



The Parish Magazine for

£1

# STOCKBRIDGE LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD

September 2024





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

**Rector:** Appointment in progress (see page 29)

**All Services** during the interregnum covered by the Ministry Team

**All Enquiries, including enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals:**

Please contact the Benefice Administrator, Lois Opperman

Phone No: 07900 927913 or midtestbenefice@gmail.com

**This Magazine: 11 issues a year.**

**Price: £10 paid in advance (delivered), or £1 per copy (available in churches)**

**To subscribe,** please contact David Barnes 810516 or email editorsstockmag@gmail.com

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October copy deadline: **September 15** **email:** editorsstockmag@gmail.com

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Frances Waghorn 01962 776048	Vacancy	Chair: Derek Halle
<b>Bell ringers (Longstock)</b>	<b>RBL (Houghton branch)</b>	Derek@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Chris Reynell 810569	David Williams (Chair) 811072	Clerk: Belinda Baker 07770 406607
<b>Bell ringers (Stockbridge)</b>	New Secretary to be appointed	clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org
Micki Nadal 810567	Angela McMeekin: Poppies 810236	<b>Stockbridge Pharmacy</b> 810624
<b>Brownies (meet in Chilbolton)</b>	<b>Scouts</b>	<b>Stockbridge Police Station</b>
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<b>Cub Scouts</b>	Louise Henderson 07436 899054	<b>Stockbridge Rec Ground</b>
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Cllr David Drew 357024	<b>Stockbridge Church Flowers Sec</b>	Stuart Mawson(Sec) 07766 150055
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Leigh Dance 811074	Paul Kidd 07732 580721	Hants Doctors On Call freephone 111
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peter.r.moore@gmail.com	Andy Soper (Bailiff) 07776 258398	or phone 513299
<b>Longstock Parish Council</b>	<b>Stockbridge Dramatic Society</b>	<b>Test Valley School</b>
Chair: Selina Musters 810459	Mark Frank 810562	Ms Jo McKeown (Exec. Head) 810555
Clerk: Gill Bulpitt 07763857512	<b>Stockbridge Football Club</b>	<b>Trout 'n About</b>
<b>Longstock Village Hall</b>	Trevor Dance (Chair) 07780 661223	Bob Powell 07802 524433
Selina Musters 810459	Kieran Wilson (Hon Sec) 07883 624808	<b>TVBC Councillor</b>
<b>Longstock &amp; Leckford WI</b>	Email: stockbridgefc@hotmail.co.uk	Cllr Ian Jeffrey 01794 388872
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<b>Neighbour Care</b> 0845 0943713	Paul Wing 07764 581601	
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## From the Editorial Team

*August burst into our lives with Stockbridge's enormously enjoyable Trout 'n About food and craft festival. For the first time the High Street was closed to traffic which created a much safer and more relaxing space in which visitors could explore both the stalls and the shops. And it was good to see the Recreation Ground transformed into Festival Field, where many families picnicked, listened to the music and joined in a range of activities. Congratulations to Bob Powell and his team for masterminding such a successful event - see page 17 for some photos of the day.*

*Now we are approaching the end of the month, school holidays are nearly over, GCSE and A-level results have arrived and a new academic year is upon us, marking a new beginning for many families. We have been tempted to take a lighthearted look at exam howlers in our footers, but also to think about fresh starts, and to encourage thoughts of taking up a new interest - see page 27 for a couple of local opportunities.*

*We are delighted to report the approach of a new beginning for the church - the successful recruitment of a new rector who we look forward to welcoming, hopefully by the end of the year - see pages 29 and 31.*

*Frances Candler, Jennifer Kidd and Thea Taylor*

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*Exam season may be over but our footers this month look at some extracts (perhaps apocryphal) from answer papers that made the markers smile.*

*Our thanks to all the photographers whose work features in this month's magazine - Nigel Rugman, Janet Williams, Paul Kidd, Yasemin Bilgic, Mark Frank, Amanda Lambert and many others.*

## Stockbridge Town Hall Events



### Weekly

Mon am	Pilates with Paula
Mon am	Pilates Unlimited with Clare
Mon pm	Sing for Fun
Tues am	Iyengar Yoga with Melissa
Weds am	Yoga with Dionne
Weds am/pm	Su Joy Art Class
Thurs am	Stockbridge Community Market
Thurs pm	Jo Caley Yoga
Sat am	Jo Caley Yoga

### This Month

Sep 2-4	Wild Bazaar
Sep 6	South Central Makers
Sep 7	Antique Fair
Sep 10	re:dress Winchester
Sep 13	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Sep 13-16	Jules At No.43
Sep 18	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Sep 19	Stockbridge Parish Council
Sep 21-22	Antiques and Curios
Sep 21-22	Hawkmoor Books
Sep 21	Elisheva Ballard
Sep 24	Longstock and Leckford WI



## 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.  
Please come along and browse

Free drop-in IT Help Desk and Wi-Fi access

**Macmillan Cancer Support  
Fund-Raising Coffee Morning  
Thursday 26th September**

Please come and join us at our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning and help us raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The market is open from 9.30, so pop in and treat yourself to something delicious whilst donating to this wonderful organisation.



## Stockbridge Community Cinema



### PERFECT DAYS (PG)

**Friday 13 September**

**7.30 pm** (2hrs 4min)



Hirayama works as a toilet cleaner in Tokyo. He seems content with his simple life. He follows a structured everyday life and dedicates his free

time to his passion for music and books. Hirayama also has a fondness for trees and photographs them. More of his past is gradually revealed through a series of unexpected encounters.

*[In English and Japanese with subtitles]*

### All of Us Strangers (15)

**Wednesday 18 September**

**5.00 pm and 7.30 pm** (1hr 45min)



In contemporary London, Adam has a chance encounter with a mysterious neighbour Harry which punctures

the rhythm of his everyday life. As a relationship develops between them, Adam is preoccupied with memories of the past and finds himself drawn back to the suburban town where he grew up, and the childhood home where his parents appear to be living, just as they were on the day they died, 30 years before.

**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** (no additional fee)

## Copy for Magazine

Copy date for the **October** Magazine:

**15 September 2024**

**Please send emails to:**

editorsstockmag@gmail.com

or phone Frances on 01264 811776

Jennifer on 811179 or Thea on 07730 964481



**Saturday  
Sept 7th**

**1.00pm  
- 5.00pm**



takes place on the  
**Longstock Recreation Ground  
on Saturday 7th September.**

A **barbeque, bar, teas**, and the usual **stalls and sideshows** including children's **adventure tunnel and bouncy castle** and **football shootout**, will operate all afternoon.

Tickets for the **Grand Draw** will be on sale.

This year, we feature two performances by a group of **Ukrainian dancers** based in Winchester and we welcome, for the first time, the **Otterbourne Brass band**.

If you would like to enter your dog in the **dog show**, please bring him/her along.  
It's a very un-serious show!



#### **Programme**

1.00pm	Fête opens
1.00 to 5.00	BBQ, bar, teas and all sideshows
1.15 to 1.55	Otterbourne Brass
2.00 to 2.20	Ukraine Dancers
2.30 to 3.10	Otterbourne Brass
3.15 to 3.35	Ukraine Dancers
3.40 to 4.20	Dog Show
4.30	Grand Draw
4.50	Tug 'o War
5.00	Fête closes

Bring cards and plenty of cash and we shall see you there! Let's hope for a fine day.



#### **Longstock Garden Club**

Our talks in the Hall will resume  
on 8th Oct 2024

when Rosemary Legrand will give a talk on the  
Spectacular South African Flora & Fauna.

For information about summer garden visits  
please see [www.longstockgardenclub.com](http://www.longstockgardenclub.com)

Members, please don't forget to take photos for  
our December meeting.

For further information please contact  
Peter Moore on 07881573493





Patron: Professor David Owen Norris MA (Choir) FSA FRAM FRCO

## STOCKBRIDGE MUSIC

**Friday 27th September, 2024 at 7.30pm**  
Doors open at 6.45pm  
**St Peter's Church, Stockbridge**



## The Tippett Quartet

playing Mozart, Schubert & Beethoven  
Tickets £20 (U18s £5)  
from [stockbridgemusic.uk](http://stockbridgemusic.uk)  
or on the door, if still available

CONTEMPORARY  
**CRAFT FAIR 2024**  
STOCKBRIDGE  
Town Hall SO20 6HE  
Friday 27 September 11am – 5pm  
Saturday 28 September 10am – 5pm  
Sunday 29 September 10 – 5pm  
A unique occasion to buy from the very best British artists & artisans whose work shows true passion and originality  
**Admission FREE**  
Local Charity Raffle supported with items generously donated by the exhibitors




This year's Contemporary Craft Fair is at Stockbridge Town Hall from Friday 27 to Sunday 29 September. Admission is completely free and a Charity Raffle, supported with items generously donated by the exhibitors, will be held to raise money for the **Longstock Parish Playground** equipment fund.

**▲RIDE+STRIDE**



In aid of Hampshire & the Islands Historic Churches Trust

**Hampshire and the Isle of Wight  
Ride+Stride, 14th Sept 2024**

The day is an exceptional opportunity to discover the rich heritage of our historic church buildings, see beautiful countryside, get some exercise travelling between the churches and have fun with friends and family.

You are free to choose your own route and to visit as many churches as you wish, between 10am and 6pm. You may cycle, walk, run, ride or drive, raising money for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight's historic churches and chapels of all denominations.

The money you raise from your sponsors will be divided between this Trust and the church(es) of your choice or you can donate it all to the Trust.

Please take part if you can – contact your Churchwarden for more information (see Church News pp 29 and 30 for further details).

More information on website:  
*Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust* - <https://hihct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/>

**Andover Concert Series**  
**Truly Madly Baroque**  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024 - 7:30pm

**Red Priest**



**Tickets: £18 from *The Lights* or on the door**

Performed at:  
**The Lights** andover




Presented by:  
Andover Music Club



**Houghton WI**  
**10am Monday 16th September**  
**at Houghton Village Hall**

**"And Now the Good News"**  
Richard Murphy finds some things to cheer us up!

Visitors welcome. Further information from Jane Anderton 01264 810928



**LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD WI**  
**Tuesday**  
**24th September**  
**Stockbridge Town Hall 6.45pm for 7pm start.**

**QUIZ NIGHT**  
Guests always welcome.  
Please contact Selina Musters on 810459 for further details



## Test Villages u3a

Thursday 5th September  
at 2pm in Chilbolton Village Hall

Rosemary Legrand presents

### 'Exploring the South Island of New Zealand'

In this illustrated talk, Rosemary shares her experience of New Zealand's beautiful scenery and wildlife. She searches for whales, sea lions, royal albatross and yellow-eyed penguins; she flies over Mount Cook, sails in Milford Sound and visits the paradise Cook Islands.

Thursday 3rd October  
at 2pm in Chilbolton Village Hall  
'Regenerative Land and Biodiversity Management at The Waitrose Farm'

Join **Kath Hernon**, the Biodiversity Officer at Leckford Estate, to hear about how the Estate's regenerative approach to farming and land management will help increase, enhance and restore the landscape for nature.

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

New members are very welcome to attend 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](http://u3a.org.uk)  
or see the latest on our  
Test Villages group at:  
[testvillages.u3asite.uk](http://testvillages.u3asite.uk)



Sunday 29th September 2024

### Walk the Test Way is back for another year!

Lace up your walking boots and join us walking the Test Way for your chosen charity. Last year walkers raised just over £90,000 for 115 charities. Just incredible!!

The walk is suitable and fun for all ages and abilities. **We have 5 distances you can choose from** (5, 8, 11, 16 or 25.5 miles). Walkers are taken by private coach from Romsey to their starting location and end the walk back in Romsey at the Memorial Park.

#### So how do I sign up?

Visit [www.walkthetestway.org.uk/register](http://www.walkthetestway.org.uk/register) and check out our blog 'How do I take part in the Walk the Test Way?' which will give you all the information you will need to get started. Once you are all registered, it's time to start raising funds for your chosen charity!

#### Don't forget to....

Share your Just Giving page on your social media and tag us in [@walkthetestway](https://www.instagram.com/walkthetestway)

Share the event with colleagues and friends

Let the charity know that you are fundraising for them, they might send you some goodies!!

and last but not least, like, share and comment on our social media and we will gladly share what you are up to. Facebook [@walkthetestway](https://www.facebook.com/walkthetestway)  
Or email [registrar@walkthetestway.org.uk](mailto:registrar@walkthetestway.org.uk)

## Wherwell History Group

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September  
8pm at Chilbolton  
Village Hall



Rupert Weiloch  
presents

### A Christmas Card from Siberia - The Story of the Test Valley Men in the Russian Civil War

For further details, please check our website at  
<https://www.wherwellhistory.com>  
(£5 entry fee for non-members)



## 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 Greyhound on the Test

## Stockbridge Neighbour Care - Salisbury Trip

The next SNC visit to Salisbury will be on  
**Tuesday 10th September.**

The bus will pick up passengers at 10am from The White Hart and then Stockbridge Town Hall.  
If you would like to find out if you are eligible and would like to book a place, please call SNC on 0845 0943713.



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## Stockbridge Primary and Pre-School News

### Summer and sunshine

Summer holidays are almost over as I write this and what a glorious summer it's been! Sunshine has eventually pushed through all of the earlier rain and cloud and we've enjoyed a lovely end of term – our ultimate victory was getting sports day done just before the rain came! We literally ran the last race with brollies up and children gathered under gazebos, so determined were we to finish and award the house trophy! The lead up to summer holidays in July is always frenzied with so much going on; summer production, sports day, reports home, leavers' treat day out, leavers' assembly, bump up days where children meet their new teacher, swimming lessons and much more. We all dread it but, when it comes, it's actually rather wonderful and a celebration of all that's good about school life.

The summer holidays are, of course, a bonus but don't imagine for a second that nothing happens! It's just our opportunity to do it without being interrupted! Teachers are busy planning, preparing and readying their classrooms for the new cohort; site staff are painting, cleaning, weeding and generally getting the site ready to do it all over again; and I am catching up on reading, reorganising and hatching plans to make this year even better than the last.

I have been supporting another school for most of 2023/24, doing Stockbridge for half the week and the other school for the remaining half and, whilst I have enjoyed the challenge immensely, I am very excited to be back at Stockbridge full time! I already have grand plans ... just don't tell my team quite yet!

We have a new Chair of Governors at school from September too following the excellent leadership of both Catherine Williamson and Miriam White in recent years. They have both supported and challenged the school in equal measure and have lent considerable expertise and strength to our school. I would like to thank them both very sincerely on behalf of our school community. Steve Dunn, who takes over the reins in September, is an experienced educator having led schools in Cornwall and taught himself for many years and will be no less of a great leader.

Many of you will also know Jennifer Kidd and Mary Richards who both live in Stockbridge and have also been on our Governing Body, Jennifer for 2 terms of 4 years apiece and Mary for 1 term of 4 years. Both have been absolutely instrumental in lending wise advice, a fastidious attention to detail and their combined skillset from their careers to our team – we wouldn't be where we are without their support. Thank you ladies.

We are now, of course, looking for some new blood! We will miss accounting expertise, SEN and curriculum knowledge and health and safety

wisdom in their departure. If anyone out there has some skills in any of these areas and is interested in ensuring our village has a thriving primary and pre-school for future generations, I would be very grateful to hear from you – [headteacher@stockbridge.hants.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@stockbridge.hants.sch.uk) – where I can explain more about the rôle of a Governor, what commitment is required and how we meet. It is not as onerous as you may think and gives you an opportunity to use skills from your careers in a different, interesting and fast-paced context.

I hope to hear from some of you in the next month or two but, even if not, do enjoy the remaining sunny weather and the last vestiges of summer.

*Emma Jefferies, Headteacher*



We hope all of our patients have enjoyed some summer sun but do take appropriate precautions. If you're worried about a mole, you can view advice at Moles - NHS ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk))

#### Heading to University?

If you are heading off to university and are not sure if you are up-to-date with vaccinations (particularly MMR), please contact us. If you are moving away, please register with a new surgery. We can see you as a temporary patient in the holidays if necessary.

#### Appointment reminders

We send appointment reminders if we have a mobile number on your records and you have given us your consent. Some patients have refused consent which means that we cannot send appointment reminders and links to book vaccinations e.g. flu. We are aware that some patients have declined the use of the number for their children but, because the consent is linked to the patient, this means you will not receive reminders or vaccination invitation links for your child. To consent please visit our website [Stockbridgesurgery.co.uk](http://Stockbridgesurgery.co.uk)

#### Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

From 1 September 2024, people who turn 75 and those 75 to 79 will be eligible for a free vaccine to protect them from RSV, an infectious disease of the airways and lungs, often causing symptoms similar to a cold. RSV can also make you become wheezy or short of breath and lead to pneumonia and other life-threatening conditions.

We will be providing the vaccination in the surgery and will send invitations to people who are eligible. For more information search online for *Guide to RSV vaccination*.

*Ann Spooner, Practice Manager*

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# StockbridgeUkraine update



## Trout 'n About, 4<sup>th</sup> August

StockbridgeUkraine is thrilled to report that they had an amazing day at Trout n' About, raising just over £1.5k, far exceeding what was hoped for. This will pay for the expenses to get our second car (on display at the event) out to Ukraine this month, and a bit more.

However, there is still more to be done, and below you will find details of our next money-raising ventures

Amanda Lambert



## A Concert for Ukraine

On the 4th of October Stockbridge Ukraine are organising a concert in the Town Hall which will be a celebration of Ukrainian and British music, dance and song. It features the Larondina Dance Company, Ukrainian musicians, singers and dancers, and Stockbridge's own singing group.

We are fortunate that there are several Ukrainian musicians now living in Hampshire who performed professionally at a high level in Ukraine before the war and now give their time free to support fundraising for Ukraine. Five of them will be performing at the concert supported by the extraordinary Larondina Dance company and the Larks, a local singing group. It promises to be an exciting and moving evening of high class music, singing and dance.

Stockbridge Town Hall at 7:00 pm  
Friday 4th October. Tickets £15 available at  
<https://buytickets.at/stockbridgeukraine>.

All profits will go to Stockbridge Ukraine. We are an informal local group with close links to Ukrainians here and in Ukraine. We have supported them in different ways as the need changes. Recently we have been buying 4x4 cars and driving them to Ukraine where they are used as makeshift ambulances. (They estimate each car saves 10 lives on average.)

### The Performers

The Larondina Dance Company comprises 11 young people with Down's Syndrome who are trained dancers with artistic sense, combined with a will to succeed and to perform in public. They have gained an international reputation performing around Europe and as far away as the USA and Moscow.

Mark Frank

STOCKBRIDGE UKRAINE FUND RAISING EVENT  
TUESDAY 15TH OCTOBER  
A TALK BY JAMES HOLLAND ABOUT  
"CASSINO '44"

6PM - 8PM (TALK BEGINS 6:30)  
AT STOCKBRIDGE TOWN HALL

James Holland is a renowned Historian, Author and Broadcaster, specialising in the history of the Second World War. He is also the co-founder and co-chair of the annual Chalke History Festival. James has agreed to talk about the events set out in his new book, "Cassino '44" (or five months of hell in Italy).

The book will not be on sale until September 2024, although a few copies will be available for sale on the evening. James is a compelling and thoroughly knowledgeable speaker and we are extremely grateful for his support.

There will also be a pay bar and a short auction to raise funds for Stockbridge Ukraine. Kindly sponsored by The Wykeham Gallery.

TICKETS £15 - BUY AT [www.buytickets.at/stockbridgeukraine](https://www.buytickets.at/stockbridgeukraine)



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# Reflections on...

## Stockbridge Football Club 130 Year Anniversary event



July 28th saw a gathering of over 80 come together at the Recreation Ground on a lovely evening to mark this occasion. Folk came from Wales, London, and all over, including players from the 1950s, 60s 70s, and 80s, alongside members of the present team. Some had not seen one another for decades. Also present were past and present committee members and village residents, which all made for a great evening. A special guest was Elizabeth Viney who had played a big part in setting up the Recreation Ground Trust.



Stories abounded. In the 1950s, players wore Readers Digest magazines for shin pads and the players from that time remembered that, at Club fêtes, the winner of 'bowling for the pig' actually won a pig.

The shocking news that we were to lose the Little Dean Football ground to road improvements in 1970 lives long in the memory of many, as does the seven-year battle to get the new ground. Players at the time remember playing in a field and changing in a cow shed belonging to farmer John Foord. My children Michael and Jane, now in their 50s, reminded me that, as small children, in 1976, they were made to stone pick at the Recreation Ground. My son says it was slave labour! As for the ex-players, recollection of their former skills got better by the minute as the ale flowed.

Of course, the celebrations were not just about the players on the pitch. Without the support of many of the ladies involved in tea making, shirt washing and the essential fundraising fêtes, quizzes and

dances over the years, the Club would not exist. We have also had amazing support from the village, shops, businesses and residents for which we are very grateful, it makes it all worthwhile. An example of this is the raffle we had on the night with prizes donated by Prego Deli, the Grosvenor Hotel, Robinson's Butchers, Willow & co, Clos du Marquis and Danebury Vineyards and also individuals too many to mention. This raised £315 for our much-needed funds. We would also like to thank those who have sponsored a match for £50.00. If anyone else would like to sponsor a match to help our cause we would be very grateful.

The one thing that stood out for all was how much Stockbridge Football Club has meant to so many over the years. As for the future, we need a new set of young Robins to help take up the mantle. Five of our 8-man committee have been on board for more than 50 years and we are running out of steam. We would love to hear from any people who would like to join us and help keep the Robins bobbin' along. Please contact Dave and Jill Webb at [daveandjillwebb@gmail.com](mailto:daveandjillwebb@gmail.com) or phone 01264 810819 if you are interested.

Visit the Stockbridge FC Website for news, match reports, action shots, history and much more: <https://stockbridgefc.wordpress.com>

*Dave Webb  
President, Stockbridge Football Club*

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## A Romantic Name Shattered By Science! 1970's aerial photo of Roman Road, Longstock



Here we see Test Valley School on the left, Roman Road estate in the centre and the track beyond, known locally as 'Roman Road'.

Sadly, there is no archaeological evidence of this ever being a Roman road, or even part of one; it is just the continuation of the Stockbridge to Salisbury main road used by drovers in bygone days. It was probably much easier to drive the sheep down, than returning them if unsold!

As recently as 2013, a survey was carried out by Cornelius Barton for a firm that wished to develop the site to the west of the track. In total, 23 trenches were dug but no archaeological remains were found during the evaluation.

When the Basingstoke to Salisbury Turnpike Road (1755-1840) was first constructed, there was obviously an easier route created for negotiating Meon Hill for travellers, stagecoaches etc. than directly over the top, by using the present day track. Indeed, heavy horses were on hire from the 'Cossack Inn' to help haul stagecoaches up the steep hill.

It is well documented that, on Meon Hill itself, there was once a camp or fort situated on the summit; on a plot of land nearby, known locally as Dickon's Piece, tradition has it that there was a wayside inn alongside a nearby well that had been sunk.

Following an excavation carried out in 1932 and again the following year by Dorothy M. Liddell, FSA, FSA Scot., a trial cutting revealed several dwelling pits from the Iron Age (600-350 BC) and also some sort of fortification, enclosed by a circular bank and a ditch.



A late Anglo-Saxon execution cemetery was also discovered. Six individuals had been decapitated, and the skulls of four of them had been placed between their legs. They had been killed and buried soon after the Norman Conquest as one had a coin

of William Rufus beside him. The bodies were all lying in shallow graves, on their backs, with their feet facing north, some had their hands together as if they had been tied.

The usual sites for judicial killings were on parish boundaries crossed by long distance tracks where convicts would have been hanged, beheaded and buried as far from the centre of the parish as possible.

There are no traces of the ancient earthworks to be seen above the ground today.

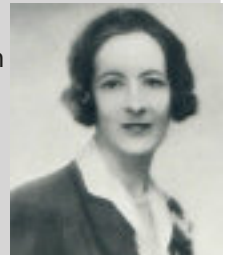
*Geoff Merritt*

### **Dorothy Mary Liddell, MBE**

1890 – 1938

Dorothy Liddell, who was the archaeologist working on the Meon Hill site has a remarkable story.

She was born in Northumberland but her family moved south, and from 1908 lived in Sherfield Manor near Basingstoke.



During World War I the manor house was used as a hospital for the wounded and Dorothy became a nurse there. Following the death of her brother Aidan in August 1915 (he was a military pilot and recipient of the Victoria Cross), she joined the Red Cross in Belgium and was awarded an MBE for her war service.

She was unable to get any formal education in archaeology, but worked from 1925-29 at Windmill Hill, Avebury with Alexander Keiller. Following this apprenticeship, she was invited by the Hampshire Field Club to excavate at Chilworth Ring, Southampton (1928), Lodge Farm Roman Villa, North Warnborough (1929) and Meon Hill near Stockbridge (1934). Her final dig was at Choseley Farm, near Odiham (1937), where she became ill and died at the young age of 47. She is buried, with her parents and brother, near the Holy Ghost Chapel, Basingstoke.

Her very detailed reports of the excavations are recorded in the 1932 and 1933 Reports of Excavations at Meon Hill, Proc Hants Field Club & Archaeol Soc 12 & 13.

*Editors*

## A Night To Remember



Those who were lucky enough to get a ticket were treated to a night to remember when JT Productions combined with our own Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society (SADS) to bring their stunning and unique performance of *'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time'* to the Town Hall last month.

The play was adapted for the London stage in 2013 by Simon Stephens from the best-selling novel of the same name by Mark Haddon. In this version, director Tom Humphreys and producer Jess Pickford offered us an inspired (and officially sanctioned) twist when the lead character, originally one Christopher Boone, became Christine. This enabled the casting of the astonishing Daisy Norwood in this most challenging rôle.



The cast had worked with professionals in the field of neurodiversity which was apparent in the way that Daisy captured, brilliantly and with sensitivity, both verbally and physically, the genius and anguish of Christine's particular form of autism.



We shared Christine's exhaustion (and that of those around her) as she struggled to make sense of the events that were triggered by the discovery of a murdered dog in her neighbour's garden. Wrongly accused herself, Christine sought to discover the true culprit and, in doing so, uncovered a web of painful, but well-meant, lies and intrigue surrounding her own family circumstances which she relentlessly pursued until all was revealed.



Christine was not one to compromise in her search for the truth. During her brilliantly-staged journey, she was challenged but also comforted by her fascination for, and powerful grasp of, mathematics and astrophysics. She was also determined to break all unnecessary rules by sitting her A-level maths at age 15 and getting an A\*(which she did, hooray!).



Whilst JT Productions and SADS were fortunate to have the talented Daisy to take the part of Christine, everything about this production was outstanding. The production, direction and cast, supported by a tireless and creative backstage crew, were, without exception, flawless and they are all to be congratulated and thanked for bringing four memorable nights of theatre to Stockbridge.

*Editors*



## Trout 'n About, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2024

This year's event was as popular as ever with perfect weather on the day. The closure of the high street made the event safer for all and was much more accessible for those in mobility vehicles or with pushchairs. A full report will be published here in due course once the volunteers have nominated and voted for their favourite causes to receive a share of the surplus funds made. These will be distributed to the lucky organisations at a special event in November. Here are a few pictures of the event in case you missed it.



*. . . it is probably carbon monoxide.*



## **SOS SAVE OUR STOCKBRIDGE**

Neither a summery Friday evening nor the Olympic Opening Ceremony were enough to tempt a goodly crowd of people away from the 2024 Annual General Meeting of Save our Stockbridge held in the Town Hall on 26th July at 6pm.

SOS Chair, Jean Boney, welcomed everyone and thanked all those who support SOS activity.

### **Members of the SOS Committee.**

The Chair paid tribute to Bruce Williams who had been a stalwart member since SOS inception in 2018. Bruce resigned last October owing to the pressures of other commitments but on the understanding that, if SOS needed him, he would always be there. Bruce was thanked for all he has done over the years and remains 'a right hand man' to SOS. Pending the next (this) AGM, the Committee then co-opted Elizabeth Miller who, with her husband, has done so much to reclaim and regenerate their land alongside the Marsh path. Her constitutional election on to the committee was unanimously approved by the meeting.

The other members of the Committee remain in office – Chantal Hallé as Secretary and Treasurer, Alex Lawrence, Michael Woodhall, and Jean Boney as Chairman. In all, they make for a very good team for which the Chair expressed her gratitude.

### **Annual Report**

The Chair opened her report by paraphrasing the constitutional aims and objectives of SOS :

*To provide the Stockbridge community with information about any steps we are taking to keep Stockbridge special, to keep Stockbridge from any threat to its heritage, its environment, its economy or the people who live and work here.*

The AGM delivers part of that commitment and also provides a forum to air views from the audience.

### **The Settlement Boundary**

The main aim is to try to prevent development outside the Settlement Boundary, enhance the character of Stockbridge as a Conservation Area and improve the special status of the 4 SSSIs which Stockbridge is privileged to have on its doorstep. SOS has objected to planning applications to build beyond the settlement boundary with considerable success, e.g. an application to build a dining venue on the banks of the River Test which was refused.

SOS has responded to TVBC's consultation on the new Test Valley Draft Local Plan 2040 (which is supposed to last until 2040 although, with the new government, its status is unclear). Of particular concern is the so-called 'Stockbridge Settlement Boundary' as shown on TVBC's own plan which incorporates large areas of Longstock such as Test Valley School (to be re-named Danebury School). SOS pointed out that the plan is incorrect and has enlisted support from the new Mayor, Cllr Ian Jeffrey.

### **The Conservation Area**

The Conservation Area was established by HCC in 1971 and extended by TVBC in 1992, inside which particular attention must be paid in any planning application to such matters as: 'design, scale, location, use of materials and effect upon the street scene or landscape setting'. SOS has acted to protect from damage two established yew trees - adjacent to the Surgery and in Vine Yard - involving TVBC arboricultural staff when necessary.

### **Sewage**

SOS has been very active in directly challenging Southern Water over the scandal of unlicensed sewage spills into watercourses (of which 2022 saw 146,000) and, in March, attended a well-publicised demonstration at Fullerton Treatment Works. Liaising with the National Trust (Ranger Catherine Hadler) which is monitoring the Test and Marsh Court Rivers, SOS is pleased to report that, by May, sewage contamination was no longer a concern. (*May and July Parish Magazines carry more details*).

### **Swifts**

After a slow start in inclement weather, swifts were wheeling and screeching over the High Street in possibly the greatest numbers ever this year. We will find out in due course how many have used the swift boxes but, for now, we bid them 'au revoir' and a safe flight back to Africa for the winter.

### **Working with others**

SOS has collaborated with Stockbridge Parish Council, the Parish Magazine, National Trust, TVBC Planning Department, and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, recognising that collective action is much more effective, especially over issues beyond the locality such as sewage pollution.

### **Rain and Flooding**

The Chair praised the foresight of those who devised and carried out major anti-flood measures post-2014. The local river keeper, Dan Hawkins, and his team have been diligent in keeping carriers and streams clear of blockages to avoid serious flooding. The fact that local water meadows remained waterlogged until the end of June shows how essential are those preventive measures and the Chair extended thanks to all involved.

### **SOS accounts**

The Secretary and Treasurer (Chantal Hallé) reported on SOS accounts. The SOS volunteers operate at very low cost but are very grateful for any donations. (*Please contact a committee member to donate.*)

### **Follow-up from 2023 AGM**

Responding to a query from 2023 about whether HCC would plant new trees to replace those cut back so savagely along the Test Way, SOS reported that Countryside Services propose 'natural regeneration' for stronger, healthier re-stocking.

After several observations and questions from the floor (see next page), the Chair thanked all those who had attended.



## From the floor . . .

Our readers might like to hear about some of the issues of general interest raised from the floor at the end of the recent SOS meeting.

### Local Wildlife

The continuing lack of sightings of coots on and around the Marsh Court River was lamented, and only a few moorhens are seen. It was suggested that otters may be to blame now that they are making a joyful comeback. Nature doing its thing!

SOS records local sightings of rare or new/returned species. It is always pleasing to see diverse wildlife, familiar and not-so, thriving in its natural habitat -



*Cinnabar moth caterpillar*



*Lime Hawkmoth*



*Six-spot Burnet Moth*



*Pyramidal Orchid*



*Marsh Orchid*



*No identification required!*

Do continue to let SOS know if you spy anything unusual or, indeed, notice any changes or disappearances. Email : [Stockbridge@outlook.com](mailto:Stockbridge@outlook.com)

### Planning Policy

There was speculation over the new government's plans for a major overhaul of planning law which will concern us all, both for potential benefits to the availability of more housing and for potentially harmful effects on the environment in all its facets. The notion of releasing for development 'grey belt' land (land currently within the designated 'green belt' but definitely not 'green', such as disused petrol stations and the like) will need to be thought through carefully since associated infrastructure and services will be implicated. As new proposals emerge over coming months, SOS will continue to be vigilant and keep the community informed of its actions in line with its constitutional aims.

## Stockbridge Community Cinema - Autumn Programme



Our eight films for the Autumn season are a mix of genres to appeal to a wide audience. Full details are on our website [stockbridgecinema.org.uk](http://stockbridgecinema.org.uk) but here is a flavour of what is to come.

### September

The season starts on 13 September with an award-winning Japanese film **Perfect Days** an amusing and moving film that has been described as 'mindfulness, but as a film'! This is followed on 18 September by **All of Us Strangers** from director Andrew Haigh (*45 Years*) - a mysterious, beautiful and sentimental romance about loneliness and love.

### October

On Friday 18 October Josh O'Connor (Prince Charles in *The Crown*) stars in an Italian crime drama **La Chimera** about an archaeologist who becomes embroiled in the theft of historical Etruscan treasures. We are in deep water on 23 October with **The End We Start From** as a new mother (Jody Comer) battles to get home with her newborn baby after an environmental crisis submerges London in floodwaters.

### November

On 15 November we have an award-winning real world drama **lo Capitano** (The Captain) focusing on two Senegalese cousins who leave their home in search of better opportunities abroad. More weather issues on the horizon in **Twisters** screening on 20 November. The forecast is splendid with a high chance of thrills!

### December

We begin the final month with a fascinating documentary **Wilding** on 4 December. Based on the best-selling book by Isabella Tree, she and her husband strive to breathe new life into the ailing Knepp estate, placing the fate of their farm in the hands of nature. We round the year off on 7 December with a 'recorded live' production of Mozart's ever-popular



and Emeless opera **The Marriage of Figaro** (*sung in Italian with subtitles*). This is the 2022 Royal Opera version of director David McVicar's sumptuous and popular period staging, featuring a young and predominantly Italian cast.

Lots to look forward to and we hope to see you soon.

*Paul Kidd*

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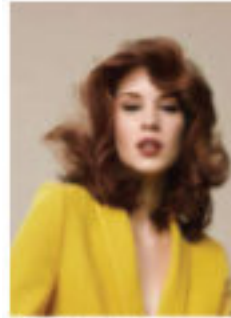
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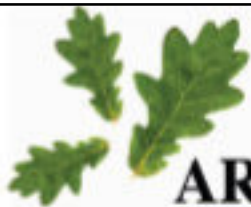
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# Potting Shed Cuttings for September

## New gardening books to try :

*The Complete Language of Trees* - S. Theresa Dietz;

*Where the Old Roses Grow: A Biography of War and Roses* - Junelle McCulloch; *RHS Plant Finder 2025*;

*Against the Grain: How Farmers around the Globe are transforming Agriculture to Nourish the World and Heal the Planet* - Roger Thurow;

*RHS Grow your own Veg Through the Year: 365 Days of Homegrown Vegetables*.



## Pruning

Once summer-flowering perennial climbers such as honeysuckle, summer-flowering jasmine and passionflower have finished flowering, mid-to-late September is a suitable time to tidy up plants to produce a neat framework of shoots. Lavender has been late to flower this year, so can be cut back this month, along with some varieties of Philadelphus, which have also had a later-than-normal flowering period.

## Sowing

Hardy annuals for next year can be sown now – Limnanthes (the poached egg plant), Calendula, Centaurea cyanus (the cornflower), Eschscholzia (California poppies) and poppies can all be sown this month and should start flowering in May. If your soil is particularly heavy or holds water, you can sow the seeds into trays and keep them in a cold frame over the winter; plant out in the spring.

## Planting/Potting Up

This should be a busy month for planting spring flowering bulbs, although hold off planting tulip bulbs until late October/November. This is your last chance to start off forced bulbs to flower at Christmas.

Towards month end, any tender perennials in your garden, such as Osteospermum, should be lifted and potted up. Keep them in a cool but frost-free place and start them off again in the spring.

This is also the time to lift, dry and save gladioli corms for next year. Keep the tiny corms which have developed and grow them on for future plants.

Containers of tender perennials should also be moved into a frost-free position – a cool conservatory or greenhouse for instance – until next spring.

Onion sets can be planted out, as can spring cabbages.

## Miscellaneous Jobs

Lawn growth should start to slow down this month; start to remove thatch and aerate the lawn prior to winter weather. Apply top dressing to each area you have dealt with and a low-nitrogen autumn feed. If you have any bald sections, re-seed now as well. This is all demanding work and is best dealt with in small chunks – unless you can prevail upon someone else to do the work.

This month could be labelled 'compost heap month'; as you clear borders, much of the vegetation can be added to the compost heap (apart from perennial weeds of course). Turn established compost heaps and make sure a good mix of vegetable matter is built up in new heaps.

Autumn is a wonderful time to plant perennials – the warm soil and generally sunny weather will give them a good chance to settle in before winter frosts.

## Fruit and Vegetables

You should still be harvesting vegetables and later fruit such as apples, pears, autumn raspberries and blackberries.

Squashes should be lifted off the ground to prevent rotting; beans which have finished producing crops should be cut to ground level, to allow nitrogen to slowly be released into the soil from the roots.

Lift maincrop potatoes on a sunny day and allow them to dry out for a few days; one school of thought recommends cutting back the foliage to ground level around 2 or 3 weeks before lifting, to prevent blight spores infecting the tubers as you lift them.

Cover brassicas with netting to prevent bird damage and cut down yellowed asparagus foliage.

Sweetcorn should be ready this month; check for ripeness by pressing a fingernail into a kernel – if the sap is milky the cob is ripe.

Micki Nadal



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## Stockbridge Parish Council News

### HCC Parking Survey

The PC has finally been able to get hold of a copy of the report of HCC's parking survey that HCC held on Stockbridge High Street last year. HCC was not forthcoming with the survey and it was necessary for a number of FOI requests to be put in to HCC before the report was supplied. The survey cost HCC a considerable sum of money but the results are inconclusive. However, the report does admit that marked parking bays may be helpful. If residents would like to see a copy of the report, it is available on the Parish Council's website Traffic Parking - Stockbridge Parish Council - Stockbridge Parish Council, Stockbridge. Cllr Drew (County Councillor) admitted that HCC's policy was to seek revenue generation from High Streets.

### HCC's Children's Services

The service has been rated outstanding for the second consecutive year since 2019. Ofsted noted the timely and robust practice of social workers and other practitioners who ensure children are kept safe and that children and their families receive appropriate and effective support to meet their individual needs. Representing the voice of each child remains one of HCC's key priorities, and Ofsted has praised the rôle that children's needs and views have in shaping their individual plans and decisions about their care. More than 10,000 children, young people and their families are receiving specialist children's social care services, including more than 1,900 children in care.

### Water Safety Stations

Test Valley Borough council is upgrading the water safety devices because, following a rise in vandalism and misuse of life rings, some of these devices are no longer fit-for-purpose. TVBC employees currently spend the equivalent of four days a month being called out to collect life rings that have been thrown into ponds and lakes at our nature reserves and parks. With missing safety equipment posing a risk to life, TVBC has taken advice from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service and will be rolling out new Throw Line Housing Stations across the borough. Each station contains a throw line, which users can access in an emergency by dialling 999 and providing the precise location reference displayed on the unit. The call handler will give them a code to unlock the throw line, which can be used repeatedly. Rikki Noble, Test Valley Station Manager at Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue said, 'If someone is in trouble in the water, the best way to help is by staying calm, staying on land, and remembering Call, Tell, Throw: call 999 for the emergency services, tell the struggling person to float on their back, throw them something that floats.' These new water safety stations will help people by providing vital lifesaving

equipment and giving them clear instructions so they understand what to do in an emergency. They will also help the emergency services identify the location and reach anyone in need as quickly as possible. It is important that this equipment is available for use when needed and the new stations should help prevent anti-social use and damage to this vital lifesaving equipment.

### Disposal of batteries

Please remember not to put batteries into the household waste bin. Earlier this year, there were two bin lorry fires in one day. These fires had been caused by loose batteries, and small electrical items including vapes, being crushed by the lorry which causes sparks leading to a fire, putting staff at risk.

Stockbridge Parish Council will next meet 19th September at the Town Hall. Don't forget the earlier start time for Council meetings which is now 7:15pm.

Please don't forget the Anti-Cyber Crime presentation by Hampshire Police on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October at the Town Hall starting at 6:30pm.

*Belinda Baker*  
Clerk to Stockbridge Parish Council  
[clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk)

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# The Church, You and Net Zero Carbon

I think everyone's aware that our carbon emissions are what drives climate change.

In response to this, the Church of England has set itself the ambitious target of getting to net zero carbon by 2030 and, while some dioceses have been granted an extension on that timescale, Winchester Diocese is aiming for the 2030 deadline.

So how is this going to be achieved and what can individual parishes do?

## 1. Know what your emissions are.

Each parish now has to complete an annual return using the church's Energy Footprint Tool on energy usage and travel for clergy etc.

Net emissions at St Mary's are already very low at 0.1 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. This is mainly because we only use the church once a week – and we are on a green energy tariff i.e. the power we buy in comes from renewable sources.

## 2. Look for ways to reduce emissions.

The Eco Church awards are in the process of being revamped so that the steps we have to complete to move from a bronze to silver award are more aligned with net zero carbon.

Also, the Church of England has issued guidance called 'A practical path to net zero carbon' which, by the time you read this, Chris Reynell and I will have gone through to see if there are any tweaks we can make to improve St Mary's already good position.

**3. Further advice is available from the Church of England and Eco Church** to help churches and there may even be funding if they need to make significant changes.

## What can individuals do?

I found calculating my personal carbon footprint a bit of an eye opener. Want to have a go?

I'd recommend trying the website

<https://www.climatestewards.org/offset/>

and going through the various tabs to look at your emissions for heating your home, travel, food, what you spend, etc.

(By the way, they then encourage you to pay them to offset your balance – but my view is that this is a last resort! The best way to use the information is then to see where you can look for ways to reduce your own emissions – and then consider offsetting what you really can't get rid of.)

Depending on how you measure it, the average CO<sub>2</sub> emission per UK person is 12-13 tonnes per year. So, fantastic if you come out below that. And, if you're above, then don't despair! There are loads of ways to reduce your emissions and knowing where yours are coming from is the first step in targeting a reduction.

Good luck with targeting lower carbon. I'd be interested to hear what your carbon footprint came out as and what you're doing about it. We've moved to solar panels, don't fly on holiday and are eating many more vegan meals – every little helps!

**PS. Hold the date: 3rd November at St Mary's**, when the Diocesan Environment Officer, Sam Scott, is coming to help us with a special Creation Care All Age service.

*Lisa Traylor*

*lisalamberti@hotmail.co.uk*



Well, although we might have had more than our fair share of rain, my garden is running over with vegetables! Especially runner beans. So, for all of you that might have some to use, or anyone who loves beans, this recipe is for you!

## Runner Beans with Garlic

Serves 4

### Ingredients

225g/8oz dried flageolet beans or a 450g tin  
1 tbsp olive oil  
25g/1oz butter  
1 medium onion, finely chopped  
1 – 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped  
3 – 4 tomatoes, peeled and chopped  
350g/12oz runner beans prepared and sliced  
150ml/¼ pint white wine  
150ml/¼ pint vegetable stock  
30g/2 tbsp chopped fresh parsley  
Salt and freshly ground pepper

### Method

If using dried flageolet beans, place them in a large saucepan and bring to the boil. Simmer for 45 – 60 minutes until tender.

Heat the olive oil and butter in a large frying pan and sauté the chopped onion and garlic for 3 – 4 minutes until tender.

Add the chopped tomatoes to the pan and continue to cook over a gentle heat until soft.

Drain the flageolet beans either from the pan or the tin and add to the frying pan, stirring them through the mixture. Add the runner beans, wine, stock and a little salt. Cover and simmer for 5 – 10 minutes.

Increase the heat to reduce the liquid, uncovered. Stir in the parsley. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Lovely as a side dish to a BBQ or even the Sunday lunch!

*Linda Hotchen*

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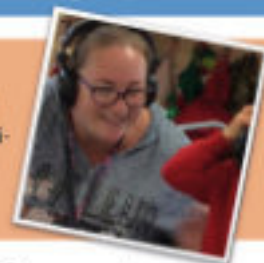


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## Music in St Peter's Church

### Hymns during August

Our organist Sarah Seymour (who has significantly enhanced the music in our services since she joined us in January) had the great idea of inviting the congregation to choose their favourite hymns for the month of August. A grand total of 46 hymns were listed in the ballot box when I opened it towards the end of July, comprising 36 different hymns; a nice variety and two of you wanted more hymns that were not Victorian. We usually use the 'Hymns Old & New' (New Anglican Edition) but, for the first Sunday in August, we sang four hymns from the 'Mission Praise' hymn book to accommodate the wider choices. Thank you to everyone who participated. August's services were all yours. The rest will be included in September.

In our August issue, I told you about Ben Maton bringing his own 100-year-old harmonium to play music in Old St Peter's.

In **St James' Church in Bossington**, he did the same when he eventually acquired the key for this beautiful little church sitting in stunning landscape.

On YouTube, look for the title: 'Greatest-Loved Melodies from a Tiny English Church'. Ben describes St James' as 'one of the prettiest buildings you've never seen', designed by Sir Gilbert Scott, and built in 1839, since when it has never been altered.



Ben talks about buildings creating 'acoustic' in which the notes are transformed. Listening to him playing in St James', I am moved by the soul that inhabits the music he makes here. (I would love to tell you about the history of Bossington but this column is about music not history so I suggest you find it on his YouTube channel - a fascinating story and some beautiful music too.)

### 'The first time an organ has ever left me speechless'.

For Ben's 100th video (congratulations, Ben), he explores our own St Nicholas' Church, Leckford.

Firstly, he explores the church-yard and discovers an old brick boiler house in a remote corner of the churchyard - near where there used to be a large Elizabethan manor house and some old steps, now going nowhere. I admit I had never noticed these.



Ben then shows us round the old church, originally built in the 13th Century but rebuilt by the Tudors. The chancel is slightly off-centre, the altar is made of medieval stone and the stunning Renaissance Venetian choir stalls are from an Italian monastery.

The organ was purpose-built for the space available and Ben tells us all about this interesting instrument, built by James Ivimey of Southampton in about 1925. He then shares the news that the organ is completely dead, which is really sad as the organ looks so good.

Ben muses on the 'meaning' that is inherent in these old churches and so he ends his visit by reading a small part of a moving poem by Oliver Goldsmith, 'The Deserted Village', which is haunting in the context. He overlays the verse with a piece of music he arranged himself, based on the opening of a piece by Palestrina, himself an Italian Renaissance composer.

All of the above episodes in Ben's welcome visits to our Benefice are well worth watching and he deserves our grateful thanks for reminding us of the cultural, spiritual and musical heritage of which we are the current guardians.

Janet Williams

*(For those interested, a leaflet on the history of St Nicholas' Church is about to be printed. Please call Micki Nadal on 810567 for details.)*

### And music in St Peter's continues . . .

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# Church News

## St Mary's Longstock



August was indeed a quiet month, with people either on holiday, or enjoying the sunshine at home, taking in the lovely countryside.

### Urgent Call - Volunteer Singers needed:

**With Sarah Seymour's help**, we are hoping to arrange a small concert in St Mary's, Longstock in the early Autumn. This will include the performance of a short cantata called 'Swingin' Samson'. You can hear an extract from this on YouTube:

*Swingin' Samson: When Miss Delilah Goes a-walkin'* (youtube.com)

We need between 12-15 singers for this – hopefully a mixture of young and older people.

If you are interested, please let me know:

Tel: 01264 810284, Email: [mjh723@btinternet.com](mailto:mjh723@btinternet.com)

It's quite a jazzy piece and great fun to sing.

Please come and join us.

The loss of Mark as our **organist** last spring was a great shame, but we have been fortunate with others who have been prepared to help – Louisa, Sarah and Helen. We now have another organist prepared to come and play, Will Pickering. He came to play on 18 August and impressed us all.

On 7 September the **Village Fête** will take place at the Recreation Ground, starting at 1pm and ending at 5.00pm. There will be all the usual attractions plus a dancing display from Ukrainian Dancers.

Sunday 8 September is our **Patronal Service** and we are fortunate to have our Archdeacon, the Ven. Jean Burgess coming to take the service. Our theme will be 'Celebrations'. We plan to invite former wedding couples and baptism families to attend the service and help us celebrate all good things. I do hope that many of you will come and help us celebrate St Mary. The service will start at 9.30am and we will celebrate the Eucharist.

### 14 September 'Ride and Stride'

A small but select group will be striding for St Mary and the Hampshire and Island Historic Churches Trust – you are welcome to join us.

All walkers try to find sponsors for fund raising.

The money can be given in cash, or you can pay online via *GoodHub* | *Lisa's 2024 Ride and Stride for Longstock*. Please **mark your contribution for St Mary, Longstock** so we can receive 50% of all the contributions received. The other 50% goes to the HIHCT. (See also p6).

It's good to walk in a group – good chatting, praying and exercise!

We will **leave St Mary's Church at 10.00am** on 14 September.

## Church Services at St Mary, Longstock for September 2024

1 September	9.30am	All Age Worship
8 September	9.30am	Patronal Service
15 September	9.30am	Morning Worship
	4.00pm	Sunday@4 in Longstock Village Hall
22 September	12noon	Baptism Service for Florence
29 September	10.00am	Benefice Service at <b>St Mary Broughton</b> led by Bp. Geoff, Acting Bishop of Southampton

If you have any queries during the interregnum please contact Maddie Hedley Churchwarden, Tel: 810284; Email [mjh723@btinternet.com](mailto:mjh723@btinternet.com), or the Benefice Administrator, Lois Opperman at [midtestbenefice@gmail.com](mailto:midtestbenefice@gmail.com)

Maddie Hedley

## Progress Report on the Vacancy

The interview process at the end of July worked very smoothly and, at the end of day two, the panel was unanimous in recommending to the Bishop that he offer the post of Rector of the Mid-Test Benefice to the candidate, Rev'd Joe Sweetnam. We are delighted that Rev'd Joe has accepted the offer.

Work is now in hand in completing the work at the rectory and completing all the necessary legal checks.

We will announce the date of the formal induction service when this is confirmed.

Meanwhile we continue to be supported by the clerical registry who are able to help with most services. All other activities still take place; weddings, funerals and lots of fund-raising. We continue to manage well.



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## Church News

### St Peter's and Old St Peter's Stockbridge



As we were singing our way through the Eucharist on August 4th, we were aware that, outside the church, the street was thronged with people meandering and browsing through the stalls of Trout 'n About. Some visitors joined us for our service. It is always a busy day in Stockbridge and this year, with the High Street closed to traffic, it was easier to move around and enjoy the extraordinary range of food, arts and crafts.

Micki Nadal and her sister, Jay, kindly offered to sell tea and cakes in the church for weary shoppers, raising £230 which was donated to the church funds. The PCC give many thanks to the multi-talented and generous Micki (below, second from right), who had been up in the bell tower before the service with her bell ringers calling the faithful to church!



It often astonishes us just how much some Stockbridge residents contribute to the running and support of our two churches. We will always welcome more help even from those who don't use the church on a regular basis, not forgetting that the church lies at the centre of the community and is used by many people for weddings, baptisms and funerals, as well as for school activities, carol services and concerts.

The money we have to raise for St Peter's and Old Peter's always exceeds the amount we receive (very gratefully) from our congregations either in collections or as standing orders. Hence the importance of all the work that goes into weekends such as the Flower Festival and Open Gardens where volunteers help us to raise hundreds of pounds.

Coming up in September is another fund-raising day in which everyone (whether churchgoers or not) can contribute in a joyful and healthy activity - the annual 'Ride and Stride'. This is run by the Hampshire and Islands Historic Churches Trust (HIHCT). Half of the money we raise for this charity event comes back to us in Stockbridge so that we can use it to help pay for some of the costs of maintaining our church buildings, but it also allows us to apply to the HIHCT for further funding should



we need it for Old St Peter's, for example. All you have to do is decide which churches (between any of our Benefice churches) you and your family would like to walk or

cycle between on that day, get sponsorship from friends, families, work mates, whoever, and off you go. (Further details p 6)

Last year, Catherine Williams energetically walked between all the churches in Stockbridge, Longstock and Leckford, even though it was the hottest day of September. Our own church warden had to walk without me (I was laid low with Covid) but my two grandchildren were over from Greece and they all did Old St Peter's, St Peter's and St Mary's Longstock. Between this small number of four walkers, we raised £1,160.

IMAGINE how much we could raise if more of the village took part! Everyone is welcome on foot, on bikes, on scooters, in wheelchairs, with walking sticks or wheelies - whatever. That's the challenge for September. And if you don't want to ride or stride, you are welcome to sponsor David and me or other participants. So if you would like to help us in this healthy day of exercise for a good cause, email us at <david.williams6669@hotmail.co.uk> or ring on 01264 811072.

#### Looking Ahead :

**Sunday, September 1st** at 3pm. Teas in the church for those who live alone.

**Saturday, September 14th:** RIDE AND STRIDE! (see above).

**Friday, September 27th** at 7.30pm: Stockbridge Music in St Peter's - The Tippet Quartet playing Mozart, Schubert and Beethoven.

**Sunday, 6th October** at 11am: Harvest Festival Service in St Peter's.

**Friday, 11th October** at 7pm: Guitar concert in St Peter's. (see p28)

*Janet Williams*



## Church News

### From the Ministry Team

It is hard to believe that the summer is coming to an end, with the mellow days of September helping us through harvest celebrations. The Gospel for September is from Mark, chapters 7, 8 and 9. With brisk story-telling, Mark takes us through challenges from the Pharisees regarding cleanliness, the Syrophenician woman's faith and her dialogue with Jesus, asking for help for her children – the clever wordplay and her faith being enough for Jesus to do as she asked and remove a demon from her daughter.

We have the healing of a deaf man and a blind man, feeding 4,000 with just seven loaves and a few fish, and coping with the disciples' inability to remember his miracles and to hold the faith.

Yet despite their slowness in understanding, Peter does come to recognise him as the Messiah; but, he gets into trouble for challenging Jesus' destiny on the cross. We then have the transfiguration.

If you can, please read Mark chapters 7, 8 and 9. So much richness left for us to reflect upon, learn and pray about.

Jesus himself had faith in his disciples and left the twelve of them to carry on his work and to spread the Gospel – which, with the help of the Holy Spirit, they did and did well.

This gives us great hope that God has always worked through flawed people – his great story is littered with examples of great things happening with those who have not always done the right thing – Noah, Jacob, Samson and David to name but a few.

Jesus left us all the wonderful parables and stories to share, but most wonderfully, his forgiveness and redemption for us through the cross. Each Sunday we can say sorry and know that we will be forgiven. That is really Good News.

And Good News for us that Revd Joe Sweetnam has accepted the offer of the post of Rector of the Mid-Test. We have the hope that he may be with us before the end of the year.

*Maddie Hedley*

### The Column for August

There were no Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals during August in the parishes of Leckford, Longstock and Stockbridge.

### Hampshire Downs RC Parish St Thomas More

Services are held on Sundays at 9.00am

### September Services for Stockbridge, Longstock and Leckford

#### 1st September (Trinity 14)

- 08.00 **Leckford** Holy Communion BCP
- 09.30 **Longstock** All Age Service
- 11.00 **Stockbridge** Parish Eucharist

#### 8th September (Trinity 15) / BVM

- 08.00 **Old St Peter** Holy Communion
- 09.30 **Longstock** Parish Eucharist (Patronal)
- 11.00 **Stockbridge** All Age Service

#### 15th September (Trinity 16)

- 09.30 **Longstock** Morning Worship
- 11.00 **Stockbridge** Parish Eucharist
- 18.00 **Leckford** Evensong

#### 22nd September (Trinity 17)

- 11.00 **Stockbridge** Morning Worship
- 12.00 **Longstock** Baptism

#### 29th September (Trinity 18)

- 10.00 **Broughton** United Benefice Eucharist
- 14.00 **Longstock** Baptism

### Prayer for September

The harvest dust sparkles in the sunlight,  
the larks rise to sing and to avoid the combine,  
all is being safely gathered in. Thank you, Lord.

The time and season for harvest,  
celebrating the fruits from the earth.  
We remember Ruth, gleaning the left-over grain  
and the kindness of Boaz.  
We thank you Lord for the bounty of the earth  
and for the fish of the sea.


Yet in other lands, the harvest is poor due  
to the lack of rain – another season when the  
people rely on the help of others.  
Lord help us to be generous to those in need;  
to answer the call for help.

In other places the noise of harvest is drowned  
by the noise of war.  
We continue to pray for all who live in countries  
at war, who long for peace.

Lord, now is the time for swords to be turned  
into ploughshares.

*There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the  
heavens: Ecclesiastes 3.*

Amen



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