

The Ampfield Messenger



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St. Mark Ampfield*

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The Parish Church of St Mark, Ampfield

Our vision: To be channels of God's love in the world

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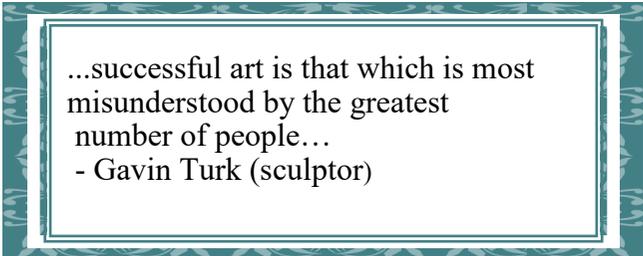
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DEADLINE: The third Friday of each calendar month.

Contributions to this magazine are always welcome, however it may be necessary to edit or shorten articles. Note that the views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editor or the Parochial Church Council. Advertisements in this publication do not carry the endorsement of the editor or the Parochial Church Council.

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...successful art is that which is most
misunderstood by the greatest
number of people...
- Gavin Turk (sculptor)

Letter from Vicar Victoria

Dear Friends,

Easter is all about hope and I really want to find some hopeful words to share with you all. The trouble is, that where I am, it is still March and I am not feeling very hopeful, I am still waiting for the sunshine, the rule changes and the end of lockdown.

It is fair to say that any novelty that was to be found in lockdown has long since worn away and we are in the final stages of utter relentless boredom. Actually today is a brighter day, and there are signs of spring emerging and the television news is not quite so dire, even though we are about to reach that '1year' milestone.

But the wonderful thing about the church calendar is that it provides for us when we can't provide for ourselves. Whether at church or at home, Easter comes and with it the joy of the resurrection and new hope. Hope for a fresh start and a new beginning, hope that God is eternal, and that new life comes to all who ask.

Easter finds us not quite in the joy of freedom of movement and relaxed rules, but still in the midst of gradual relaxations and slow



moves back to normality. But this is really ok, because it is here in the hardest moments that hope does its best work. Hope is like a small bud trying to break through the soil amidst the gravel and rocks, it can be stamped on, crushed and diminished but shine a light for a moment and it

springs up anew. When we lift our eyes and look around, we see the flower unexpectedly in a corner.

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The last year of lockdown has been heart breaking for many, and yet the reality of loved ones who have died may be felt more keenly as we are out and about noticing the gaps left in our lives. For those suffering with long covid, the disease casts a long shadow, blotting out the sun, hiding the hope. But if despair is the pain of knowing that tomorrow will be exactly the same as today then hope is the relief of believing that maybe tomorrow will be different.

As we emerge slowly from this crisis, we must be people of hope, who dream of a better tomorrow, who cry out for justice and mercy and who know that whatever today feels like, God is with us, with forgiveness, joy and peace.

May you have a very blessed Easter,

Victoria



Online Worship

Once again, our Easter celebrations will be apart, together online. The Easter services will all be on the benefice website and on [YouTube](#), unless otherwise noted:

Maundy Thursday (1st April), 19:30 – Service of the Watch

Good Friday (2nd April), 14:00 – Stations of the Cross

Easter Sunday (4th April),

09:30 – Spiritual Holy Communion

11:30 – Morning Prayer using the Book of Common Prayer
(on Zoom)

Post Easter our Sunday services will continue online as follows:

Sunday 09:30 – Sunday Worship or Worship for All (1st Sunday)
(on [YouTube](#))

Sunday 11:30 – Morning Prayer using the Book of Common Prayer (on Zoom)



Lent roundup

Our Sunday afternoon Lent Course followed the Live Lent: God's Story, Our Story material which invites each of us to reflect on our own story of God and how we might share it through our everyday lives as part of our Christian witness. You can catch up with the videos on the [SPCK YouTube channel playlist](#).

Our benefice Lent reflections are still available on [our Facebook page](#) and also on the [news pages of our website](#).

Code breaking with Worship For All

Worship For All in March considered signs and decoding Jesus. The service began with a coded message:

“ALP WN WRHG IY ARDTC”

and as we progressed through the service, Mark explained how the code works and the key to understanding the message (for more detail [catch-up here](#)).

In the reading the religious leaders ask Jesus for a sign and Jesus answers cryptically: if they destroy the temple, he will rebuild it in three days. No-one, not even Jesus' disciples understand what he's saying, until after He is raised – that's the key. Similarly, on our journeys through life, we don't always understand God's plans for us ... until we look back. Have a think back on your life journey to see God at work.

And if you like code puzzles, here's another:

**“PLQMP NG POC DHLU WNPO RDD YHQL OCRLP, RGU
UH GHP LCDY HG YHQL HWG NGMNIOP.
NG RDD YHQL WRYM RSBGHWDUIC ONF,
RGU OC WNDD FRBC MPLRNIOP YHQL JRPOM”**

Answer on p. 29

St. Mark's will be open for private prayer:

Wed 31st. March; Thursday 1st April: 10am - 2pm

Good Friday: 10am - 3.30pm

Throughout Holy Week there will be an Easter Trail in Ampfield Wood -- bring your children/grandchildren for some Easter fun!

Friends of Chapel Wood

Still in lockdown, we have not been able to get together for another month. However, Chapel Wood being what it is that doesn't mean to say we do not have any fresh news.



Firstly, we are making some good progress on the dipping platform front. It has been agreed that we can replace the old platform which suffered an untimely end when a tree decided to rest on it some years ago now. For those interested in memorabilia, the original platform can still be seen in the glade, where, at each village fete, it provides the perfect home for the drummer of the Thornden band.

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The other piece of news is at first glance not so good. An old standing pole has fallen across the footpath not far from the entrance to the woodland in Chapel Hill. Happily, no one was hurt, and the fallen wood missed everything of any significance. However, this does present us with an opportunity. Our custom in the past has been to saw a section from the fallen tree, thus re-establishing the original footpath. In this case, there is a perfect opportunity to reroute the footpath around the fallen stem.

We will have a good look at this when we have our next working party, scheduled for **Saturday, April 10th**. It seems very likely that by cutting back an area of brambles and bracken we can create a fresh path off into the wood and out again. Very exciting for people of all ages.

As we say, we hope to have the next working party in April when, with a bit of luck, apart from the new footpath area, we can complete the long-awaited bonfire in the area next to the glade. There is a rumour of an Easter Trail in and around the church from Wednesday 31st March, so don't miss that. Otherwise, we look forward to being back in business on the 10th April at 09:45. All are welcome!



Graham Roads

A Child in Ampfield

2: Starting School

Some excellent books have been written about the history of Ampfield school and I'm sure that those who are interested will have already delved into their information. However, this personal account of my first years there, is probably different to anyone else's as each child recalls sights sounds and smells that are individual to their experience. These are mine...

As my Dad was in the Royal Navy, he was often away for long spells of time (sometimes as much as 2 years). This meant that most of my first 5 years were spent with Mum and Granddad Gradidge (with occasional bus trips to Timsbury to see Granny Pointer, formerly Rose). I had, what we would now call, a very sheltered upbringing. Other children were alien to me as I was the first born among my cousins (and they lived long bus rides away) and my sister was not born until I was 5. Therefore, when I was called to attend school, it came as an enormous shock. Suddenly I was in a room full of other children. The loud, excited noises of the playground felt overwhelming. I was a tiny, skinny child (diagnosed in later life with Coeliac disease) so I tended to be "mothered" by the older girls. Later in life I got to know that one boy had gone home and told his parents that "a girl like a doll" had started school!

The "Little Room", as it was known, was taught by Miss Tibble. She drove to school in a small black car, an Austin, I think. She seemed a kindly "older" lady, though I expect the poor soul was only in her 40s. We sat at desks to learn our letters and numbers, and to begin the rudiments of reading with "Janet and John" amongst others. I well remember the moment when I realised that I could read. I had been called to the front to go through my book with the teacher. Suddenly I understood that what I was doing was what people called reading ... I was 5 or 6. We did some "slate and chalk" work, but also pencil and paper. Most of the day was spent seated, apart from PE and playtime. (And, very rarely, a Nature Walk in the woods round the school). In one corner of the classroom there was a large stove with a railing and our breaktime milk would be put next to it to thaw out if the milk had got frozen in the winter.



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The room had many large cupboards containing books, posters, paper, jigsaws and other teaching equipment. Miss Tibble had a high desk, behind which she sat on a high stool, to call the register but she sat on a smaller chair or stood to teach us.



I'm afraid that school dinners were to be feared! I could not cope with eating amongst all the other children and found it very hard to manage food that was often unfamiliar. I was left at the table to "finish what was on my plate" - sometimes till afternoon school started. The dinner ladies were Miss Griffin (whose brother, I think, kept turkeys in the field at the back of the playground), Mrs Beecher and Mrs Simpson. The meals came in metal canisters and large metal trays. The plates were green plastic. Fish on Friday was a particularly fraught time as I loathed fish with a vengeance! There were no choices. I also recall a sort of chocolate crispie cake with bright pink custard. I'm afraid I disliked that too. Eventually, Mrs Loader, the headteacher, met with Mum and it was decided that I could bring sandwiches from home . Such a relief to all concerned. The very few children who had a packed lunch sat apart from the others and my marmalade sandwiches and chocolate swiss roll had never tasted so good!

After a few terms, I began to settle into the school routine. Mum walked me there in the mornings and back in the afternoons, my sister in the large pram that I had inhabited five years previously. Sometimes we called at Mr and Mrs White's shop and post office. An ice lolly was a summer treat, raspberry Mivvi was my favourite. Other times we stopped to pick periwinkles from the bank by the (old) Vicarage or collect the wild strawberries that grew along the drainage ditch in front of Ampfield House.

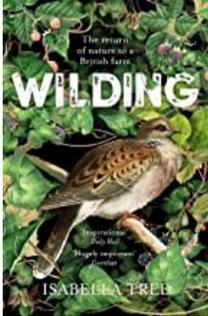
I was in the Infants class for, at least, a couple of years, then progressed to the "Big Room" led by Mrs. Loader. I can't recall an intermediate class but someone reading this may have a better memory. I shall write in my next episode about my continuing memories of life at Ampfield school and hope that they will be enjoyable.

Lynda Emery



Book Review

WILDING by Isabella Tree



The sub-title of this book, published in 2018, is “the return of nature to a British Farm”. It tells the absorbing and inspirational story of how the owners of the Knepp Estate in Shipley, West Sussex, moved away from conventional farming to create a more biodiverse and sustainable environment.

On inheriting the estate in 1987, the farm was already losing money. Attempts to stem the financial losses by more intensification, including amalgamating dairies, improving infrastructure and diversifying into ice-cream, yoghurt and sheep’s milk still failed to deliver profits. The dairy herds and farm machinery were sold and the arable part of the farm was contracted out.

The owners, Isabella and her husband, Charlie Burrell, perceived that the only way of making the land sustainable was to establish a biodiverse wilderness. It was a gamble. The only precedents at the time were more large scale projects in the Netherlands.

The proposal was met by visceral opposition from their neighbours; “tidy fields and manicured Hedgerows were going to be turned into rampant scrub and untrammelled wetland”. Nevertheless, they pressed on with returning their 3,500 acre site to nature. Herds of free roaming animals such as fallow deer, initially from Petworth Park, and then red deer, durable old English longhorn cattle, Exmoor ponies and Tamworth pigs created new habitats from the start. The new landscape and fauna attracted different species of birds, some of them rare.

Turtle doves, which were on the brink of extinction in the UK, peregrine falcon, shrike, ravens, skylarks, woodlarks, fieldfare, lesser redpolls and all five of the UK’s owls are now breeding there.

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The site plays host to seven types of bees, and four of wasps, which are of national importance. Since the book was published, White storks are breeding there - for the first time in six centuries in the UK. Beavers were introduced in 2020.

The estate has become a mecca for scientists, naturalists, and conservationists. The book mentions that the Knepp estate could change the way things are measured, paving the way for cost benefit analyses of nature and the protection of natural assets such as soil, water, air, trees, vegetation, biodiversity and landscape. Other publications by some of the world's most influential movers and shakers in the last few months have made similar points. They are, though, not the decision makers. It must be hoped that government and planners grasp the nettle. Future generations are dependent upon it.

Alan Edwards



Amanda Pym Art

Amanda lives in Baeza in Southern Spain where she runs an English language school. Both her grandmothers were artists and she studied art with realist painter Antonio Moreno.

Amanda's school has around 200 pupils but with her Painting, Covid and lockdown she has had more time to paint. Amanda asked friends for photo of their pets to paintings are now in great demand. You may remember her stepfather Gerard's letters from Competa at the start of the pandemic. Amanda has been commissioned to paint the white inland village along with pet portraits. She paints in the mornings and teaches in the afternoons.

Here are some of her paintings.



See Amanda's advert. on p. 36

Castaway of the Month - Ron Cobb



"I can't believe it. The ship's gone down and I am marooned on this island. Luckily I packed a few cds, a book and a couple of personal items.

Climb Every Mountain: Shirley Bassey

I have a lovely, imaginary cd of early music from Shirley Bassey. I used to wash and shave in my parent's kitchen between 1959 and 1962 because there was a radio in that room. I loved Shirley's ballads from that period. Songs like; Climb every mountain, I reach for the stars and As I love you. Beautiful, melodious singing with high note endings. Pure joy.

Love is Strange: Buddy Holly

I am glad that I managed to save a Buddy Holly cd. A great 1950's singer. I prefer his love song ballads to his rock and roll songs. I love him singing; Wishing and a particular favourite is Love is strange, originally recorded by Mickey and Sylvia in 1956. Such a unique voice. The third of February 1959 was a tragic day.



The Millennium Prayer: Cliff Richard

Another singer that I have in the collection is Cliff Richard. I have seen him at least four times on stage, once with the Shadows and he is a brilliant entertainer. I particularly love him singing The millennium prayer. Such a powerful song beautifully put together. The Lord's prayer sung with such feeling.

I Wanna be your Man: The Rolling Stones



Of course, The Rolling Stones have to be in the collection. I first saw them on 20th December 1963 at the Lido Ballroom, Winchester. Not for them the clean cut, boy next door image of The Beatles. Scruffy haired with rebellious clothing, belting out: Come on and I Wanna be your Man. I was bowled over by their whole persona. I have seen them twice since then. Can you believe, their drummer Charlie Watts is in his eighties? Mind you, so are Cliff and Shirley.

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Whatever you Want: Status Quo

I absolutely love this, not for the song but for the fabulous intro. It goes on, gradually getting louder for one minute and ten seconds. I timed it. Bit sad really. I saw the Quo at the BIC a few years ago and they certainly know how to belt it out. Also, there were Kim Wilde and Roy Wood. Pop superstars.

Red Balloons: Katie Melua

Of course, my all-time favourite singer is Katie Melua. To me, her slow, doomed, love affair songs are so poignant. Songs like; I will be there, I cry for you, Secret symphony and my personal favourite; Red balloons. She is a massive, all round singer who has achieved great acclaim. When I say massive, I am not referring to her size. She is quite petite really. I saw her at the Guildhall, Southampton about three years ago. Absolutely brilliant. It must be nearly time for another coconut. They start to grow on you after about one hundred.

I did manage to grab a book before swimming to shore. The Bible and The Complete Works of Shakespeare are already there so I took The story of St. Marks, Ampfield, by Elizabeth Hallett and Anita Wood. My copy of this is signed by these two good ladies. It is a lovely book, packed with information and it will help me to remember a place and people that I am very fond of. I had these two books in a sealed plastic bag, so they did not get wet. I did not throw the bag back into the sea. Doing my bit for the planet.

Finally, I managed to keep a couple of items that mean a lot to me. The first one is a large picture of all my family. Probably the most important item to me. The second item is a wooden bead necklace with a cross and the inscription 'Jerusalem' on it. This was given to

me by Victoria when she came to visit me in hospital last year. That meant a great deal to me then and it still does now. I carry it with me often."



Ron Cobb



A POINT OF VIEW: Emotional Serendipity?

There is an old expression which says “ there’s nowt so queer as folk except for thou and me, and even thou art a little queer”

A saying which perhaps encapsulates some of the thinking we have all been prone to since the world veered from its normal axis, David Cameron decided upon the Brexit Vote, Trump was elected, Covid 19 infiltrated our lives and staying in became the new normal. But perhaps how we are all feeling is about more than just self-isolating and staying at home, perhaps we have retracted mentally to protect ourselves. It took me a while to realise this. Now it appears, at least to my tiny mind, that many of us are emerging into a wider appreciation of the human condition. That in itself may be our salvation.

Along with many other people I have become more appreciative of life, of the qualities of others, to be thankful and appreciative of those who put themselves in danger to protect our lives, our health and our very existence. Previously I thought I was already there with this, but perhaps not. Whatever, I know since Lockdown I have become emotional beyond belief.

Becoming more emotional has actually been a good thing. It has expanded my mind to wider aspects of existence and to appreciate people more, even those I disagree with. I hope this is an experience we have all shared and benefitted from. If nothing else, it proves that if I can learn, that you can teach an old dog new tricks, even if you can’t stop the grumbling from both ends.

Grumbling (what I like to think of as taking an enlightened issue) is actually good therapy. Effective grumbling is an art and cannot be achieved without a little thought, analysis, understanding and practice. To that end grumbling is an expansive and educational pursuit. It may actually be meritorious, but I wouldn’t go that far. A little moderation is required. A continuous old fart is never pleasant.

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So what's the point in saying all this? Perhaps because It is good therapy for me and may also help those who may have sunk towards darker thoughts to realise they are not alone. Or even to realise they are coping better than I am. I'm coping fine as it happens and hope you all are too.

Recently I have been reading Susie Dent's "Word Perfect" an intelligent, entertaining read which provides an explanation of the meaning of words and their origins. One of Susie's recent words is "serendipity" meaning the making of happy and unexpected discoveries by chance.

Serendipity is a word invented by Horace Walpole, the politician and historical novelist. Many years ago and quite serendipitously, I came across Hugh Walpole's "The Bright Pavilions" described by him as an Elizabethan Romance, a fascinating read about Elizabethan life and the purge of Roman Catholics, but it's far more than that. There is humour, romance and descriptions of medieval music, dances and the ornate pavilions used for great celebrations. It's a good read and just the job for taking your imagination off on a journey into the pre-Covid past.

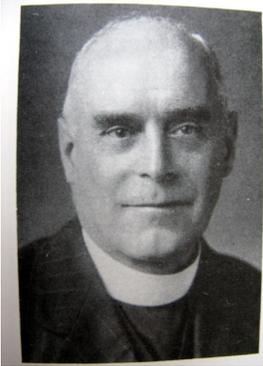
The destinations of my thoughts now however are pointing to the future, when hopefully we will arrive at the point where we can all get together, party, enjoy drinking a little too much, argue, be silly and gently rib one another in the custom we enjoyed before the world closed down a year ago. That would be quite something. We will have to find our own bright pavilion to party in.

Meanwhile have a good grumble. The competitive among you could turn it into a competitive sport, with me winning the first trophy. Wishful thinking at its most perverse or just serendipity?



Paul Oliver

Memorials of Ampfield 5



by The Reverend Lake

It is not to be expected that so small a community such as that at Ampfield should produce many notabilities. But one such there was who even though his fame was merely local, at least holds a place in the history of these parts. I refer to Richard Morley, who was referred to as "The Hedge Poet".

The exact ancestry of Richard Morley seems never to have been traced. His father was in all probabilities that Richard Morley of Ampfield named in a deed relating to lands in the parish of King's Somborne in 1587, and whose burial at Hursley is entered in the registers for the 18th February 1599 and possibly the Joan Morley, widow, who followed in 1611 was his wife.

This family is said by tradition to have lived in a timbered house, long known as "Morleys" at Ampfield, approached by a lane leading past the present Vicarage house. It was so old at the end of the 19th century that it rocked in the wind and had to be pulled down. An interesting place of folklore was attached to this house some 30 years before its demolition, when the occupants are said to have kept a scythe in the thatch to scare the hags from riding the children at night. Only one fact we know of the childhood of Richard Morley, the poet. He had left it on record that in 1582 the year of the great hailstorm he went to school at Baddesley, under the tuition of Parson Rolph Blencoe, in the room over the gateway leading into the old Monastery (meaning the old commandery of Hospitallers).

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Morley must have been a very small boy at that time to have been acquiring that learning which in after years was to serve him so well, for even if he was a very aged man in 1672 when he died, he must still have been young indeed for a day scholar in 1582. It is, however, probable, that he lodged at Baddesley with friends during his school time, judging by his intimate acquaintance with the Foster household. It is worthy of note that he escaped the plague in 1604, which raged at Ampfield for four months, and from which many died.

In later life the poet was appointed Bailiff to Mr Major who purchased the Hursley Estate in 1630 and which he managed for him until he quarrelled and was dismissed. This explains his bitterness against the Majors, as when he wrote:- "Mr Major was very witty and thrifty and got more by oppressing his tenants than all the lords did in sixty years before him".

It is thought that the Morleys at one time owned the farm which is now Ampfield Vicarage, besides renting the forge at Hursley and the farm at Ratlake, this brought Richard Morley in touch with the residents of the Hursley estate, concerning whom he had a good deal to say.

Nick Jeffries



This picture is of Nick on "Pickle" before riding to Farley Mount in 1956. It is taken in what is now the Ampfield Golf course car park. At the time it was a small dairy farm owned by a Mr Furness who kept jersey cows, whose milk he delivered in bottles with thick cream at the top, to houses in Ampfield. The brick built barn ran parallel to the pavement but was demolished

when the golf course came, the house to the right still stands.

St. Mark's Church Ampfield Next PCC Meeting

Monday 12 April 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom

At this meeting the future of worship post-Covid will be discussed. We will talk about timings, location, content of services and the provision of music. If you are not on the PCC but have a view on any of these issues please get in touch with Jennie Edwards (contact details on p.2) before the meeting.

Jennie will send PCC members the Zoom link



Annual Parish Council Meetings

Sunday 25 April, time to be decided

Anyone on the Electoral Roll can attend

If you would like to join in please email Jennie and she will send out the link and details later.





Fred had his 2nd dose of the vaccine at the vaccination centre after which he began to notice blurred vision on the way home.

When **Fred** got home, he called the vaccination centre for advice and to ask if he should go see a doctor, or be hospitalised.

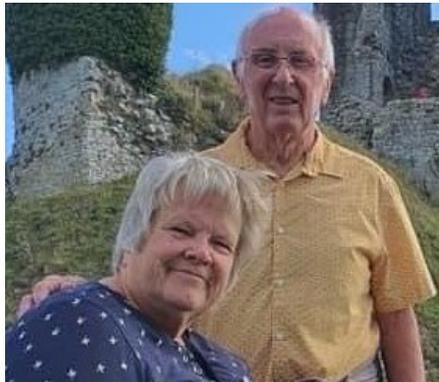
He was told NOT to go to a doctor or a hospital, but just return to the vaccination centre immediately and pick up his glasses.



If a nonspecific gender member of the police force uses a personal computer what do you call it? - A PC PC's PC!

Ron and Stella's Quiz Night

1. What years were Mrs Nora Loader head mistress of Ampfield School?
2. Which tennis grand slam is played on a clay surface?
3. In which county was TV presenter Alan Titchmarsh born?
4. In which year did The Revd. Vere Awdry become vicar of St. Marks Ampfield?
5. Bobotie is the national dish of which country, (a) Nigeria. (b) Ethiopia, (c) South Africa (d) Kenya
6. Which family donated the bus shelters in Ampfield?
7. What is the smallest planet in our solar system?
8. Where was Prince Philip born?
9. The stadium of light is home to which English football club?
10. Who donated the bible on the lectern in St Marks, and has an inscription inside it?



Answers on p. 29

In response to Covid-19

AMPFIELD

NEIGHBOURS

working with

unity

The Test Valley Borough Council Volunteer Support Group

A group of Ampfield residents have come together to help as volunteers working with Unity during the Covid-19 pandemic. Unity is the Test Valley Borough Council Volunteer Support Group.

If you live in Ampfield and need help with collecting prescriptions or shopping

contact

Unity on the Test Valley Community Helpline -

0330 400 4116

or

UnityC-19@unityonline.org.uk

TOOLS for SELF RELIANCE

This local charity services and repairs donated sewing machines and sends them to a training project in Africa, where they will help someone build a sustainable livelihood. **Janet Moody**, a volunteer, describes their work:

“We work in partnership with local organisations in Ghana, Malawi, Uganda, Zambia, Sierra Leone and Tanzania. They are ideally placed to identify the local needs and engage with their communities to relieve poverty amongst the local population, enabling them to transform their lives and build a future for their families. We provide training to rural tradespeople, including technical trade skills, business and finance management, health awareness, and life skills. This holistic training supports the development of sustainable livelihoods and income diversification for people affected by poverty. We then equip them with the tools to get started – with toolkits for carpenters, blacksmiths, bicycle repair, motorcycle mechanics and sewing machines for tailors/ dressmakers.

There are many volunteers in groups all over the UK collecting and refurbishing tools and sewing machines. Workshop volunteers at Netley Marsh enjoy using their skills and working together with meaningful purpose! Sharing coffee and lunch breaks together, we all benefit from the camaraderie and meeting interesting people. I’ve been a volunteer for ten years. I call myself “The Needle Monitor”.

Every time I put a needle into a kit, I think about it being used by someone thousands of miles away who wants to make life better for their family. “



Janet made a Radio 4 appeal last June which raised £31,335 for TFSR. Now read the story of Kadiatu Sessay.

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Case study—Kadiatu Sessay

Life is hard in Sierra Leone, especially for women. Most don't complete school because their education is seen as less important than boys'. They lack skills and opportunities. They do not expect to be listened to, or to take part in decision making, even where it concerns them.

This was life as Kadiatu Sessay knew it. By the time she was 24, Kadiatu was married with two children. She had no skills and she was reliant on her husband for money. Kadiatu's life changed when she trained as a tailor with the charity Tools for Self Reliance, after hearing about the opportunity on local radio. She learnt practical sewing techniques, as well as business and financial management skills. The charity kitted her out with her own hand and electric machines, items that were donated in the UK and refurbished by Volunteers.

Now Kadiatu is employed as a tailor, with plans to set up her own business with some of her fellow trainees. She has her own income, and has a say in making decisions. She feels respected in her household.



Kadiatu with fellow trainees

Find out more about TOOLS here: <https://www.tfsr.org>

A Kitchen Garden — G4G

For those of us who enjoy growing for grub (G4G - in the modern idiom), this is one of the most exciting times of the year. Everything is set to anticipate a lazy summer, cooking stuff on the barbecue and enjoying the company of family and friends. Well nearly everything, anyway.

Perhaps we may need to finish preparing the soil in our raised beds. We are looking for a topsoil with a relatively loose, fine consistency that permits oxygen into the ground, allows for the movement of water and enables a plant's roots to snuggle in a bed that will provide all its requirements over the growing season. With this in mind, we might think of two things, firstly we do not want to walk on the bed as this will compact the soil and secondly is there enough nutrient in the soil's larder to keep our plants sustained until we can harvest.

Put yourself in the place of your average runner bean. What do you need? For a start somewhere for your roots to be able to expand as they grow. Your roots are really important to you. They allow you to take in water from the soil because, importantly, dissolved in this water is all the stuff you will need to produce fine young beans for the next generation. The three main ingredients you want are nitrogen (N), which will help you to grow strong healthy leaves and shoots, phosphorus (P), which will help you to grow longer and stronger roots to take up the water, and potassium (K), which helps you develop your flowers and your fruits.



Cont. ...

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Sadly, through the winter, much of life's staples, especially the nitrogen, will have leached out as the rainwater drains away. So, your friendly gardener will need to think about adding some fresh fertiliser to top up life's necessities. For more information on all of this plus what to do this month, please refer to the RHS website (paste into your browser <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/in-month/april>).

The other reason why this is a really exciting time is that where we have sown seeds on a windowsill or in a green house, they are beginning to germinate. It is truly one of life's miracles that a simple hard tiny seed can jump into life and become the start of the best tomato/chilli chutney you can taste. It is even worth setting the alarm clock half an hour early to run out and see if another one has appeared overnight!

Please do contact the editors with your own stories, tips and particularly your own recipes? They would love to publish them!

Graham Roads



A Latvian Odyssey - 3



Spring in Latvia!

Elly has been rather busy in Latvia. She will be back next month to update us on her Latvian adventures.

Answers to Ron & Stella's Quiz Night

1. 1944-1977
2. The French Open
3. Yorkshire
4. 1895
5. South Africa
6. The Faber family
7. Mercury
8. Greece
9. Sunderland
10. The Revd. Vere Awdry and wife



Answer to Worship for All Codebreaking

"TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND DO NOT RELY ON YOUR OWN INSIGHT. IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, AND HE WILL MAKE STRAIGHT YOUR PATHS."

Thought for the Month

I have always been interested in family history, in my youth I spent many hours in the local record office actually handling registers that were centuries old, finding out as much as I could about my ancestors from these precious books. My maiden name is Eborall and so it was relatively easy to research. As part of my role as an LLM I actually write in registers, recording the funerals I have conducted and I often wonder who in the the future will be looking through them? Enquiries often come to the church from people who are researching their family and I try to help, but often have to refer them directly to Winchester Record office.

Families are important, and we have probably found this even more so over the last year. As human beings we desire attachment, belonging, and connection. The relationships we form with other people can be incredibly durable, not only with people in our present, but also with people in our past and future. The more we discover about our past, the greater a connection we feel to our ancestors, and in turn it is an opportunity for future generations to connect with us when we are gone. With the use of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) it is now possible to find out even more about our biological families, but the secrets that can be revealed are capable of splitting families, so this method often comes with a heavy warning.

Television programmes such as 'Who Do You Think You Are?' and 'Long Lost Family' have shown how discovering information about our past can change lives for the future, although of course not everyone wants this change and discovering what has often been a huge family secret can be a shock in more ways than one!

Looking on the positive side knowing our family history can help to build resilience because in learning about our ancestors' lives, we can see patterns of overcoming failures and surviving hard times.

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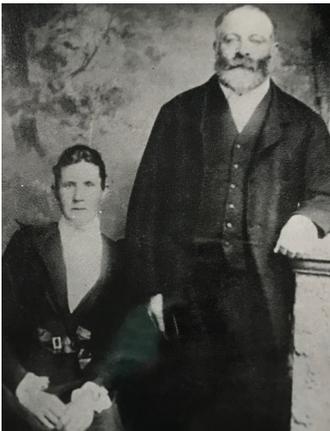
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Their stories remind us that surely not everything in life will work easily, that disappointments occur and inequalities exist, but that we can recover, triumph, and find happiness despite hardships.

This passage from the bible taken from the book of Ruth is a reminder of our loyalty to place, people and God, especially as we are now living in a very transient society. Naomi is urging her daughter-in-law Ruth to go back to her people after the death of her husband. Ruth 1:16-18 *But Ruth replied,*

“Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me.”

Our family history goes beyond the names and dates we find on our tree. It’s about what makes us who we are. It’s about people with whom we can form deep connections. It’s about people who lived and breathed and suffered and triumphed. It’s about roots and branches and leaves and entire forests! It’s about you and me and our connection with each other.



My great grandparents Edward & Matilda Eborall. Edward committed suicide in the canal in Stratford-upon-Avon 117 years ago. This was a family secret as my dad never knew this! The inquest at the time said he was ‘temporarily insane’

Sally Kerson



Romsey Food Bank in the Pandemic

During the COVID-19 epidemic the food bank is now more important than ever. ACNB churches can also help you access the Food Bank service if you need it.

The epidemic puts Food Banks under great strain. Please donate as much food as you can to support their work at this time.

Donations can be taken to any of these collection points*

Romsey Foodbank

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
1030 – 1230.

Waitrose donation point for customers
(shop opening hours)

Community Life Centre,

Flemming Avenue, North Baddesley

10 – 12 Mon – Fri

***All church collection points are now closed, until restrictions are lifted.**

Information

If you need any Zoom meeting links, would like to join in with readings or intercessions, would like prayers said for you or someone you know, or would just like to comment, please email joinin@acnb-church.org.

Hampshire public libraries are currently closed for browsing for the remainder of the national lockdown however, they are offering many services. Check their website for details.

Nextdoor.co.uk

Neighbourhood hub for connecting with local services.

Online Facebook groups:

Romsey News and Information Group

The original Facebook Group for Romsey.

Romsey Garden, Nursery & Plants, Info. Sharing etc.

Good source of local plant delivery and availability, seeds and growing information.

Hampshire Coronavirus Helpline - 0333 370 4000

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults - 0300 555 1386

Romsey Community Pantry - 01794 522106

Romsey Foodbank - www.romsey.foodbank.org.uk

Frontline Debt Advice - 02380 552866

Southampton Basics Bank - www.southamptoncitymission.co.uk/basics-banks

Online suppliers recommended by readers:

Donald Russell (meat): hello@donaldrussell.co.uk;

www.donaldrussell.com

Regal Fish: info@regalfish.co.uk; www.regalfish.co.uk

Cafe Bingham's offer delicious take away fish and chips on Friday evenings. Please contact its website for details:

binghams@cafebinghams.com

Local Representatives

Member of Parliament: Caroline Nokes; Phone: 01794 521155

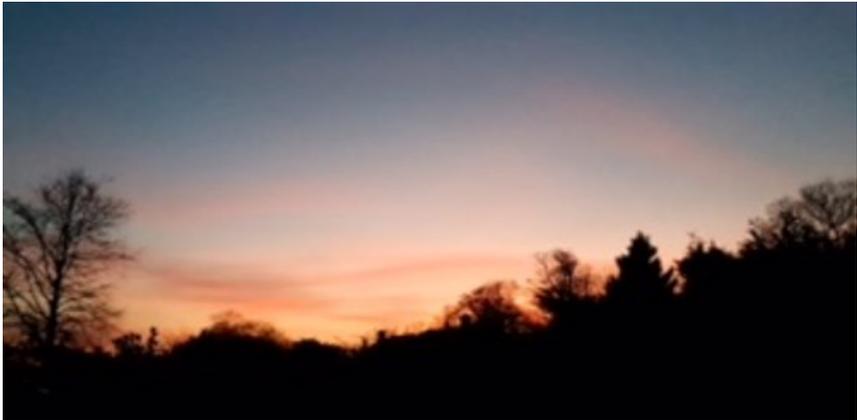
County Councillor: Alan Dowden; Phone 02380 266458

TVBC Councillor: Martin Hatley; Phone: 02380 254040

Ampfield Parish Council: Chair Bryan Nanson; Phone: 02380 267760

A PRAYER IN THE PANDEMIC

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake.
Amen.





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