
A newsletter from the Borough Councillors for the Test Valley Borough Ward of Mid-Test, Councillors Alison Johnston, Ian Jeffrey, and Stewart MacDonald



Councillor “honoured” as new Test Valley Mayor Elected

A new Mayor has been elected to represent Test Valley for the coming year. At the Annual Council meeting on Wednesday 13 May, **Councillor Linda Lashbrook**, ward member for Charlton and the Pentons, was chosen as the borough’s new Mayor. She replaces the outgoing Mayor, Cllr Gordon Bailey.

During her tenure, the Mayor will be supported by her consort, Cllr Philip Lashbrook, who previously served as Mayor during the 2023-24 civic year. During that time Cllr Linda Lashbrook was the Mayoress, so brings experience with her to the role.

At the same meeting, Cllr Iris Andersen, ward member for Andover St Mary’s, was appointed as Deputy Mayor.

The newly elected Mayor of Test Valley, Cllr Linda Lashbrook, said: “I’m honoured to have been elected as Mayor of Test Valley and to represent our communities over the coming year. I’m looking forward to meeting residents, supporting local groups, and celebrating everything that makes our borough special. I’d like to thank my fellow councillors for giving me this opportunity and to my husband Phil for his support during this journey.

“I would also like to thank Gordon Bailey for his hard work and dedication over the past year. He has served the role with great commitment, and I’m grateful for everything he has done for Test Valley.”

New Cyber Security Training Platform Launched

Test Valley Borough Council has launched a new cyber security training platform, **MyCompliance**, to help staff and councillors understand how to keep systems and information safe. Cyber security is everyone’s responsibility, and the training will help spot risks and know what to do if something does not look right. This forms part of the council’s wider work to manage cyber risks and meet its obligations.

All Councillors should have received an email with a link to cyber security training. The email includes a **MyCompliance** login link, which takes you directly to the course you need to complete.

Andover theatre project moves forward

Test Valley Borough Council has identified Morgan Sindall Construction as the preferred contractor to deliver Andover's new theatre, subject to a contract standstill period.

The appointment will move the project into its pre-construction phase after 1 June 2026. During this stage, plans will be finalised, costs confirmed and risks managed, with no visible activity on site.

The new theatre will include a 400+ seat auditorium, flexible performance space, studios and community rooms, along with café, bar and outdoor areas.

Construction is expected to begin later this year, with completion in 2028. The existing Lights theatre will continue to operate until the new venue opens.

The project forms part of the wider Andover masterplan and is supported by £18.3 million of government funding to help regenerate the town centre and support local businesses.

Council extends scheme to improve Andover High Street and town centre frontages

TVBC, in partnership with Andover BID and Andover Town Council, has confirmed the continuation of grant funding to support improvements to shop fronts and building frontages across Andover town centre.

The original £80,000 allocation from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund has now been fully committed, following strong demand and significant take-up from local businesses. As a result of the scheme's success and the clear benefits being delivered, Test Valley Borough Council has agreed to set aside further funding to ensure the programme can continue.

The Andover Town Centre Frontage Grant Scheme has already helped numerous businesses and landlords invest in high-quality improvements, including refurbished shop fronts, new signage, and repairs to historic features. These changes are contributing to a more vibrant, attractive town centre.

Supporting young people through the ICE programme

Test Valley Borough Council's community safety team is continuing to support young people through the ICE (intervention, communication, education) programme, a six-week course delivered in schools across the borough.

The programme is delivered in partnership with the Police, Army, Willow Team and Yellow Brick Road. It focuses on helping young people make safer choices and build confidence through interactive sessions.

Topics include anti-social behaviour, online safety, healthy relationships, county lines, knife crime, drug-related harm, and team building. Schools identify pupils who may be struggling with behaviour, either in school or the community, so they can benefit from targeted support.

The sessions are designed to help young people understand the risks linked to their behaviour and give them the skills to make positive changes. They also help break down barriers between young people and partner agencies.

Feedback from schools has been very positive. A recent course with year 8 pupils at Mountbatten School highlighted how students gained confidence and felt more able to open up and ask questions. In another example, a former participant said the programme helped them turn their life around.

The next courses will begin in Andover on 3 June and in Romsey on 8 June.

Calling all King's Somborne Residents!

SHAPE OUR VILLAGE'S FUTURE!

YOUR NEXT MEETING - GET INVOLVED!

Following the Parish Assembly, we're setting up two important groups to protect and improve our village.
COME ALONG AND BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!

GROUP 1
COMMUNITY SHOP & PUB
PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Help review the viability of operating a community shop and pub should the existing businesses cease to exist.
Important work that needs to **start now** - likely to take at least **2 years**.

We'll also look at how this links with other village assets: Village Hall, Workingmen's Club and The Hut.

GROUP 2
PLAY EQUIPMENT FOR OLDER CHILDREN
HAVE YOUR SAY

Help review and recommend play equipment options for older children for the Parish Council's consideration.

Let's create great spaces for our children and young people to enjoy!

MEETING:
WEDNESDAY 3 JUNE
KING'S SOMBORNE VILLAGE HALL
7.00 - 9.00PM

IF YOU CARE ABOUT OUR VILLAGE, WE NEED YOU!

YOUR VILLAGE. YOUR VOICE. OUR FUTURE.

Grants

Climate Change Grant awarded to Broughton Parish council for installing electric vehicle charging points.

A climate change grant of £6,620 has been awarded to Broughton Parish Council towards the cost of installing three electric vehicle charging points (and associated works) at the School Lane Car Park.

One of the charge points would be for use by the Broughton & Mottisfont community bus (when it is replaced with an electric minibus), with the other two available for the community.

A grant had also been received from SSEN towards the cost of this project.

Romsey jewellery business receives council grant support



A new jewellery business in Romsey has been awarded a £1200 Independent Retailer Grant to help bring an empty town centre property back into use. Eliza Marti secured the premises at 8 Cornmarket Street for a traditional jewellery shop offering handmade jewellery and repair services.

The business is owned by Zhirayr Martirosyan (Marti), who has more than 25 years' experience in the jewellery trade. Before relocating to the UK, he ran a jewellery shop in Bulgaria. Since moving to the UK six years ago, he has worked as a jewellery repairer with Ernest Jones, building further experience in the sector.

National Service commemorative plaque installed in Andover's Pocket Park



A new National Service commemorative plaque has been installed in Andover's Pocket Park, recognising the contribution made by the millions of young men conscripted to serve in the Armed Forces between 1945 and 1963.

The plaque forms part of a national initiative led by the National Service Veterans Alliance to ensure the service and sacrifices made are permanently remembered in towns with strong military connections.

Andover was identified as a town of military importance, and permission to install the plaque was granted by Test Valley Borough Council.

The plaque commemorates the 2.2 million young men who were called up under the National Service Act and served across the world. Many of those men are now in their 80s, 90s and over 100 years old.

The project was made possible through a fundraising challenge completed in the summer of 2022 by Michael Homer, Chairman of the National Service Veterans Alliance. Known as The Plaque-A-Thon, the challenge saw him visit 50 towns of military importance by train within 150 hours. The challenge raised £7,200, funding the creation of 60 brass plaques for communities across the country.

Michael Homer, Chairman of the National Service Veterans Alliance, said: “National Service shaped the lives of 2.2 million young men who answered the call to serve between 1945 and 1963. Many of them are now in their 80s, 90s and beyond, and this plaque is about making sure their contribution is never forgotten. Andover has long-standing military links, so it feels entirely right that one of these plaques has a permanent home here. I’m grateful to Test Valley Borough Council for supporting this tribute, and I hope it gives people a moment to reflect on the service and sacrifice made by a remarkable generation.”

The outgoing Mayor of Test Valley Borough Council, Gordon Bailey, said, “This plaque is a simple but powerful reminder of the service given by thousands of young men from across the country, including many with links to Andover. Pocket Park is a fitting location for this tribute, offering a quiet space for reflection at the heart of the town. It is important that we continue to recognise and honour the role National Service played in shaping both individual lives and our shared history.”

The plaque is now in place at Andover’s Pocket Park and will remain as a permanent public tribute to those who served.

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Other News

Stockbridge Community Cinema Summer Season

Friday 19 June 7.30pm (1hr 46min) **Nouvelle Vague** (12A).

A love letter to the revolutionary magic of the French New Wave, reimagining the making of Jean Luc Godard's *Breathless*, which ultimately cemented Godard as a pioneer of global cinema. Capturing the youthful dynamism and creative chaos at the heart of one of the world's most beloved and influential movies, *Nouvelle Vague* transports us to the streets of 1959 Paris for an ode to the transformative power of cinema. [In English and French with subtitles]

Wednesday 24 June 4.45pm and 7.30pm (2hrs 5min) **Hamnet** (12A)

After her son Hamnet dies, aged eleven, Agnes Shakespeare (Jessie Buckley) is struck with intense grief. As she mourns with her husband William (Paul Mescal), the pair struggle to come to terms with the frailty of life and the ruthlessness of the plague. Set in 16th-century England, Agnes, a healer by trade, must find a way to move on with her life and provide for her other children.

Friday 17 July 7.30pm **Sentimental Value** (15)

After the death of their mother, Estranged sisters Nora and Agnes reunite with their once-famous director father, Gustav (Stellan Skaarsgard). He tries to revive his career with a personal film project, casting a Hollywood star. When Nora refuses a role, it leads to confrontations about art, legacy, and family trauma, in this humorous and heartbreaking film [In Norwegian with English subtitles]

Wednesday 24 July 4.45pm and 7.30pm (2hrs 0min) **Blue Moon**(15)

Richard Linklater's *Blue Moon* tells the story of legendary lyricist Lorenz Hart bravely facing the future as his professional and private life unravel at the opening night party for former partner Richard Rogers' hit show *Oklahoma!* By the time this night is over, Hart will have confronted both a world that no longer values his talent and the seeming impossibility of love.

Friday 21 August 7.30pm **It Was Just An Accident** (12A)

When mechanic Vahid unexpectedly encounters the man who may have been his torturer in prison, he kidnaps him with the intention to exact vengeance but turns to other victims for confirmation. As they deal with their past, the group struggles to decide: Is this him, without a doubt? What would retribution actually mean? [In Persian & Azerbaijani with English subtitles]

Wednesday 26 August 4.45pm and 7.30pm (1hr 53min) **The Mastermind** (15)

The Mastermind (2025) is a Kelly Reichardt-directed crime drama set in 1970, featuring Josh O'Connor as JB Mooney, a struggling, deluded, and under-employed father who attempts an audacious art heist in a small Massachusetts town. When the, "meticulous" plan goes haywire, the film shifts into a "coming-undone" story focusing on the messy, anticlimactic aftermath.

Somborne Community Cinema

Hamnet



Thursday 11th June 2026 Period Drama: 2h:05m

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



Rental Family



Thursday 9th July 2026 Comedy Drama: 1h:49m

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

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



Cinema

King's Somborne Village Hall Doors open at 7.15pm and the films start at 8pm leaving plenty of time to get your drinks and snacks from the well-stocked bar.

Defibrillators for public use are located at:

Stockbridge Recreation Ground (24 hours)
Stockbridge Fire Station (available 24 hours)
Longstock Village Hall (available 24 hours)
Leckford Estate Office (restricted hours)
Leckford Farm Shop (restricted hours)
Up Somborne Rookley Farm (24 hours)
King's Somborne Village Hall
King's Somborne – The Crown Inn (available 24 hours on front wall of pub)
Over Wallop - the White Hart pub, Pinchbecks Garage and the Army Flying Museum.
Nether Wallop -Village Hall and the Pavilion on the playing fields.
Broughton Village Hall
Mottisfont Social Club
Ashley- Ashley Farm (24 hours)
Lockerley - Outside the main door at the Lockerley and East Dean Memorial Hall. SO51 0JG
Lockerley - Outside the door of Lockerley Stores on Lockerley Green. SO51 0JN
East Tytherley – outside the entrance to the farm.

Instructions for use are given when the device is commandeered.

In the event of an emergency, after dialling 999 to report the incident, the phone operative should give the access code for the cabinet, to the person/first aider using the device.

Contact:

If there are any issues in this copy that you would like to discuss, or any items of news that you would like to be considered in a future copy please contact any of the Borough councillors



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