NOVEMBER 2025

BENTWORTH, LASHAM, AND SHALDEN PARISH MAGAZINE St. Mary's Bentworth; St. Mary's Lasham; St. Peter and St. Paul Shalden

Dear Friends,

I confess to not having a very good memory and so I have developed a range of strategies to help me remember events and, most importantly, where I have left things such as glasses, keys, phone etc. I generally try to minimise the use of my mobile phone but one feature I do rely on is the alarm, which, for example, is set to 20.30 every Monday evening to remind me to put the bins out. These might be trivial examples (though increasingly necessary as one ages), but they help my busy world go round.

On a bigger scale, November is, in many ways, a remembering month. Nationally, we pause on the 11th and again on Remembrance Sunday itself, and also on November 1st, All Saints Day, as we remember those who have walked the path of faith before us. Many churches hold special bereavement services to remember the faithful departed at this time and these can bring comfort and peace to those whose grief is raw.

November also marks the transition from autumn to winter, the blaze of colour turning to a soggy mush of decaying leaves (that threaten to clog drains and gutters as the season changes) and unseen water-filled potholes to gingerly navigate. This seasonal transition moves us to let go of summer and prepare for winter, maybe with a hint of anxiety with having the heating on for longer periods and stepping into ever-shortening days.

Yet we know that the seasonal cycle will repeat, sadly with greater uncertainty as the climate changes, but spring will come again and so we, almost without realising it, set our hearts and minds to take stock, to remember and to draw strength from the certainties of life as we live with change.

Some of the Old Testament psalms do just that and it's a way of building hope for the future. Psalm 136 reminds us repeatedly as it remembers history, events and stories, of the deepest truth. Each of the 26 verses ends with the line: "... for his steadfast love endures forever," driving home the fact that all is undergirded with God's heavenly love.

Remembering is usually far from straight-forward and it can be incredibly painful. But, as we remember and reflect, let's take time to recognise and give thanks for the thread of God's steadfast love for each and every one of us that weaves its way through our lives, individual and collective — a love that 'bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, a love that never ends' (1 Corinthians 13:7). That's the love that is the Kingdom of God, good news for all, that meets us in Christ Jesus.

May we pray that we will be able to recognise and know that for ourselves in this season of remembrance and on into the future.

Yours in Christ, Peter Owen-Jones.

THE VILLAGER

the editor



Please send copy for the **December** Magazine to your Village Correspondent, or the Editor to **villager@candj.me.uk**, **by noon on Monday 17**th **November**.

Once again we have new advertisers – there are three, on pages 14 and 18, so do look, and support all our advertisers please; and tell them where you found out about them, so they

know it's worth continuing with us. Without them the magazine would not be free! There is a lot happening this month, do look at all the posters, and there is interesting information in General Interest.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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- 31 (Curtis) Museum by Torchlight 5.30 pm 7.30 pm

NOVEMBER

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BENTWORTH

BENTWORTH CARE GROUP

Jackie Crawford

The members on duty for medical appointments in November are:

Jackie Crawford 561281; Fred Moir 562380; Katy Davis 07879 402 116 (available after 14th Nov)

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

THE MUCK IN COFFEE MORNING

We've done it again! Made a £100 donation to charity from the £1 we take each Monday. This time it has gone to the Hampshire Medical Fund. The charity buying cutting edge medical equipment for Basingstoke, Winchester and Andover Hospitals (medical equipment that is over and above NHS budgets) Something we can all benefit from.



So do come and join us on a Monday morning, 10.30 - 11.30am in Parsonage Farm Barn for Coffee / Tea and many biscuits for only £1 per person, so we can make more charity donations!

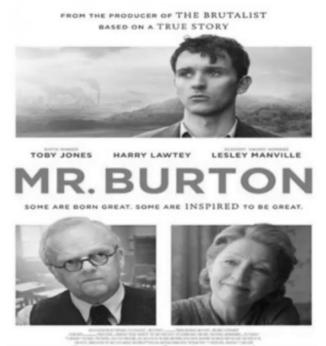
BENTWORTH FILM NIGHT

Sue Brooking

Friday 14th November – Jubilee Hall

We are pleased to announce the screening of "Mr. Burton" on Friday, 14th November.

This critically acclaimed film delves into Richard Burton's remarkable journey from a Welsh schoolboy Hollywood star, thanks to the guidance of his mentor, Philip Burton. Harry Lawtev brilliantly portrays the young Richard Burton, showcasing the transformative power of a supportive teacher. Released in 2025, marking what would have been Burton's 100th birthday, this captivating story explores the bond between originally Burton. Richard Jenkins. and his Shakespeare-loving mentor. played by Toby Jones. Lesley Manville also stars as Ma Smith. the heartwarming landlady who helped raise Burton in Port Talbot, Wales. Don't miss out on this inspiring and touching film!



The Bentworth Film Night -

was set up in 2019 to act as a focal point, bringing together those in Bentworth and the surrounding area for a social get together and to enjoy a good film. We really appreciate your support, without which we could not continue to stage these film nights. Please join us to support your local film night, watch an excellent film, and catch up with friends!

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, please feel free to bring friends along too.

REVEREND JOHN WEBB (1938 - 2025)

Rector of Bentworth, Lasham and Shalden (1993 - 2003)

Reverend John Webb sadly passed away on 2nd October 2025.

John was appointed the Rector of Bentworth, Lasham and Shalden in 1993 having retired from the Army after 22 years' service as a military chaplain. He embraced parish life and greatly enjoyed being a rural priest being able to know and serve all his parishioners. He felt that it was a great privilege to serve such a wonderful community who were very supportive to him. He took on the position of Chair of the Governors at St Mary's Bentworth primary school where he played an instrumental role in its expansion, and later becoming Rural Dean.

John greatly valued his time in the benefice, forming many lasting friendships and taking an active interest in all three village communities. As well as being remembered for his ministry, he will be fondly remembered for keeping bees, ducks and geese and having sheep grazing in the Rectory garden.

After leaving Bentworth, John and Marie retired to Somerset, where John embraced a joyful and fulfilling retirement. Together, they celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary and took great delight in watching their five grandchildren grow and flourish.

He will be remembered for his kindness, wisdom, and unwavering dedication to those he served. His presence enriched the lives of many, and his memory will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

LASHAM

SAVE THE DATE

Lasham Christmas Bazaar will be held on Sunday 30th November

Venue: Walled Garden Cottage, Lasham GU34 5SD
Time: 11am – 2pm
Father Christmas will visit!
There will be stalls, Raffle, Tombola.....
Produce (including cakes, jams etc), Kids Craft Making
Entry £3, to include a festive refreshment (under 12 free)

All funds go towards the recently approved accessible toilet and kitchette Project.

Hope to see you all there.

DEER MANAGEMENT IN THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE Saturday 11th October Sarah Miskella

The Deer Management Talk held in St Mary's Church to raise funds for their recently approved Accessible toilet and kitchenette project was a great success.

Over 30 attended the event which started with delicious venison sausage rolls and finished with Antonia's scrumptious biscuits!

Feedback was overwhelming positive, and everyone enjoyed the very informative talk given by Kevin Miskella (using St Mary's new Visual Display Screen) about all the deer in the UK. This included fascinating information and photos of those frequenting Hampshire and the wider regions. Acknowledgement was given to The British Deer Society who kindly allowed us to use some of their photo imagery.

An important note and take away from the evening included the advice that if you see an injured deer on the roadside or hit a deer, keep yourself and family protected, park your car in a safe space, call the police on 999 and give as precise a location as you can (eg What3Words). The police will deal with the situation and have access to specialists.





A final note, due to popularity of the evening and with many people away, we will be holding the event again early next year, so if you didn't get the opportunity to come along, there will be another chance.

THE NEXT LASHAM COFFEE MORNING will be on NOVEMBER 3rd at Station House with Sandra and Tony Knight.

LASHAM HARVEST SUPPER

Cate Baynton

Despite the best efforts of Storm Amy, the Lasham Harvest Supper was able to go ahead as planned in early October. Once again, Catherine and Jonathan Grassi were kind enough to host the event in their barn. While it was a smaller gathering than usual, it meant the event had a cosy, intimate feel – aided by the glow of a wood burning stove and an impressive number of candles. The tables were decked out in autumnal colours and those attending greeted with glasses of hot mulled apple juice.

Sarah Miskella opened proceeding with a suitably seasonable prayer before we tucked into our food – all of which was cooked by volunteers from the village. The money raised from the evening will go towards supporting our lovely village church and The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution.

Thanks to all who supported this event and particularly to Gina Toth and Catherine Grassi for their hard work and creative energy which ensured it was a success.



SHALDEN

MICHAEL CAMPBELL

Linda Campbell and family would love for you to join them at Michael's Thanksgiving Service at Winchester Cathedral at 11am on Monday 17th November with a drinks reception afterwards.

St PETER & St PAUL GUILD OF MARTHA

Kirsty Ennever

November

December

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

C. Laws Obim will / Lin

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

SHALDEN BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS

Afandi Darlington



Shalden Bonfire and Fireworks will take place at **6:00pm** on **Sunday 2nd November**, at Shalden Recreation Ground.

We look forward to welcoming everyone for a wonderful evening of fireworks, hot food and a splendid bonfire. All are welcome and bring along some friends! Entry will be on the gate at £8 per person (this includes a hot sausage on a stick and a cup of homemade soup), children under 5 have free entry. We are able to take both cash and card payments, and a range of drinks will be available for purchase including warm mulled wine.

WELCOME

Over the summer, Rob and Lyn Wood left Waverley Cottage to move to a home in Dorset, and in August the new owners moved in – a warm if somewhat belated welcome to Mark and Michelle! We hope they settle in and feel at home, and start to enjoy all the pleasures of Shalden.

Mark and Michelle Jones

We made our very own 'escape to the country' and moved to Waverley Cottage in August. We had previously lived in Crowthorne, Berkshire for 27 years, with our two sons. They both now live not very far away in Upper Froyle and Crondall with their partners. We bring with us our two dogs, Stanley, a 3 year old Fox Red Labrador, and Freda, a 9 month old wire haired Vizsla/Golden retriever cross. We are both looking forward to making Waverley Cottage our forever home, whilst enjoying our retirement in Shalden and everything country life has to offer. Everyone we have met so far has been so very welcoming – thankyou.

HARVEST HOME IN SHALDEN

Peter Rankin

In a service led by Bruce with PCC Chairman David Chattell in attendance, as is now our tradition, Shalden's harvest gifts for Alton Food Bank were brought up to the altar during our opening hymn, Come ye Thankful People, Come, played by our organ maestro Mike Ennever.











Having included a flowing rendition of the local Hampshire Hymn we rounded off with a finale of We Plough the Fields and Scatter before departing for our Harvest Supper in the Village Hall.

Many thanks to all who helped prepare for the service and for the Shalden flower arrangers who put on such a lovely display. By the time we had got to the village hall our numbers had swelled ready for Bruce to say grace and for Peter Rankin to lead a tribute and raise a glass to Michael Campbell in thanks for his ever enthusiastic support of village life. He will be much missed.





As we all tried to find tickets Mark our Ommanney won the hamper raffle to great applause. The £200 proceeds from the raffle will be donated to the Shalden Church Fabric & Organ Fund. A vote of thanks was given to Silvia and the Combined Harvesters for the lovely food, of which there was plenty and we were spoilt for choice for desserts and even cheese!





However, the harvest celebration wasn't over. On Monday, The children from the Shalden Beehive brought their harvest gifts to the church to be added to those delivered to Alton Food Bank where they were well received. Well done Shalden!



MICHAEL CAMPBELL, a man at the heart of the village for so many years, very sadly passed away, at home, at the end of September.

He was such a supportive member of our community and played such a prominent part in contributing to village life that it is difficult to know where to start in describing his involvement and influence in Shalden, since his arrival here in 1970. I am sure we all have happy memories of many village fetes, hosted in the Campbell's glorious garden, with the fete committee team being welcomed with such warm hospitality, and plied with copious drinks during the set up and take down processes.

A stalwart of the church, and a member of the PCC for very many years, always ready for a lively – and informed – debate on church matters. These meetings were enhanced when hosted by Michael, with a selection of wines from his well-stocked and delicious wine cellar.

Always happy to donate to the numerous fundraising events in the village for a wide range of worthy causes, it is hard to imagine that he will not continue to be involved here. A very gracious and generous host, but more importantly a warm and welcoming man, who had a great zest for life, we will miss him.

David and Louise Lancaster He was a remarkable man of many parts and interests who was a fine and supportive immediate neighbour and we miss him hugely.

Thomas Holliday Michael Campbell a few words

Michael is remembered by me for the amazing village fetes that were held in his garden over the years. He would always make time to come and chat to every stall holder and have a go at the activities. I remember one year he was offering rides through the village in his immaculate classic car. It became a custom after each fete held at his, to invite the helpers over for drinks and nibbles, his generosity was second to none. He was always interested in learning about others around him but very modest when it came to talking about himself. Shalden will not be the same without you

Ian Holliday Michael was an old fashioned gentleman. Although he was clearly a wealthy and influential man, what struck me was that he had time for everybody. However humble your background, he would always chat to you in a genuine and interested way. He was a real supporter of the local villages. Shalden was hugely fortunate in the way that he consistently supported our church and local events. In recent times, it seemed that he and Linda welcomed the hoards to their lovely garden almost every June for the annual fete. There are few people of whom it can be truly said that the village will sorely miss when they are gone, but Michael is certainly one.

Lin Baxter A lovely man, a privilege to have known him, so kind to my late husband, Colin and to me in my time of grief. He will be sadly missed by us all, my thoughts are with Linda and his family.

Peter Rankin Although we have been neighbours for 35 years and although Michael was treasurer on the Shalden PCC I didn't really get to know him properly until I was

elected chairman of the village fete committee in 2013. Since then Michael and Linda have been the most genial of hosts in recent years at this premier village and town event. Even when the committee looked to give them a break Michael insisted that we return to Shalden Park House.

He was very welcoming to all and there is no doubt that the gardens at SPH provided an ideal venue for our traditional village garden fete. He was very generous with his support and generous donations for the raffle and in recent years the Auction of Promises providing days sailing trips, lunch out in his vintage Bentley at the 'squadron' at Cowes. There is no doubt that SPH was a big draw enabling us to donate £4000 to local good causes in recent years.

He has always been competitive, whatever form of travel and having gone green in buying an electric car, had to buy a Porche to make some noise. At the last fete in their garden as Michael excelled at Splat the Rat winning several sherbet fountains!

He was always on hand to provide a beer to those erecting the marquee and helped in emptying the barrel at our clear down meeting on Monday evenings.

Some years ago The Campbell Cup was donated for the children's competition at the fete and is still the prize at the competition run by the Beehive Montessori School in Shalden.

In 2020 with the loss of our own vicar in Shalden he was fundamental on the steering committee to form the new Parish of BLS, always looking for an alternative strategy to first meet the needs of Shalden. In the end Michael and Andrew Micklefield recognised that they could work well together with the same inevitable objective of moving forward to meet the best needs of the villages.

Whether at the various meetings through the year or chatting across the fence opposite, Michael has been a wonderful, kind and generous neighbour to us and we will miss him greatly.

Katie Witcher and James Harris Mr Campbell was an incredibly kind, generous man who always had a smile and a happy greeting. He was a pleasure to work for; we will miss him.

Mark and Rosalind Ommanney We first met Michael when we had just bought 'Court' in Shalden (before knocking it down!) and we attended a service in Shalden Church shortly before Christmas, 2006. Michael came up to us at the end of the service to introduce himself, saying that he didn't think we had met, and welcomed us to the village. That was the sort of man he was. He was interesting and interested, always making a point of asking about you and having a brilliant memory for remembering what you had told him you were up to last time you spoke.

He was extremely community-minded and very generous; when there was a barn dance he would make a donation, when there was a raffle you could be sure there was a wonderful magnum donated by Michael and he was always keen to attend village events whenever he and Linda could do so. The fête is probably the highlight in the Shalden calendar and year after year Michael and Linda have so kindly allowed dozens of cars and stall-holders to invade their wonderful garden to set up, and then were happy to have hundreds of visitors tramping over their lawns.

He was a big character in the village of Shalden and will be very much missed by us all.

Jane and Afandi Darlington We're really very sad to know Michael has died; he was a genuinely lovely gentleman. We recall a wonderful trip to Totford with him at the wheel of his fabulous Bentley, followed by a convivial lunch with Linda and him.

And the last time he popped into the Tap Room, I'm so pleased to have given him a big hug and told him he was a splendid chap.

lan Champness Michael was a pillar of support for anything and everything to do with Shalden Village. He served on the PCC for many many years and always contributed robust discussion regarding any Church matters with the Diocese and more recently, with the merger of our Parish with Lasham and Bentworth. Meetings hosted at Shalden Park House were always aided by excellent 'refreshments'! Talking 'refreshments' the Village Fete setup and dismantling teams over the years will also fondly remember Michael and Linda serving up more 'refreshments' on the many occasions they generously hosted the Village Fete.

Michael always supported every fund-raising event organised in the village and his contributions from his legendary wine cellar never failed to boost the significant amounts that were raised.



SHALDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Katherine Horton Clerk to Council

The Parish Council's next meetings are <u>Wednesday 12th November</u> and Wednesday <u>14th January</u>. PC meetings start at 7:30pm and take place in Shalden Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

BEEHIVE MONTESSORI, SHALDEN

This term, the children at The Beehive have been learning about the importance of harvest and the role it plays in our lives . The

children explored how different crops are grown and enjoyed the opportunity to bake their own bread!





We were also extremely lucky to have one of our lovely families, from Hawbridge farm, bring their tractor - which generated

much excitement and curiosity!

In the spirit of giving, we also collected donations for the local food bank and read the story 'Stone Soup' to encourage discussions about kindness and sharing.

We would like to thank Peter, who kindly welcomed us into Shalden Church, showed the children the harvest loaf and gave them the wonderful experience of ringing the church bells!

We are very grateful to be part of such a supportive and generous community!





The CHURCH

CRAFT SWAP REPORT - Saturday 6th September

Jackie Epps

Judging by the huge amount of donations we received for St Lawrence' Eco Church Craft Swap held at the beginning of September, this event has gained a strong and steady reputation. As usual, we had a long queue before we opened the doors, and eager crafters quickly reduced the goods available to them.

Furthermore, we have a lot of donations left over, and we are hoping to extend the list of organisations able to benefit from them. We have already been able to give pencils, exercise books and craft scissors to St Lawrence School and we kept back some super goods to be sold in Resurrection Furniture. In addition, we are approaching local care homes, other schools and community groups, as well as the usual charity shops, to see what they can use.

We raised the magnificent sum of £315.35 in monetary donations, a testament to the quality of the goods received and the gratitude of the very happy crafters who left satisfied with their bargains.

This money will be split between two very worthy charities: <u>Home Start</u>, Alton, supporting families and helping to give children the best start in life, and <u>The Pink Place</u>, Basingstoke, formed in 2010 to offer ladies with cancer assistance outside of the hospital environment.

We are exceptionally lucky to have a hard-working band of volunteers, willing to give up their time to make this event a success, but we are always happy to welcome more, so next time round, do please consider coming to join in what is a very rewarding and fun afternoon. Thanks to everyone involved for a great event.

* * *

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Action Hampshire

Supporting Hampshire's Heart Anna Miles
Help for Community Groups, Charities & Village Halls

Did you know there's a local charity dedicated to helping small community groups, village halls, and charities thrive across Hampshire?

Action Hampshire has been empowering local communities for over 70 years. Whether you're running a village hall, starting a community project, or managing a small charity, they offer practical support to help you succeed.

From governance and training to grants and advice, Action Hampshire provides tailored guidance to help your group grow. They run workshops and events to build skills and connect with others doing similar work. They offer specialist help for community buildings, including funding, networking opportunities, and best practice guides.

Action Hampshire works on behalf of all local charities to represent the sector's needs to local authorities and funders. Their regular e-newsletter contains useful updates and links to new funding opportunities as well as details about new project funds they are delivering. Their projects focus on tackling health inequalities, organisational development, poverty and cost of living, community led research, and rural affordable housing.

They are currently inviting applications for several community-focused projects, including funding opportunities for initiatives such as 'Healthwatch Hampshire Engagement', 'Safe and Warm Communities', and 'Let's Be Smoke Free'. Visit www.actionhampshire.org.uk or call 01962 854971 to learn more and see how they can support your group.

GENERAL INTEREST

MEDICATION FOR UKRAINE

Gill Siddall

There are times in life when we possibly have medication in our homes that is either unused or unwanted, maybe because of the death of a loved one or a change of medication to a different treatment. The current advice is that such medication should be taken to a pharmacy from where it goes to be incinerated.

When I learnt of a charity helping Ukraine this seemed the perfect opportunity to be able in a small way to help out people in the wretched and ongoing situation in the war-torn country.

For almost the last year fellow WI members, friends and neighbours have been donating any such medication which goes to a local paramedic. He works with a charity called ukrainemission.co.uk and nearly everything that is transported goes through them.

The charity has vehicles which have been donated and the team drive to the front line and beyond with the vehicles full of the donated items. There are other items which the charity would appreciate but medical supplies are very limited out there and particularly welcome.

Over the counter medication as well as prescription medications are all welcome. They should be in their original packaging, be no more than one year out of date and any identifying names, addresses etc. should be removed before donating.

(Go to the website to find out how to donate)



FREE LIVE MUSIC Andy Comley

If you're wondering what to do now the evenings are drawing in, why not invite our band to your house? We make beautiful, original, acoustic music featuring me on acoustic guitar and vocals, Bea on cello, Dave on upright bass, and if you have room, Abi with her brushes on drums. There's no fee, just invite your friends around, sit back and enjoy a tiny intimate gig.

For more info you can check out www.andycomley.com or email me at info@andycomley.com.

EVENTS

HAMPSHIRE MEDICAL FUND CHRISTMAS FAIR

Caroline Laird

13th - 14th November

Get ahead with your Christmas preparation at the Hampshire Medical Fund Christmas Fair on 13th - 14th November at Pinglestone Barn, Old Alresford SO24 9TB.

Browse a fantastic range of stalls offering gifts for everyone on your list! From home & garden finds to gadgets, toys, pampering treats, clothing, jewellery, art, quirky treasures, and accessories, you're sure to find the perfect present for anyone. Plus, there is a delicious on-site cafe so you can refuel!

Tickets from £6 (when purchased in advance). 13th November 16.00 - 21.00. 14th November 9.30 - 16.00.

Visit www.hampshiremedicalfund.org/events for more information or tickets.



Nicci Shepherd

for Cardiac Health at Church of St Lawrence

Hart Male Voice Choir are helping Cardiac Health (<u>formerly known as Cardiac Rehab</u>) welcome in the festive season with a charity Christmas Concert on Wednesday 3rd December.

The choir, who 'put the fun into fundraising for local charities and good causes' will be singing seasonal favourites from 7pm in the Church of St Lawrence in Alton. Mince pies and mulled wine will be served during the interval.

Cardiac Health has been part of the local community for nearly 50 years, and thanks to the generosity of our supporters continues to offer specialist-led services across the region. In our purpose-built facility, exercisers regain confidence, stay active and take control of their health.

By working closely with healthcare professionals, we reduce pressure on public services, track measurable progress, and ensure patients benefit from safe, effective, results-driven exercise. If costs nearly £800 a day to provide this service to the local community and we do not received funding from the NHS or government.

This is a ticketed event, please book ahead to avoid disappointment. Tickets cost £15 for adults and £5 for children.

Tickets can be purchased from Cardiac Health, in Chawton Park Road, or on the charity's website: https://cardiac-rehab.co.uk/events/

THE CURTIS MUSEUM AND ALLEN GALLERY

Jill Line

OPENING TIMES Tuesday to Saturday Curtis 10am – 4.30pm. Allen 10.30 – 4pm [Please note the Gallery and Museum will be **closed on Sundays** until further notice] www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery

ALLEN GALLERY

The Allen Gallery in Church Street, Alton was successful in receiving funding from multiple sources, including the National Lottery Heritage Fund, East Hampshire District Council and Alton Town Council for a redevelopment. The redevelopment project started in

May 2025 and the project team at Hampshire Cultural Trust are now planning for the scheduled capital works to begin in early 2026.

This ambitious project will transform the Allen Gallery into a more welcoming, accessible and inspiring space for everyone, with new displays, a dedicated community area, and a programme of ceramics-inspired creative workshops and activities for all ages.

The schedule of capital works being undertaken will mean **a period of closure** for this work to be carried out which will be as follows:

End of December 2025: The Allen Gallery closes to the public

Throughout 2026: work is carried out at the venue

Early 2027: The gallery will reopen to the public.

During the closed period there will be a range of community programmes and creative activities, much of which will take place at the **Curtis Museum** and other local venues. These will include family workshops, volunteering opportunities, and special events designed to bring people together and celebrate Alton's heritage.

To find out more about this programme and to keep up to date with the project please visit Allen Gallery | Hampshire Cultural Trust.

Volunteer opportunities

Now the nights are drawing in and outdoor pursuits don't seem quite so attractive as they did during the long, hot summer, why not become a volunteer at the Curtis Museum? It's indoors, you meet some really nice people, and you can learn a bit of local history at the same time. We are also looking for volunteers to help with the ongoing Allen Gallery Project (see above). Training will be given for helping to pack, move and catalogue the collection. And eventually to re-site the artefacts once the Gallery is up and running in its new form.

Once a week, once a month or just occasionally, - we would love to hear from you.

For more details, please contact manager lan Grierson on 01420 82802 or ian.grierson@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk or drop in and have a chat with the volunteers on duty.

Talk sponsored by the Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery.

Mediaeval Women, by Caroline Stapleton, 13th November, 7.30pm, Allen Gallery.

FREE, donations welcome.

Next year, talks will be held in the Community Centre.

CURTIS MUSEUM

Saxons v Vikings - Follow our **activity trail** with two routes, Saxons or Vikings? Choose a side and join its boot camp on this fun family trail.

Make a Shield to blend in with your chosen team.

Only £2 per shield with craft materials provided.

4th November - 29th November 10am - 4.30pm.

Mediaeval Christmas

We're travelling back in time this Christmas, to mediaeval Alton. From the Saxons to the Normans, discover the origins of many of the traditions we still do today. Join us for a free activity trail, make and take crafts, and a communal Christmas decoration.

2nd December - 3rd January, 10am - 4.30pm.

Christmas Craft Club

17th and 31st December , 11am -3pm (drop in). Festive make and take crafts £2 per child, 5th craft free.

Dotty the Dodo's Autumn Fact Hunt - a free Family Trail. Dotty has hidden some more facts from the natural world around the Curtis Museum. Can you find them all and earn your Dotty the Dodo sticker?

2nd September - 29th November.



ALTON ORGAN SOCIETY

Elspeth Mackeggie Gurney

On October 7th the audience was treated to a truly excellent recital given by William Fox of St Albans Cathedral. William, Director of Music at St Albans, began with "A Jubilant March" by John Stainer which lived up to its name, which was followed by three pieces linked by the fact the

compositions were based on a theme. "Ut, re,mi,fa,sol, la" by William Byrd was beautifully baroque; "Ricecare" from The Musical Offering, was composed by Bach after being set a challenge by Frederick the Great, who thought the theme he set Bach was impossible to improvise on! Bach, of course, proved Frederick wrong and composed a dense piece, starting with the theme alone & building to a majestic close. Percy Whitlock's "Fantasie Choral No 1" was an improvisation based on a hymn tune; as William said before playing it, Whitlock presents the material and does amazing things with it, chromatic, syncopated music starting quietly in the choir & swell manuals and growing in both sound and complexity, resolving again into the quiet hymn tune.

"Trois Improvisations" composed by Nadia Boulanger, the first female conductor who broke glass ceilings throughout her career, was a set of three beautiful lyrical and expressive pieces which flowed along. The recital ended with Introduction, Toccata & Fugue by Francis Pott, a contemporary composer; the music was complex, imposing & dazzling.

Throughout, William demonstrated complete mastery of the St Lawrence organ and drew out every possible sound it is capable of – it was stunning.

Our next recitals are:

November 4th – **lain Farrington** – composer arranger, organist & pianist. Iain is well known for his composition for King Charles III Coronation and for his own jazz inspired compositions. Iain's programme focuses on French composers Vierne, Widor, Dupre & Guilmant & ends with his own composition, Lay My burden Down, based on African American spirituals.

December 2nd – **Peter Wright** – formerly organist of Southwark Cathedral
Refreshments are available from 7.30pm & the recital starts at 8.00pm. Tickets cost £12;
We look forward to welcoming you on November 4th

THE SCREEN BY THE GREEN, BEECH

Joanna Curtis

Friday 7th November: Four Letters of Love (12A)

Screen by the Green at Beech Village Hall

7:30pm (Doors 7pm)

Bookings: beechvillage.org.uk/events (PTO for more information)

Brosnan, Bonham Carter and Byrne Bring Irish Magic to Beech

The Screen by the Green in Beech presents Four Letters of Love (12A) on Friday 7th November, 7:30pm

Pierce Brosnan, Helena Bonham Carter and Gabriel Byrne unite for this sweeping Irish romance that proves that sometimes, love really does take a lifetime.

When childhood sweethearts Nicholas and Isabel are torn apart by tragedy and fate, their decades-spanning love story unfolds through miraculous coincidences against the breathtaking backdrop of Ireland's golden west coast.

This tender adaptation of Niall Williams' bestselling novel brings the magic of Ireland straight to your doorstep. A heart-warming tale of enduring love and second chances that will appeal to anyone who's ever believed in fate.

Tickets: £7 Advance, £8 Door (Subject to availability) Starts: 7:30pm, Doors: 7pm.

Cabaret seating, licensed bar, free parking. Intimate venue with just 50 seats, early booking essential: beechvillage.org.uk/events

Beech Village Hall, 1 Wellhouse Road, Beech GU34 4AQ

Saturday 6th December National Theatre Live: The Fifth Step (15) Coffee, Confessions and Dangerous Truths

The Screen by the Green in Beech presents National Theatre Live's The Fifth Step (15) on Saturday 6th December, with performances at 2pm and 7pm.

Forget everything you think you know about Martin Freeman and Jack Lowden. The pair who charmed us as Sherlock's Watson and Slow Horses' River Cartwright are back - but this time, they're trading quips over black coffee in an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting that's about to get very dark indeed.

In David Ireland's subversively funny new play, veteran sponsor James mentors newcomer Luka through the 12-step programme. They bond, they banter, they build trust. Then comes step five, the moment of confession - and secrets emerge that threaten everything.

Tickets: £14 Advance, £16 Door (Subject to availability)

Matinee 2pm (Doors: 1:30pm) Evening 7pm (Doors 6:30pm)

Cabaret seating, licensed bar, free parking. Intimate venue with just 50 seats, early booking essential: beechvillage.org.uk/events

Beech Village Hall, 1 Wellhouse Road, Beech, Alton, Gu34 4AL

GIGS BY THE GREEN, BEECH

Joanna Curtis

When Sussex Meets Louisiana: Beech Village Hall launches Gigs by the Green

Something special happens when Sussex folk-poet Serious Child shares a stage with Louisiana songbird My Girl the River – and Beech Village Hall becomes the unlikely setting for this musical collision on Saturday 15th November.

Expect pin-sharp British wit meets sugared-espresso vocals and storytelling that bridges continents. Alan Young's comedic eye for everyday detail pairs perfectly with Kris Hughes' Nashville-honed tales of love, loss and hot chicken.

Intimate venue with limited capacity. Book fast at beechvillage.org.uk/events.

Tickets £16. Starts 7:30 pm. Doors 7pm.

Beech Village Hall, 1 Wellhouse Road, Beech, Alton GU34 4AQ

BEECH BONFIRE NIGHT Saturday 8th November: 5pm meet at Beech Village Hall

Torchlight Procession, Bonfire, Fireworks, Bar, BBQ

Tickets: Advance tickets on sale until 5pm on the 5th of November.

Tickets can also be purchased on the night, either at the Village Hall (5pm-5:30pm) or on the Recreation Ground (5:30pm onwards).

Adult Ticket: £8.00 (Advance), £10 (On the night)

Child Ticket (5 – 15): £4 (Advance), £5 (On the night) Infant Ticket (0 -4): Free

Timings:

5pm Village Hall opens, wax torches available for purchase.

5:30pm Torch-led procession sets off for the Recreation Ground

6pm Bonfire lit

6:30pm Firework display

CLUBS

ALTON

ALTON CAMERA CLUB

Renee Smith

It's been a busy start to the 2025-26 programme at Alton Camera Club. The new season got underway with a dynamic talk by Caroline Preece entitled 'Tools not Rules'. Caroline introduced us to a different way of thinking about photography and composition, challenging old beliefs and putting the emphasis on creating an impact with your images whilst not sticking to the traditional 'rules' of photography.

Throughout September we welcomed to our club new members who got involved straight away by entering our first competition of the season on the theme of 'Song Title'. A total of 52 images were entered into this competition. The judge, Keith Newton LRPS, awarded third place to Renee Smith for her image 'Miss You', second place to Paul Booker for 'My Eyes Adored You' and first place to Andrew Sorrell for 'Pictures of Lily'.





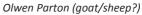
The sun shone on our field trips. We attended Alresford Show at the beginning of September and, later in the month, took a trip into the New Forest visiting Lymington and Hurst Castle. We walked the spit from Keyhaven to Hurst Castle, then caught the ferry back. Encouraged by the glorious blue skies and sunshine, we indulged in probably the last ice-creams of the year in Lymington before heading towards Brockenhurst in search of ponies

Alresford Show Wendy Davies (soldier)



New Forest & Lymington

Jacqui Austen (horse)





Daniel Cook (lifebuoy/lighthouse)



Kelvin Perry (sailing yacht)



Patrick Cooper (model boat in window)



(window) Renee Smith (Miss You) Third place in Song Titles competion.





Last weekend we car-shared and combed various locations in Hampshire and Surrey looking for clues and taking photographs in our annual Safari Competition. We braved the rain and sought out fishermen at Kingsley Pond, bicycles in Liphook, flags in Haslemere and things that float in Frensham, finally returning to Holybourne's White Hart pub for our 4.30pm deadline. Lots of fun was had by all and the winners will be announced at our Christmas Social. Upcoming field trips include a visit to the New Forest for a guided funghi walk and to London to visit Comic Con and sail down the Thames.

Do you have an interest in photography? We welcome new members all year round to our weekly meetings at Holybourne Village Hall, London Road. We meet every Wednesday at 7.30pm. All levels of photographer are welcome. Contact us for details via Messenger or www.altoncameraclub.org.uk



ASA Forthcoming Lectures:

Vanessa MacMahon

Tuesday 11th November: Angela Findlay The Art of Atonement;

How Germany commemorates the Second World War In the context of our World War centenaries, anniversaries and the current debate about statues and monuments, the subject of this talk is hugely relevant. In this country, relatively little is known about Germany's complex post-WW2 process....

Tuesday 9th December: Graham Jones A Very Ceremonial Christmas

This very light-hearted lecture, looks at the various ceremonial events that take place around Christmas time. Carol services, concerts and even Changing

Both lectures to be held at Martin Read Hall at Alton College 7:30p (doors open 6:45pm)

MEDSTEAD

HAMPSHIRE FEDERATION OF WI - MEDSTEAD

Gill Siddall

Members and visitors were welcomed to the meeting by secretary Hilary.

The table at the recent Freshers Fest in the hall had attracted a steady flow of visitors.

Four Marks WI are arranging a Carol Service in the COGS on December 19th at 2pm and members were requested to sign up if attending.

Our December meeting will be a craft afternoon so members were also requested to sign up if attending.

The entries for the Large Garden Cup will be judged in November - this year the challenge has been to grow a sunflower which has proved more challenging than usual with the weather like it was! It will be judged with photos of the sunflowers!

Our speaker for the afternoon Dr Amanda Isbister was welcomed as was husband Dr Andrew Isbister, technical help for the afternoon!

Both Amanda and Andrew are fondly remembered as GP's firstly at Ropley Surgery then later at Mansfield Park Surgery. Amanda is now a trustee of Winchester Hospice for which she has a real passion and she spoke first about the history of the hospice movement which Dame Cicely Saunders founded in 1937. There are now 220 in the country.

The aim of each hospice is to provide palliative care with comfort and compassion. When the need to establish one in Winchester was identified Burrell House in the hospital grounds was chosen as a possible site.

It was in a very bad state of neglect after years as a nurse's home and teaching centre for them. Even the roof had fallen in. The cost of the build etc was £4.4 million and the building is now barely recognizable from the original. A Psalm 23 garden at Chelsea Flower Show in 2021 was moved to the hospice after the show and looks beautiful and tranquil. There are 10 ensuite bedrooms and currently occupancy is 95%. 100 volunteers help and there are all manner of fundraising events throughout the year. The annual costs are £800.00 and the charity supports 30% of the costs. Amanda and Andrew brought along a table of hospice merchandise for which there was a steady queue after the talk!

At the meeting on Thursday November 13th the speaker will be Susan Howe who is a tour guide. She has great stories to tell and will certainly keep us entertained.

New members and visitors are always welcome to the meetings in Medstead Village Hall at 2pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month so come along and join in the fun and friendship!

HAMPSHIRE FEDERATION OF WI - ROEDOWNS

Diana Constantine

Our October meeting was all about tea, which was very WI! Our guest speaker was Jane Glennie who gave an entertaining, humorous and theatrical presentation on the subject of tea. From the history to the etiquette around making, pouring and drinking it. Our President, Jill Kerr was put to the test with her knowledgeof 'the right way'.





Roedowns WI participated at the Medstead Freshers event on the 4th October



We joined many local groups in Medstead Village Hall who were all there to promote their organizations and encourage people to perhaps get involved. Examples of some of our activities and photos along with lots of

information plus free cakes all made an interesting display.

Forthcoming meetings

5th November Hampshire Search & Rescue 3rd December Christmas table decorations

7th January Line dancing 4th February Aromatherapy

Roedowns WI meet in the Wiltshire Room, Medstead Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 19.30hrs. Guest speakers, outings and good company.

Tea/coffee, biscuits, raffle and gift voucher prize at each meeting. Visitors and new members are very welcome. Contact Secretary on roedownssec@hampshire.org.uk Or President Jill Kerr 01420 564116.

'Autumn, The years last, loveliest smile' William Cullen Bryant

Autumn brings beautiful colours and this crab apple tree is laden with fruit this year.



In October we welcomed the speaker Ben Pope who presented the topic- 'The working garden, and making the most of what you have'.

Ben Pope studied and worked within horticulture before becoming head gardener for a private garden in West Sussex where he has been for the past 17 years. The garden is not open to the public, but Ben had an array of fabulous photos of the garden and how it has developed. He cares for a large walled kitchen garden, 36 cut flower beds, borders containing several thousand bulbs, 7 vegetable beds, 2 greenhouses, water features, woodland and hedges plus more. He has a team of four other gardeners to help him maintain the high standards achieved. They all are in involved with the task to propagate, grow and store the produce of fruit and vegetables. It was a really interesting talk.



On 4th November Helier Bowling will be speaking about '*Building a Show Garden*' Come and join us! Meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month except January. *Gardening jobs for November*-

Plant bare root hedges, roses, trees and shrubs before the weather turns. Lift dahlia bulbs, plant tulip bulbs, protect plants that aren't hardy. Cut down faded perennials that are looking tatty and mulch.

NORTH HAMPSHIRE NATIONAL TRUST CENTRE (NHNTC)

Hugh Bethell

Visit to The Wakes September 2025

It was a miserable, drizzly damp day which saw the NHNTC group visit The Wakes in Selborne, home of our greatest naturalist, Gilbert White (1720-1793). The museum also houses collections devoted to the polar explorer, Lawrence Oates, and his naturalist uncle, Frank Oates.

An excellent guide started us on the Gilbert White Tour by describing his life and work in Selborne – as the local vicar and as a remarkably observer of all the wonderful aspects of wildlife in and around Selborne. His seminal work, The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne, was published in 1789 and remains the fourth longest constantly-in-print book in the English language. Some of his most important observations included the first description of the harvest mouse, the soil enhancing properties of the earth worm, the lives of swallows, martins and house-martins and, of course, the peregrinations of Timothy the tortoise.

Gilbert's house, The Wakes, was the original Selborne vicarage and is considerably larger now than it was in his day - but care has been taken to preserve as much of the original structure as possible. It houses a surprisingly large collection of portraits of his family, though the only impression of Gilbert himself is a sketch done by a fellow university student. There are a number of original furnishings and bed hangings and an enormous collection of different editions of his Natural History of Selborne.

Despite the miserable weather we were drawn to wander round the extensive gardens which are being continuously revamped to restore their original form. I am sure that many of us will be drawn back to spend more time in the Wakes and take the opportunity to enjoy the gardens in more clement conditions.

* * *

REGULAR FEATURES

Tim Gordon-Jones



The bees are settling in for the colder weather now autumn is here, although they are very keen on the Michaelmas daisies and some other plants

that are still in flower. They have significantly reduced their numbers in each colony and have evicted all the drones. The queen will be laying 'winter' bees that are more adapted to colder weather. I have put mouse guards on the entrances to keep the brood warmer and prevent unwanted pests from getting in.

Oddly enough the bees have been constructing their own mouse guard, or entrance reduction, using propolis, or bee 'glue'. They really are smart creatures.

I must treat all the empty supers for wax moth. This is just a solution that is sprayed onto the empty honeycomb and left to dry before sealing up for the winter. I'm also treating the colonies for Veroa mites. This involves putting strips of 'Apilife Var'. This is an essential

oil based on Thyme and is completely organic. There is no honey in the hive, just the bees own Super that I do not harvest. This treatment has to be renewed every week, for four weeks

This will be the last article for this year and will restart in March or April next year depending on the weather. I still have lots of honey to sell so please contact me if you want any. They make excellent Christmas presents.

HAMPSHIRE FARMERS MARKETS

Alton Saturday 8th November

Sunday 2nd	Petersfield	Sunday 2nd	Romsey
Sunday 9th	Winchester	Saturday 15th	Emsworth
Sunday 16th	Alresford	Sunday 16th	Southsea
Saturday 29th	Ringwood	Sunday 30th	Winchester

Markets open 10am until 2pm except Winchester which opens at 9am.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - ALTON LIBRARY

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

There are several more learning opportunities at the Library, including Emergency First Aid. Do look at the posters on pages 27, 32, 34 and 41.

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	

FOR INFO!! Jill Hurley

There are 3 new advertisers this month, on pages 14 and 18. One is a new shop by the station called Whistle and Wander.

I couldn't find it (it was closed at the time, is my excuse!) but the owner kindly sent me this photo so I can find her next time!

I thought I would share it in case anyone else needs help! It's next door to Wilson Taxis.



CLUB CONTACTS

Medstead Bowls: Secretary Dennis Church 01420 564475

dennis@windhamhill.plus.com

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

Medstead Tennis: www.medsteadtennisclub.org.uk

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

CROSSWORD 8 10 11 12 13 14 16 15 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

Clues Across

- 1. East African Country
- 7. Arbitrated
- 8. Age
- 9. Middle
- 10. Extinct Bird
- 11. Deadbeat
- 13. Dreading
- 15. Unsophisticated
- 17. Mexican Farewell
- 21. Fair
- 22. Cringes
- 23. Purpose
- 24. Toddlers
- 25. Free

Clues Down

- 1. Handy
- 2. Ancient Calculator
- 3. Friendship
- 4. Stuck to
- 5. Roamed
- 6. Heavy
- 12. Besiege
- 14. Cosmetic
- 16. Chortles
- 18. Abuse
- 19. Directs
- 20. Sway









Emergency First Aid Alton Library

Friday 7 November 9:45am - 4:45pm

FREE tuition, optional £25 certification fee

Booking is essential, please visit

https://shop.hants.gov.uk/collections/learning-in-libraries to book your place. If you have issues booking online please contact branch staff or call 02392 232957





PIERCE BROSNAN HELENA BONHAM CARTER GABRIEL BYRNE

FOUR LETTERS of LOVE



Friday 7th November: Four Letters of Love (12A)

Screen by the Green at Beech Village Hall 7:30pm (Doors 7pm)

Tickets: £7 Advance, £8 Door (Subject to availability)

Cabaret seating, licensed bar, free parking. Intimate venue with just 50 seats, early booking essential: beechvillage.org.uk/events







Library Service



Expressive Watercolours at Alton Library

Saturdays 8 - 22 November 10am - 1:30pm

Free tuition, £10 materials payable to tutor Booking is essential, please visit https://shop.hants.gov.uk/collections/library-courses to book your place. If you have issues booking online please contact branch staff or call 02392 232957





Christmas Fair

2025

SHOP, EAT AND MEET WITH FRIENDS

Thursday 13th November 16.00 - 21.00

Friday 14th November 9.30 - 16.00

Pinglestone Barn, Old Alresford, Hampshire, SO24 9TB

All ticket proceeds go to the Hampshire Medical Fund, raising money to purchase cutting edge medical equipment for your local Hampshire Hospitals

Tickets available from www.hampshiremedicalfund.org/events/









Making Creative Connections: Oil Painting for Beginners Alton Library

Fridays 14 November - 12 December 10am - 12pm

FREE tuition, £15 materials fee

Booking is essential, please visit

https://shop.hants.gov.uk/collections/learning-in-libraries to book your place. If you have issues booking online please contact branch staff or call 02392 232957

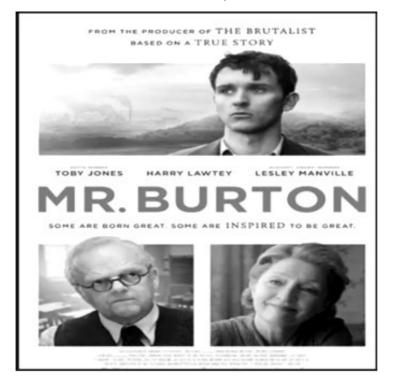


BENTWORTH FILM NIGHT

will be screening

MR BURTON

on **Friday 14th November** 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 Concert Band, Alton Choral Society & Ancora Present in aid of





A CONCERT OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC & CAROLS

Saturday 6 December 2025

Doors open 6.30pm for 7.00pm Alton Maltings

Entry only with a ticket available from

www.altonchoral.org.uk or

scan the QR code or call 01420 85994

Sponsors:
Alton Maltings
Alton Co-operative
Beer Festival
Focus stoves



National Theatre Live

Sat 6 Dec

Jack LOWDEN Martin FREEMAN Step
The Fifth

Written by DAVID IRELAND Directed by FINN DEN HERTOG

Screen by the Green

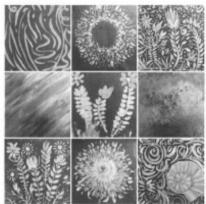
beechvillage.org.uk







Library Service



Gilded Blooms: Wreath and Watercolour Workshop Alton Library

Saturday 13 December 10am - 1pm

£28.50 tuition, plus £8 materials fee

Booking is essential, please visit

https://shop.hants.gov.uk/collections/learning-in-libraries to book your place. If you have issues booking online please contact branch staff or call 02392 232957









Benefice Curry Banquet Evening

with guest speaker Richard Emmens from The King's Arms

The Spice Bank on Monday 3rd November 2025 at 6.30pm

This event is open to all church members, their families and friends so we can meet and socialise over food in a relaxed setting. £20 for four courses (starter, side, main, rice and a naan)

To book a place or places contact Rosemary on Rosemarylyn@btinternet.com or 01420 542135 with your order by 31st October







TON WALKING CHURCH FOR MEN

Friday 14th November 10.30am meeting at The Rose and Crown in Farringdon

A gentle 90 minute walk with time to pause and reflect. Refreshments after at the pub. Last walk of 2025

ROBIN KEMP

familykemp@tiscali.co.uk 07957 653 403



LE T'S BUILD

For more info contact Rev David Chattell David@potr-alton.co.uk

GO D'S STORIES



4pmWith songs, a Bible story, **lots of Lego© creating!**And drinks and pizza!

Sunday 31st August Sunday 28th September Sunday 26th October Sunday 23rd November

Holy Rood Church, Holybourne





Christmas Tree Festival



The St Lawrence Christmas Tree Festival

It is the 14th year of the St Lawrence Christmas Tree Festival! This will take place on December the 13th and 14th 2025.

We are yet to decide which charities we will support this year so if you know of a local community charity that would benefit from a monetary donation, please have a word with myself or Carol and we may be able to help.

The St. Lawrence Christmas Tree Festival has become something of a community tradition. People of all ages cross the church threshold where they find Christmas sparkle, music, a warm welcome, refreshments and social connection. It offers a time away from the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations and every penny of any donations we receive benefits a local good cause.

More details will follow in the December edition of the Villager but if you want to know anything about the festival before then just have a word with me, Elaine Cook, or Carol Graham. Alternatively, you can email the Parish of the Resurrection office at office@potralton.co.uk and they will pass your inquiry onto us.

If you would like to display a tree, please bring your tree down to St Lawrence Church on Friday 12th December to place and decorate it.

Elaine





St Lawrence Church, Alton, GU34 2BW Sunday 14th December 2025 4pm

The Children's Society

Donations to The Children's Society

All Souls

Service of Remembrance

St Lawrence Church Sunday 2nd November, 4pm

A short, reflective service where we remember by name, our loved ones who have died.







SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2025

BENTWORTH LASHAM MEDSTEAD SHALDEN

2nd NOVEMBER -THE FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT R or G or W		
Holy Communion (CW) Holy Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW)	10.00a.m. 11.00a.m.	10a.m.
9th NOVEMBER-THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT Remembrance Sunday		
Holy Communion (BPC)	8.00a.m.	
Remembrance Service 10.50a.m.		
Remembrance Service	10.45a.m.	
Remembrance Service	111.00a.iii.	
Remembrance Evensong '	•	l 6.00p.m.
16th NOVEMBER - THE SECOND SUN	DAY BEFORE ADVENT	R or G
Holy Communion (CW)	11.00a.m.	
Parish Communion (CW)	11.00a.m.	6.00p.m.
Evensong	· ·	1
23rd NOVEMBER - CHRIST THE KING		R or W
Holy Communion (CW) 10.00a.m. Cafe Church (in the church hall)	11.00am	
Family Service (in the ch hall)	4.00p.m.	
30th NOVEMBER – THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Purple		
BLS Service of Light 5.00p.m.	ABVENT	
Patronal Evening Service	5.00p.m.	
POTR Services for November 2025		
2nd November	16th November	
8am BCP Holy Communion St Lawrence	9.30am Communion Servi	,
10.30 am POTR Altogether St Lawrence 4pm All Souls Remebrance St Lawrence	10.30am Communion Ser 10.30am Morning Worship	
9th November	6pm Choral Evensong	St Lawrence
8am BCP Holy Communion St Lawrence	23rd November	
9.30am Morning Worship - Holy Rood	9.15am Communion Serv	
10.45am Town Remembrance The Cairn 3pm Afternoon Worship All Saints	10.30am Communion Serv 4pm LEGO church	Holy Rood
6pm Evening Prayer for vacancy St Lawrence	6pm Evening Worship	St Lawrence
	00(1.1)	

Every Wednesday: Holy Communion

10am All Saints Church

30th November

8am BCP Holy Communion St Lawrence

10am GAP Advent service Methodist