

**MARCH 2024**

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

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

Dear Friends,

**How could God let all these bad things happen?**

This was a question once asked of Anne Graham Lotz (daughter of Billy Graham). This is her answer: 'I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. And being the gentleman he is, I believe he has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us his blessing and his protection if we demand he leave us alone?'

You might or might not agree with her thinking, but is there not some truth in it? For instance, according to the Schools Standard and Framework Act of 1998 '..... each pupil .... shall on each school day take part in an act of collective worship.' But in many schools, not all, this has deteriorated into a 'thought for the day', with no mention of God. It is wonderful to mention that in the schools, in this benefice, Bentworth and Medstead, daily acts of worship and occasional whole school services in Church do take place. But if children are not introduced to Christianity, then how will they build on that foundation in later life?

Do we still read the Bible? If we did, we would learn that 'thou shalt not kill', 'thou shalt not steal' are not things God wants us to do, and that we should 'love thy neighbour as thyself'. If we all learnt just those lessons, the world would be a better place.

From time to time the question arises as to whether it matters what a top official does in his or her private life, as long as they do a good job. This tells the rest of us that we too can do anything we like, as long as we do a good job in our profession.

What about films and television? The entertainment industry makes TV shows and films about topics like rape, murder, drugs and other crime. These films are supposed to 'entertain' us; it would be very surprising if they did not have a negative effect on some who watch them.

Now we ask ourselves why society is what it is, why we hear of violent acts, why some young people feel they need to carry a knife when they go out.

If Christianity is to be the salt of the earth, then we must again value the contribution Christianity has made to the beliefs, ethics and morals of the society we live in.

I don't think that God doesn't care. But if we don't live by his values that are good models to our young and that influence us to work 'for the common good' then perhaps it is not surprising that it looks as if God doesn't care. I am sure he does care and is saddened about what's happening. But many bad things, such as wars and crimes, are caused are caused by humans.

Someone recently asked me: Why did God only have one Son? My thought is, if he had 100 sons like Jesus, who would all be ignored by the human race, the world would not be a better place.

As a final thought, let's remind ourselves of what the prophet Micah said: And what does the Lord require of us but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God. (Micah 6:8)

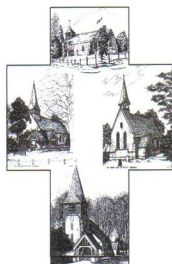
Yours in Christ,

Ingrid



## THE VILLAGER

the editor



**Please send copy for the April Magazine to the Editor or your Village Correspondent by 12 noon on Monday 11th March .**

Did you notice that last month we changed the adverts? We now have 4 less pages, as several have retired, or moved away; but happily we also have several new folk join us. Do look through and see if you can spot the new ones! And please remember to tell businesses where you saw their details, as that encourages them to continue with us!

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### CLUB CONTACTS

**Medstead Bowls:** Secretary Gill Moore 01420 563139 [gillianfmoore@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gillianfmoore@yahoo.co.uk)

**Medstead Players:** Tania McCullough [chairman@medsteadplayers.co.uk](mailto:chairman@medsteadplayers.co.uk)

or Secretary Julia Halls 07747 665 968 ; or [publicity@medsteadplayers.co.uk](mailto:publicity@medsteadplayers.co.uk)

**Medstead Tennis:** [www.medsteadtennisclub.org.uk](http://www.medsteadtennisclub.org.uk)

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

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### MARCH

- |    |  |            |
|----|--|------------|
| 1  | Bentworth Film Night: <i>The Great Escaper</i> Jubilee Hall 7 for 7.30pm   | Pages 4&30 |
| 2  | St Lawrence Monthly Market Parish Room 9.00 to 12.30 pm                    |            |
| 4  | Lasham Coffee Morning with Antonia and Maurice Goor                        |            |
| 5  | Medstead Gardeners' Club: Julie Parker <i>Veg on the ledge</i>             |            |
| 5  | AOS: Concert Joshua Stephens St Lawrence Church 7.30 for 8pm               | Page 19    |
| 6  | Roedowns WI: <i>Children's Air Ambulance Charity</i> Wiltshire Room 7.30pm |            |
| 9  | Bentworth Litter Pick meet 10am on The Green                               |            |
| 9  | Alton Farmers' Market High Street 10 - 2pm                                 |            |
| 11 | <b>Villager deadline for January magazine by noon please.</b>              |            |
| 14 | Medstead WI: Debbie Towlson <i>Easter Cookery</i> Village Hall 2pm         |            |
| 16 | Rotary Quiz Night Holy Rood Church 6.15pm                                  | Page 31    |
| 19 | Bentworth Garden Club Jubilee Hall 7pm                                     | Page 4     |
| 23 | Shalden Litter Pick meet at the Village Hall for 10am                      |            |
| 27 | Shalden Parish Council meeting   |            |
| 29 | Alton Choral Society Good Friday Music Methodist Church 6pm                | Page 33    |

### APRIL

- |    |  |         |
|----|--|---------|
| 6  | St Andrew's Medstead Jumble Sale Church Hall 1.30-3.30pm     | Page 34 |
| 27 | Alton Choral Society: St Andrew's Medstead Music Recital 6pm | Page 33 |



## BENTWORTH

### BENTWORTH CARE GROUP

**Jackie Cleveland**

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

Veronica Parker 560278; David Eyre-Brook 07702 492 509;

Jean Cornelius 562702

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

### THE MUCK IN COFFEE MORNING

More and more people are coming on a Monday morning, 10.30 -11.30am tea/coffee and biscuits for £1, and the company and chatter are free! The Barn at Parsonage Farm

Do come and join in.



### NEW ARRIVALS IN BENTWORTH

**'Fred' Moir**

The latest family to find their dream home in Bentworth, is the Phillips family. Jessica and Ben have come from London to live in Ivall's Farm, together with their sons, Fred and Albert.

All of them are charmed by the village and the few neighbours they have met so far.

We hope that they will find their feet in this special part of Hampshire very soon. Spring is making its presence felt already, which will help to get us all 'out and about' again.

## BENTWORTH FILM NIGHT

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March – Jubilee Hall

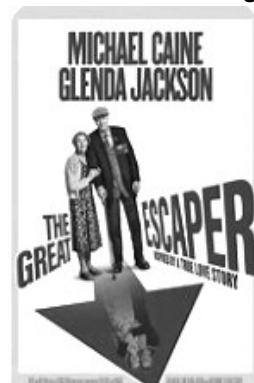
We are pleased to announce that for our first film in 2024 we will be screening, **The Great Escaper**, on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March. This is a 2023 biographical drama, starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson, which marks the final screen performances for both lead actors. It is based on the true story of 89-year-old British World War II Royal Navy veteran Bernard Jordan, who "broke out" of his nursing home to attend the 70th anniversary D Day commemorations in France in June 2014. Empire magazine described the film as 'A moving and surprisingly nuanced drama offering far more than flag-waving nostalgia. Superb performances from Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson ensure the latter's final screen role is fittingly dignified.'

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!*



Sue Brooking

## BENTWORTH GARDEN CLUB



Hello Villagers.

Maryanne McEvoy

As you peep out of the wet window at the endless rain just look at the snowdrops and daffodils waking up. Yes there is hope! And to celebrate this please do come to Bentworth Garden Club's first meeting of 2024.

It's at the JUBILEE HALL BENTWORTH on TUESDAY 19th MARCH from 7pm.

We are starting slightly earlier so that everyone can catch up with friends and neighbours after our long hibernation!

We will be delighted to welcome anyone who would like to join us, it's a bargain £10 for the season.

You can enrol before we commence the short AGM and then welcome our first speaker this year. She is PATRICIA ELKINGTON her subject is 'Natural but not wild'. She is an extremely experienced gardener who has been a key organiser of the National Garden scheme in Hampshire, some of you may have visited her Crawley garden.

Looking forward to seeing lots of you on the 19th when you can get your new membership card, full of details of forthcoming events to enjoy.

Happy Gardening



## SCARECROW COMPETITION

Jenny Lewis

I am planning to run a Scarecrow Competition in Bentworth in June/July 24, the last one was in 2020! Theme for your Scarecrow and more information to follow soon.

The email for this competition is [Bentworthscarecrows@gmail.com](mailto:Bentworthscarecrows@gmail.com).

## THE COMMUNITY HUB AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Mervyn Dunwoody

I am pleased to say that work on site has started. At the end of January, we finally received permission to make the minor re-routing of the Public Footpath, but we are still waiting for the Church Authorities to agree some final details.

The first of the inside works, taking out 17 pews, some of which are being retained for re-use, has been completed and the contractor has lifted the two sections of raised floor close to the organ. Fortunately, the floor in these two areas needs little work and this photo shows it ready for new floorboards to be laid.

The screens at the flower corner have been removed and will be re-set when the floor has been completed. The re-modelling and extension of the heating system is the next job inside.

The external works will soon start, following receipt of the Archaeological survey, with excavation for drains and the piling and base slab for the new building.

We have now raised about 80% of the necessary funding. Included in this are Grants from the Benefact Trust and Hampshire County Council with two decisions still outstanding.

Again, very many thanks to all who have contributed so far, but now that building works are progressing rapidly, we need a final effort to complete the project and make The Hub available to the village. 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 please contact us on the project Email:- [Bentworthextension@yahoo.com](mailto:Bentworthextension@yahoo.com)



**Bentworth  
Cricket Club**

**Richard Hill**

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.

## BENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Weather permitting we will be doing a Village Litter Pick on **Saturday March 9th at 10 am.**

All are welcome to come along and join us.

We will meet on The Green at 10 am and will be finished by 11am

## INVITATION FROM BENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Do you have Ideas for the Parish of Bentworth?

The Parish Council would love to hear them.

There will be an informal opportunity to speak to members of the Parish Council on **16th March in the Jubilee Hall between 9.30am and 11 am**

Please come along and enjoy a cup of tea and biscuit while having an informal chat with your Parish Councillors to share your ideas for a better Bentworth

If you can't make the 16th March there will be another opportunity on the 13th April at the same time and place

We look forward to meeting you and hearing your ideas for Bentworth Parish

\* \* \*

## LASHAM

### LASHAM COFFEE MORNING

Anthea Del Mar

All I can say is that you missed a really good party at the Watts' if you were unable to make the February Coffee morning. It was great fun, and everybody waddled home pounds heavier.

Phillipa had been up since dawn doing Mary Berry magic in the kitchen. The table was spread with a mouth-watering display of cake and biscuits, not a soggy bottom in sight, and there was the crumpet option.



Four ladies sat along the window seat, looking for all the world like canaries on a perch.

So overwhelmed was she by the numbers attending Phillipa managed to pour coffee straight down her front, and had to change her jumper.

David looked rather alarming with at a large carving knife with which he cut up the delicious cake.





Many, many thanks to our hosts. It was the perfect way to deal with a grey and dreary February morning.



Our March meeting is with Antonia and Maurice Goor on **Monday 4th March** at Wingfield House, and then it is back to the Knights at Station House on 8th April. (The first Monday is Easter Bank Holiday) Do come – all welcome – it is really fun.



## SAVE THE ROYAL OAK, LASHAM

You may or may not be aware that the Royal Oak in Lasham has been closed since late December 2022 and its future is very uncertain. It is perhaps reflective of the situation nationally which sees almost 400 pubs closing annually, and we are very keen to stop the Royal Oak becoming yet another statistic. The Campaign for Real Ale website ([www.camra.org.uk/take-action/](http://www.camra.org.uk/take-action/)) makes for an interesting read, as it seeks to reverse this decline by arming communities such as ours with information.

As a result, a Lasham Save Our Pub Steering Group has been formed, and we would really like you to help us please by completing our questionnaire.

Please complete our questionnaire

PTO

Website: [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/lashamroyaloak](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/lashamroyaloak)

Or QR code:

Please scan this QR code using the camera on your phone which will take you to the questionnaire automatically.



If you do not have access to the internet and would like to take part, please telephone 07768 862618 and a hard copy can be provided.

Please feel free to share this information within your local area so that we can spread the word, and capture as many responses as possible.

**Response Deadline 31st March 2024**

Thank you very much in advance from the Lasham Save Our Pub Steering Group

\* \* \*

## MEDSTEAD

### MEDSTEAD VOLUNTARY CARE GROUP

**Helen Bisby**

We support Medstead residents in need by providing:

- ❖ transport to hospital, doctors' and dentists' appointments
- ❖ collection of prescriptions
- ❖ help with shopping
- ❖ monthly Lunch Club and Coffee Morning for those 65 and over

We always welcome new volunteers  
as drivers, coordinators or Lunch Club helpers.

For help, more information, or to volunteer, please ring

**THE DUTY COORDINATOR on 08454 630 546**

(Calls cost 5p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.)

### HAMPSHIRE FEDERATION OF WI - MEDSTEAD

**Gill Siddall**

President Sue Yearley welcomed members to the February meeting on a windy and wet day but the hall was warm and welcoming.

Medstead WI will soon be thinking about volunteers for the 2024/25 committee and any member interested was welcome as an observer at one or two of the committee meetings. Members were also urged to consider offering to go on the quiz team for the group round of the HCFWI quiz which will be held probably in June. Members were told of the movie nights which the village hall is organizing and there are also now two coffee mornings a month run by the village hall.

The members were then occupied for the afternoon with a Beetle Drive. Much laughter and merriment was heard and believe it or not it is possible to sit through an entire round without scoring the 6 needed to get started!



The wooden spoon was awarded to Eunice Shorter and top place went to Jenny Barron who received a voucher.

On March 14th Debbie Towlson will make a welcome return to demonstrate 'Easter Cookery'. Meetings start at 2pm in Medstead Village Hall and new members and guests are always very welcome.

## **HAMPSHIRE FEDERATION OF WI – ROEDOWNS**

**Diana Constantine**

We danced our way into January Bollywood style under the tuition of our guest Annabel Brash.

She taught us various simple routines which gave us a taste of this style of dance.

Hopefully we used enough energy to burn off some of the festive food we had all enjoyed at Christmas !



### **Forthcoming meetings**

- 6th March. Children's Air Ambulance Charity
- 3rd April. Watercolour art with Maggie Cole
- 1st May. AGM and supper
- 5th June. Operation Moonlight - Louise Morrish.

We will be having a stall at the 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 19.30 hrs. Guest speakers, outings and good company.

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

Visitors and new members are very welcome.

Contact: Secretary on [roedownssec@hampshirewi.org.uk](mailto:roedownssec@hampshirewi.org.uk) or

President Jill Kerr 01420 564116.

## MEDSTEAD GARDENERS CLUB

Chris Webb

When the new Committee met on 9th January we were asked if the Club might like to help support **Hampshire and Isle Of Wight Air Ambulance** – such a worthwhile charity which any of us might need at some point – we hope not but who knows!!

One of our members, Frazer Webb, has joined a volunteer run initiative to collect and recycle Aluminium to raise funds for the HIOWAA.



HAMPSHIRE AND  
ISLE OF WIGHT  
AIR AMBULANCE



MEDSTEAD  
GARDENERS'  
CLUB

The group has over 30 bins around the Hampshire area where Aluminium can be recycled and Frazer has volunteered to be the collection point for our area. Therefore, if you have any of the items listed below that you can contribute, please bag them up and



Cleaned foil  
food containers



Wine bottle  
screw tops



Drinks cans (crushed)



Cleaned pet food  
containers

Please don't put anything else in the bags

bring them along to one of our monthly meets and hand them over to Frazer. Thank you for your support.

March sees us moving on with the gardening calendar with Julie Parker joining us on 5th March to talk about "veg on the ledge" growing veg in containers. This is well timed as a lot of my "veg beds" this year will be changing to cut flower beds. I would still like to grow some veg so I am looking forward to how to get the most out of the container approach.



Do come and join us as a guest at any of our meetings at Medstead Village hall – it's just £3 a visit (max 2pa).

However why not join for the year its just £12 and that includes joining us for our annual free trip to Wisley and our full programme of events for the year with a guest celebrity speaker ??? booked in for April.

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

\* \* \*

## SHALDEN

### NAME THAT HIT

Ian Champness

A full house of 57 Shalden residents and friends filled the Village Hall to capacity to banish any January 'blues' and test their knowledge of top 20 hits over four decades. Over three rounds, each with 20 Golden Oldie 45's selected from Ian's collection, eight tables competed to name the artist, the title and from a choice of three, the year it was No.1 or in the Top 20.



As on previous occasions, sometimes Loraine accidentally played the title, enabling the whole room to sing it out loud! Very high scores resulted in a fiercely contested Leader board and a close finish, with Ian Todd's table winning by 1 point!

*Ian Champness handing the quiz prize to Ian Todd*

Tables did not compete for the best BYO dinner, but perhaps next time they might as everyone tucked in to sumptuous suppers, whilst enjoying the opportunity for a great village community get-together. Along with a raffle £800 was raised on the night which goes to the Church fabric fund.



## **ST PETER & ST PAUL GUILD OF MARTHA**

### **March**

- 2 Jane Shirvell / Lin Baxter
- 9 Sarah Floyd / Karen Saponaro
- 16 Michele Rankin / Kirsty Ennever
- 23 Rozanne Wilson / Rosalind Ommanney
- 30 Mary Hart / Debbie Todd

### **April**

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

## **SHALDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

<http://www.shaldenpc.org>

**Katherine Horton**  
**Clerk to Council**

The next Parish Council meeting takes place on Wednesday 27th March at 7:30pm. Residents are welcome to attend and have the opportunity to raise questions or concerns at the start of the meeting. The agenda will be posted on the PC website at least three clear days prior to the meeting.

## **Fly tipping and litter**

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.

In an effort to address the amount of litter along Old Odiham Road, the Parish Council have raised the issue to both Highways and Environment at EHDC for their urgent attention.

## **Village Litter Pick.**

Mark up your diaries, the annual litter pick has been set for **Saturday 23rd March**. Litter pickers, refuse bags and high viz waistcoats will be provided but please bring your own gloves. Volunteers should come to the Village Hall for a 10am start.

Who will find the most empty cans this year and who will be crowned "Finder of the most unusual piece of rubbish"?

\* \* \*

## **The CHURCH**

### **LAY VOCATIONS MORNING**

**Tracey Nicholls**  
**Team Administrator**  
**Winchester School Of Mission**

**Saturday 6th April, 9.30am – 12.30pm**

All Saints Church Hall, St Leonards & St Ives BH24 2LS

Do you think God might be calling you to use your gifts to serve Jesus Christ? But unsure of what your next step might be?

Join us at All Saints Church Hall, St Leonards & St Ives where Bishop David will share about God's calling on our lives and how we can respond to that call. The Winchester School of Mission team will share about the pathways available and afterwards the team will be on hand to answer your questions.

- Do you already serve or want to serve but would value training and networking opportunities? – Come and find out more about the Bishop's Commission for Mission (BCM) available in Pastoral Care, Worship, Children, Youth & Families Ministry, and Beyond Church Walls.

- Do you feel called to preach regularly in your church? - Our Bishop's Permission To Preach programme could help you flourish.

- Would you like to explore licensed lay ministry? - We can help you explore the pathways available.

All are welcome to join us for this morning, designed to help you prayerfully consider your response to God's call on your life - no strings or expectations attached.

Please contact Tracey Nicholls via [tracey.nicholls@winchester.anglican.org](mailto:tracey.nicholls@winchester.anglican.org) or call 01962 710983 to book your place.

# THE PARISH OF BENTWORTH, LASHAM AND SHALDEN (BLS)

## **The single Parish of 'BLS' will be established on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024**

Following due process in recent years, including consultation with interested parties and the public, the Church Commissioners have confirmed that the merger of the three Parishes of Bentworth, Lasham and Shalden into a single parish will come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

The Parish of 'BLS' will be in a benefice with the Parish Of The Resurrection (POTR), Alton. The Revd Canon Andrew Micklefield will be the incumbent for the benefice.

## **What does this mean for each of our Churches?**

The three churches will have a single Parish Church Council (PCC) for the new parish of BLS. This new body will have the legal responsibility for the duties previously discharged by the three individual PCCs.

The BLS PCC will be responsible for the overall accountability and management of the Parish, but will be advised by three Local Church Groups (LCGs), one for Bentworth, one for Lasham and one for Shalden.

## **The BLS Parochial Church Council**

We plan that by the 15<sup>th</sup> of April a Special Annual Parish Council Meeting will convene to elect from each church; one Churchwarden, one other lay representative; and preferably a Deanery Synod Representative.

Separate parish accounts for each church for 2023 will also need to be presented and approved at this SAPCM.

It would be useful to know who will be the BLS Treasurer and the BLS Secretary at this meeting, although these are to be appointed at a subsequent BLS PCC meeting.

## **The role of the LCGs**

Most of these tasks are similar to the current arrangements for the management and running for each church with the LCGs representing each church on the BLS PCC.

## **Next steps as at February 2024**

- Agree the date for the BLS SAPCM – To be confirmed
- Share the constitution of the BLS PCC and the LCGs soonest with the current parishes.
- Convene the current church PCCs prior to the SAPCM as required to best decide how each LCG will go forward as outlined in the constitution.
  - *Shalden's last PCC will be on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 6.30 pm in the Village Hall*

**For further information, please contact your Churchwardens;  
Bentworth - Cathy Dumelow & Liz Preece, Lasham - Maurice Goor  
and Shalden - Peter Rankin**

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

### ALTON TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Eileen Fawcett

Did you know that Alton is twinned with Montecchio Maggiore in Italy and Pertuis in Provence, France? That's why we have Montecchio Way and Pertuis Avenue!

The Alton Town Twinning Association has been organising exchange visits with both towns for many years and indeed, we have just celebrated 25 years of twinning with Montecchio last year.

*Montecchio*



*Pertuis*



Our French friends from Pertuis will visit Alton in June, to coincide with the Jane Austen Regency Week and we are planning a full programme of events for them.

We also organise a series of social events for our members throughout the year.

You don't need to have a connection or special interest in Italy and France to be a member - all are welcome!

*Interested? Please contact Patric Hinde via email at [209pcv@gmail.com](mailto:209pcv@gmail.com). Membership is currently only £11 or £18 a couple/family.*

## GENERAL INTEREST

### THE NORTH HAMPSHIRE NATIONAL TRUST CENTRE (NHNTC) Hugh Bethell



The NHNTC is looking to increase its membership. The organisation is based at The Vyne near Basingstoke and its activities include lectures, meetings and visits - and also raising funds for selected National Trust projects.

In the Winter there is a monthly afternoon talk at Elizabeth Hall, Hook. Subjects include topics as varied as the Hampshire Constabulary, the Post Office scandal and Shakespeare's real identity.

Elizabeth Hall is also the venue for a Spring Lunch and Autumn Cream Tea. Each December there is a Christmas lunch at a local Hotel.

The visits are in the Summer months and include National Trust properties and also non-NT venues. This year visits will include Ham House and Chawton House and one or two other properties.

Since 1985 over £100,000 has been donated by NHNTC to selected NT projects - over half of this sum has been given to The Vyne for use in areas that have required additional funding.

Membership is just £8 per annum for individuals or £13 for couples. You do not need to be a National Trust member to join but non-NT members have to pay the usual entry fee to NT properties.

To join, apply through the website <https://nhntc.com> or if this is not possible phone Chris Harris, 07720 805 633.

We look forward to seeing you!

## NATURE NOTES

Diana Tennyson

**Flooding and runoff:** Every year the Lavant Stream which flows through Chawton fills up and helps drain away excessive rainwater from higher ground. The stream always looks beautiful in February and March, in full flow so to speak. Tree planting at Chawton Recreation Ground will also help absorb rainwater. However we must remember that during a drought, hedges are more important as they retain moisture as well as providing important habitats for small mammals and nesting birds.

**Local flooding issues:** A team is being set up at Southampton University to help tackle local flooding issues. They have been awarded £6.5m and will be working with two other universities. Here in Four Marks/Medstead we should be considered a special case as rainfall 'dumps' on our village causing torrential downpours.

**Road 'Runoff':** There are several types of pollution and we have to consider road runoff. This occurs when pollutants that settle on the surface of the road, e.g. tyre and brake wear from vehicles, etc., build up during dry weather and are then washed into rivers and streams when it rains. The first study of its kind shows that road pollution is contaminating rivers. Road runoff can carry over 300 pollutants which causes short and long-term damage to our rivers. This information will ensure that road owners and operators, i.e. Highways England, and local highways authorities target stretches of roads with the highest potential to pollute.

Pollution from the surface of our roads is posing a significant risk to rivers in our capital, so says the Environment Agency. HGVs regularly apply their brakes and usually the worst affected areas are at road junctions, roundabouts and traffic lights. The problem is likely to increase with the effects of a changing

**River Wye:** Another major pollutant which has adversely affected the River Wye is chicken manure. The charity, River Action, has taken the Environment Agency (EA) to court because the laws we have in this country used to keep our waterways clean have not been enforced by the EA. In fact we were horrified to hear that the EA have never taken action to prevent this. The River Wye flows along the Welsh-English border and is an important habitat for otters, kingfishers and the Atlantic salmon, presently an endangered species. Last year the river was downgraded to 'unfavourable'. The 'rapid expansion of chicken farming in the area is said to be partly to blame', as there are now 20 million chickens being raised on site. This is due to large numbers of chickens being reared intensively, but if we all paid a little more for chickens we buy from the supermarket, the birds could have a longer life expectancy, and be healthier birds and probably happier in the process.

**Fruit trees:** EHDC is encouraging us to plant fruit trees, but before purchasing a fruit tree it is important to understand what you are planting and where you intend to plant it. Alton Climate Action Network and the Alton Local Food Initiative are working again with Petersfield Climate Action Network to 'plant a fruit tree in every garden'. The trees cost only £12.00, a stake is provided together with instructions. The Blackmoor Estate is a family-run farm near Selborne well known for their fruit trees. They have many traditional varieties of apple trees for sale, and supply the highest quality fruit trees with a Fruit Growing Guide. Some popular varieties are Ashmead's Kernel, Blenheim Orange, Braeburn, Brownless Susset, Charles Ross, Christmas Pippin, and Cox's Orange Pippin. They also have pear trees for sale and further information can be found on their website: [www.blackmoor.co.uk](http://www.blackmoor.co.uk).

**'Superhero Animals':** A new book for children by Chris Packham who spoke about the importance of teaching our young children about animals and that all animals have a purpose. Whales are at the top of the food chain and have a very important role in keeping marine life healthy and capturing carbon from the atmosphere, and so play a key role in maintaining a healthy ocean ecosystem. Whales often feed at great depths and return to the surface to breathe. In doing so they mix up the water column.

Whales are 'ecosystem engineers' and help stabilize the marine food web. A single blue whale can consume up to 6 tons of krill per day which has a major impact on maintaining the balance of ocean ecosystems. Without a population of whales, the krill that they eat would multiply exponentially, and in turn the krill would deplete plankton and algae. This would cause an imbalance in the marine ecosystem. Whales also play a role in 'carbon capture and help regulate the planet's climate'.

Also mentioned in the book are monkeys, bats, sloths, amphibians, wasps and assorted insects. Everything has a purpose and is important for the smooth running of our planet.

**Kempshott Park:** In 1928 the estate was sold to Basingstoke Golf Club and until 1965 the house stood in the middle of a well wooded park of 150 acres. It has some fascinating history but was demolished as part of the M3 road construction crossed the parkland leaving 110 acres within the golf course, separating the park from its coach house and woodland. The Coach House remains to the south of the M3 motorway and used as commercial and residential accommodation. The park retains some elements of an 18th century landscape with open parkland, mature trees, and part of the pale boundary. Kempshott was well connected with George, Prince of Wales between 1789 and 1895, and with Henry Holland, an eminent Georgian architect and designer. A section of the kitchen gardens also remains and is used as allotments by residents. Pathways and planted borders provide an attractive background to what would otherwise be a rather austere backdrop. Kempshott Copse now lies outside the boundary and Park Copse is a caravan park.



**Badger Close:** I am delighted to say that the badger clan at Badger Close continues to thrive. I have discussed with ecologists as it is unusual for a badger sett to do so well within a modern development. A resident lives adjacent to the Badger Protected Area (BPA) and replenishes straw for bedding (this is left just within the fencing so the badgers can help themselves) and he also provides suitable food and water. This is especially important during hot weather. The BPA is fenced off, and also accessed by badgers via The Dell. The area is maintained by a knowledgeable tree surgeon working for Four Marks Parish Council. The pathways and footpaths used by residents also double up as 'mammal paths' for badgers and other wild animals. As badgers and foxes are nocturnal, residents may not be aware of their presence unless they spot some unusual digging or scratching in their garden, or garden pots displaced. The BPA has survived for twenty-five years and badgers are a protected species. It is unique and something we should be proud of.

### **Medstead Recreation**

**Ground:** Last year I donated a sum to be used by Medstead Parish Council to install bat boxes in some of the mature trees growing in woodland around the village hall. An ecologist from Hampshire Bat conservation trust will be monitoring them and will provide an update to the PC. We look forward to hearing whether the bat boxes are being well used.



\* \* \*

## **EVENTS**

### **THE CURTIS MUSEUM AND ALLEN GALLERY**

**Jill Line**

OPENING TIMES Tuesday to Sunday Curtis 10am – 4.30pm. Allen 10.30 – 4pm  
[www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum) [www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery)

### **ALLEN GALLERY**

### **EXHIBITIONS**

The work of **Camilla Hanney**, our Artist in Residence, continues until 4th March.

Later in March we welcome **318 Ceramics**, a local pottery group based in Farnham.

"318 Ceramics is a community of artists and students working side-by-side in a friendly environment that encourages and inspires artistic growth, with a focus on providing practical skills."

9th March - 26th March. FREE

## TALKS

### **Margaret Macfarlane's Legacy**

Thursday 14th March at 7.30. FREE

The Allen Gallery collection of Ceramics. a talk by Jackie Breakspear.

### **George Wither**, Bentworth poet - a loveable idiot? Thursday 11th April at 7.30. FREE

A talk by Barrie Lees.

## ACTIVITIES

**STEPPING STONES - our major new programme.** Supported by The Murray Parish Trust, these weekly pottery workshops are intended to promote positive mental health and provide regular, long-term opportunities for young people in Hampshire to use creativity to build their emotional resilience. The high-quality workshops are delivered by professional artist **Jill Maguire**. The first is on Saturday 16th March, 10.30 - 12.30, and they continue for 10 weeks until 1st June. (No sessions on 30/03 or 6/04).

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

**EASTER** for children and families

**Make and Take** on 2nd and 6th April - please pre-book with the Gallery.

**Easter Trail** round the Gallery and garden from 26th March to 19th April. (There will be a trail round the Museum also.)

For further information of any of our events please email

[allen.gallery@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk](mailto:allen.gallery@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk) or see the website

## CURTIS MUSEUM

### FOUND AROUND ALTON

A display of finds by a local Metal Detectorist (and volunteer) from the Alton area. Upstairs in the Curtis till Easter. **FREE**

### THE FUTURE OF THE MUSEUM

Many of you will have heard about the financial constraints affecting the County Council - a shortfall of £132 million. Hampshire Cultural Trust, which operates the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery, is severely affected. The Gallery is safe, thanks to the ambitious new project **Rediscovering the Allen Gallery**. This plan is looking to receive further funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and has already had financial support confirmed by East Hampshire District Council and Alton Town Council. The Museum, alas, is under threat of closure in **2026**.

We who are involved - management, volunteers and visitors - are hoping the Museum can be saved. It is an important repository for the area's history - from ancient fossils, Anglo-Saxon treasures, Civil War artefacts, - to Jane Austen and the Brewing industry.

In the meantime, come and look at your town's heritage, while it is still free and accessible.

You can register comments to HCC on their webpage by **31st March** at

[www.hants.gov.uk/future-services-consultation](http://www.hants.gov.uk/future-services-consultation).

The Museum collection also represents a slice of East Hampshire history - you may want to contact the District Council.

[www.easthants.gov.uk/contact-us](http://www.easthants.gov.uk/contact-us).

## ALTON ORGAN SOCIETY

Elspeth Mackeggie Gurney

The audience that attended the recital in January given by David Price were treated to an outstanding recital of works mainly by French & German composers and the theme of David's programme was Christmas & Epiphany. We were lucky to hear "Carillon de Soissons" composed by Maurice Durufle; Durufle was notoriously critical of his own music and threw a huge amount away – Carillon was apparently rescued from the dustbin!

In February, John Challenger (Salisbury Cathedral) made his debut in Alton and the audience of 60 heard a rich & varied programme of music by Bach, Byrd, Howells and a transcription by John of Venus from Holst's Planet Suite. The recital began with a virtuoso performance of Bach's Prelude & Fugue in E minor, The Wedge; the contrasting pieces in the programme were played with technical mastery and demonstrated the depth and variety of the sounds the Speechly instrument in St Lawrence Church is capable of.

The next recital in the series is to be given by **Joshua Stephens**, recently appointed sub-organist at Winchester Cathedral. Joshua's programme begins with Liszt's mighty Prelude & Fugue on B-A-C-H and continues with a chorale prelude by Bach (BWV 654) and his Prelude & Fugue in D major BWV 532. Pieces by Francis Jackson (a founding patron of the Organ Society) and Durufle complete the programme.

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



## LUMINOSA

Mary Desmond

**and Friends to bring the Grandeur of Mozart's Mass in C Minor!**

Fresh from the huge success of the '*Haydn Nelson Mass*' concert held in Frensham at the end of 2023, Alton based choir Luminosa is delighted to announce their first concert of 2024, returning to the beautiful All Saints Church in Odiham, where you can see them perform Mozart's famous *Mass in C Minor*. The performance will add an extra level of excitement due to the additions from the composer Philip Wilby of the final sections of the work (the *Credo* and the *Agnus Dei*), which remained unfinished by Mozart.

Conducted by their creative and talented Choral director, Rebekah Abbott, the Choir is also honoured to be supported by Michael Higgins who will provide inspiring organ accompaniment. Fellow of the Royal College of Music, Michael has performed throughout the UK at venues including the Royal Festival Hall (London), Symphony Hall, (Birmingham) and Usher Hall (Edinburgh).

Continuing with the great relationship established between Luminosa and London's Trinity Laban Conservatoire, soloists Rachel Newberry, Rebecca Chandler, Jonathan Upfold and Alexander Chapman will also be performing on what is set to be a very special evening.

The work itself was written in 5 parts originally. Finished in 1783 and written as a wedding tribute to Mozart's wife Constanze, who sang the soprano solo part herself upon its premiere. The work embodies pomp and solemnity from Salzburg traditions of the time, but it also looks forward to the symphonic masses of Joseph Haydn. The work contains moments such as the sombre *Kyrie*, contrasted with soaring soprano duets, and a *Gloria* which is both rejoicing and eerily quiet.

Luminosa hopes you can join them for an evening to remember on Saturday 23rd March at All Saints Church, Odiham at 7pm.

Generous sponsorship from Hattingley Valley Wines and Knight Frank allows tickets to be available at just £15 for adults (under 12s-£5), available on Ticketsource ([www.luminosamusic.com](http://www.luminosamusic.com)). Tickets are already selling fast, and with Luminosa's last four concerts selling out well before the event, ensure you secure yours early. There will be a retiring collection in support of the work of Asthma and Lung UK.

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## CLUBS



### ALTON CAMERA CLUB

**Renee Smith**

Alton Camera Club have continued into the New Year with a busy programme of field trips, competitions, talks and practical evenings. We've also welcomed some new members who're kicking off 2024 with a new hobby, or rediscovering an old one.

To bring some cheer to the January gloom, our Challenge competition theme was 'Happiness'. Tony Cole took both first and second place with '*Happiness Can be Just a Simple Kiss*' and '*Happiness is Just Maybe One Glass Too Many*'.



Paul Booker's image '*High 5 Happy Dog*' was placed third, with Wendy Davies Highly Commended for her image '*Pure Joy*'.

The third round of the PDI (Projected Digital Image) competition produced a perfect score of '10' for Tony Cole's '*Striking That Last Chord*'.



Our field trips have taken us near and far(-ish). We visited the Southern Counties Photographic Federation exhibition in Salisbury and explored photo opportunities in the city afterwards.



*Property Vacant* Adrian Corser



*Salisbury Cathedral* Andrew Sorrell



On a wet and windy Tuesday at the end of January we visited the British Wildlife Centre. The animals were coaxed out to say 'hello' and we got some pleasing shots.

*Wildcat* Barry Clark

We welcomed two speakers. Jon Mitchell shared images from his trip to Northern India, including the landscape, architecture, people and animals in this most beautiful part of the world in his talk "Impressions of India". A week later, we explored the world of professional commercial photography with Joe Lenton via his talk "Attention Please! Images That Sell".

We continued our learning with a Studio evening where lights and models were provided for members to practice their portraiture skills.

For more information on our club, please visit [www.altoncameraclub.org.uk](http://www.altoncameraclub.org.uk)



## THE ROTARY CLUB OF ALTON

**Roy Roberts**

### Campaigning for Animals

Alton Rotary recently heard a first-hand account of the history of campaigning on animal welfare by the RSPCA. The account was by Phil Hamilton, who is a Field Officer for the Society specialising in Exotic and Wildlife Animals.

Phil explained that the society was the oldest animal charity in the world and was now in its 200th year. The first court action regarding animal cruelty was in 1822 and related to the abuse of donkeys. Two years later the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was formed, and an early success was the banning of bear and bull-baiting in 1835.

Five years later Queen Victoria approved the addition of Royal to the society's title.

Earlier this century the Society secured animal welfare legislation that ensured a freedom from pain, injury, disease, discomfort, fear, distress, hunger and thirst, and is involved in many prosecutions under this legislation.

Today the Society deals with complaints from the public about the mistreatment of animals, collects stray animals, and is involved in rescuing animals, such as rescuing deer trapped in fences and pigeons caught in netting, sometimes assisted by the Fire Service.

As an Exotics Officer, Phil is involved in inspecting and advising zoos and wildlife centres, and also individuals who have exotic pets. He gave one example from this area of a pet-owner who lived in a small flat who had acquired a baby emu, not realising

that the emu would grow to about eight feet in height. Phil was involved in re-homing the adult emu to more suitable accommodation with plenty of grassland to roam.

Phil said that the current cost of living issues were creating problems as pets acquired during Covid were becoming expensive to feed and keep warm, and the RSPCA was having to home those abandoned.



*Rotary member Neal Day, Phil Hamilton of the RSPCA, Rotary Wessex Governor George Phillips, and President Lisa Hillan*

Find out more about Alton Rotary at [www.altonrotaryclub.uk](http://www.altonrotaryclub.uk) or call Mike Sanders on 0708 093 953.

## **ALTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Louise Fletcher**

For further details: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/altonnaturalhistorysoc>

General and Membership queries: [altonwildlife@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:altonwildlife@yahoo.co.uk)

ALL WELCOME, FREE OF 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](mailto: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 – If you need a lift to a meeting, or can offer lifts to others, email [altonwildlife@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:altonwildlife@yahoo.co.uk) and we'll try to match drivers with passengers.

REFRESHMENTS – Tea, coffee and biscuits are available at all indoor meetings for a suggested minimum donation of £1. Bring your own refreshments – and lunch where appropriate – to field meetings.

NO DOGS at field meetings 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.

**Sat 9th March 2-3.30pm** Garden Room, Alton Community Centre, Amery St, Alton

**Talk – Butterflies and Moths of the Selborne Area,**

by Chris Piper

Chris Piper undertakes regular moth surveys at Gilbert White's House, records moths, butterflies and birds for the Selborne Landscape Partnership, and was joint author of *Farming in Partnership – a New Natural History of Selborne*.

**Thu 21st March 7.30-9pm** Garden Room, Alton Community Centre

**Talk – Nature Reserves of the South Downs**, by Fiona Haynes Fiona Haynes is the South Downs Reserves Officer for the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

She previously worked for Amphibian & Reptile Conservation Trust, Butterfly Conservation, Surrey Wildlife Trust and Waverley Borough Council.

**Sat 23rd March 9am-1pm** Field Meeting – Common birds of local woods and farmland  
Leader: Louise Fletcher 07731 588019 Approx 4-mile walk from Medstead focusing on common bird species to be found in the countryside around Alton.

Meet in parking area by Medstead Village Green, Roe Downs Road, GU34 5LG.

**Sat 6th April 9.45am-1pm** Field Meeting – Blackbushe Airport for heathland reptiles and other species. Leader: Jamie Neaves 07419 375779

Max 15 people **BOOKING ESSENTIAL** (priority to Members):

email [altonnats.events@gmail.com](mailto:altonnats.events@gmail.com)\*

A walk and talk about heathland reptiles and their habitats. We hope to see common lizards, grass snakes and adders and will also look for heathland insects and birds, including Dartford warbler and woodlark. Mostly flat paved areas and gravel tracks but with some potentially muddy areas.

Meet at Blackbushe Airport, Camberley, GU17 9LQ. Grid ref SU8096 5880. Turn right after entering the site and meet/park in that right-hand side.



THE ARTS  
SOCIETY

## ASA

### Forthcoming Lectures:

Vanessa MacMahon

Tuesday 12th March Gavin Plumley *The Art and Culture of fin-de-siecle Vienna* At the turn of the last century, Vienna was the capital of a vast empire and one of the most exciting.....

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

Wednesday 27th March Stuart Harvey *The Architecture of Mussolini*

In Italy the two decades that Benito Mussolini was in power are referred to as...

This online visit will commence at 10:30am on **Zoom**. Members will be sent the Zoom link a few days before the tour.

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

The remarkable untold story of Carry On actor Peter Butterworth,

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

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## REGULAR FEATURES

### COUNTRY MATTERS Why farmers are protesting

Julian Lewis

The grey weather has continued although the few bright sunny days have been wonderful and when it appears the sun seems to have some real strength now – spring is approaching. January seemed to be wet but actually was quite dry apart from the wet start to the month – 68 mm (2.75 ins) in the first 5 days then only another 22 mm (0.9 ins) for the rest of the month. The ground is sodden and little work will take place in the fields until it has a few days of a drying wind.

The ewes are beginning to look pregnant (large and round) and are in good condition. In the next few weeks I will round tail them so that when they lamb it is easy to see what is happening during the birthing process. Additionally if the area around the tail is trimmed there will not be any poopy areas plus the lambs can find the teats more easily when learning to suckle. Lastly a trimmed tail area means that when the animals are completely shorn in late May it is much easier to remove the fleece and the short wool near the tail will still not be messy.

Farmers have started protesting in European countries by blocking roads and disrupting supply chains. There have been meetings in Wales and England to discuss a similar campaign of protest. Why are farmers so unhappy? Farmers and growers in the EU received each year an income supplement that varied between different member states but was roughly equivalent to £90 acre. Over the years the name and details of this income supplement changed but essentially it was the same. The purpose was to provide a level of financial support that helped raise farm incomes closer to that earned by employees in other industries and also to encourage and almost guarantee a continuous supply of food produced to standards imposed by the EU. The changeable weather (even more so now) greatly affects crop yields and therefore incomes from year to year. The importance of a reliable food supply was seen as critical for political reasons – a hungry population quickly becomes rebellious and political instability would follow. The system did improve over the years and the wine lakes and grain mountains disappeared.

More recently the EU politicians decided that food could be obtained cheaply from around the world which was a relatively stable trading market so the emphasis within the EU changed from maintaining food supply to a greater care for the environment. The world has changed hugely since 2020 and the certainty of supply is no longer assured. (Covid, Ukraine and the Middle East). Area payments were scheduled to gradually reduce to zero between 2020 and 2027 and be replaced by incentives to plant trees whilst reducing fertiliser and pesticide usage together with other measures. This would have happened regardless of Brexit and was EU wide and the impact of these cuts is now being felt. The new payments are at a much lower level and require considerable expenditure to “earn” these payments in terms of changed farming practice and environmental investment.

The farmer's anger has increased and reached a point of despair with the lack of understanding by politicians that protest seems the only way to proceed – but what are the main issues?

- A lack of income and profit (which all businesses need to survive)
- Excessive red tape imposed by the EU from Brussels
- A curb on production which means the output from businesses is reduced but they have extra costs to absorb
- Raised production standards mean that costs of production are higher and as a consequence the sale price needs to increase.
- The import of cheap food (after new trade deals) from around the world that is produced using methods and inputs that are banned within the EU and UK (**Europe**) – this effectively undercuts European producers and is putting them out of business
- Why do politicians lecture producers and impose welfare standards (quite correctly) in animal production then openly encourage imports that do not meet those standards?
- Higher crop production standards are imposed (quite rightly to protect the consumer and environment) but imports to Europe do not meet those standards.

If nothing changes European food production quantities will continue to drop and more imports of poor quality food will arrive from around the world which we will eat. Remember that you can very carefully buy the best products when food shopping and know its provenance and sometimes even the details of the producer. However manufactured food producers and the catering industry struggle to survive so often buy the cheapest ingredients which you then eat. How many



those ingredients? About 50% of the food consumed in this country comes through catering suppliers and manufacturers. Some very proudly display their purchasing and sources and they should be supported but many do not – have you ever wondered why?

A good result was recently achieved by the UK Government. The UK and Canadian governments were trying to agree a trade deal on many products including cars, cheese and beef. The UK government suspended discussions a few weeks ago because of the consequences of the proposed deal. If it had been concluded on Canadian terms then we would have been eating imported beef that was treated with hormones. The hormone treated Canadian animals grow more quickly so are cheaper to produce and would have undercut our beef producers. Hormone treated animals are not naturally produced. The hormone treatments are similar to those used by a few athletes, illegally, trying to improve their performances and visually look stronger and bigger.

The day length is increasing, the days are warmer and spring is approaching – there is plenty to look forward to.

## HAMPSHIRE FARMERS MARKETS

### Alton Saturday 9th March

Sunday 3rd March	Petersfield / Romsey	Sunday 10th March	Winchester
Saturday 16th March	Emsworth	Sunday 17th March	Southsea
Saturday 30th March	Ringwood	Sunday 31st March	Winchester

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

It's worth checking the website if you plan to travel as some close at 1pm

<https://www.hampshirefarmersmarkets.co.uk/market-locations/>

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - ALTON LIBRARY

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

The Library continues to hold useful courses, the next is 2nd and 9th of March teaching Paediatric First Aid. See poster on page

## 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

# **The Early Church Shaping Us Today**

## **Alton Churches**

### **Lent Sessions 2024**

**Thursdays**

**29 Feb**

**7 March**

**14 March**

**21 March**

**28 March**

**7.15 for refreshments**

**7.30 start**

**@ The Alton Maltings**

**Thursday 29th February - Mission  
with Philip Mounstephen - Bishop of Winchester**

**Thursday 7th March - Fellowship  
with Philip Simpkins - Alton Methodist Church**

**Thursday 14th March - Prayer  
with Jason Clark - Waverley Abbey College**

**Thursday 21st March - Apostles Teaching  
with Andrew Lawrence - Harvest Church Alton**

**Thursday 28th March - The Breaking of Bread  
with David Williams - Bishop of Basingstoke  
with Communion for Maundy Thursday**

# St Andrew's Church



**Please join us for a simple Lenten Lunch in  
St Andrew's Church Hall from 12.30 on dates below**

**All welcome**

**Home made soups, bread and cheese**

**Entry is free but donations welcomed and all proceeds  
will be shared equally between the 4 charities involved.**

**Friday 1st March - Alresford Men's Sheds**

**Monday 4th March - Cardiac Rehab**

**Wednesday 13th March - Medstead School**

**Wednesday 20th March - Christians against Poverty**





**Participation &  
Lifelong Learning**



**Hampshire  
Libraries**



## **Paediatric First Aid**

**at Alton Library**

**Saturday 2 March and 9 March, 9.30 am – 4.30 pm**  
(attendance required at both sessions)

Free tuition

Optional- course booklet £10 and certificate £20

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



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



**Hampshire**  
County Council

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

continued on next page



### Course Information

Course Title: Paediatric First Aid (babies and children)	Tutor: Paul Pritchard
Cost: Tuition- free. Course book £10 if required. Accredited certificate £20 if required.	Length of Course: 12 hours
<p><b>Aims of the Course:</b> This is a course aimed at people with little or no first aid knowledge regarding children and babies. It is a practical paediatric first aid programme that will give the learner skills to be able to respond to everyday first aid emergencies, in the home and in the community. On completion of the course an Ofqual accredited PFA certificate can be issued which is valid for 3 years.</p> <p>The course is set over 2 day of 6 hours. This is an instructor led, interactive and engaging session. This course teaches a wide range of medical and emergency conditions including how to deliver CPR, use a defibrillator, bleeding control, choking, spinal and head injuries, chronic conditions, burns, poisoning and anaphylaxis.</p>	
<p><b>Learning Goals:</b> (by the end of the course you will be able to...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the role of a Paediatric First Aider</li> <li>Assess a wide range of emergencies and know what to do for each                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation)</li> <li>Describe how to use a defibrillator.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Describe how to manage a patient who is having a seizure or fit.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treat minor and serious bleeding and burns.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Identify and treat a range of medical conditions such as meningitis, diabetes, asthma, hypothermia and poisoning.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify symptoms of sepsis and anaphylaxis and know how to use an EpiPen</li> <li>Describe how to treat bites, stings, splinters and objects in the nose and eye.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>About the course:</b></p> <p><b>Who is this course for:</b> Anyone who wants to know what to do if a baby or child becomes unwell and emergency care is needed. We are unable to allow children to attend this course.</p> <p><b>Previous knowledge or experience:</b> This practical based course is suitable for both complete novices as well as those wishing to refresh their skills.</p> <p><b>How will I learn:</b> Through tutor demonstrations, individual and whole group practical activities.</p> <p><b>How will I be assessed:</b> Through practical activities and demonstrations and a short MCQ exam.</p> <p><b>What shall I bring:</b> Alton Library does not have any catering facilities, but there is a small community café opposite for lunch. Alternatively, bring a packed lunch and drinks.</p> <p><b>Next steps:</b> Emergency First Aid courses with Learning in Libraries.</p> <p><i>If you have limited mobility which could affect your ability to safely self-evacuate, please let us know when booking. This course, funded by Hampshire Leams, is aimed at Hampshire residents aged 19+. Attendance is expected at each session to ensure that you get the most out of your learning experience and to minimise disruption for other learners. Please advise the venue/tutor of any absence you may have.</i></p>	



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



**Hampshire**  
County Council

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

# BENTWORTH FILM NIGHT

will be screening

## THE GREAT ESCAPER

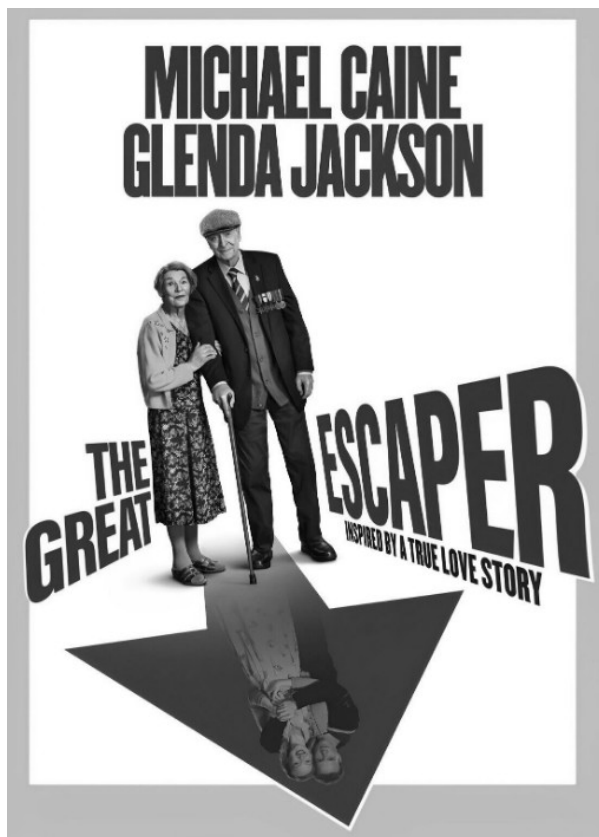
on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March** at the Jubilee Hall, Bentworth.

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



Alton Rotary  
PEOPLE of ACTION



# Quiz Night

All funds raised will go to  
Bushy Leaze

**Saturday 16th March 2024**

Church of the Holy Rood  
Holybourne

6.15pm (6.30 start) - 9.30pm finish

**£15 per person**

Teams of 6-8

Includes Chilli/Curry Supper

Raffle and Bar (no BYOB, please)

To book please contact:

[lisahillan@mail.com](mailto:lisahillan@mail.com)

# MEDSTEAD WI



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

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

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

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

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

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

## Thursday 14th March

2.00 pm

**Easter Cookery**

Debbie Towlson



## Thursday 11th April

2.00 pm

**Hampshire Police in Mini Quilts 2**

Jackie Dimmock



## Thursday 9th May

2.00 pm

**Annual Meeting**



## Thursday 13th June

2.00 pm

**Tickle Your Tastebuds**





*Alton Choral Society Presents Reflective Music For Good Friday  
29<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm at the Alton Methodist Church*



**Features Stainer's Crucifixion**

*The Retiring Collection will be for St Michael's Hospice*

*For More Information Please Contact:*

*[admin@altonchoral.org.uk](mailto:admin@altonchoral.org.uk) or*

*Wendy Busby on 01420 564168*

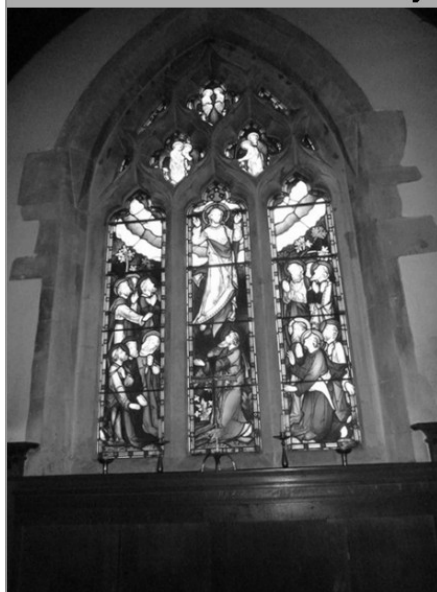
*[wendy.busby@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wendy.busby@hotmail.co.uk)*

**Alton  
Choral  
Society**



<https://www.altonchoral.org.uk/>

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



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

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

*For tickets please contact:*

*Sharon Blackshaw on 01420 563937*

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

*Wendy Busby on 01420 564168*

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

*Raising money for:  
The British Red Cross Israel & Occupied Palestinian  
Territory Appeal,  
The Gumbi Alton Paradise Project supporting  
Sustainable Agriculture in Malawi  
St Andrew's Fabric Fund*



# St Andrew's Church

**JUMBLE  
SALE!**



Saturday 6th April from 1.30 - 3.30.

St Andrew's Church Hall.

Items can be delivered from 10am to midday.

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

**Please, please NO unsaleable items.**

Enquiries

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

07709 553804

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE



# THE LIGHTHOUSE

**10.30am - 11.30am at the Parish  
Centre, next to St Lawrence Church.**



Whilst you worship in church,  
we invite your children to worship with us at The  
Lighthouse.

We welcome all children aged between 0 - 11 years to join us every  
Sunday of the month in term time.

At the end of the session, the children will be brought back to church to  
enjoy the last part of the service.

All our leaders are DBS checked.

[www.potr-alton.co.uk](http://www.potr-alton.co.uk)



**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](http://www.potr-alton.co.uk)

# SERVICES FOR MARCH 2024

## BENTWORTH LASHAM MEDSTEAD SHALDEN

### 3rd March - THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Purple

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

### 10th March – THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - Mothering Sunday

Purple

Holy Communion (BPC)		8.00 a.m.		
Mothering Sunday Family Serv			11.00a.m.	

### 17th March – THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Purple

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

### 24th March - PALM SUNDAY

Red

Holy Communion			11.00a.m.	
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25th - 27th Holy Week Compline 7pm St Andrew's Medstead  
8pm St Lawrence

28th March Maundy Thursday 7pm Communion St Andrew's Medstead  
8pm Communion All Saints

### 31st March - EASTER DAY

White

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

## POTR Services for March

### 3rd March

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

### 10th March

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

### 17th March

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

### 24th March Palm Sunday

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

### 29th March Good Friday

10am Holy Week Story St Lawrence  
2pm Last Hour Service St Lawrence

### 31st March Easter Day

8am BCP Holy Communion St Lawrence  
9.15am Communion Service St Peter's  
9.30am Communion Service Holy Rood  
10.30am Easter Communion All Saints  
10.30am Easter Communion St Lawrence