tidying strawberry beds, trimming runners, and weeding around plants.

The Lawn

Much will depend on the weather; warm days will encourage leaf growth; raise mower blades and continue cutting. Aerate the lawn and keep it clear of leaves.


The Pond

Net ponds to protect against leaves and remove and clean pumps.

Christmas Wreaths

If you are lucky and have some berries on holly bushes, one tip is to cut them this month, before the birds can get to them. Cut the stems under water as you would woody flower stems and stand them in buckets of water away from greedy birds until you need to use them. They should remain fresh for about 3 weeks.

Micki Nadal



Remembrance 2023

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

It is Remembrance time again and poppies will be available in many High Street shops, cafes and pubs from Saturday 28th October.

They will also be available outside the Co-Op, next door to Garden Inn and near the Town Hall or St Peter's Church from 28th October and for the following two weekends.

We have a wonderful band of poppy sellers who helped raise over £8,000 last year. We would welcome more people to join us for an hour or two over those dates. I would love to hear from you, just ring 810236.

Thank you,

Angela McMeekin

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Stockbridge at Christmas - Save the Date



The Christmas Lights Switch On will take place on Friday 1 December this year so get out your diary and book it in now.

We are reverting to a Friday because we believe it will be easier for families throughout our area since they will be in Stockbridge anyway to collect children from schools and buses and to pick up their pre-booked Christmas trees.

The details are still to be confirmed but we will kick off at 4pm and believe that Santa hopes to fit in an appearance. There will be music and photo opportunities on the High Street, activities in the Town Hall, the popular and now traditional Treasure Trail, and food served by local businesses and street vendors to fuel the fun. At 5.30pm the Stockbridge Primary School choir will lead the singing of carols around the tree at St Peter's Church followed by the celebrity switch-on at 6pm and then refreshments for all inside the church.

It is a truly community event for all ages and for all the wider Stockbridge community so please do come and join us.

Alyson Lownie

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Christmas Trees!!

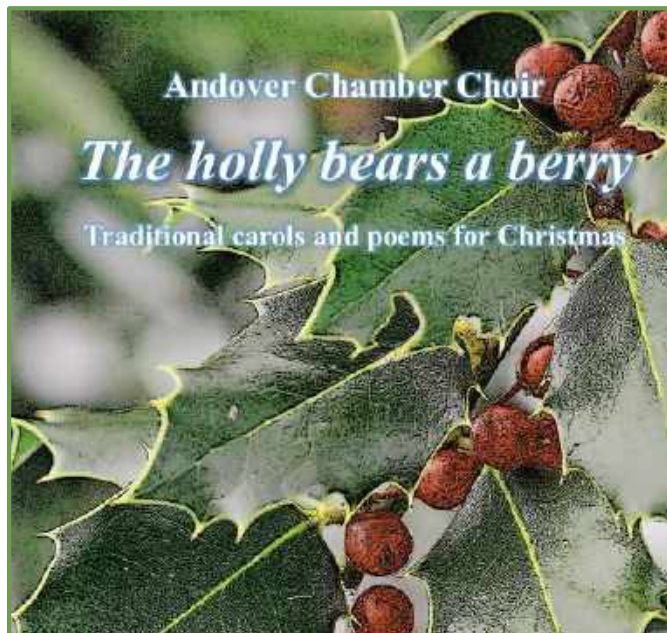
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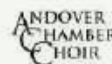


7:00 p.m. Saturday 16th December 2023
St Mary's Church, Andover

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or from choir members. Under 16s free.



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Andover Chamber Choir returns to St Mary's Church, Andover for their annual Christmas Concert. Entitled 'The Holly Bears a Berry', it aims to evoke the spirit of a traditional village Christmas.

The programme includes popular carols such as 'The Holly and The Ivy', 'Good King Wencelas' and Harold Darkes' beautiful setting of 'In the Bleak Midwinter'. Less familiar items such as 'Down in Yon Forest' and 'The Wexford Carol', plus selected readings, will transport us back to days gone by.

There are carols for the audience and a lively medley in which the audience will have fun seeing how many carols they can recognise!

Profits will be donated to Andover Food Bank.

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Poppy Fields

An Immersive Light and Sound Show at Winchester Cathedral

Tuesday 31 October - Saturday 4 November
from 6.45pm



'Poppy Fields' by Luxmuralis is a poignant light and sound show taking you on an immersive journey of reflection and hope around Winchester Cathedral. The artworks pertain to the end of WWI and WWII as well as looking ahead for peace in our world.

Accompanying the projections is specially-composed music by David Harper and poetry recorded by Oscar-winning actor, Eddie Redmayne.

As you step inside the ancient surround of the cathedral, you will be enveloped in a sea of poppies tumbling down the old stone walls, some still bearing the lasting scars of wars they have weathered.

Within the installations is a moving tribute to the NHS, which looks at nursing through history and the rôles of nurses such as Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole, and the rôle nurses play today.

As you approach the cathedral nave, before the finale piece, there will be a moment to stop at the cathedral's 16th Century 'West Window' as projections light-up the shattered glass, reflecting the symbolic human spirit to rebuild and survive.

A Poppy is a Poppy ...

The Royal British Legion began the tradition of using the red poppy as a symbol of remembrance in 1921, following the lead of two women, Moina Michael and Anna Guérin. During WW1, millions of soldiers saw the poppies in the fields of the Western Front where they flourished in the rubble left behind by artillery bombardments. Soldiers often sent pressed poppies home in letters. The Remembrance Poppy, sold to generate funds for veterans and endorsed by Field Marshal Haig, was designed to be made with one hand, allowing veterans who had lost an arm to work on the production line. The poppy is now a world-wide symbol of remembrance and hope for peace.

Remembrance Commemorations in Stockbridge

Armistice Day, Saturday 11th November



A short service of commemoration, led by the Rev'd Philip Bowden, will take place at the war memorial starting at 10.50am and concluding with the Act of Remembrance.

Remembrance Sunday, 12th November

The traditional service of remembrance will be held in St Peter's starting at 9.45a.m. and led by the Rev'd Sue Kipling. At the end of the service, the congregation will proceed down the High Street to the war memorial, led by a contingent of 30 Army Air Corps soldiers from Middle Wallop and followed by the Royal British Legion Standard and the Scouts, Cubs, Brownies and Beavers.

Leading up to 11 o'clock a short ceremony will take place. The names of those who fell in the two World Wars and whose names are engraved on the memorial will be read out during the service as will the names of the airmen, commemorated on the plaque in the wall of Old St Peter's Church, who are buried in the nearby cemetery. The Police will control the traffic during the procession and service at the war memorial. The start of the two-minute silence will be signalled by the sounding of the Last Post, the end by Reveille.

Wreaths will be laid after the act of remembrance during which, weather permitting, the Army Air Corps' historic flight from Middle Wallop will fly over the war memorial.



Armistice Day Procession to the War Memorial 2022

Church News

St Peter's and Old St Peter's Stockbridge



On October 1st, we celebrated Harvest Festival in Stockbridge and the church was colourfully decorated with pumpkins and autumn foliage. During the service, which was very well attended, members of the congregation brought forward their gifts of food, both fresh and cupboard goods, which were subsequently donated to the Andover Food Bank. Peter Hughes had donated two large trout which he subsequently sold and gave the proceeds to the church funds. The Food Bank staff were very grateful and thanked St Peter's for their generosity which would feed many needy families. Please continue throughout the winter to leave what you can in the basket at the back of the church. Iain Bell kindly takes contributions over each week to Andover.

November is the month of remembrance. Charles Wesley wrote the following lines:

One family, we dwell in him,
One Church, above, beneath;
though now divided by the stream;
the narrow stream of death.

All Saints' Day (November 1st) and All Souls' Day (November 2nd) celebrate this mutual belonging. All Souls' Day was first instituted at the French monastery in Cluny in 993 CE and quickly spread throughout the Christian world. Remembering the faithful departed on All Souls' Day is an opportunity to give thanks to God for those we have loved. There will be a service in St Peter's that day at 12 noon and you may give Phill the names of those who you wish to remember and he will read them out during the service. Candles will be lit for them.

Armistice Day commemorates the moment in WW1 (at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month) when Germany ended hostilities with the Allies and fighting officially stopped. There will be a service at 10.50am at the Stockbridge War Memorial on Saturday 11th November.

The following day, Remembrance Sunday, the service in St Peter's Church will start at 9.45am. The church will be very full as we are joined by the scouts, cubs, brownies and beavers as well as pupils from the two schools. Soldiers from Middle Wallop will be in attendance and will lead the

procession afterwards down the High Street to the War Memorial for a second Act of Remembrance.

Many people in our community will have personal memories of those lost during the World Wars or other conflicts since. My own uncle, Alexander Begg, the oldest brother of my mother and three other siblings, had gained a scholarship to Cambridge in 1916 but joined up shortly after starting his studies. As a Subaltern in the 13th battalion of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, he was killed near Arras on March 21st 1918 at the start of the major German offensive. He had won the Military Cross for gallantry during the Battle of the Somme. He has no known grave but we saw his name on the magnificent memorial in Arras when we visited the battlefield in 2000, 82 years after his death. In a poignant memory told to me by my mother, my grandmother always laid a place for her lost son at the table on Sunday lunchtimes in their vicarage in Waddington, Lancashire, where my grandfather was the rector.

'We will remember them'.



The Arras Memorial

Looking ahead:

Thursday November 2nd

All Souls' Day. Church service at 12 noon.

Sunday November 5th

Tea and cake in the Church at 3pm for those who live alone

Saturday 11th November

Armistice Day, Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial at 10.50am.

Sunday 12th November

Remembrance Sunday Service in St Peter's at 9.45am, followed by a second Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial.

Janet Williams

Hampshire Downs RC Parish St Thomas More

Services are held on Sundays at 9.00am

Church News

St Mary's Longstock



'Soup and Sandwiches' takes place on the last Thursday of the month – if anyone would like to help by making sandwiches or cakes, (ingredients supplied), please contact me (810284). If you would like to come and join us for good food and a chat, the next event is Thursday 30 November, 12.30pm, at Longstock Village Hall. This is for anyone who would like company, make new friends, and catch up on what is going on.

The Harvest Festival Service on 1 October was a very successful service – lots of adults and children came with plenty of donations for the Food Bank. All the contributions were delivered to the Andover Food Bank on the Monday. Our two boxes and five bags were gratefully received.

After the service, around 55 people came to the Village Hall for Harvest Supper. We had a hog roast, with jacket potatoes and salads, followed by a selection of delicious homemade puddings. The pudding makers did not let us down providing a wonderful selection of crumbles, meringue roulades, flans and a clafoutis, served with custard or cream – sometimes both. The raffle helped with fund raising - £150.

On 8 October a wonderful service with Baptism took place at 9.30am. Over 60 people in church on a bright and sunny day. Baby Frederick Burnfield behaved impeccably – together with Giles and Cecilia. The baby actually stood in the font, with the baptism water then poured over his head. He was so good – no crying, but positively observed the congregation as if receiving their homage! He had grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins all watching with love.

At 2pm we had another Baptism – this time baby Logie Dobson, son of Stephanie and Hamish and grandson number two for Gary and Therès Oliver. Logie, too, was a very good baby, making no fuss at all about anything, but with plenty of smiles.

Open House at the Rectory on 21 October. Rev'd Philip invited anyone from the Benefice to call in for refreshments and a chat – with refreshments suited to the time of day – coffee and biscuits in the morning, soup over lunch and cake in the afternoon. A steady trickle of visitors throughout the day. Thanks for the hospitality.

The second 'Sunday@4' took place on 15 October in Longstock Village Hall. Around 12 young children enjoyed singing an 'active' new song, played a couple of games, then heard a story about

a man up a tree – Zacchaeus the Tax Collector, who wanted to meet Jesus, when he came to Jericho. Because he was short, he climbed a tree. Jesus saw him, but then went to supper and, after the meeting, Zacchaeus was changed. After a short discussion about how he changed - and how we change after meeting Jesus - there was another singing of the song, then hot dogs, cake and drinks.

At the PCC meeting on 17 October, Lisa Trailor discussed our hopes for the next level – a silver Eco Church award. The finances to the end of September were discussed as well as arrangements for Christmas. In the fabric report it was noted that the church is in a reasonable condition, but more repairs to the churchyard wall are needed on the garden side of the Old Vicarage. Some underpinning may be necessary. A faculty will be applied for and a quote is expected, setting out 2 options – repointing, or more serious work strengthening the wall buttress.

Dates for your Diary:

12 November is Remembrance Sunday – a service in church, followed at 10.50am by the Act of Remembrance at Longstock War Memorial.

18 November, Church and Churchyard Autumn clean and tidy. I am hopeful that most of the leaves will have dropped by then so we will be clearing the leaves and preparing areas for wild flowers and clearing weeds from graves; inside we will clean away cobwebs, dust the angels, polish and buff the pews and leave the church sparkling and smelling of beeswax. 10.30am – 12noon. Please bring your own rakes and garden tools; dusters, long-poled web cleaners. Polish provided. Refreshments, drinks and buns will be provided.

Christmas Dates:

9 December – hopefully a 'Christmas Story in the Barn'. A fun event in the barn at Charity Farmhouse at 3.00pm, but this is to be confirmed
17 December. The Crib Service at 9.30am at St Mary's Church
25 December. All Age Christmas at 10.00am at St Mary's Church
31 December. A Benefice Service at 10.00 at St Mary's Church

Services for November at St Mary, Longstock:

2 November	2.00pm	The funeral of Ivan Gibson at St Mary's Church.
5 November	9.30am	All Age Worship
12 November	9.30am	Parish Eucharist
19 November	9.30am	Morning Worship
26 November	4.00pm	Sunday@4 at Longstock Village Hall.

If you wish to be added to the rector's email list, please contact Philip on 810810 or email rector@midtest.org.uk or revdphilipbowden@gmail.com *Maddie Hedley*

Church News



Prayer for November

Lord, we come to the season of misty days and nights drawing in, with the season of Remembrance.

A time when we remember those who we love, but who have gone on ahead to that place of eternal rest.

Lord we pray for all who are still grieving, who miss their husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, friends and family.

We remember all who sacrificed their lives for our future, who thought they had fought the war to end all wars, giving us the ability to live in freedom and peace.

We are so sorry that war and strife still continue in many places. Places where lives are blighted by bombs, terrorism and great loss of life.

Lord, teach us your ways of peace. Help us turn our swords to ploughshares. Strengthen the peacemakers and still the warring hearts of those who prefer to wage war.

Teach us that revenge is not the way. Bring peace to your lands.

Jesus, Prince of Peace we pray you can contain the dogs of war, so we can find ways of living together in humility and harmony.

Amen

The Column for October

Baptisms

The baptism of Frederick Burnfield took place on 8 October at 9.30am at St Mary's Church, Longstock.

The baptism of Logie Dobson took place on 8 October at 2.00pm at St Mary's Church, Longstock.

Weddings

There were no weddings.

Funerals

There were no funerals.

RIP Ivan Gibson, late of 1 Hillside, Longstock. Ivan died on Wednesday 11 October. His funeral will take place at 2.00pm on Thursday 2 November at St Mary's Church, Longstock, followed by interment at Longstock Parish Cemetery.

November Services for Stockbridge, Longstock and Leckford

2nd November

12.00 **Stockbridge** All Souls' Day Service

5th November (Fourth before Advent)

08.00 **Leckford** Holy Communion BCP

09.30 **Longstock** All Age Service

11.00 **Stockbridge** Parish Eucharist

11th November (Armistice Day)

10.50 **Stockbridge** Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial

12th November (Remembrance Sunday)

08.00 **Old St Peter** Holy Communion

09.30 **Longstock** Parish Eucharist

09.45 **Stockbridge** Remembrance Service

10.50 **Stockbridge** Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial

10.50 **Longstock** Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial

19th November (Second before Advent)

09.30 **Longstock** Morning Worship

11.00 **Stockbridge** All Age Service

18.00 **Leckford** Evensong

23rd November (S. Clement) (Thursday)

10.00 **Old St Peter** Holy Communion

26th November (Christ the King)

11.00 **Stockbridge** Morning Worship

16.00 **Longstock** Sunday@4 in Village Hall

A Poem for Peace

'The Rock Cries Out to Us Today'

Each of you a bordered country,
Delicate and strangely made proud,
Yet thrusting perpetually under siege.
Your armed struggles for profit
Have left collars of waste upon
My shore, currents of debris upon my breast.
Yet, today I call you to my riverside,
If you will study war no more.
Come, clad in peace and I will sing the songs
The Creator gave to me when I
And the tree and stone were one.

Maya Angelou



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