

MAY 2024

BENTWORTH, LASHAM, AND SHALDEN PARISH MAGAZINE

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

Dear Friends

During May we hit several important Christian days and themes. First on Thursday 9th we have Ascension Day which is always celebrated 40 days after Easter Day. Then 10 days after that we celebrate Pentecost, that being Sunday 19th and the week after that on 26th May is Trinity Sunday when we remember God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Many people, when they think about it all, struggle to understand the concept of a God that is Three in One. Here is one way to begin to unpick this theological nightmare! So, question - why is your television like the Trinity? And a trick question - how many colours does your television set use?

Answer: Just three: red, green and blue. And in that order, just like a rainbow (where reds are at one side, blues at the opposite side, green in the middle). This is known as "RGB". I only hope that our new technologies still use this as my illustration might be void!!

These are TV's three primary colours which, when their luminescence is fired at your eyes, give all the colours of the visible spectrum. These are all "additive" colours. In fact, mix these three together in different proportions, and your screen can offer you 16 million + colours.

You'll soon call out the repair man if your television loses one of its three colours and all the presenters look as though they came from Mars. But change the intensity of any one colour (red, green or blue) even slightly and you change the overall colour.

Switch them all off, and you are left with black. Let all three of them shine at full brightness, at the same point – and then as if by magic you have a totally different colour: WHITE!

It's a parable which illustrates the Holy Trinity. Three completely distinct persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), just as your TV set has three quite separate colours: red, green, blue. If you take away any one member of the Trinity, you slip into theological error; take away any one of the three colours, and you call out the TV repair engineer!

So -

It DOES matter that God is our Creator and Father - otherwise our whole life is merely a meaningless illusion.

It DOES matter that Jesus is God the Son, for otherwise his death is simply a human tragedy, with no promise of salvation or eternal life.

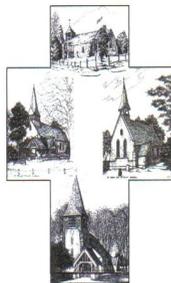
It DOES matter that the Holy Spirit is with us here and now, otherwise we are disconnected from God.

Yes it really does matter! Just as it is essential that a TV set can produce white by the equal intensity of all of its three colours. In fact, the more you think about it, the more it seems that the doctrine of the Trinity is far from being a complicated bit of theological nonsense, but is a sort of theological test-card, to make sure that we've got the right picture of God, without distortion.

Do come and worship with us as celebrate all that God brings to our lives and community.

Revd Canon Andrew Micklefield

✘ ✘ ✘ ✘ ✘ ✘ ✘ ✘ ✘



THE VILLAGER

the editor

Please send copy for the **June** Magazine to the Editor or your Village Correspondent **by 12 noon on Friday 10th May.**

Lots of events now Spring is here, and summer is in sight! Do look at all the places you can be, some free, some for charity, etc... Enjoy!

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL

- 26 Medstead Movies *The Great Escaper* Village Hall 6.45 for 7.30pm Page 32
27 ANHC: Field Meeting – Pamber Forest for botany 10 – 1pm
27 Alton Choral Society: St Andrew's Medstead Music Recital 6pm Page 31
27 Bentworth Cricket Club: Annual Quiz Bentworth Village Hall 7 for 7.30pm

MAY

- 1 Shalden Annual Parish Meeting Page 11
1 Roedowns WI: AGM and supper
4 Shalden Garden Club Village Hall
4 ANHS: Field Meeting – Birds of Home Farm, Burkham 10am Page 24
7 AOS: Concert by Tom Winpenny St Lawrence church 8pm Page 19
9 Medstead WI: Annual Meeting
9 Allen Gallery Talk: Chris Walker *St Mary's Church - Raising the Roof* 7.30pm

10 Villager deadline for June magazine by noon please

- 10 Bentworth Film Night: *The Holdovers* Jubilee Hall 7pm Pages 5 & 35
11 Bentworth Plant Sale on the green 10am Pages 5 & 37
11 ANHS: Field Meeting – Shortheath Common for Field Crickets etc.. Page 24
11 Allen Gallery Film: *Past Lives* Page 18
12 Cardiac Rehab: Open garden 3 Timber Croft Close, Four Marks 2–5pm Page 19
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 25
15 ACAN: Energise South Downs Community Centre 7pm Pages 18 & 36
18 Medstead Plant Sale Village Hall 10.30 -12 Page 31
18 Allen Gallery Workshop: *Raw Clay workshop* 2-4pm. Page 18
22 ACAN: Talk on *Hampshire Swifts* Community Centre 7.30pm Page 19
26 NGS Open Garden at Shalden Park House GU34 4DS Page 12
27 Allen Gallery Workshop: Street Stories -woodwork and 2D/3D assembly workshop
28 ANHS: Moth Trapping at The Allen Gallery 8.45pm Page 24
29 ANHS: Moths and Minibeasts at The Allen Gallery 10.30am Page 24

JUNE

- 1 ANHS: Field Meeting – Bentley Tree Walk Page 24
5 Roedowns WI: Louise Morrish *Operation Moonlight* Wiltshire Room 7.30pm
11 ASA: Mark Meredith *An Englishman in New York - the art of Lord Duveen*
13 Medstead WI: *Tickle Your Tastebuds*

ACC = Alton Camera Club

ASA = The Art Society Alton

ANHS = Alton Natural History Society's

AOS = Alton Organ Society

BENTWORTH

BENTWORTH CARE GROUP

Jackie Crawford

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

Robert Good 07714 246 735; Ali Tollemache 563193;

Sarah Whitley 562188.

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

The Care Group Bingo Tea.

It was eyes 👁️👁️ down for the annual bingo tea on Saturday 16th March at Wivelrod Barns courtesy of Susie Greenwood. As usual it wouldn't have been the same without our expert, witty (and often bossy!) 'caller' Brian Carter. There were wonderful prizes at stake and delicious food prepared by Care Group members resulting in happy smiles 😊 all round!



THE MUCK IN COFFEE MORNING

Join us from 10.30 – 11.30am every Monday morning – except Bank Holidays. We do not meet on Mondays 6th or 27th May, so make the most of the others - 13th and 20th!!

Now the RNLI have received our latest donation we need more £1s for the next charity!! £1 for as much tea or coffee as you can drink, and as many biscuits as your waist line will allow. 😊



BENTWORTH FILM NIGHT – Friday 10th May – Jubilee Hall

Sue Brooking

We are pleased to announce that we will be screening, **The Holdovers**, on Friday 10th May. **The Holdovers** is a comedy-drama film set in the early 70's, capturing the bittersweet atmosphere of a New England boarding school during the holiday season, blending humour, melancholy, and memorable performances.

Paul Giamatti stars as a strict Classics teacher at a New England boarding school who is forced to chaperone a handful of students with nowhere to go on the Christmas holidays. The film received five nominations at the Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Actor for Giamatti. Da'Vine Joy Randolph also won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress. It was also named one of the top 10 films of 2023 and received accolades at the Golden Globe Awards and the British Academy Film Awards.

Please join us for what we hope will be a very enjoyable film. Doors open at 7pm with the film showing at 7.30pm.

Tickets £5 on the door (Small Notes and change for entrance fees, drinks and ice cream, very much appreciated). This is a social event open to all local villagers, please feel free to bring friends along too.

Small Notes and change for entrance, drinks and ice cream, very much appreciated!



BENTWORTH GARDEN CLUB

Maryanne McEvoy



On 19th March the club started the 2024 season with a super talk from a very experienced gardener, Patricia Elkington who has a beautiful garden in Crawley, near Winchester. Her topic 'Natural but not wild' was inspirational to those of us who embrace the relaxed style, we can't really go for rewilding, which is on trend but most of us don't have acres to return to nature!

The meeting was really well attended, and Maxine and Kathryn were busy signing up members for the season. We were delighted to welcome some new people to the club. If anyone is still interested in joining it is a bargain £10 for the season.

In May the club will be having the

BENTWORTH PLANT SALE on the VILLAGE GREEN
from 10am on Saturday 11th May



Do come along and buy some bargain homegrown goodies.

And there will be refreshments available too



PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING REAL MONEY!!

I'm writing this in early April, so fingers crossed by May we hopefully will be out of the monsoon season and enjoying some spring sunshine.

If anyone wishes to donate any plants for the sale the committee will be very grateful, you can leave these in the garden at Sherry Stockdale's house, Lindsay Cottage, Bentworth (the thatched cottage behind the hedge on the village green).

Happy gardening

Richard Hill



**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

THE COMMUNITY HUB AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Mervyn Dunwoody

Last month, I talked about the work inside the church. This month we have completed the works outside despite the heavy and persistent rain. The new base slab for the extension has been concreted and all the ducts for electricity, water and the waste water have been completed. The area looks like a ploughed field, but once we finally get some dry weather this should rapidly be tidied and grassed.



The new under floor heating pipes, the prefabricated panels for the building and the new lights have been ordered. These will be delivered after Easter from a number of manufacturers which will allow both the inside and outside works to move forward.

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

BENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Neal Day

Bentworth Parish Council has a vacancy for the position of councillor.

Would you like to play a part in shaping the future of Bentworth. As a Parish Councillor you will focus on the quality of life for those living in the parish.

The Parish Council works to identify issues which are important to the lives of the residents they represent. Councillors influence and help to shape the long term development policy for the parish and as part of the planning process, comment on applications.

Bentworth Parish Council meets on a monthly basis with meetings open to the public.

If you would like to become a councillor for Bentworth please contact the Parish Clerk

clerk@bentworthparishcouncil.org

or for more information or to discuss further contact the Parish Council Chair Person

neal@bentworthparishcouncil.org

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LASHAM

JOE CLIFFORD AT 80

Charlie Shaylor and Anthea Del Mar in conversation with Joe.

Joe celebrated his 80th birthday in March, and the secret of his longevity is cigarettes,



black coffee and Becks beer. Dave Shaylor has been reduced to drinking whisky as Joe cleaned out all the Becks supplies in the area.

For most of Joe's 80 years he has lived in Lasham, and for 53 of them he has been married to Lynn. They have three children, Joanne, John and Catherine, and nine grandchildren, ranging from 21 year old Christopher to 8 year old Jasmine.

photo by Mike Moore

Born not far away in West Sussex, he arrived in Lasham via Newcastle, having done an engineering apprenticeship at Fernhurst, a plumbing apprenticeship, and a brief spell working on long pipes for the transference of oil to Fawley as a Lloyds certificated welder, to work for Frank Silvester at Church Farm. In those days the cows were milked in buildings which are now houses in Church Farm Place. When the Silvesters moved to Ropley Joe turned his skills to assist in building their new house, before working for Michael Walford and Dave Saylor. When the new Lasham dairy was built on the site which had been the sewage works Joe was very much part of the construction team. And he was a crack tractor driver, winning ploughing competitions across the county. From farming Joe joined Mark Smith Plumbing and acquired his Corgi ticket.

Among the many trophies in his house that which takes pride of place is a mounted cricket ball with which he took ELEVEN wickets playing cricket for Lodsworth Cricket Club against Heyshott in 1976. He was a medium fast swing bowler. Not only did Joe play cricket to county level but he was also an ace footballer, a semi-professional for Exeter. As the years went by he became very keen on a Sussex game called stool ball, and no village event was complete without a game of stool ball. For many years Joe organised pool competitions at the Royal Oak - time was when there were two teams, the terror of the neighbourhood, with the A team winning the League!

Not just sports – Joe also excelled in Quiz games and again the Royal Oak benefitted from Joe as he ran regular quiz nights.

Above all Joe is a family man. A devoted and caring husband, a loving and proud father and grandfather.

We wish him many congratulations on his eightieth birthday.

THE EASTER GARDEN - 1996 & 2024

Mark Dewdney

Mrs Jean Osgood, making the Easter Garden for the Church initially with our children Christopher and Emily in 1996 and again this time with Christopher's children Olivia and Sophia for this years Easter Garden for the Church...

Jean has been creating this Garden for many years, through the Sunday School years with the children of the Village and her own grandchildren.



*Christopher & Emily 1996
helping Jean with the Easter Garden*



*Olivia &
Sophia
2024
helping
Jean with
the
Easter
Garden*

LASHAM RESIDENTS FIGHT TO SAVE THEIR PUB Oliver Empson-Ridler
AND END UP ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE ALTON HERALD



A groundswell of support from locals to see what can be done to save the Royal Oak which is at risk of being sold for development ended up with this picture appearing on the front page of The Herald last week.

Options for community funding, grants and a search for 'white knight' investors is now underway.

If anybody is interested in helping, please e-mail us on:

saveourlashampub@gmail.com

THE ESSEHAM MUSIC CHARITY

Allyson Hall

The Esseham Music Charity is a charity which makes grants to talented young musicians living within a 15 mile radius of Lasham. Originally established as part of the Lasham Music Festival, the charity is now a stand-alone fundraising and grant-giving body and we are proud of our work supporting the promise of musical talent.

At the end of last year, the Trust was able to make grants totalling £1900 to the following 2023 Grant Award Winners - six young musicians from the area:

- Anna Loadman (Flute) from Peter Symonds College, who was awarded a grant towards the purchase of a new instrument.

- Annabel Cullington-Doss (Viola) also from Peter Symonds College, who is a member of The Royal Academy of Music Junior Department. Annabel was awarded a grant to help cover the cost of her fees.

- Dominik Cramer (Trumpet) who attends The Hurst School, was awarded a grant to cover his instrumental lessons.

- Kian Rosendorf (Double Bass) The Westgate School, Rahel-Sofia Timossi (Violin) The Petersfield School, and Sahar Ghandi (violin) from Henry Beaufort School, were all awarded grants towards the Hampshire County Youth Orchestra residential course at Bryanston.

We are now seeking to raise further funds so that the work of the charity can continue - with our current reserves we can provide grants for only the next two years. If you would like to make a donation to the Trust, please contact our administrator at administrator@lashammusicfestival.co.uk.

We are also interested in holding an award winners concert to showcase the talents of both current and previous award winners. If anyone in the Alton area has, or knows of a venue with a good piano to hold the recital, the Trustees would be thrilled to hear from you. Please contact our administrator as above.

All details for applying to the charity are on our website lashammusicfestival.co.uk under The Esseham Music Charity.

Applications are invited from 1st September to 31st October 2024 . The process is all online with access to the application form from 1st September.

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SHALDEN

THE PARISH OF ST PETER & ST PAUL

Peter Rankin

- The End of an Era

On Monday April 1st following a lengthy pastoral reorganisation within the Diocese of Winchester, our Ecclesiastical Parish was merged with that of Lasham and Bentworth to form the new single Parish of Bentworth, Lasham & Shalden in a Benefice with the Parish of the Resurrection, Alton. Canon Andrew Micklefield has now become the Vicar of BLS and the POTR and we thank him and the supporting clergy for providing us with the pastoral care over the past few years and into the new future in BLS.

On the 22nd March Shalden PCC hosted its last ever PCC meeting with our parishioners before transitioning into the new parish. Andrew Micklefield was present to assist us with any questions about how BLS will work supported by Bruce Nicole, our Focal Priest.

The final Shalden PCC Financial Report for 2023 was presented by our ever patient and diligent Treasurer, Cynthia Buchanan who had been in post since 2015. After the accounts were duly approved by the meeting, Cynthia was presented with a garden centre voucher by the village to stock up their new garden, having recently moved to Odiham. A vote of thanks and a toast was made to her by the Churchwarden followed by a round of applause.

After looking forward to the establishment of a new PCC for BLS with representation by three members from Shalden to be elected at the Special BLS PCC on 15th April, a call was made for nominees for these posts and for volunteers to participate in the Shalden Local Church Group to manage the running of our church on a day to day basis as they have done in recent years.

The last PCC Meeting for the Parish of Shalden

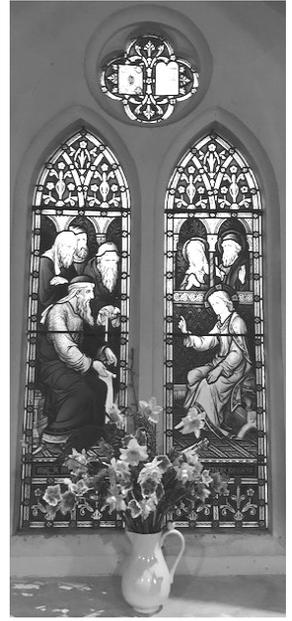
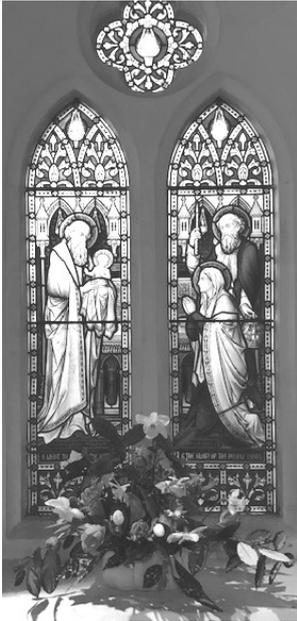
As you can see from the picture the celebration continued for a while for Shalden Church past, present and future.



The last ever service as the Parish of Shalden was held on Easter Day with a Communion service presided at by Bruce Nicole with a congregation of over 40 followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in the churchyard.



Thanks were given to the Marthas who tidied and polished up the church beforehand, all those who decorated the church for Easter and to Andrew Sparling, one of our stand-in organists, who played our Alleluias.



Please note that Shalden Church is now open every day to visitors until the end of October.

ST PETER & ST PAUL GUILD OF MARTHA

Kirsty Ennever

May

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

June

- 1 Jane Shirvell / Lin Baxter
- 8 Sarah Floyd / Karen Saponaro
- 15 Michele Rankin / Kirsty Ennever
- 22 Rozanne Wilson / Rosalind Ommanney
- 29 Debbie Todd / Silvia Blake

OPEN GARDENS AT SHALDEN PARK HOUSE

on **Sunday 26th May** 2024 with the National Garden Scheme.

Come and join us on our open day at Shalden Park House.

Enjoy a walk round the beautiful 4 acre gardens where teas and homemade cake will be on sale to raise money for the NGS and the charities they support, including Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK and The Queens Nursing Institute.

Entry is £5 per adult, children are free and dogs on leads are welcome

Enter through main house gates located on The Avenue, GU34 4DS. '



THANK YOU

Cynthia Buchanan

Through the pages of The Villager, I wanted to thank so many of you for your kindness and generosity for the amazing garden gift voucher that was presented to me at the last PCC meeting of our Parish. Perhaps surprisingly, I have enjoyed being Treasurer of the PCC for eight years and hopefully making a small contribution to the running of our church.

We have much to do in our garden in Odiham and will enjoy planning, buying and planting in the months to come. Thank you very much indeed.

Andrew and I send you all our best wishes and thanks for being part of our lives for the last thirty five years.

SHALDEN GARDEN CLUB

Ian Wigg

Saturday 6th saw the April members of the Shalden Garden Club get together in the Village Hall. There was an exceptionally good turnout with a large contingent of people from the Old Odiham Road & Anstey area which was great to see.

The plant table was unexpectedly well stocked considering that we are still quite early in the season so thanks to everyone who contributed and almost everything was sold.

David and Louise Lancaster have very kindly offered to hold the June meeting in their lovely garden (weather permitting.)

Peter Rankin reminded everyone that volunteers are still needed for the Fete on 16th June so if you can spare a few hours to help out please let him know.

Also donations of plants are desperately needed for the Fete Plant Stall so if everyone could have look in their greenhouses/flower beds.

Many thanks to Neil & Nathalie for manning the tea and coffee station.

Finally, as hopefully most people are aware, there is now a dedicated Garden Club Whatsapp group so if you're not already a member and would like to join then drop me a text message (07767 244950) and I'll send you a link.

Next meeting will be on May 4th (Star Wars Day!) and look forward to seeing you there.

SHALDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Katherine Horton
Clerk to Council

During March, two litter picks took place in the parish: Twenty-two residents from Old Odiham Road and Upper Anstey Lane collected around 33 bags of rubbish on the stretch of beautiful country road leading into Alton from the Golden Pot. While another pick was completed around the roads leading into the village by 15 hardy souls; the youngest helper being just 3yr old! Many thanks to everyone who gave their time to help at these events and cleared the local roads of all the discarded rubbish.





Residents are reminded that EHDC will remove waste and rubbish left dumped by fly tippers on public highways and public land, and whenever possible, will prosecute those who offend in this way. If you see builders' waste or other rubbish dumped on public land, please report it via the online system - <https://my.easthants.gov.uk/services/report/fly-tipping> If you actually see the offence being committed ring the Police on 101 giving full details.

Finally, the Annual Parish Meeting for Shalden will take place at 7pm on Wednesday 1 May. The purpose of the meeting is to give the Parish Council, and other local organisations an opportunity to let local residents know what they have been doing over the past year. The meeting is also an opportunity for electors to have a say on anything they consider of import to the people of the Parish. Both the District and County Councillor have been asked to attend as well as a representative from the Hampshire Police. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

* * *

The CHURCH

EASTER FLOWERS AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH MEDSTEAD

Cate Lacey

Our church once again is colourful and adorned with beautiful spring arrangements ready for the Easter services





Thanks go to all the dedicated team of arrangers led by Marion Slater



* * *

GENERAL INTEREST

WILD LIFE

Diana Tennyson

Penguins at Birdworld: Last month I mentioned the oldest wild bird on record, a 67 year old Laysan Albatross, Wisdom. She had laid her one and only egg, and when it had hatched, against all odds, the chick survived to fledge. I also mentioned the penguin species you can see at Gilbert White's House Museum (GWHM), but if you want to see live specimens, you should visit Birdworld where more interesting conservation work is currently being carried out.

Birdworld has very similar aims to engage young children and families with the natural world. There are plans to extend the park and continue with planned conservation work. Birdworld attracts over a 100,000 visitors a year and has a conservation and breeding programme for a huge range of birds species, including penguins, flamingoes, parrots, pelicans and other rare species, e.g. the Socorro dove which has been extinct in the wild for almost fifty years. They hope this new species will inspire the next generation.

Plans are afoot to help children interact with animals and birds by creating joint access for Birdworld and the garden centre off a new roundabout on the A325. They also hope to create a new entrance building, play barn, adventure playground, and breeding unit. The old Forest Lodge Garden Centre would be demolished and a new, more energy efficient building constructed in its place.

Conservation work is very important for Birdworld's work and they hope that guests develop an interest in birds so that more effort and funds can be used for conservation. Seventy per cent of Birdworld's collection is dedicated to species conservation and there are plans for this to continue in the future, so that eventually some species can be returned to the wild. This commitment is taken extremely seriously so every opportunity will be taken to protect and support wildlife. There are also plans to install an area for bats.

This is a very exciting development proposed for the site. Many of the old buildings are showing their age and need to be replaced. Hopefully this work will begin in 2025, subject to planning approval by EHDC.

Verges: As long as residents can refrain from cutting roadside verges, they will continue to blossom and bloom. We can now see *anemones* growing wild on some verges in our villages, both white and purple plants looking spectacular. Another plant that appears to be springing up is the Snakeshead Fritillary, also a very good source of nectar for bees. I have never grown them purposely, but they tend to appear amongst my Hellebore plants.



Hinton Ampner (N.T. property): You will find an inspirational *display of spring bulbs* at Hinton Ampner this year, including a carpet of Snakeshead Fritillary beneath blossom trees. If you wish to purchase a few, visit the garden shop. Also on display you will find plants and trees for a vegetable and fruit garden. I have made space in my garden for a few fruit bushes, gooseberries, raspberries and black currants. I have planted artichokes and a couple of rhubarb plants in between.

NGS open gardens: If you visit a nursery or garden centre, be sure to pick up your free guide to National Garden Scheme open gardens for Hampshire and the IOW. There are some spectacular gardens open during May, including



Bluebell Wood, Bere Mill and Little Court to mention but a few. Visit ngs.org.uk and view gardens you can visit this year. As the organiser says, this is described as 'Britain's Best Value Day Out'. One of the key messages for the NGS is, 'Great Gardens, Great Cake, Great Causes'.

Bourne Conservation Group: I mentioned the Newton Valence toad patrol last month. Not to be outdone a volunteer toad patrol group were also out and about in February and early March rescuing amphibians making their way on Boundary Road, Rowledge. The number of toads, frogs and newts rescued this year surpassed last year's numbers, and set a record of 719 toads this year. Volunteers feel that because we have warmer, wetter winters in this country, toads are making their trip to their breeding ponds earlier. We will have to wait for Froglife to look at the numbers for the south of England before we know whether this is a trend that might continue.

* * *

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 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. Their current exhibition is in the Gallery until 12th May.

Re: Connecting - Habitats, Wildlife, People -

an exhibition of work by ceramicist Bridget Macklin and photographer Alex Potts, delivered in partnership with The Friends of Blacknest Fields, Binsted Parish Council and Alton Natural History Society.

Nature is infinitely varied, essential to our own survival and brings joy. But our wildlife is in steep decline. Vast areas of natural habitat have been destroyed, the vital connections between sites and species severed, and our own lives divorced from nature. We can and must act to reverse these trends, since we break the connections at our peril.

This exhibition of specially commissioned ceramics and photography celebrates the restoration of a local site for nature and demonstrates the power and joy of community action in reconnecting habitats, wildlife and people. We hope it will inspire others to act, by showing that declines in biodiversity can be reversed when enthusiastic volunteers collaborate with experts, bringing benefits to wildlife and people. **15th May - 23rd June.**

There will be a [programme of events](#) for local schools and the public, run in association with The Friends of **Blacknest Fields** and **Alton Natural History Society**, which will amplify the exhibition's messages within the wider community.

For more information on planned activities please visit:

Blacknest Fields Project: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/491868806032065>

Alton Natural History Society:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/altonnaturalhistorysoc>

GALLERY WORKSHOPS

Raw Clay workshop - Saturday 18th May, 2-4pm.

Join ceramicist Bridget Macklin to create 'seedy beasts' using clay mixed with wildflower seed. Then take your creations home and leave them outside, where sun and rain will help the seeds to grow into a wildflower patch in your garden. *Part of the programme of events to accompany the exhibition Re:Connecting – Habitats, Wildlife, People.* Tickets £12.00 per participant, suitable for anyone aged 8+. Please book on the Gallery website.

Street Stories - woodwork and 2D/3D assembly workshop - Monday 27th May, sessions bookable from 10am - 2pm.

Join the Street Stories team and learn to make a character from a book, myth or legend that can be part of the exciting local Street Stories art project for Alton Arts Festival.

£5, pay on the day. Email streetstories@altonartsfestival.com to book a place.

Moths at Night - Tuesday 28th May, 8.45pm - 10.30pm.

An opportunity to explore the night life of the Gallery's Garden and learn how light traps are used to study moths. Led by moth expert Chris Piper. Free event, suitable for adults and accompanied older children.

Marvellous Moths and Minibeasts - Wednesday 29th May, 10.30am - 12.30pm.

Discover the wonderful mix of moths found flying in the Garden last night, then hunt for beetles and bugs, snails and slugs and all sorts of other minibeasts hiding among our pots and plants. Led by expert naturalists June Chatfield and Chris Piper.

Free event, suitable for adults and children of all ages.

TALK

St Mary's Church - Raising the Roof - a talk by Chris Walker, arranged by the Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery. **Thursday 9th May at 7.30. FREE.**

ALLEN GALLERY FILM NIGHT

May's film is **Past Lives**, a story of childhood, lost love and romance, in Korean and English. It was rated as a "must watch" with 95% on the Rotten Tomatoes review site. **Saturday 11th May**, tickets available online at the Gallery website

For further information of any of our events please email allen.gallery@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk or see the website.



ALTON CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

Jenny Griffiths

Wed 15th May 7 – 9.30 pm at Alton Community Centre:

Our local renewable energy non-profit organisation Energise South Downs is holding an exciting workshop in Alton exploring how we can power our communities using locally generated renewable energy sources. Energise South Downs, supported by East Hampshire District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority are hosting a roadshow of workshops to discover the types and scale of renewable energy that could meet the needs of local people within their areas. Drawing on data and research we explore what might be feasible and create space for an informed, balanced conversation about what communities feel is acceptable.

See <https://esd.energy/events> for more information and to book a free place.

Wed 22nd May 7.30 – 9.00 pm at Alton Community Centre:

Alton Climate Action Network's Ecostreets project is hosting a talk by Catharine Gale, a Trustee of **Hampshire Swifts**. Come along to find out more about these incredible birds and explore how you might be able to help them survive and thrive into the future.



CARDIAC REHAB

Isobel Bretherton

Sunday 12th May

Open garden

in aid of heart charity

Cardiac Rehab,

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



ALTON ORGAN SOCIETY

Elspeth Mackeggie Gurney

The final recital in the 57th season is to be given by **Tom Winpenny** and has an exciting local connection!

Tom is Assistant Master of the Music at St Albans Abbey and has recorded a number of CD's of music by British composers. The next CDs to be released are of the organ music of John Gardner, perhaps best known for composing the fabulous, jazzy Christmas carol "Tomorrow shall be my Dancing Day"; many of you will know that John's son, Chris, is a well-known musician locally, especially as the conductor of the Alton Concert Orchestra.



John Gardner composed music from a very early age and was first published whilst John was still at school. He won an organ scholarship to Exeter College, Oxford, though he played little and after service in the RAF during the second world war, his career encompassed being chorus master & repetiteur at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and teaching at the Royal Academy of Music and St Paul's Girls School among other appointments, as well as prolific composing.

The programme Tom Winpenny will be giving comprises five pieces by John Gardner including his Intrada, opus 24i and Finale, opus 24ii, commissioned for performance by the late Catherine Ennis, (to whom the first CD is dedicated) his Sonata opus 204 and the hymn tune preludes - Darwall's 148th (Rejoice, the Lord is King), Down Ampney (Come Down, O Love Divine) and Veni Creato from his opus 44.

These pieces are played alongside the Prelude & Fugue in G by J S Bach, Fantasia in F minor by W A Mozart, one of the Six Canonic Studies for Pedal Piano by Robert Schumann and Ettrick Banks by Judith Weir.

We look forward to welcoming you on May 7th. To celebrate the end the end of another outstanding season of music, canapes & fizz will be served from 7.20pm & the recital starts at 8pm. Tickets are £10 - more details are available from Tony Willman 01420 543 628 or tony.willman@mac.com

RUDE MECHANICALS THEATRE COMPANY

Camilla Gibson

The Dressing Book

at Thedden Grange, on Thursday 25 July

The Rudes, as they are affectionately called by those who know them, have been touring their original shows to village Halls, schools, or anywhere where there is a big enough patch of grass to set up their "stage".

This is their 25th year, performing outdoors all over southern England. They started with Shakespeare, but now perform their own plays, in the style of "comédie del Arte" with white faces, outrageous costumes and wigs. Mostly comedy, always music and singing, often thought provoking.

This will be their 4th visit to Thedden, almost rained off for the first 2, then last year was so wet, instead of cancelling all together, miraculously Medstead Village Hall was available at a days notice, and they did a fantastic last minute relocation, though you do lose some of the intoxicating atmosphere of the outdoor performances.

Doors open at 6pm for picnics, with the show starting at 7.30. Bring your own chairs/blankets and enjoy an evening of very talented musicians/actors/singers performing a play that will have you laughing and crying at the same time. Check out their website www.therudes.co.uk for a taste of their style, and to book tickets.

I'm told they are selling fast, there was only one spare seat in the hall last year.

MEDSTEAD VILLAGE FETE - Saturday 13th July 2024

Katherine Horton

It's true! By the time you read this, it will be a little over 2 months until the Fete and the rain will surely have dried up by then?!? We're looking forward to welcoming you back to the Green - crockery smash, spinning tea cups, inflatables, arts and crafts, vintage cars, raffles and tombolas, a well stocked bar and BBQ, music and some new entertainment and activities in the main ring.

We still have some spaces left for local artisans and businesses - please email on medsteadfete@gmail.com if you would like a pitch and if you'd like to be part of the team of volunteers who deliver this community event, do get in touch too. See you soon!

* * *

EVENT REPORT

ALTON CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT RAISES £520

Patrick Busby



for ST MICHAEL'S HOSPICE

Alton choral society gave a moving performance of Stainer's Crucifixion on Good Friday to a large audience at Alton Methodist Church. This very appropriate work is a meditation on the sacred passion of Christ.

The music takes the form of a cantata with four-part choruses as well as solo parts for Soprano, Tenor, and Bass which on this occasion were beautifully sung by: Alison Crow, Christopher Lawrence, Peter Rankin, Jeremy Griggs, Richard Care, David Sheraton and Patrick Busby. Jane Palmer accompanied expertly on the organ and the performance was skillfully conducted by Wendy Busby.



The society chose to support St Michael's Hospice on this occasion and the retiring collection raised over £520 for this valuable charity.

The Choral Society will be performing music for a summer's evening at the Methodist Church on Saturday 29th June, including Music by John Rutter, and compositions by local composer Jenny Bateman.

They will also be taking part in the Alton Arts Festival in St Lawrence Church on Sunday 7th July.

New members are always welcome, please contact: welcome@altonchoral.org.uk and visit their website for more details: <https://www.altonchoral.org.uk/>

* * *

CLUBS

ALTON



ALTON CAMERA CLUB

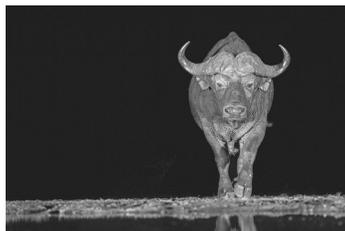
Renee Smith

At Alton Camera Club we're fortunate to welcome many interesting speakers, but one of the highlights over the past season has been the talk by our own club member, *Mike Beaumont*, on 'Africa, Land of the Giants'. Mike has travelled extensively to South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania and has produced stunning images of the birds and animals that inhabit the continent, which he shared with us. He entertained us with facts and stories



and shared news of the marvellous work undertaken by the Born Free Foundation to ensure that all animals, whether in captivity or in the wild, are treated with compassion and respect. His presentation left us in awe of this magical continent and its beautiful creatures and, of course, Mike's talent as a wildlife photographer.

In a busy month for competitions, we held the final round of the PDI (Projected Digital Image) League. Judged by Dr. Barry Senior (HonFRPS APAGB), he awarded ten points to *"The Pottery Class"* by *Olwen Parton*,



"I Can See You"
by
Paul Booker



"Hot Night for the Chicago Blues" and *"You Rest, I'll Keep a Lookout"*, both by *Tony Cole*.

Our theme for the third round of the PDI Challenge was 'Sport and Games' and was won by *Tony Cole* for *"It's All About Speed, Effort and Determination"*. In second place was *Kelvin Perry* with *"Grabbing Some Air"*.



Tony was also placed third for *"Wing Foiling with Wind Surfers"*.



Lynne Harles scored ten points and was Highly Commended for *"Honouring the King"*.

Our yearly 'Triangular' competition pitted Alton against AFFCC (Aldershot, Farnham and Fleet Camera Club) and Basingstoke Camera Club. Alton emerged victorious with '10's' awarded to

Tony Cole for *"Love You Big Brother"* and *Lynne Harles* for *"Southsea Sunset"*.

The field trips programme took us to London for the *St. Patrick's Day (Renee Smith)* celebrations and to Portsmouth, where we were fortunate enough to witness the homecoming of *HMS Prince of Wales (Adrian Corser)* returning from NATO exercises in Norway.



Steve Emmerson HMS Prince of Wales

Our members continue to have success outside club competitions. Lynne Harles' image "Autumnal Feeling" has been published in 'Stretchy Trees', a book by internationally-recognised ICM (Intentional Camera Movement) photographer David Day. Alongside this, *Wendy Davies* has had her image selected for the #Gallery365 display at the *Photo North festival* in Leeds on 12th to 14th April.



Photo North exhibition image



Wendy has also been showcased for one week by Women In Street, a street photography collaborative and publication for women photographers.

Our season is drawing to a close with one competition left, the annual 'His n' Hers' competition, which will be judged by local artist, Toni Goffe. We look forward to a talk by magazine and documentary photographer, Homer Sykes, hosted by Farnham U3A and a trip to Alesford and Hinton Ampner where we hope to be greeted with carpets of bluebells.

Alton Camera Club will break for the summer in May and resume for the new season in September. We welcome new members, whether beginners or experts. We meet at Holybourne Village Hall. Please see our website www.altoncameraclub.org.uk and follow us on Facebook and Instagram @altoncameraclub

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Sat 4th May 10am to 1pm</p> | <p>Field Meeting – Birds of Home Farm, Burkhams Approx 2-mile walk around a Woodland Trust site with ancient woodland, hedgerows and grassland. A chance to see early spring migration as small birds arrive for the summer to breed. We hope to see warblers, skylark, yellow hammer and some birds of prey. Mostly grassy paths but maybe muddy if wet.</p> <p>Meet in car park in Spain Lane, Burkhams, Alton GU34 5RT, just off A331. Grid ref SU6594 4250, ///twee.sank.boxer. Leader: Daniel Banks 07483 083837</p> |
| <p>Sat 11th May 10am-1pm</p> | <p>Field Meeting – Shortheath Common for Field Crickets and other heathland insects A follow-on from our Winter Talk about Field Crickets. Walk length c0.5 miles, on flat ground with short to medium grass.</p> <p>Meet in Shortheath Common car park off Oakhanger Road, nearest postcode GU35 9JP. Grid ref SU7744 3690, ///fantastic.unwell.remaking. Note: the B3004 will be closed at Worldham Hill so allow extra time for diversions. Leader: Mike Edwards 07747 696936</p> |
| <p>Tues 28th May 8.45-10.30 pm</p> | <p>Moth Trapping at The Allen Gallery, Alton** Learn about setting up moth traps and enjoy the night life of a secluded walled garden in the middle of Alton.</p> <p>Allen Gallery, 10-12 Church Street, Alton GU34 2BW. Grid ref SU7182 3952, ///headliner.cackling.shrug. Nearest car parks opposite the Gallery or in Vicarage Hill, GU34 1BW (no charge after 6pm). Leader: Chris Piper 07711 506100</p> |
| <p>Wed 29th May 10.30 am - 12.30 pm</p> | <p>Moths and Minibeasts at The Allen Gallery, Alton** Learn about moths found in the Gallery's garden last night, then hunt for minibeasts. And while you're at the Gallery, enjoy the accompanying art exhibition highlighting through photography and ceramics the wildlife and habitats at Blacknest Fields in Binsted Parish. Children especially welcome (accompanied by an adult please).</p> <p>Allen Gallery, 10-12 Church Street, Alton GU34 2BW. Grid ref SU7182 3952, ///headliner.cackling.shrug. Nearest car parks opposite the Gallery or in Vicarage Hill, GU34 1BW (£1.80 for 2 hours). Leaders: Chris Piper 07711 506100 (moths) and Dr June Chatfield 01420 82214 (minibeasts)</p> |
| <p>Sat 1st June 10.30 am-1pm</p> | <p>Field Meeting – Bentley Tree Walk A gentle amble around fields and the pond in Bentley, looking at a wide selection of native and cultivated trees.</p> <p>Meet in car park off School Lane, Bentley GU10 5JP. Grid ref SU7874 4419, ///scornful.mourner.inner. Leaders: Dr June Chatfield 01420 82214 with Ian Chisholm</p> |

* If you have no access to email, phone or text 07557 643204

** These events are being held in association with, The Allen Gallery in Alton and Hampshire Cultural Trust, to supplement an exhibition at The Allen Gallery entitled "Re:Connecting – Habitats, Wildlife, People". The exhibition, from Wed 15th May to Sun 23rd June, will feature ceramics and photography inspired by Binsted Parish Council's project to restore meadows and other 24 habitats at Blacknest Fields.

- **ALL WELCOME, NO CHARGE** – but we strongly encourage you to join the Society if you come to more than three meetings so we can continue to cover costs. **For Membership queries please email altonwildlife@yahoo.co.uk**
- **UNDER 18s** – are welcome at all meetings but you must bring an adult with you (sorry, this is to comply with our insurance).
- **LIFTS** – email altonwildlife@yahoo.co.uk and we'll try to match drivers with passengers.
- **REFRESHMENTS** – Bring your own refreshments – and lunch where appropriate.
- **NO DOGS** please, as their presence may disturb the wildlife we are trying to observe.
- **FIRST AID and medication** – we suggest you carry any essential medication and a basic first aid kit with you at all field meetings. Please also alert the Leader at the start if you have a relevant health or mobility problem.



**ASA
Forthcoming Lectures:**

Vanessa MacMahon

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.

Tuesday 11th June : Mark Meredith *An Englishman in New York - the art of Lord Duveen*
Europe has a great deal of art, and America has a great deal of.....

Last Lecture until September

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

MEDSTEAD

MEDSTEAD GARDENERS CLUB

Chris Webb

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

SATURDAY 18th MAY FROM 1030 – 1200

AT MEDSTEAD VILLAGE HALL - 50P ENTRANCE PP (Cash only)

Our 2nd April meeting welcomed back Nick Bailey (Plantsman, garden designer, author, speaker and BBC presenter on Gardeners World) who gave us more than a few tips on how to revive the garden. One of the tips that struck a note was planting geranium oxonianum into ground elder. It seems the geranium helps to “push out” the elder and make it less invasive if not disappear altogether over time!



Another top tip was to help create a meadow look by planting well established plants like hemerocallis (day lilies) into grasses. And guess what? We will have both for sale at the Annual Plant Sale on 18th May.

Our plant sale may seem simple but it takes a lot of organisation and help from our members and not to mention getting the plants!!

It all starts at the first meeting of the Club Committee in January.



Luckily we have always had a member of the Committee volunteer to organise the Plant Sale in May. They act as the lead and then set about recruiting volunteers to help with various roles that are needed to ensure success, distribute seeds to anyone in the club who wants to grow them on, encourages people to divide their plants as well as

ensuring the village hall is set up correctly for the big day.



HAMPSHIRE FEDERATION OF WI - MEDSTEAD

Gill Siddall

President Sue Yearley and members were pleased to welcome 5 visitors to the March meeting. Details of the planned farm walk at Old Alresford on 23rd May were given out and members requested to sign up for this. It is planned to have a walk first and then a talk and look at the farm machinery used. Fingers crossed that it has stopped raining by then!

Members were encouraged to consider putting their names down to be on the committee for 2024/25 and a team of 5 members will be required to take part in the group round of the HCFWI quiz.

Speaker Debbie Towson was welcomed back to Medstead and she presented an Easter Eggstravaganza demonstration. Debbie first made a Mohito inspired cheesecake in an Easter egg shell and then a sweet version of a Scotch Egg. Debbie is so organized and made it all look effortless. One lucky member won these items to take home and enjoy! Debbie had also made and brought along a 'boozy' stollen for members to enjoy with their cup of tea and it was delicious.

On April 11th Medstead WI will welcome back Jackie Dimmock for the second part of her talk 'Hampshire Police in Mini Quilts'. Then on May 9th it's the Annual Meeting, time to look back at the year just gone and forward to the coming year plus voting in the committee for the next year.

New members and visitors are always welcome to the meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2pm in Medstead Village Hall.

HAMPSHIRE FEDERATION OF WI – ROEDOWNS

Diana Constantine

Our guest speaker at the March meeting was Robert, who drove from Oxford to speak to us about The Children's Air Ambulance. This is a national inter-hospital helicopter transfer service which flies critically ill babies and children to receive the lifesaving treatment they need. They don't attend emergency scenes to provide road side care. The service is pre-planned with Clinical Partner Teams who fly with the patient to the hospital to provide treatment. The whole of the UK is covered and the crew consist of a pilot, critical care paramedic and doctor. This is a charity and it relies on donations to continue its services.



Forthcoming meetings

- 1st May. AGM and supper
- 5th June. Operation Moonlight - Louise Morrish
- 3rd July Crazy golf at Worldham Golf Club
- 7th August. Garden visit

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

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 or President Jill Kerr 01420 564116.

CLUB CONTACTS

Medstead Bowls: Secretary Gill Moore 01420 563139 gillianfmoore@yahoo.co.uk

Medstead Players: Tania McCullough chairman@medsteadplayers.co.uk
or Secretary Julia Halls 07747 665 968 ; or publicity@medsteadplayers.co.uk

Medstead Tennis: www.medsteadtennisclub.org.uk

Alton Rotary: Roy Roberts 07768 070 572 Mike 07808 093 953

* * *

REGULAR FEATURES

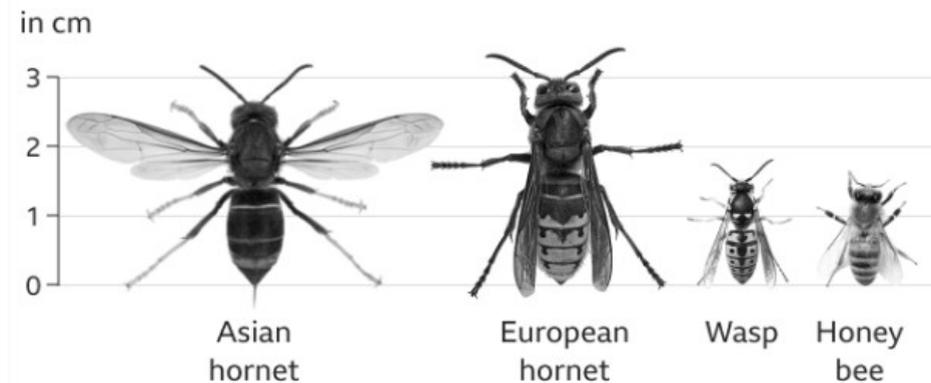


Tim Gordon-Jones

The Easter weekend proved to be sunny and warm, and the bees were very active so I turned the mouse guards round 90° so that they have a slot as an entrance, instead of holes. This allows more movement in and out while still providing some protection from the elements and desperate rodents. It's still a little chilly to open the hives and it's difficult to predict a big enough gap in the rain. I need to do it soon though, as the bees are collecting nectar and I don't want them to think there isn't enough space to store it. If they do this, they will start preparations for swarming, which I don't want.

So much depends on the weather, I must keep one step ahead all the time. There may be a gap on Saturday. I need at least an hour, possibly two, to inspect the 3 hives and put honey supers on the top of each hive, above the one super they have already. The extra supers have been inside the garage over winter. Although they have been sealed there is a risk that wax moth may have got in, but I had treated them against this so hopefully they will be OK.

Please be on the lookout for Asian Hornets. These are an invasive species and are deadly for honey bees. They have bright yellow legs, mostly black body except for the fourth abdominal segment which has a yellow band. Sightings must be reported. You can do that here <https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/diseases-and-pests/asian-hornet/#>



By the time you read this, the weather may have improved enough for the swarm season to start. So please keep an eye out and let me know if you see one. I'm happy to come and remove if they are posing a danger or nuisance but as all my hives are full, I won't come if they are not in the way, or the swarm is too small. My phone number is 07771-862-890.

COUNTRY MATTERS

Julian Lewis

May 2024 – Lambing begins earlier than expected.

The grey and wet weather continues so just a few notes to quantify how wet. **Exactly the same words to begin as the April article.** The rainfall total for March was 134.5 mm (5.5 ins) which takes the rolling 12 month to 1272 mm (51.5ins). The numbers have hardly changed into April and it seems that every day it rains but to repeat last month's words the **weather is cyclical and logic suggests that before long wonderful dry and sunny weather will appear for a long spell.** I do hope so.

My second paragraph last month began by predicting that lambing would commence around the 14th April – well I got that wrong! On the 3rd April I was checking the ewes for a final time before leaving for a meeting in London and noticed that one ewe had some slime and fluids beginning to show – lambing was about to begin. London was cancelled and I pulled out 2 healthy lambs – a good result. After the second lamb I checked to make sure that there was not a third lamb still inside and could not feel anything solid – just lots of fluids and membranes which is normal. However about an hour later a third small lamb appeared – sack the shepherd! All 3 are doing well and have been ringed for castration (where necessary) and to remove their tails. The rings are rubber bands that slowly reduce the blood supply until the testicles and tails fall off a couple of weeks later. If you put a ring on your finger it is not painful as it is not tight. This is a much better method than other

methods of castration and tail removal used in the past – hot pinchers. The males are castrated because they become sexually mature at about 6 months of age which in a mixed sex group causes obvious problems. They also have a different (obviously) set of hormones which results in their meat tasting quite strongly and also the body shape is different – a ram will have more weight to the shoulders where the meat cuts are not so good. The tails are removed because when eating fresh spring grass the lambs tend to poop a lot and if they have long tails it all becomes very messy – much better for it to fall to the floor. Poopy tails become very attractive to flies which then lay eggs which develop into maggots which is horrible.

This first family have now moved into a paddock and will soon be joined by other families – a set of twins arrived safely this morning despite the torrential rain during the night. Temperatures in April are higher and it is the cold that kills lambs. The critical management operation is to make sure that the lambs receive colostrum which is full of antibodies from the mother's milk within an hour or so of birth. By the time the lambs are about 3 hours old they are not able to absorb the antibodies so that first intake of milk in the form of colostrum is critical to a good start for them.

The sheep markets are at record highs because fewer are being produced or reaching the UK market at present for a number of reasons:-

- the trade war between Australia and China has cooled so more Oz lamb is going to China
- the middle East conflict has closed the Red Sea to most shipping and therefore the boats need to the long way around Africa which costs more and takes longer
- there is an increasing demand from different religions within the UK for lamb to be eaten at various festivals – Easter(as always), Eid etc
- lamb production is currently declining in the UK – a previous lack of profitability and a reduction in those willing (sheep farmers/ shepherds) to work the long hours to raise lambs
- the restrictions in sheep numbers imposed in some areas by Natural England, National Park authorities, the Environment Agency
- a reduction in sheep farming in New Zealand because of a lack of profitability

The recent farmer protests have received publicity recently because of low prices. What is really dispiriting is the many protocols that UK farmers adhere to and the carefully controlled UK production methods (for good reason) do not apply to some imported foods. Imported food that you are eating is often produced using methods that if used here would result in the producer being charged and fined or imprisoned - how can that be right?? Some examples of imported foods produced **that do not meet UK standards** are:-

- animal welfare standards e.g. sow stalls banned first in UK – still used in much of the world including parts of EU – restrict the ability of sows to move – but pork still comes here from countries that use stalls
- UK hens have a much larger living area than those produced elsewhere
- damaging insecticides applied to crops – oilseed grown outside the UK and EU
- fungicides used to grow wheat – eastern Europe outside the EU, US and Canada
- energy used to transport food to the UK – is that taken into account when assessing UK production
- the routine use of antibiotics in chicken diets to speed growth rates

- BST used in US milk production – banned in EU, Canada and other countries
- the felling of forest land to grow palm oil and other crops such as wheat in Indonesia and South America
- ractopamine used as a growth promoter for beef and pork in the US, Canada and Brazil – but banned in 160 countries including the UK, EU, China, Taiwan and Russia because it is possibly carcinogenic

Finally for those of you with mobile phones – look at the Merlin app (there are other similar apps) that enable you to identify birdsong within earshot. Just turn on the app in a quiet area and you will be amazed at the number of different species that are busy in the countryside where we live. This week my phone has identified the following species Chaffinch, Blackbird, Thrush, Green Woodpecker, Nuthatch, Yellowhammer, Wren, Great Tit, Green Finch, Skylark, Marsh Tit, Chiffchaff, Firecrest, Sparrow and Robins plus crows, Jackdaws etc.

HAMPSHIRE FARMERS MARKETS

The vast range of beautiful foodstuff are available throughout the County in

Alton Saturday 11th May

Saturday 4th Hamble Spring Festival Saturday 4th Alresford Watercress Line
 Sunday 5th Petersfield Sunday 5th Romsey
 Sunday 12th Winchester Saturday 18th Emsworth
Sunday 19th Alresford Watercress Festival Sunday 19th Southsea
 Saturday 25th Ringwood Sunday 26th Winchester
Most Markets open 10am until 2pm except Winchester which opens at 9am.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - ALTON LIBRARY

Opening times:

| 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 |

There are 2 painting courses : *Using Watercolour – Painting the Seasons* AM & PM starting on 3rd May. Please see the posters on pages 33 & 34

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

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 or
Wendy Busby on 01420 564168
E-mail: 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 18th 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

Maybe subject to change without prior notice

Medstead Movies at Medstead Village Hall



He escapes from a care home for D-Day celebrations

Matinee: (with subtitles)

From 12:00 for 12:30 pm start, 2:15 pm finish

Tea/coffee before movie and during interval

(Bring your own sandwiches)

Evening:

From 6:45 pm for 7:30 pm start, 9:20 pm finish

Bar: Drinks/Snacks before movie and during interval

Tickets £5

26th April 2024

Pay at door or medsteadvillagehall.co.uk/whats-on



Using Watercolour – Painting the Seasons at Alton Library

Friday 3 May – 7 June, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
(No session 31 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   



Using Watercolour – Painting the Seasons at Alton Library

Friday 3 May – 7 June, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
(No session 31 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   

BENTWORTH FILM NIGHT

will be screening

THE HOLDOVERS

on **Friday 10th May** at the Jubilee Hall, Bentworth.



Doors open at 7pm for drinks, with film showing at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 on the door.

Ice Creams in the Interval

This is a social event open to all local villagers,
please feel free to bring friends along too.

*Small Notes and change for entrance, drinks and ice cream, very
much appreciated!*

Future Dates and Films to be announced



Our Future Energy Landscapes

Join us for an exciting workshop to explore how we can power our community using locally generated renewable energy sources

Wednesday 15th May 7pm-9.30pm
Alton Community Centre

See <https://esd.energy/events> for more information and to book a free place



supported by
EAST HAMPSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL


South Downs
National Park Authority

created by  centre for
sustainable
energy



Bentworth Garden Club

Plant Sale

Saturday 11th May 2024

From 10am

On Bentworth village green

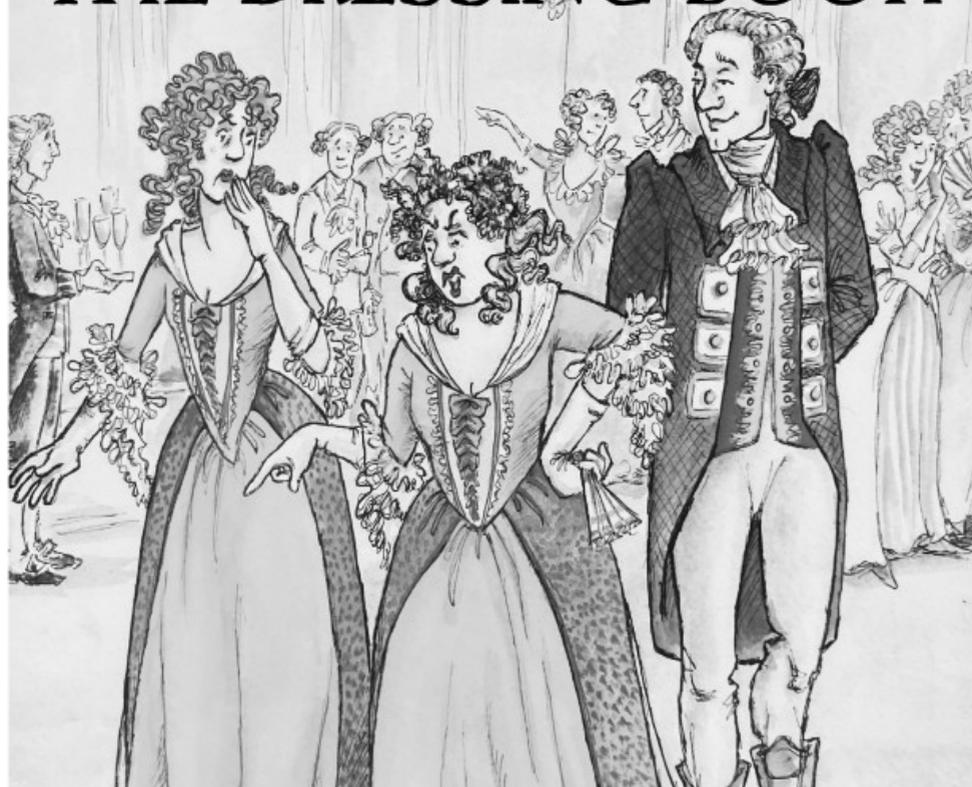
Refreshments available

Cash Only

The Rude Mechanical Theatre Company

Present

THE DRESSING BOOK



Thedden Grange, Wivelrod Road, near Alton,
Hampshire, GU34 4AU
Thursday 25th July - 7:30pm

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.

Thursday 9th May

2.00 pm

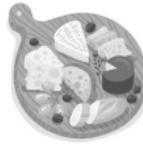
Annual Meeting



Thursday 13th June

2.00 pm

Tickle Your Tastebuds



Church@4 is an all-age family service where parents and children come together to learn about God, sing songs and enjoy crafts together.
Tea and cake are served before the service.

**Church
@ 4**

3rd Sunday of the month at 4pm in the Parish Centre, next to St Lawrence Church.

www.potr-alton.co.uk

SERVICES FOR MAY 2024

BENTWORTH LASHAM MEDSTEAD SHALDEN

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. | |

9th May ASCENSION St Lawrence Ascension Day Service 7.30pm

12th May - THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

White

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

19th May – THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Red

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

26th May - TRINITY SUNDAY

White

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

2nd June - FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Proper 4 Green

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

POTR Services for May 2024

5th May

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

12th May

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

19th May

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| 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 |

26th May

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

2nd June

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

Every Wednesday : Holy Communion
10am All Saints Church