



The Parish Magazine for

£1

STOCKBRIDGE LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD

October 2023



The Parishes of Stockbridge, Longstock and Leckford in the Mid-Test Benefice

Rector: The Rev'd Philip Bowden

Phone no. 01264 810810

rector@midtest.org.uk

Website: <http://www.2day.ws/stockbridge>

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Please contact our Rector (see details above)

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St Peter's Stockbridge	St Mary's Longstock	St Nicholas' Leckford
<i>Churchwarden</i>	<i>Churchwarden</i>	<i>Churchwarden</i>
David Williams 811072	Madeleine Hedley 810284	Vacancy
<i>Hon Secretary</i>	<i>Hon Secretary</i>	<i>Hon Secretary</i>
Micki Nadal 810567	Richard Robinson 810388	Micki Nadal 810567
<i>Hon Treasurer</i>	<i>Hon Treasurer</i>	<i>Hon Treasurer</i>
Jean Farnan 07590 532460	Madeleine Hedley 810284	David Barnes 810516
Beavers	Pastoral Visitors	Stockbridge Parish Council
Frances Waghorn 01962 776048	Vacancy	Chair: Derek Halle
Bell ringers (Longstock)	RBL (Houghton branch)	Derek@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Chris Reynell 810569	David Williams (Chair) 811072	Clerk: Belinda Baker 07770 406607
Bell ringers (Stockbridge)	New Secretary to be appointed	clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org
Micki Nadal 810567	Angela McMeekin: Poppies 810236	Stockbridge Pharmacy 810624
Brownies (meet in Chilbolton)	Scouts	Stockbridge Police Station
Julie Shone 01962 761269	Mark Lovell 07786 435847	(Non emergencies) 101
Church Mouse Books	Scout Group Explorers	Stockbridge Primary /Pre School
Micki Nadal 810567	Andrea Zanchi 07747 720735	Emma Jefferies (Head) 810550
Cub Scouts	Louise Henderson 07436 899054	Stockbridge Rec Ground
Mo Collins 01256 895534	St Thomas More Church	Dave Webb (Chair) 810819
HCC County Councillor	Father Mark Hogan 01962 852804	Stuart Mawson(Sec) 07766 150055
Cllr David Drew 357024	Stockbridge Church Flowers Sec	Stockbridge Surgery 810524
mob 07738 289902	Angela McMeekin 810236	<i>Out of hours urgent treatment /advice</i>
Kent Hill Scout Hall	Stockbridge Community Cinema	<i>Hants Doctors On Call freephone 111</i>
Leigh Dance 811074	Paul Kidd 811179	Stockbridge Town Hall
Leckford Parish Council	Stockbridge Community Market	Kim Candler (Chair) 811776
Vacancy	Carol Preston 07925 287870	<i>On-line bookings</i>
Longstock Garden Club	Stockbridge Court Leet	www.stockbridgetownhall.co.uk
Peter Moore 07881 573493	Guy Boney (Lord of the Manor)	or phone 513299
peter.r.moore@gmail.com	810614	Test Valley School
Longstock Parish Council	Diana Tym (Bailiff) 810363	Ms Jo McKeown (Exec. Head) 810555
Chair: Selina Musters 810459	Stockbridge Dramatic Society	Trout 'n About
Clerk: Gill Bulpitt 07763857512	Mark Frank 810562	Bob Powell 01264 810966
Longstock Village Hall	Stockbridge Football Club	TVBC Councillor
Selina Musters 810459	Bob Powell (Chair) 07802 524433	Cllr Tony Ward 01794 389649
Longstock & Leckford WI	Rob Blandford (Hon Sec) 07799 289756	Unity Transport (Dial-a-Ride shopping bus) 356808
Sue Hill 811779	Email: stockbridgefc@hotmail.com	
Neighbour Care 0845 0943713	Stockbridge Music	
<i>Calls cost 7p/min +network charge.</i>	Karen Malim 07964 194530	

From the Clergy

We know little about persecution for our faith in the UK. The Romsey deanery, of which we are part, has been linked to a diocese in south western Uganda for many years (South Rwenzori). There they become accustomed to churches and schools being burnt and whole families being displaced by the incursion of aggressive Islamic militias across the nearby border with the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In the UK, most Christians agree that the culture around us is becoming more and more hostile to our faith, even though not on the scale experienced in East Africa. Just this last month in the UK we have had people arrested for praying outside abortion clinics, others sacked from their jobs for articulating Christian views on sexual ethics or some whose bank accounts have been cancelled because of their beliefs.

How should we respond? We might want to fight back to demand fair and equal treatment. Alternatively, we might want to engage with those who challenge our traditional viewpoint. But there are those who decide not to engage at all, preferring instead to turn the other cheek. Their argument follows that they would rather be known for what they stand for than what they are against.

Writing in *Finding Hope in a Hostile World*, Glen Scrivener uses the story of Abraham to make a point. The patriarch Abraham usually stayed out of wars that were going on around him and instead used his energy and influence to build his household of faith. Just once he made an attempt at an alliance with a foreign king (Genesis 14).

Perhaps this is a guide for us especially if we are not adequately informed about controversial issues. Many Church leaders believe our role is to spread the good news of Jesus so that our culture is transformed by loving, praying Christians empowered by the Holy Spirit. The great social reforms of the 19th century came on the back of revivals in the Church. Rather than trying to create or even to recapture a Christian culture, we should concentrate on building up people who are committed to the Lord Jesus and who wish to live for him.

Rev'd Dr John Rennie

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Cover Photo: Apples (Paul Kidd)

*In this season of mists and mellow fruitfulness our footers echo
the theme of fruitfulness in its many guises.*

From the Editorial Team

We are beginning to feel the change in the weather that heralds autumn and the days are getting shorter. Gardens are ablaze with yellows and oranges, trees are laden with fruit and our thoughts turn to reaping and storing the crop and then to harvest celebrations.

Apples in particular have quite a mythology; the apple is one of the most sacred of trees and in many cultures symbolises good health and future happiness. In Greek mythology it is associated with Aphrodite, goddess of love, and the Earth goddess, Gaia, gave Hera an apple tree when she married Zeus. Apple wands were used in Norse rituals symbolising good health, happiness, wisdom and eternal love, and in Celtic mythology apples are the fruit of the gods, bringing a sense of wholeness, healing and connection with nature.

So an appropriate focus for this magazine, and we will put aside any bad apples and trust everyone has had a successful harvest. Please do join the Harvest Festival celebrations in one of our churches.

Frances Candler, Jennifer Kidd and Thea Taylor

Test Villages u3a

Thursday 5th October
at 2pm in Chilbolton Village Hall

Richard Murphy presents
"Climate change – a beginner's guide"

With extreme weather events occurring more and more frequently we are being bombarded with information about climate change. However, even for those who try to follow it closely, it is hard to make sense of it all. In this talk, Richard, addresses the basic question "what is going on?". He then explores the more tricky questions of what might happen next and what we can all do about it. His talk covers this very topical issue in a lively and interactive way, shedding light on what may be the biggest challenge of the 21st century.

Test Villages u3a meets on the first Thursday of every month in Chilbolton Village Hall.

Doors open at 1.40pm for the presentation, followed by refreshments.

New members are very welcome, and we look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings.

u3a is a UK-wide network of groups that provides the opportunity to socialise and learn for fun. Find out more at u3a.org.uk, or see the latest on our Test Villages group at u3asites.org.uk/test-villages



**Stockbridge
Community
Cinema**



Saint Omer (15)
Friday 13 October
7.30pm (2hrs 2min)

Rama is a novelist who attends the trial of a young woman accused of killing her 15-month-old daughter. As the legal proceedings move forward, the words of the accused along with witness testimonies begin to shake Rama's convictions and call into question both her judgement and that of the viewer.
(in French with English subtitles)

**The Unlikely Pilgrimage of
Harold Fry** (PG)
Wednesday 18 October
5.00pm and 7.30pm (1hr 48min)

The story of an unremarkable man who sets off on a remarkable journey. Harold lives a life without purpose until he learns an old friend is dying and vows that, in walking across England to see her, his journey can keep her alive.

Tickets £6.00 (£5.50 + £0.50 booking fee)
available online via our website
stockbridgecinema.org.uk or via the
TicketSource telephone booking service
0333 666 3366 (additional £2.00 fee per booking)

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15 October 2023

Please send emails to:

editorsstockmag@gmail.com

or phone Frances Candler on 01264 811776

Jennifer Kidd on 811179 or Thea Taylor on 811101

Stockbridge Town Hall Events



Weekly

Mon am	Pilates with Paula
Mon am	Pilates Unlimited with Clare
Tue am	Michelle Buhl-Nielsen Art Class
Wed am	Yoga with Dionne
Thur am	Iyengar Yoga with Melissa
Thur am	Stockbridge Community Market
Thur	Su Joy Art Class
Thur pm	Joga
Fri am	Moo Music

This Month

Oct 1	Hawkmoor Books
Oct 1	Antiques and Curios
Oct 2-4	Jennifer Gay
Oct 3	Stockbridge Drama Society
Oct 4	Hants & Isle of Wight Constabulary
Oct 4	Stockbridge Drama Society
Oct 6-15	Hampshire Artists Co-operative
Oct 6	Andover District Explorers
Oct 13	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Oct 15	The Bookmark
Oct 16-17	Capital Cashmere
Oct 17	Stockbridge Town Hall AGM
Oct 18	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Oct 19	U3A
Oct 19	Stockbridge Parish Council
Oct 20	Jules At No.43
Oct 20	Stockbridge Music Society
Oct 21	Antique Fair
Oct 24-25	Cocoon
Oct 24	Longstock and Leckford WI
Oct 27	South Central Makers
Oct 28-29	Hawkmoor Books
Oct 28-29	Antiques and Curios
Oct 30-31	Wessex Art



Stockbridge Community Market

**Every Thursday morning
9.30 - 11.45am
in Stockbridge Town Hall**

Selling the very best local and home-made produce

Pies, cakes, breads, soups, eggs and vegetables.
Handmade crafts, toys, books, plants & bric-a-brac.

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Further details on p19

Stockbridge Town Hall

Annual General Meeting 2023

**Tuesday
17 October
6.00pm**



The Annual General Meeting of Stockbridge Town Hall CIO will take place at 6.00pm, immediately followed by the Annual General Meeting of Stockbridge Town Hall Trading Company Ltd at about 6.30pm. The agendas will include

- Chairman's Report
- Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts
- Nomination and election of Trustees
- Appointment of Directors

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The author will talk about her new book ISLE OF DOGS, in which she shares her love for our favourite family pet in an adventure across Britain. She will also talk about her life and work and will be signing copies of the book.

At Stockbridge Town Hall, SO20 6HE on
Sunday 3rd December from 7pm

Ticket prices are £12 for adults and £6 for children (no booking fee)

Tickets can be purchased at The Bookmark or at Eventbrite
<https://an-evening-with-clare-balding-the-bookmark-stockbridge.eventbrite.co.uk>

GOODWORTH CLATFORD VILLAGE CLUB ART AND CRAFT WEEKEND 3rd to 5th NOVEMBER 2023



FREE ENTRY

FRIDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.
SATURDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
SUNDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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GOODWORTH CLATFORD VILLAGE CLUB, VILLAGE STREET, GOODWORTH CLATFORD SP11 7RE

SUNDAY @ 4

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S EVENT

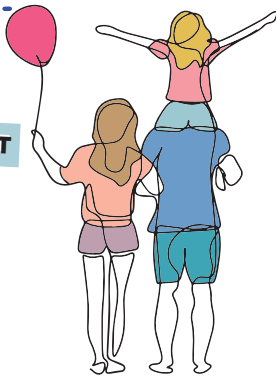
15TH OCTOBER 2023

LONGSTOCK VILLAGE HALL

SO20 6DL

4-5PM

- games
- songs
- Bible story
- refreshments & hot dogs



CONTACT
Rev John Rennie: johnrennie47@gmail.com
Paddy Melville: paddymelville@hotmail.com

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OR CALL 01264 513 676



Further details on p19

SADS



LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD WI

Meetings are held in Stockbridge Town Hall
6.45pm for 7pm start

Tuesday 24 October

English Traditions & Customs Alan Frampton

Guests always welcome.
Please contact Sue Hill on 811779 for further details



**Stockbridge Primary and
Pre-school**
Bag2School

Stockbridge Primary and Pre-School are holding another BAG2SCHOOL event in October! If you have any pre-loved or unwanted items you would like to donate, please bring them, bagged-up, to Stockbridge Primary School's main reception on

**Saturday 14th October,
10am-1pm**

Donations can include clothes, bags, jewellery, belts, shoes, soft toys, household linen or curtains (no duvets or pillows). If you will have difficulty dropping off your donations, please email Friends of Stockbridge School on foss.stockbridgepta@gmail.co.uk, who will be only too pleased to help.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

*Friends of Stockbridge School
(FOSS)*



Longstock Garden Club
Lynda Warren
A Spoonful of Herbs

Join us on Tuesday 10th October 2023

at 7.30 pm in Longstock Village Hall
(Doors open at 7.00pm)

<https://longstockgardenclub.com/>
Peter Moore 07881573493

**Wherwell
History Group**



**Friday 20 October 8pm
at Chilbolton Village Hall**

**A History of the
West/De la Warr Family**

John Roberts-West (Jock)

*Please check our website for further details:
<https://www.wherwellhistory.com>*

Romsey Quiz

Fun quiz to support the work of the South Rwenzori Diocese

**Sat Oct 14th 7:15 for 7:30
Romsey Abbey Church Rooms**

Come as a team (up to 6 people) or to join another team for this fun quiz. Bring a favourite pudding (nothing too big!) to share. There will be a prize for the winning team!

Entry is free but must be booked via Ticketsource <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/romsey/romsey-abbey> or through Diane Kingston at the 9:30 service or Abbey Vine or by email: DianeK99@gmail.com or by phoning Jane Horne AFTER 26th September (01794 521713)

Donations (cash only, please) will be invited towards the vocational training and social education work of the South Rwenzori Diocese (the mission link for the Romsey Deanery) and to cover the costs of the quiz.



Houghton WI
16 October at 10am
Houghton Village Hall

Royal Osteoporosis Society
with Speaker Jan Westbury.

Osteoporosis Day on 20th October. We should all know about diagnosis and clinical care.

Visitors welcome. Further information from Jane Anderton 01264 810928

Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society's

Curtain Calls . . .

Come and be entertained by readings and performances from plays, poems and novels – and often songs

Tuesday 3rd October
at 7.30pm
Stockbridge Town Hall

You don't have to be a member of SADS to come along, (but we'd love it if you'd join). We're also looking for new blood to act, direct and be part of the backstage team.

No experience necessary!

stockbridgeamdrams@gmail.com
or find us on Facebook



**The Royal British Legion
Houghton and District Branch**

Contact David Williams (Chairman)
01264 811072

Social evenings are held on the first Wednesday of most months in the Grosvenor Hotel



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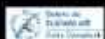
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We will be offering joint covid and flu vaccination appointments to patients aged 65 and over or in an at-risk group from 7 October 2023. Invitations will be going out during September.

Patients will also be able to book for just the flu vaccination if they choose.

If you receive a text invitation, please book online using the link if you are able to – this will keep the 'phone lines free for patients who do not have online access.

Children aged 2 and 3 years on 31 August are entitled to receive the nasal flu. You can contact the surgery to book this appointment or wait to receive an invitation.

Physiotherapy appointments

We are making some of our physiotherapy appointments available to patients to book online. These are for new joint problems in adults.

Shingles vaccination

There have been some changes to the national shingles programme. We will now be inviting patients as they turn 65 and 70 years of age. Unfortunately, if you are aged between 66-69 years of age you will have to wait until you turn 70 before becoming eligible.

If you are aged between 70-80 years of age and have not received the shingles vaccination, please contact the surgery to book an appointment.

NHS App

If you have the NHS App with notifications turned on you will start to see text messages sent by the surgery appear as notifications. If notifications are not read the message will revert to a text. This is a national change which has not been instigated by the surgery.

Are your contact details up to date?

It is very important we have your correct contact details. Please inform us if you change your telephone number (particularly if you no longer use your landline) or if you move address. This can be done by coming into the surgery or using the online form on our website – type change of details form in the search box on the home page.

Medication for covid infection

If you are in a high-risk group and test positive for Covid you can self-refer to obtain anti-viral medication (as long as you are eligible). This can be done using the web address: <https://phlgroup.co.uk/cmdu> or telephone 03300 587080.

Ann Spooner

Another problem for elderly eyes

Having warned about the dangers of sunlight to the eyes, it has been put to me that I should also warn of another danger to the eyes in older people because it affects 10% of people over 70.

Glaucoma

You may know the name of it but what does 'glaucoma' mean? It occurs when the normal fluid produced in the front chamber of the eye is not draining properly. Slowly the pressure rises and this leads to problems. They begin with loss of peripheral vision (what you see out of the 'corner of your eyes') but eventually can lead to blindness. Detected in time it can be controlled but it is not to be taken lightly by the elderly. What should they do?

They should visit an optometrist/optician regularly. The tests carried out can detect a loss of vision at the borders of the eye (a hazard when driving) or show the rise in eye pressure which indicates significant glaucoma. They will then be referred to an ophthalmologist for what will be long-term management.

Some people are more susceptible to glaucoma including anyone with a family history. In fact, the NHS pays for a yearly test for those with a relative who has glaucoma. People of Afro-Caribbean are also more at risk. Please take glaucoma seriously.
Hugh Saxton



An Apple a Day may well help to keep the doctor away

Apple Day is a relatively new calendar custom for October. It was the creation of the conservation charity Common Ground in 1990 when, dismayed by the loss of so many traditional orchards, they set out to celebrate the more than 3,000 varieties of apples that are grown in this country and to encourage the preservation of the orchards that produce this most versatile fruit.

The first **Apple Day** was held on October 21st 1990 in the old Apple Market in Covent Garden. Since then, Apple Day has been celebrated every October 21st and has spread across the UK through nurseries, fruit farms, restaurants, National Trust and RHS gardens, museums, art centres, community groups and schools.

Apple Day provides an opportunity for people to express their love of apples, orchards and all the customs, rituals, songs, drinks, recipes and wildlife associated with them. Linking the apple with the orchard affirms our reliance on the land and the importance of a healthy relationship with nature. It is hoped that British orchards will contribute to Britain's food security at a time when 90% of our fruit is imported.

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Longstock Fête

The Longstock recreation ground looked a treat on 2nd September as the sun shone on the annual fête.

All the usual stalls were there, with plenty of trade for second hand books. The bottle tombola attracted all those wanting a flutter, while the tea and produce tents were busy all afternoon.



The children's corner kept all the young occupied, with various games and face painting, and a 'pre-loved' children's clothing outlet was a novelty.



Instead of a brass band, there was a fairground organ that added a traditional feel to the event.



A flying display by falcons and an owl was the main attraction, and an inflatable obstacle course kept all ages amused.

The day was rounded off with Longstock's very own dog show, all-age tugs 'o war and the Grand Draw, which offered many prizes generously donated by local businesses and individuals.



In the evening the great Nick Ferretti sang and played for those attending the barbecue, and we couldn't resist including the photo of the Burnfield triplets enjoying the fête.

Over £4,000 was raised to be divided between St Mary's Church and the recreation ground.

John Musters

Editors: Our thanks to photographers Nigel Rugman and Thea Taylor



. . . until you have tasted a peach.

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Who doesn't love an apple?



DNA analysis has traced the origin of the domestic apple to a small region on China's border with Kazakhstan where its wild ancestor, *Malus sieversii*, is still found. Archaeologists have found evidence that people have been eating apples since 6,500BC. Following on from natural spread, they have been cultivated for thousands of years in Asia and Europe. The Romans took them from Syria and travelled east along the Silk Road, learning to graft, and started to cultivate apples similar to the ones we know today. European colonists then introduced apples to the Americas.

The first British apple orchards were created by the Romans. Many were abandoned following Roman departure and raids by the Jutes, Saxon and Danes. It was not until after the Norman Conquest that orchards were redeveloped with improved varieties from France.

Many of the Norman orchards were developed in the grounds of monasteries with monks undertaking cross-pollination work to develop new varieties. One of these, 'Costard', widely grown by the 13th century, was sold by 'costardmongers' - from where we take the word 'costermonger' for a general fruit and vegetable seller. The variety remains available to gardeners today.

UK apple-growing declined again during the Wars of the Roses and Black Death until 150 years later, in Tudor times, when Henry VIII instructed his fruiterer, Richard Harris, to source new varieties for introduction to his orchard in Teynham, Kent.

Though the first 'Pippin' was introduced from France at this time, 'Queene' was the most common Tudor apple. By the mid 17th century, some 60 cultivars were recorded in UK production, divided by use: eating, cooking, cider and pomatum (an ointment used to treat skin ailments). Perhaps the most famous is the cooking apple 'Flower of Kent', one of which fell next to Sir Isaac Newton thus inspiring his understanding of gravitational force.

Apple breeding and cultivation hit its peak in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, with the introduction of many varieties that remain popular today. Extensive hybridisation work was carried out in estate gardens and by commercial nurserymen in a bid to produce outstanding flavour. Richard Cox introduced 'Cox's Orange Pippin' in 1850, and 'Bramley's Seedling', still considered the very best cooking apple, was first exhibited in 1876.

The development of new rootstocks following the Second World War brought the height and habit of apple trees under control, vastly improving orchard production but also making apples trees better suited to smaller gardens. The various training methods - fan, cordon, espalier, step over etc. - mean that apples can be grown in almost any garden situation, no matter the available space.

No wonder we love them!

The Editors

jennifergay and artisan route

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Anyone for tea? (at the fire station)

It was teatime on a sunny summer afternoon when I presented myself unannounced at the Stockbridge Fire station to ask about becoming an On-Call firefighter. Being myself somewhat long in the tooth - to give you an idea just how long, as a boy I remember seeing at first hand the 1974 fire at the Andover Town Sawmill that ex-Stockbridge Firefighter Geoff Merritt wrote about in The Stockbridge Parish magazine - obviously one of my first questions was whether there is an upper age limit for joining as an On-Call firefighter. The answer, to my surprise, was that there is no upper age limit. If you pass the various fitness, health and interview processes you can join.

Even though it was late in the day, and undoubtedly looking forward to going home for a cuppa, the person whom I quizzed took the time and trouble to describe the rôle in detail and the ins and outs of the recruitment process. That's one of the things you'll notice early on about the fire service, people make time for you, take the trouble to be nice and always with a smile. Equality, diversity and inclusion are at the heart of the modern Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service culture.

For me, being part of the Fire service as an On-Call firefighter offers the opportunity for involvement in the local community as well as the chance to perform in an exciting and dynamic role.

As an On-call firefighter, you get paid a retainer and when you go out on a shout you get the same level of pay as a full-time firefighter commensurate with your level of training. As any member of the Fire Service, your training is ongoing, continuous and regularly assessed. However, to allow On-Call firefighters to fit firefighting around another full-time career, instead of the first levels of training all taking place over several weeks at the start, your basic levels of intensive training take place in four separate modules which most people are able to fit in within four to five years.

Having passed the initial health, fitness and interview processes, and having shown reasonable aptitude at making tea (although apparently, I need more practice) I am now looking forward to the first of those four training modules, this one known as MODULE A. Before that there are many preparatory elements of study and practical learning e.g. knots, manual handling, and fire science, to be completed and assessed at the Stockbridge Fire Station on the 'drill night', spaced over the course of several weeks.

Module A - 'Pumps and Ladders' - consists of training in the basics necessary to fulfil a rôle as a junior member of the crew when called to a 'shout' and involves eight whole days of intensive training at Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Headquarters in Eastleigh. On passing this first course, a raw recruit is then deemed 'competent to

ride', in other words, it's a qualification to begin the process of learning.

On 4th September, a nationwide initiative to raise awareness of the importance of having chimneys regularly swept, 'Chimney Safety Week' was launched. Ironically just a few days prior to that, in the early evening on a regular drill night, the Stockbridge Fire Station alarm bells sounded and the teleprinter leapt into life with the details of a nearby chimney on fire. Not having previously been present when the bells sounded, and never having seen a 'shout', I had foreseen in such circumstances a general rushing about and some level of disarray, raised voices at least, but there was not a single ruffled feather in sight, the crew were outwardly calm and composed as they hurriedly readied themselves, and really before I knew it they were on the engine and out of the doors on blue lights, called to the live fire. About two hours later the crew modestly returned, having efficiently extinguished the chimney flames with minimal damage to the property concerned.

Beyond MOD A on the route to becoming a 'competent firefighter,' there are MODS B, C & D, Breathing Apparatus, Intermediate Emergency Care and Road Traffic Collision courses to attend at Eastleigh, and in the intervening time there is learning and assessment through the online portal, practical drill night training and integrating with, and learning from, the wide experience of the crew on station and on calls. Meanwhile, I am honing my tea-making skills...

Andrew Edmonds

If you are interested in this as a career and want to join Andrew and the rest of the crew, please email Rikki.noble@hantsfire.gov.uk

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Memoirs of a Radio Officer

CQ CQ CQ . . . Calling All Ships. Bananas wait for no one!



tss CAMITO off Jamaica 1960

The bows of tss CAMITO lifted and fell to a gentle Caribbean swell as the tropical dawn emerged. Standing high above the ship's bridge I inhaled air that carried the scent of a familiar land. I was approaching Jamaica after spending the last seven years in cold and still recovering war-torn England. Full of excitement and savouring the moment and the smells wafting in the wind, I awaited the appearance on the horizon of the land of my birth – Jamaica.

How did I get on this ship you might wonder. Quite simply really: after my last term at school, Marconi Marine offered me a job if I could get myself qualified to take on the responsibilities of a merchant marine Radio Officer and after 3-4 years I could then be taken into the 'management stream' (whatever that meant at the time). The offer was accepted with alacrity and, for the next two years, I diligently slogged away learning about the mysteries of electronics and marine operating procedures at The School of Marine Radio and Radar at Hamble.

Then, not unexpectedly, my call-up papers arrived. In what seemed microseconds, Marconi Marine got me a ship and I found myself starting a seagoing career as the No 2 R/O on tss 'Camito', a banana boat that also carried up to 100 passengers. I was now beyond the clutches of HMG and the call-up.

The Camito was a fast ship. Bananas waited for no one. Their ripening had to be held in abeyance at all costs until they arrived at their destination. This sometimes was most inconvenient for passengers. In heavy weather speed had to be maintained as fast as sea conditions allowed. When it got really bad, the ship heaved and rolled and generally corkscrewed unmercifully - accompanied by the sound of much crashing, banging and smashing crockery.

My duties involved watchkeeping for 8 hours a day, broken down into 2 watches of 4 hours each and, as we carried passengers, there had to be a second Radio Officer, ie. my boss the 1st Radio Officer, who covered another 8-hour watch again divided into 2 watches. The primary reason for the presence of a Radio Officer was Safety of Life at Sea.

Secondary to this was the business of the owners, Elder & Fyffes, the Ship and then the Passengers. Safety of Life at Sea was paramount. For instance, in each hour there were two silence periods of 3 minutes when one had to monitor the radio frequency of 500kcs (the general medium wave calling and distress frequency). At these times, ships were required not to use their transmitters so to preserve complete radio silence on this frequency and listen out for any emergency signals.

Other duties were routine such as the sending and receiving of messages, the transmission of observed weather data which we sent to the Meteorological Office in London. Some other duties could be more mundane such as the daily reception of a Reuters morse code transmitted news bulletins, the contents of which had to be accurately recorded either in longhand or by typewriter. This bulletin, which



A typical Marconi radio room

included stock market information, ended up on the passenger noticeboard and heaven help you if someone noticed an error in the quoted stock prices!

What is noticeable in what I have said so far is how different things were in 1957. For example, messages and all communications were in morse code. There were no personal shortwave radios amongst passengers, officers or crew. There was no means to multi-copy documents other than by hand and carbon paper!. We were, however, technologically in the age of the thermionic valve (the things that had to warm up before anything happened); remember the radios and early TVs? The world of the transistor, printed circuit board, micro chip, integrated circuit were all yet to come. It is worth remembering that the introduction of the thermionic valve was then considered to be the most important electronic invention of the 20th century! The transistor was just around the corner.



Camito in Port Antonio, Jamaica - the final port of call on the banana circuit
(Photo 1960)

What was so marvellous was the reality of escaping England in mid February 1957 to sail across the north Atlantic to the warm Caribbean. In a fast and comfortable banana boat. My parents awaited my arrival in Kingston! To top it, we were escaping rations and deprivation. The food on Camito was like nothing seen or experienced before. The Officers Saloon had the same choice of food as for the passengers. I was in heaven and full of anticipation except that, an hour after leaving Southampton, the swell coming up the Channel reminded me it was winter and 'mal de mer' was imminent and about to upset both my daily duties and life. Horrible though it was, I was back to normal in a day or so. The sun came out. The swimming pool was filled with sea water and we increased speed towards the sun. The younger female passengers enlivened the environment by putting on their bathing attire, and dipped a toe or two.

It was not until several years later that I concluded we youngsters had had a lot of responsibility thrust upon us. We were in total charge of all communications with the outside world. Now fancy that. The Captain, Chief Officer and Chief Engineer couldn't twiddle a knob even if their life depended on it. Let alone handle and read morse code at 25 wpm! I joke really but the Navigating and Engineering officers thought we 'Sparks' were a bit bonkers - as was the Officers' understanding of our electronics!

Peter Hughes



The best ever ice cream recipe! (well, I think so)

Fruit is in abundance and with pies and crumbles being a favourite of mine, it's easy to just provide another of those recipes.

I visited a friend this very weekend and she made us her trade-mark pie. Lovely we thought, but the ice cream she served with it was the finishing touch. So glorious and, as it happened, simple to make.

I actually forwent the pie and instead had a double serving of the ice cream.

Ingredients – Enough for a 1 litre tub.

2 x 300ml double cream
2 tsp vanilla extract
397g tin of condensed milk
Packet of Maltesers, crushed but save a few for decoration.

Method

Whisk the double cream and vanilla extract together until thick and softly peaking but not solid.

Fold in the can of condensed milk.

Fold in the crushed chocolate pieces

Place in a plastic tray with a lid and pop in the freezer.

To serve, remove from the freezer at least 15 minutes beforehand so that it is less frozen. Top with the remaining chocolate and enjoy.

Tip

You can use any chocolate treat of your choice. I am going to try Crunchie bars next time with a drizzle of maple syrup when served.

Linda Hotchen

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SADS Next Production The Hound of the Baskervilles (sort of)



Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society (SADS) next production will be a version of probably the most famous of the Sherlock Holmes mysteries: *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Wikipedia lists 13 films of this story in English alone and there have been numerous stage adaptations – but I can promise none of them are remotely like this version by Steven Canny and John Nicholson which is, to quote the Telegraph, 'a wonderfully barking spoof'


All seventeen roles, including all the women, are played by just three actors: Larry Murphy, Sid Dajani and Iain Powell – aided and abetted by stage manager, Tania Flewitt, who does her best to get the right actor on stage at the right time with the right props.

If you are a Holmes purist then this may not be for you. If you just want a good laugh then we look forward to seeing you.

Performances are on the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th of November at 7:30pm in the Town Hall. Note that there is no performance on Saturday 25th. You can buy tickets on-line at www.stockbridgeamdrams.org.uk or by leaving a message on 01264 513676.

Mark Frank (SADS Chair)

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Stockbridge Music

The Beaufort Singers St Peter's Church Stockbridge

20 October, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

The choir will perform an atmospheric programme of unaccompanied choral music beginning with the music of John Tavener. They will journey through music from across the centuries, using the texts of Compline to dwell on themes of light and darkness, life and death, prayer and praise. Works by Harris, Mendelssohn and Rachmaninov, as well as by living composers Neil Cox, Cecilia McDowall and Owain Park make for a rich tapestry of music which ends with Charles Wood's famous setting of 'Hail, gladdening light'.

The Beaufort Singers were formed at the University of Cambridge in 2016 and named after Lady Margaret Beaufort who founded St John's College, Cambridge. The choir often focuses on 20th and 21st century choral music, and amongst its seminal projects were performances of James MacMillan's 'Seven Last Words From The Cross' and Rachmaninov's 'All-Night Vigil'.

The singers are some of the very finest the UK has to offer, who sing with groups such as Monteverdi Choir, The Sixteen, The Gesualdo Six, Sansara, and Tenebrae and many have local connections. The choir's director, Joseph Wicks, is a former Salisbury chorister and among the choir members are Susie Hill, who lived in Stockbridge and went to school here, and Simon Grant who started his singing career as a chorister in Romsey Abbey.

Further information and tickets £20 (U18s £5) from stockbridgemusic.uk or on the door.

Stockbridge Parish Council News Are you thinking of going solar?

With energy bills set to remain high this winter, you may be considering installing solar panels. If so, until 27 October 2023, you can register your interest with Solar Together – a group buying scheme backed by HCC to give you confidence when investing in green energy for your home.

The scheme ensures high-quality installations, at the right price, from pre-vetted installers. Registration is free without obligation.
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/solartogether>

More news on page 23

St Peter's Flower Festival

Once again an abundance of flower-arranging talent was on display at St Peters and Old St Peters Churches from 25-28 August. This year the theme was 'Anything Goes' and there were some inventive interpretations of the subject. Sadly, we do not have room to show them all but here is a selection with apologies for those not included. A magnificent total of about £3500 was raised for the Churches.



Ladies who lunch - Garden Inn



Maggie Duffy - Volcano



Anything Goes - Chrissie Quayle



Moulin Rouge
Angela McPherson, Jill Goodwin
Morella Cottam & Victoria Muers-Raby



Champagne - Sylvia Shepard



Rosie Wright- Desert Island Discs



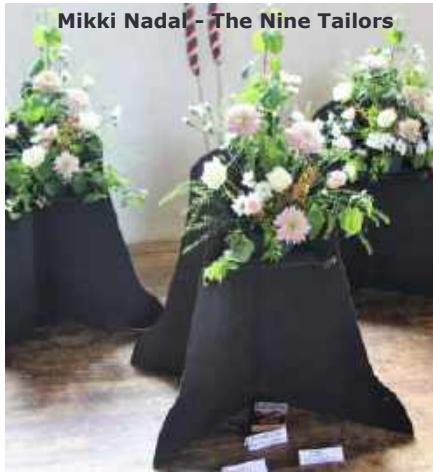
Joan Evans - My Boat Won't Float



Clare Hills - Tapestry Kneelers



Last Of The Summer Wine - Catherine Williams



Mikki Nadal - The Nine Tailors



Kati Williams - Fairy Gardens



Mary Matthews Nature Gardening



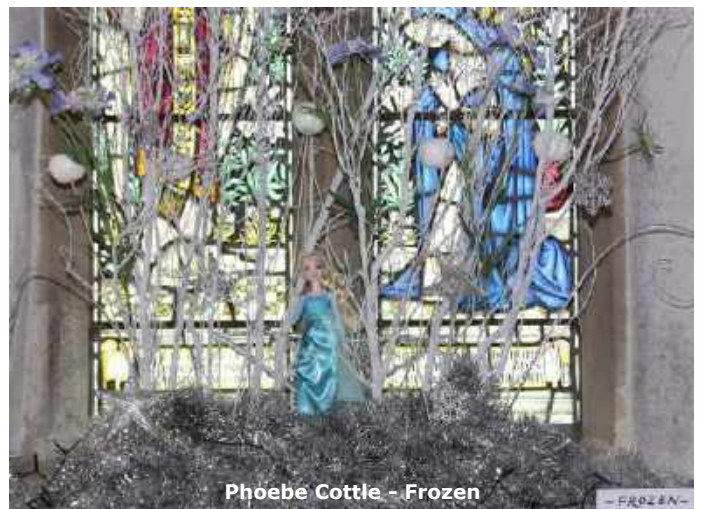
Longstock Nursery - Deeloverly and Delicious



Louise Booker - Sea Fever



Stockbridge Scouts



Phoebe Cottle - Frozen



Gail Bailey - Purity



Angela McPherson, Jill Goodwin
Morella Cottam & Victoria Muers-Raby



Maria Melville - Anything Goes

... you are never going to get the best fruit.

Dawn Williams

Dawn was born Theodora Thomas on the 5th April 1942 and was adopted at about three months by Mr and Mrs Dodderidge who renamed her Dawn Mary. They lived in the village of Nunney near Frome in Somerset. Dawn's love of animals started at a very early age as the family always had dogs and Dawn had a friend who had a pony.



Dawn attended the convent in Frome and of course was already playing the piano and learning to play the organ. When she left school, she had a job in the office of a local firm, then moved and lodged in Bristol where she worked as a dental receptionist. She met Graham, who had done his National Service, and they married in 1964. Graham was working as a lorry driver but, in 1965, obtained a job working in the Forestry Department on the Longleat estate, where Dawn also got a job working as Personal Assistant to Lord Bath. In 1969, Graham moved to a job working on the fruit farm on the John Lewis estate in Leckford, and so Dawn's life in Leckford began. She continued to work for Lord Bath for some time but then began a career in the road safety departments of first Hampshire County Council, and then Wiltshire where she was based in Wilton, Salisbury.



When Dawn and Graham moved to Leckford, Dawn's long-standing dream of owning her own horse was fulfilled and Leckford estate allowed Dawn the use of a paddock. Dawn

and Carole met in 1983 whilst having a riding lesson and a long and close friendship developed from that day. Carole worked part-time for Dawn for a couple of years in Wilton although some time was spent in Tesco's cafe enjoying coffee and cakes!! In 1985, Dawn was employed as the Houghton organist but was also filling in for organists in other parishes.

In 1994 Dawn needed to find her birth mother and, after she and Carole travelled to Somerset House in London, Wales and then round Southampton, they eventually found Sadie, Dawn's mother, and she and Dawn enjoyed a good relationship.

Dawn retired in 1997 and became secretary to the Leckford Estate Retirement Group organising social events and days trips. Dawn started the Sunday afternoon teas in the Leckford Clubhouse to raise

money and these were very successful and went on for several years.

In 2002, Dawn was diagnosed with cancer but, after an operation, recovered well. Unfortunately, she had to have a replacement knee which meant she had to give up her great love of horse riding but she was always ready to help Carole run her equestrian competitions at Castle Farm.

Dawn and Graham had always enjoyed caravanning and bought their dream camper van. They enjoyed



many holidays in France and when Carole and her husband, Nelson, moved to France in 2008, they spent holidays with them parked in their garden.



Dawn and Graham had always had dogs and in 2010 bought a pretty collie puppy which they named Mollie.

Graham died in 2012 after several years of illness. Dawn kept herself busy involving herself with the Church playing the organ for many of the churches in the benefice. She took over from Joan Ward as organist for Stockbridge, was on the Leckford Parish Council and also became a church warden. In 2017 Dawn had a return of her cancer and was in hospital for 2 months. She recovered well and continued to be fully involved with the church and also, a year or so later, started bell ringing. She has run quizzes over the last couple of years to raise money.

Over the last year, Dawn's health sadly deteriorated and she really was not able to enjoy herself. She grew very weak and poor Mollie's walks became shorter!!

Dawn will be greatly missed by all who knew her,

Carole Glover

Dawn the Bell Ringer

Before lockdown, Dawn decided to learn to ring church bells, She regularly attended practices at Kings Somborne, Stockbridge and the Wallops. Sadly, as her health deteriorated, she had to give up this hobby, but she was delighted to be able to join the band ringing at the occasional service at St Nicholas', Leckford. Her devotion to keeping St Nick's looking well cared-for and inviting to visitors filled me with admiration.

Micki Nadal

Dawn and Leckford

Dawn was something of a force of nature. Everything she tackled was taken on with determination. She had the good of Leckford village at heart in all she did. Dawn organised a long run of coffee mornings in the village hall to bring people together as well as very generous tea parties in her garden when she catered for everyone who might come, with quantities of sandwiches, cakes and tea; far more than we could possibly consume.

Who can forget the quizzes that Dawn organised for church funds? At these she kept us firmly but cheerfully in order. A quiz was planned for 15th September but sadly she was taken from us before that date.

Less seen but greatly appreciated was her willingness taking people to hospital when they were nervous or worried.

Dawn did a dedicated job as church warden for St Nicholas, Leckford, doing all the multitude of tasks needed for the church to run smoothly. She was also chairman of Leckford Parish Meeting as Leckford does not have a Parish Council.

Dawn said one day 'If you cannot do some good for others what were you put on this earth for?'

Dawn's passing leaves a huge gap in our community; a gap that it will be difficult to fill.

Tom Palmer, Leckford

Dawn and Houghton WI

Dawn spent many years as a member of Houghton WI and was much involved with the annual party, when the entertainment became legendary. First of all assisting Joan Ward, Dawn progressed to running the shows, writing plays, providing the music, and rehearsing the cast (of very mixed abilities but very willing!).

Whatever the chosen theme of the year might be, Dawn was always able to come up with appropriate songs - her music library was phenomenal! The annual supper parties in Houghton Village Hall were always well-attended and provided many happy memories - who can forget the crowning glory of Joan Ward (at 88) dressed in white tutu and wings, singing the sad song of the Christmas Fairy, accompanied as ever by Dawn on her trusty keyboard?

We will always be grateful to Dawn for her musical talent, her sense of humour, her hard work and her inspiration.

Jane Anderton, Houghton WI



Stockbridge Parish Council News

Stockbridge Parish Council did not meet in August. There is still a vacancy for one Councillor at Stockbridge PC and the Clerk would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in becoming a Councillor and contributing in this way to their local community. The vacancy will be filled by co-option and the requirements for co-option as a Councillor are the same as they are for standing at an election.

The Council is working with HCC to install a new crossing place between the Co-Op and the Greengrocer on the High Street. The planned new crossing will not be a zebra/pelican crossing, but will create a pedestrianised zone. The style is going to be different from that outside the public toilets at the other end of the high street but it will ensure that less able residents will be able to approach the traffic island in the middle of the High Street safely without having to weave around parked cars. The crossing will remove the need for the planters, which take up more parking space than traders and residents would prefer.

Cllr Halle attended a community engagement event run by TVBC to ensure that communities groups know how to access funding for projects and what TVBC could do to help. SPC also provides grants for community groups for projects which provide benefit to the Stockbridge community. If you represent a community group looking for funding please approach the Clerk or Cllr Halle (Derek@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk) to see if SPC or TVBC would be able to help.

Students from Sparsholt College have been visiting Stockbridge to gather ideas for the development of a community garden in the area now called Blandford Row park. The Council feels that the layout of the present garden doesn't make the best use of the available ground and hopes that the Sparsholt students will come up with exciting and inspiring ideas to create a space for Stockbridge residents away from the bustle of the High Street.

Stockbridge Parish Council has acquired the Lancaster House site from HCC in order to protect the site from any kind of development. The Council would be interested in hearing from residents about any ideas they might have for use of the site within the community. For safety reasons the Council asks that the area is not used by members of the public at the moment.

Stockbridge Parish Council will meet next on 19th October 2023 in the Town Hall.

Belinda Baker
Clerk to Stockbridge Parish Council
clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

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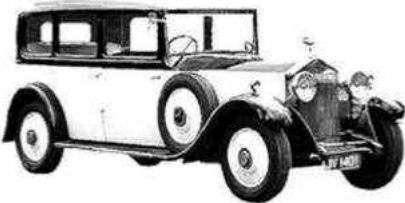
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Potting Shed Cuttings for October



'Yellow Book' gardens open this month -

Wheatley House, Bordon; Coles, Alton; Furzey Gardens, Lyndhurst; Timber Hill, Chobham. Edmondsham House, Wimborne

General Maintenance

October is a good time to start putting the garden to bed. Cleaning is high in the list: greenhouses should be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly, any winter protection put in place to protect tender plants and crops being grown under glass and to provide the maximum light possible. If possible, clean and disinfect water butts; this will prevent algae and stagnant water. Clean, oil and sharpen tools which will be put away for the winter months. Clear and tidy borders, composting as much green material as possible. As an antidote to all this cleaning, take the last opportunity to force bulbs for winter colour in the house, or dig and pot up clumps of lily of the valley for wonderful indoor scent.

The Flower Garden

For early colour next year, sow sweet peas in individual pots or seed trays; sow hardy annuals in their final flowering position and take hardwood rose cuttings about 10"/25cm long. The latter should be planted in a v-shaped trench and left to form roots over the winter. Clean out containers and fill with fresh compost for winter displays: I never find 'winter' pansies particularly satisfactory, but ivy, phormium, small conifers and heather can all look attractive and need little maintenance. Tidy perennial and mixed borders; divide any congested clumps and replant, giving plants a little boost with some fresh compost; tender varieties such as fuchsias, geraniums, dahlias and gladioli can be lifted, dried and stored over the winter; perennial seeds can be collected for free plants but leave as many seed heads as possible for the birds. Pot up any cuttings you took in the summer whilst there is still sufficient warmth for root growth.

The Vegetable Garden

Clear beds as you complete harvesting crops over the coming month. If they are not being replanted, either dig over and apply well-rotted manure or compost or, if you operate a no-dig schedule, cover with cardboard and a 5cm/4" layer of manure or compost and allow the worms to do all the work for you. Plant spring cabbage, onions, garlic and broad beans. Sow winter salad leaves, more broad beans, spring onions, early carrots and mangetout. Fleece will protect salad leaves, brassicas and late root crops from frosts. Cut down yellowed asparagus stalks and mulch the beds. Remove yellow leaves on brassicas and pot up herbs for indoor winter use.

The Fruit Garden

There is still time to establish new strawberry beds and to plant up runners potted up earlier in the year. Rhubarb clumps should be cleared of old leaves and large clumps divided; replant only the vigorous sections and spread a good layer of mulch

but avoiding the crowns. Pick any remaining soft fruit now; autumn raspberries can be cut to the ground in January or February; for the others, prune shoots which have fruited and gently tie in new shoots which will produce next year's harvest.

The Lawn

Grass seems to have grown so quickly this summer and, if temperatures remain at around 6° - 8°C, will continue to do so. Raise blades to around 5cm/2" and continue mowing. Blades will become clogged quickly so mow small areas and empty the grass box frequently; overnight dew will limit the times grass becomes dry enough to mow successfully. The slightly longer grass length will protect leatherjackets and other insects but gives a reasonable winter length. If the weather stays mild, you will probably need to keep cutting for several more weeks.

The Pond

Ponds should be covered with netting if leaf fall near the pond is a problem. Remove pond weeds; leave on the side of the pond for a few days to allow insects to escape back into the water. If the rain hasn't already done so, top up levels with fresh water.

Micki Nadal

Apple Wordsearch

There's more to British apples than Bramley and Cox's. Can you find the apple varieties hidden in this word search?

N	Q	E	R	D	T	Y	U	P	I	O	P	L	K	W
K	E	H	L	I	M	E	L	I	G	H	T	Z	G	A
P	D	W	E	S	S	D	F	X	S	G	C	T	C	R
A	G	W	T	C	G	J	D	I	V	R	N	O	S	N
M	R	S	T	O	J	K	L	E	B	E	U	P	U	E
S	E	X	G	V	N	Q	U	E	K	E	J	L	N	R
D	N	R	B	E	G	W	C	F	A	N	S	O	S	S
E	A	F	Y	R	V	Z	O	L	S	S	W	R	E	K
L	D	V	H	Y	F	Y	X	N	D	L	O	D	T	I
I	I	T	N	O	U	E	R	P	D	E	D	D	P	N
G	E	G	U	A	D	O	U	Y	T	E	B	E	L	G
H	R	H	E	S	Z	X	C	V	B	V	R	R	K	F
T	A	B	I	E	P	I	C	U	R	E	E	B	I	O
N	A	S	F	D	H	G	J	G	D	S	R	Y	W	K
M	J	A	M	E	S	G	R	I	E	V	E	S	X	V

DISCOVERY, COX, EPICURE, GREENSLEEVES, BEAUTY OF KENT, LORD DERBY, LIMELIGHT, NEWTON WONDER, PAMS DELIGHT, PIXIE, SUNSET, WARNERS KING, JAMES GRIEVE, GRENADIER

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Longstock Rally in Pictures

9 & 10 September 2023

A hugely successful event thanks to Andy Knight and his team. The Rally is going from strength to strength.

by TH Whites, Hunt Forest Group and Olivers who are celebrating 200 years in the agricultural industry



Showing the site from the ploughing field on a really hot sunny day. The show gets bigger and bigger each year, and has developed into a fantastic day out for all the family.

On the local theme, Hideaway Gardens were at the rally with a fantastic range of plants.



Always time for a very welcome cup of coffee and a cake.



First time of seeing this 4 Wheel Drive group at the rally, they put on a fantastic display of 4WD vehicles.



Really good to see this steam-powered car being driven around the site.

Good to see a range of 'days-gone-by' trucks and lorries. This one caught my eye - an Andover Timber Company truck and trailer.



Just the sort of day for a tractor and trailer ride around the working field, which had working in it loads of different types and sorts of tractors.



Something a little different, a great looking machine in the hands of a very proud owner.



One of the many tractors working in the ploughing field. This is a Nuffield tractor, which in its day was supplied by a very local company called Watson & Haig from Andover

More steam engines than ever at this year's rally. What a fantastic sight they are to watch as they drive around the display ring.



On the subject of local support from the farming industry, it was really good to see the rally supported



I'm going to end with a picture of a military truck. This is just one of some of the military vehicles that



took part in this year's rally. A reminder of all those that put their lives on the line for our future.

Ryan Bundy

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Church News

St Mary's Longstock



'Soup and Sandwiches' takes place on the last Thursday of the month. If anyone would like to help by making sandwiches or cakes (ingredients supplied), please contact me. If you would like to come and join us for good food and chat, the next event is Thursday 26 October 12.30pm at Longstock Village Hall. For anyone who would like company, to make new friends, or catch up on what is going on.

The fête on 2 September was a great success. We had a wonderful day with perfect weather. Plenty for children to do and see and the bird display was very good. The dog show was really popular, with some very well-behaved participants. The dogs were good too! See article on page 11.

Many thanks to all who supported Ride and Stride on 9 September. Lisa and I walked from St Mary to St Peter, then to Old St Peter, then returned via the Test Way and The Bunny to St Mary. Michael, Lisa's husband rode on his bike round all the churches of the Benefice – and survived the heat. Sponsorship raised around £500 but we will not know the full amount until November.



The Patronal on 10 September was a lovely service – a small congregation, but we learned about obedience during the service, with an update on Eco Church during notices. Maybe next year we will have more coming to celebrate St Mary and the time a church has been in Longstock – certainly from Norman times. One of the ways England can be seen as a Christian country is the sight of lovely churches in every village and town.

On 17 September, we had a new initiative. Rev'd John Rennie and Paddy Melville arranged for a 'new style' worship for families and children, under the umbrella of St Mary PCC - 'Sunday at 4.00pm' at Longstock Village Hall. Around 25 children between 4yrs and 12 had great fun with games and active singing, and brought their parent/s. After a story was told, it was time for hot dogs and plenty of cakes.

Dates for your Diary:

1 October : 5.00pm. Harvest Festival at St Mary's. As usual, your offerings are gratefully received – tinned goods, pasta, rice, packets of sweets, toothpaste – we give these to Andover Food Bank. The service will be followed at 6.00pm with Harvest Supper. A hog roast has been booked; this was much enjoyed last year, and we hope to have

as much fun and enjoyment again this year. Some people have already made their reservations! With the hog roast we will have jacket potatoes and salads, followed by delicious homemade puddings. There will also be a raffle.

Lisa Trailor is working with the PCC on our bid for a silver Eco Award and will give a short talk on our progress to date.

The price is £12 for adults and for children aged 14 and under there is no charge. Please book by phoning Maddie on 810284 or 07884583285 (or text) or emailing mjh723@btinternet.com You can pay on the door, cash or card payment. You can also make a bank transfer to PCC Longstock; sort code 30-90-21; A/c 00265278.

21 October starting at 10.30am. This day is Open House at the Rectory, 11 Trafalgar Way, Stockbridge. Rev'd Philip is inviting anyone from the Benefice to call in for refreshments and a chat – the tea and cake were pretty good last year – so please pop this date in your diary and call in.

12 November : Remembrance Sunday – a service in church, followed by the Act of Remembrance at Longstock War Memorial.

18 November : 10.30am – 12noon Churchyard Autumn clean and tidy. I am hopeful that most of the leaves will be dropped by then so we will be clearing leaves, preparing areas for wild flowers and clearing weeds from graves; inside we will clean away cobwebs, dust the angels, polish and buff the pews and leave the church sparkling and smelling of beeswax. Please bring your own rakes and garden tools, dusters, long-poled web cleaners. Polish provided. Refreshments, drinks and buns, will be provided.

If you wish to be added to the rector's email list, please contact Philip on 810810 or email rector@midtest.org.uk or revdphilipbowden@gmail.com

For any questions on 'the news' please contact Maddie on 810284 or email mjh723@btinternet.com

Maddie Hedley

St Nicholas' Leckford



Although we will miss our dear Dawn Williams, we hope as many of you as possible will join us for our traditional Harvest Festival Service at 6pm on Sunday 15th October and for the Joint Benefice Service on Sunday 29th October at 10am. Please tell your friends who may not subscribe to the magazine about these services; it would be a joy for the church to be filled with people in memory of our much-missed friend.

Micki Nadal

Church News

St Peter's and Old St Peter's Stockbridge



The months of August and September fall in Ordinary Time in the Church Calendar. However there was nothing ordinary about the Flower Festival which took place over the final Bank Holiday weekend of August. The theme given to the many talented flower arrangers was 'Anything Goes'. Our two churches came alive with beautiful and creative displays. Grateful thanks are due to all those who spent the time and trouble to make this a truly memorable festival. Teas and cakes on the lawn enhanced the whole occasion and the many volunteers in different roles who worked so hard to support the fund-raising effort will be pleased to know that approximately £3,500 was raised for St Peter's and Old St Peter's.

The annual Ride and Stride event took place on the hottest day of the early September heatwave and some wise participants were up at the cool crack of dawn to complete their journeys. This sponsored event raises money for the Hampshire and Islands Historic Churches Trust (HIHCT) and the Trust return half the money we raise here to our own churches. In Stockbridge, Catherine Williams walked the circuit of Old St Peter's, St Peter's, St Mary's, Longstock and St Nicholas, Leckford. Our own church warden, David Williams, walked the first three with Janet's grandchildren who were pleased to contribute to this particular cause as their late Greek grandfather had played a huge rôle during his life in the conservation of Greece's heritage of Byzantine churches and monasteries. Many thanks to Ghislaine Bell and all the generous sponsors who helped our Stockbridge riders and striders raise a grand total of £1,160.

In September we lost two souls who had, in their own ways, contributed enormously to the life of our two churches. Barbara North, who was treasurer of the PCC for many years and Dawn Williams, our organist and choir mistress. Her choir paid tribute to Dawn at her funeral on September 6th by singing Rutter's well known anthem 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You', the words and music of which echoed our sentiments, that Dawn should rest in peace, after her exhausting illness.

Dawn's loss has left a huge hole at the organ (and next to it, as Dawn's faithful dog Mollie has gone to live with a friend in Timsbury). Our Rector Phill has access to church music online, and Bruce Williams has gallantly stepped in to provide relevant accompaniment to the hymns using his mobile phone which he streams to the church's sound system as well as organ music before and after the services. He will be hoping to share this task in future, or perhaps we will be finding another organist. More about this next month.

October 4th is the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi representing the day he died in 1226. He was canonised two years later. Francis was born into a wealthy family but, as a young adult, he dedicated his life to following Jesus and took a vow of poverty. He rebuilt churches, helped the poor and declared the sanctity of all forms of life. He became a symbol of a loving relationship with nature. In 1979, Pope John Paul II named him the Patron Saint of Ecology.



It is fitting that we remember this Patron Saint of Ecology just a few days after we, in St Peter's, will celebrate Harvest Festival on October 1st at 11am. At this festival, throughout the land, we praise God for the abundance of food that we enjoy, and we thank our farmers for the harvest. As a sign of our gratitude, we collect gifts of food, both fresh and packaged, which we donate to the Andover Food Bank for distribution to those less fortunate than ourselves. Please be generous in what you bring as donations. This year, there will be drinks at the back of the church after the service. (Food donations will be accepted throughout the week of October 1st and can be left behind the kitchen bar at the back of the church - we will collect donations each day.)

Dates for your diary:

October 1st: Harvest Festival. (There will be no Sunday teas on that day.)

October 21st: open house at the Rectory

October 29th at 10am: United Benefice Service at St Nicholas Church, Leckford.

Janet Williams

Church News

From the Area Dean

This is the time of year when we celebrate Harvest with Lunches, Suppers and special Services. At Harvest we also try to give some food to needy people. This year, again, parishes are supporting the Romsey Foodbank, part of the Trussell Trust (www.romsey.foodbank.org.uk). In the last years, thousands of people received 3-day supplies of food and necessities. In the cost-of-living crisis there are many more families in need.

Many churches are collecting food all year round, not just at Harvest (including St Margaret's, Wellow and St John's, Lockerley). There are collection points too in Romsey Waitrose and Romsey Abbey. The current Shopping List includes: Jam, Marmite, Honey, Biscuits, Shampoo, Rice Pudding, Instant mash, Pasta Sauce, Long grain rice, Custard (tins and small pots). If you can afford to do so, please give generously.

Your Area Dean, James

Rev James Pitkin - romseyareadean@gmail.com

Prayer for October

Jesus, we thank you for the churches in this Benefice – lovely buildings, full of the prayers of generations past. Real beacons of hope for all.

We pray that more people will come and join our worship, shared singing and prayers create a wonderful sense of community, and bring us closer to you.

We pray for Morocco and Libya, suffering from earthquakes and floods.

Thank you for all the firefighters who are there to help,

We pray for comfort to be given to all those who have lost their loved ones and homes.

The wars in Ukraine and Sudan grind on. Lord, shed your light and love and help bring peace.

The harvest has been brought home and we give thanks for all who work on the land, tending the crops and cattle, caring for the environment and providing wheat for the bread.

Thank you Lord, for our blessings, for the forgiveness you give, for the grace of your love.

Amen

October Services for Stockbridge, Longstock and Leckford

1st October (Trinity 17) (Proper 21)

- 08.00 **Leckford** Holy Communion BCP
- 11.00 **Stockbridge** Parish Eucharist (Harvest)
- 17.00 **Longstock** Harvest Festival

8th October (Trinity 18) (Proper 22)

- 08.00 **Old St Peter** Holy Communion
- 09.30 **Longstock** Parish Eucharist with Baptism
- 11.00 **Stockbridge** All Age Service
- 14.00 **Longstock** Baptism

15th October (Trinity 19) (Proper 23)

- 09.30 **Longstock** Morning Worship
- 11.00 **Stockbridge** Parish Eucharist
- 16.00 **Longstock** Sunday@4 in Village Hall
- 18.00 **Leckford** Harvest Thanksgiving

18th October (S. Luke) (Wednesday)

- 10.00 **Old St Peter** Holy Communion

22nd October (Trinity 20) (Proper 24)

- 11.00 **Stockbridge** Morning Worship

29th October (Last after Trinity) (Proper 25)

- 10.00 **Leckford** United Benefice Eucharist



The Column for September

Baptisms and

There were no baptisms

Weddings

There were no weddings

Funerals

6 September at 10.00am. The funeral for Dawn Williams took place at St Peter's Church, followed by committal in Leckford churchyard. Much missed organist and musician.

14 September at 11.00am The funeral for Barbara North took place at Holy Trinity Church, Wonston

Hampshire Downs RC Parish St Thomas More

Services are held on Sundays at 9.00am



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