



The Parish Magazine for

£1

STOCKBRIDGE LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD

May 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>

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

Please contact our Rector (see details above)

This Magazine: 11 issues a year. Price: £8 paid in advance, or £1 per copy

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

Editors: Frances Candler 811776 Jennifer Kidd 811179 Thea Taylor 07730 964481

Distribution: Sylvia Shepard 810603 **Advertisements:** advertstockmag@gmail.com

June copy deadline: **15 May 2023** **email:** editorsstockmag@gmail.com

| 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 | Dawn Williams | 810724 |
| <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 | | Organist and Choir Mistress | | Stockbridge Music | |
| Frances Waghorn | 01962 776048 | Dawn Williams | 810724 | Karen Malim | 07964 194530 |
| Bell ringers (Longstock) | | Pastoral Visitors | | Stockbridge Parish Council | |
| Chris Reynell | 810569 | Vacancy | | Chair: Alex Lawrence | |
| Bell ringers (Stockbridge) | | RBL (Houghton branch) | | Clerk: Belinda Baker 07770 406607 | |
| Micki Nadal | 810567 | David Williams (Chair) 811072 | | clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org | |
| Brownies (meet in Chilbolton) | | New Secretary to be appointed | | Stockbridge Pharmacy 810624 | |
| Julie Shone | 01962 761269 | Angela McMeekin: Poppies 810236 | | Stockbridge Police Station | |
| Church Mouse Books | | Scouts | | (Non emergencies) 101 | |
| Micki Nadal | 810567 | Mark Lovell 07786 435847 | | Stockbridge Primary /Pre School | |
| Cub Scouts | | Scout Group Explorers | | Emma Jefferies (Head) 810550 | |
| Mo Collins | 01256 895534 | Andrea Zanchi 07747 720735 | | Stockbridge Rec Ground | |
| HCC County Councillor | | Louise Henderson 07436 899054 | | Dave Webb (Chair) 810819 | |
| Cllr David Drew | 357024 | St Thomas More Church | | Stuart Mawson(Sec) 07766 150055 | |
| | mob 07738 289902 | Father Mark Hogan 01962 852804 | | Stockbridge Surgery 810524 | |
| Kent Hill Scout Hall | | Stockbridge Church Flowers Sec | | <i>Out of hours urgent treatment /advice</i> | |
| Leigh Dance | 811074 | Angela McMeekin 810236 | | <i>Hants Doctors On Call freephone 111</i> | |
| Leckford Parish Council | | Stockbridge Community Cinema | | Stockbridge Town Hall | |
| Dawn Williams | 810724 | Paul Kidd 811179 | | Kim Candler (Chair) 811776 | |
| Longstock Garden Club | | Stockbridge Community Market | | <i>On-line bookings</i> | |
| Peter Moore | 07881 573493 | Carol Preston 07925 287870 | | www.stockbridgetownhall.co.uk | |
| peter.r.moore@gmail.com | | Stockbridge Court Leet | | or phone 513299 | |
| Longstock Parish Council | | Guy Boney (Lord of the Manor) | | Test Valley School | |
| Chair: Selina Musters | 810459 | | | Ms Jo McKeown (Exec. Head) 810555 | |
| Clerk: Gill Bulpitt | 07763857512 | Diana Tym (Bailiff) 810363 | | Trout 'n About | |
| Longstock Village Hall | | Stockbridge Dramatic Society | | Bob Powell 01264 810966 | |
| Selina Musters | 810459 | Mark Frank 810562 | | TVBC Councillor | |
| Longstock & Leckford WI | | Stockbridge Football Club | | Cllr Tony Ward 01794 389649 | |
| Sue Hill | 811779 | Bob Powell (Chair) 07802 524433 | | Unity Transport (Dial-a-Ride shopping bus) 356808 | |
| Neighbour Care 0845 0943713 | | Rob Blandford (Hon Sec) 07799 289756 | | | |
| <i>Calls cost 7p/min +network charge.</i> | | Email: stockbridgefc@hotmail.com | | | |

From the Rector

The rôle of the laity

It has been a busy month! Not only has the start of the year been marked by an unusually large number of funerals, it has also been the time of year for annual church meetings. These days, the annual church meeting is conducted in such a way as to rapidly discharge our duties under various diverse bits of legislation, before being able to celebrate all that has happened in the past year of church life, and then enjoying a glass of wine and good company.

A part of the meetings I always find very humbling are the various 'elections'. I put the word in air-quotes because it is very unusual for them ever to be competitive; however they are the means by which a church congregation chooses who will be churchwarden/church council members etc. for the next year. They are the ground level of the process by which the laity play their part in the governance of the Church.

I say that I find it humbling because I usually choose to sit alone at the front of church while I chair these meetings, as a reminder to myself that each year I am dependent on the good will of volunteers who offer their time, skill and experience to help run the Church. At each meeting, I can never be sure who will want to support me in the task in the coming year until I am handed the nomination papers, and so by sitting alone I become uncomfortably aware that I cannot possibly hope to lead the Church in our parish without the help of others.

As usual, we will be commissioning the new PCCs at a service on Ascension Day, praying for them and giving thanks for those whose time of service has come to an end. This year it will be at Longstock Church, on 18th May at 7:30pm – Lady Joan Appleyard will be our visiting preacher. I hope you will be able to join us, to give thanks for the involvement of the laity in running the Church.

The Rev'd Philip Bowden

Contents

| | | | |
|---|-------|---|----------|
| Church and the Environment -a Personal View | 25 | Platinum Jubilee Arch | 21 |
| Church News | 29-31 | Potting Shed Cuttings for May | 23 |
| Clothmaking | 27 | Prayer for May | 31 |
| Coronation of King Charles III - Local Events | 4 | Recipe: Griddled Baby Gems - blue cheese, pear and bacon | 19 |
| Easter Liturgy at Old St Peter's Church | 28 | Royal Facts | 11,13,19 |
| Editorial | 7 | SOS - Save Our Swifts | 11 |
| From the Area Dean | 31 | St Nick's Churchyard Tidy Up | 22 |
| From The Rector | 3 | Stockbridge Parish Council | 22 |
| From the Scalpel to the Sword - John Rennie | 28 | Stockbridge Practice | 21 |
| Hope and Homes for Children | 11 | Stockbridge Primary and Pre-School News | 15 |
| How to Celebrate a Coronation | 25 | Test Way Tree Works | 16,17 |
| Jamaica - the Island in the Sun | 12,13 | The Column for April | 31 |
| Notes from a Bookseller | 19 | | |



Stockbridge Town Hall
SATURDAY 6 MAY 2023
9.30am - 3.30pm



FREE EVENT
Come and watch the whole event on the big screen in Hurford Hall.

Free refreshments available all day

The Coronation Weekend
6-8 May 2023

The Official Programme

Their Majesties The King and The Queen Consort hope the Coronation Weekend will provide an opportunity to spend time and celebrate with friends, families and communities across the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

Saturday 6th May, 2023

The Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort will take place at Westminster Abbey in the morning. The Service will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury. As previously announced, the Service will reflect the Monarch's role today and look towards the future, while being rooted in longstanding traditions and pageantry.

Sunday, 7th May 2023

A special Coronation Concert will be staged and broadcast live at Windsor Castle by the BBC and BBC Studios.

The Coronation Big Lunch, at which neighbours and communities are invited to share food and fun together, will take place across the country on the same date - see left and below.

Monday, 8th May 2023

Members of the public will be invited to take part in The Big Help Out, which will encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas.

Celebrations in Longstock

There will be a Coronation Big Lunch from 12noon until 5pm on Sunday 7th May for all Longstock residents at the recreation ground - a bring-your-own picnic with a Bake-off competition of puds to be shared and fancy dress competitions.



Don't forget!

We look forward to seeing you!

Coronation Big Lunch For Stockbridge
Sunday 7 May
12.30 – 15.00
Stockbridge Recreation Ground

LONGSTOCK PLANT HERITAGE FAIR

Longstock Park Nursery

Monday 1st May 2023
10am - 4.00pm

An opportunity to browse a variety of plants and talk to plant specialists and growers. In addition to the plant fair in the grounds of Longstock Park, our nursery will be stocking a full range of seasonal plants and all your gardening sundries and, on hand with lots of advice and tips, are our nursery Partners.



Stockbridge Music

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

Alexander Chance, counter tenor
Toby Carr, lute

World-renowned duo to perform in Stockbridge in a 'genre first' for Stockbridge Music



(Photo credits: Benjamin Ealovega; TC credit Andrew Mason)

Friday 5th May 2023, 7.30pm
St Peters Church, Stockbridge SO20 6HE

Tickets £20 (U18s £5)

from stockbridgemusic.uk or on the door

Lots to explore at

Stockbridge OPEN GARDENS

Sat 24th, Sun 25th June
1.30 - 5.30 pm. £10

Teas, Band, Free Parking

For more info, see
www.stockbridgegardens.co.uk
or www.opengardens.co.uk

Wherwell History Group

8pm, Friday 19 May
Wherwell Village Hall

Mudlarking in the River Thames

Simon Moore

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



Stockbridge Primary and Pre-school

Bag2School Reminder

The drop-off time for donations to Stockbridge Primary and Pre-School's next BAG2SCHOOL initiative is on **Monday 1st May** (Bank Holiday) between 10am and 12noon.

Donations can include clothes, bags, jewellery, belts, shoes, soft toys, household linen or curtains. Please bring bagged-up items to Stockbridge Primary School main reception. 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.

Thanks again,
Friends of Stockbridge School
(FOSS)



Copy for Magazine

Copy date for the June Magazine:

15 May 2023

Please send emails to:

editorsstockmag@gmail.com

or phone Frances Candler on 01264 811776

Jennifer Kidd on 811179 or Thea Taylor on 811101

FREEDOM
BESPOKE
BIFOLDING, SLIDING, FRENCH & RESIDENTIAL DOORS,
WINDOWS & ROOF LIGHTS



☎ 01264 301302
✉ sales@freedombespoke.co.uk
📍 Visit our showroom at Andover Down, SP11 6LJ

Merritt 
Tree Specialists Ltd Est. 1997
Celebrating 25 years

Professional tree surgery in accordance with BS:3998
Free Quotations
Insured up to £10 million





Tel: 01962 861597 Email: info@merritt-treespecialists.co.uk
www.merritt-treespecialists.co.uk

Suite Dreams Established 28 years

Master upholsterers, delivering exceptional traditional and modern furniture

We offer a wide range of services, including:

- > Re-upholstery
- > Bespoke hand made furniture
- > Footstools, headboards and window seats
- > Extensive selection of superb fabrics
- > Free sample swatches available
- > Curtain making services
- > Re-covering
- > Repairs
- > Free estimates




To discover more, please contact us on:
Email: jacqui@jacquicowen.co.uk
Tel: 01264 810398
Mobile: 07768 743792

Incorporating our fabric showroom:
Larkwhistle Fabrics



Whatever you want to store...



Whatever your needs, long or short term
...for whatever reason - house sale and purchase not coinciding, travelling, bereavement, house building work, decorating or even 'de-cluttering' to sell your house more quickly - we offer a friendly, flexible and secure facility.

Barn-Store is a ruraly-based, family run business 2 minutes from Stockbridge. We offer all the features associated with the national chains, from high tech security to hassle-free 24/7 access.

For more information, contact us:
www.barn-store.co.uk
01264 316166



Chilbolton Chair Company
Makers & upholsterers of fine quality furniture



- Bespoke hand made furniture
- Complete re-upholstery of all furniture
- Supply of a wide range of fabrics
- Curtains, blinds, soft furnishings
- Stock items available for sale

Unit 12B, Stonefield Park, Chilbolton SO20 6BL
Tel: 01264 861117
email: info@chilboltonchaircompany.co.uk
Mobile: 07582 850810 or 07961 800601
www.chilboltonchaircompany.co.uk

**TEST VALLEY
TREE SERVICES**

07825616420

Free Estimates & Advice
tomhowells3@gmail.com

From the Editorial Team

As we write our editorial towards the end of April the weather remains stubbornly chilly and the news from around the world is equally chilling.

May, however, will bring a new beginning in the most dramatic style - a Coronation, with all its pomp and circumstance, but in these austere times with maybe a little less ceremony than in earlier days. King Charles III aims to be a monarch for our age, reviewing and renewing the institution in line with contemporary concerns.

Our footers this month remind us of his very human wit and wisdom, and it is significant that among the celebrations he chooses to highlight the values of simple neighbourliness and kindness through his initiatives 'The Coronation Big Lunch' and 'The Big Help Out'.

So we must enter the new month with enthusiasm and hope for a more positive future (with perhaps a little more sunshine)!

Frances Candler, Jennifer Kidd and Thea Taylor

Don't forget to Vote! Thursday 4 May

7.00am to 10.00pm

Test Valley Borough Council,
Mid Test Ward and
Longstock Parish Council
Elections



MID TEST WARD

| Name of Candidate | Address | Description |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Jonathan Cotterell | Lopcombe | Green Party |
| Jane Elliott | West Tytherley | Labour Party |
| David Hall | Chilbolton | Liberal Democrats |
| Ian Jeffrey | Up Somborne | Local Conservatives |
| Alison Johnston | King's Somborne | Local Conservatives |
| Stewart MacDonald | Over Wallop | Local Conservatives |
| Alan Marshall | address in Test Valley | Liberal Democrats |
| Connor Shaw | Over Wallop | Green Party |
| Russell Theron | address in Test Valley | Liberal Democrats |

PARISH OF LONGSTOCK

The following is a statement of the persons nominated for election as a Parish Councillor for Longstock Parish Council:

Hugo Denée, Kirsty Dominick-Gibson, Angie Filippa, Alice Foster, Charles Grieve, Paul Hardy, Sarah Johns, Alex Melrose, Selina Musters, Lois Opperman, James Smallwood and Beccy Soper

PARISH OF STOCKBRIDGE: Uncontested

Elected : Richard Foord, Derek Halle, Helen Jackson, Frank Parr, Michael Porter, Bob Powell



**Stockbridge
Community
Cinema**



AFTERSUN (12)
19 May
7.30pm (1hr 41min)

Sophie reflects on the shared joy and private melancholy of a holiday she took with her father twenty years earlier. Memories real and imagined fill the gaps between as she tries to reconcile the father she knew with the man she didn't...

LIVING (12)
24 May
5.00pm and 7.30pm (1hr 42min)

The story of an ordinary man (Bill Nighy), reduced by years of oppressive office routine to a shadow existence who makes a supreme effort to turn his dull life into one he can say has been lived to the full after a shattering medical diagnosis.

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 £1.80 fee per booking)



Houghton WI

15 May at 10am
at Houghton Village Hall

Annual General Meeting and a Plant Exchange

Visitors welcome
Further information from
Jane Anderton 01264 810928



The Royal British Legion Houghton and District Branch

Contact David Williams (Chairman)
01264 811072

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



STOCKBRIDGE OSTEOPATHIC PRACTICE

Osteopathy and Cranial Osteopathy

Emma Wightman, registered osteopath and antenatal teacher. A gentle, hands on approach for newborns through to adulthood and in pregnancy.

Also

Massage Therapy

Pilates, 1 to 1 and small group

Homeopathy

Naturopathy

Online Bookings available for
Osteopathy and Massage via the website

Tel: 01264 810028

www.the-SOP.com reception@the-SOP.com

STOCKBRIDGE OSTEOPATHIC PRACTICE - HIGH STREET, STOCKBRIDGE, SO20 6HF

STOCKBRIDGE CHIROPODY

FIONA ROBINSON DipodM MSRch Bsc(Hons)

**Health Professions Council
Registered
Chiropodist/Podiatrist**

**Clinic appointments
available**

01264 810739

STOCKBRIDGE CHIROPODY

Made Your Will Yet?

**You've probably worked hard all
your life for everything you have**

Without a Will Government rules decide who inherits it

*The impact of Care Fees, Tax and other issues could
also reduce your loved one's inheritance*

**With the "Right" Will and good planning
you CAN help ensure as much as possible goes to
your chosen loved ones...not to 'unintended' others**

Make Your Will Today from **£89***

*standard basic Will

Specialists in the "right" Will - Trusts - LPAs

For an appointment
Personalised advice
Or more information

Call **07734 058 768**

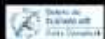
Edward Moodie

Will and Estate Planning Adviser
edward.moodie@secureinheritance.co.uk



**Secure Inheritance
Legal Services**

Wills Trusts and Lifetime Planning
Helping Protect Your Family's Inheritance



FOOTCARE BY LOUISE

Louise Salter Dip FH MCFHP MAFMP. Qualified, Insured & DBS Checked.



Mobile Foot Health Practice covering
Andover and surrounding areas. I
provide tailored treatment and
advice to suit individual needs in the
comfort of your own home. I offer
routing nail maintenance, treatments
and advice for corns, calluses and
heel fissures, ingrown toenails,
fungal infections, verrucae and
diabetic foot care.

**Contact: 07368 591040 or
footcarebylouise@outlook.com**



A gentle and effective way of relieving many painful
conditions and improving mobility. For back, neck
and shoulder pain, joint stiffness, muscular aches
and tension headaches.

Practicing from the **Eden Therapy Centre**
Balksbury Hill, Upper Clatford SP11 7LW

Lisa Morley DC, MMCA,

GCC Registered Chiropractor

To book a consultation and treatment call
07535 630266

Stockbridge Town Hall Events

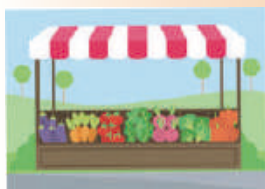


Weekly

| | |
|----------|---------------------------------|
| Mon am | Pilates with Paula |
| Mon am | Pilates Unlimited with Clare |
| Tues am | Michelle Buhl-Nielsen Art Class |
| Weds am | Yoga with Dionne |
| Thurs am | Iyengar Yoga with Melissa |
| Thurs am | Stockbridge Community Market |
| Thurs am | Su Joy Art Class |
| Thurs pm | Joga |
| Fri am | Moo Music |

This Month

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| May 2 | Infinito |
| May 2 | Stockbridge Drama Society |
| May 3 | Infinito |
| May 4 | TVBC Electoral Services |
| May 5 | Stockbridge Music Society |
| May 6 | Antique Fair |
| May 6 | Stockbridge Town Hall |
| May 8-10 | Wild Bazaar |
| May 12-14 | quARTet |
| May 15-17 | Cotton House Interiors |
| May 18-19 | Katy Botanicals |
| May 18 | Stockbridge Parish Council |
| May 19 | Stockbridge Community Cinema |
| May 20 | South Central Makers |
| May 21-24 | Wild Bazaar |
| May 23 | Longstock and Leckford WI |
| May 24 | Stockbridge Community Cinema |
| May 25 | KH Nutrition Coaching |
| May 27-28 | Antiques and Curios |
| May 27-28 | Hawkmoor Books |
| May 29-31 | Wild Bazaar |



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 Wi-Fi access



LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD WI

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

Tuesday 23 May Annual General Meeting and Resolutions

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



Longstock Garden Club

We are now looking forward to visiting gardens and our next meeting in Longstock Village Hall will be on October 10th when Lynda Warren will give a talk entitled:

A Spoonful of Herbs

To discover the benefits of being a member please check out www.longstockgardenclub.com

Peter Moore 07881573493

Test Villages u3a

**Thursday 11 May at 2pm
Chilbolton Village Hall**

'Exploring the South Island of New Zealand'

In this illustrated talk, Rosemary Legrand 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.

Test Villages u3a usually meets on the first Thursday of every month in Chilbolton Village Hall, but this May meeting is a week later due to the local elections. Doors open at 1.45pm for the presentation, followed by refreshments.

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

u3a provides the opportunity to socialise and learn for fun.



Find out more at u3asites.org.uk/test-villages

THE
Genesis Design
STUDIO

CHARTERED ARCHITECTS

Bespoke designs for individual homes



MEAD MILL, 77 MILL LANE, ROMSEY
HAMPSHIRE, SO51 8EQ

TEL - 01794 519333

EMAIL - m.lampard@thegenesistudio.com
www.thegenesistudio.com



**EXPRESS
PROPERTY SERVICES**

Tel/Fax: 01962-776888 Mobile: 07802 496424



Consider it Done

**Your complete
Maintenance Company 24hrs**

All Plumbing, Heating, Dripping Taps,
Overflows, Electrical, Roofing
Painting, Decorating

Est 25 Years

Tel/Fax 01962 776888

Mobile 07802 496424

Email expresslamb@btconnect.com
Mill Cottage, Locks Lane, Winchester SO21 2LU

CREATING SPACE THE EASY WAY!



**Experts in loft
ladders & loft
hatches, boarding,
lighting & insulation**

HUGE BENEFITS

- . De-clutter your home
- . Create up to a third more space
- . Gain safe & easy loft access
- . No mess, no fuss, no subcontractors

Call now to book a FREE survey & quotation

01256 688648

WWW.ACCESS4LOFTS.CO.UK



CARLOS MARTIN

COMPLETE CARPENTRY SERVICES

With over 30 years experience
specialising in:-

- * Kitchen Fitting
- * Bespoke Furniture
- * Storage Solutions
- * Boot Rooms

All work undertaken with pride

Contact us to discuss your requirements

T: 07979 802443

E: carlos@completecarpentryservices.uk



Hope and Homes for Children Charity Concert at St Peter's Church, Stockbridge

On Friday 24th March, there was a good attendance of people made up of parents, friends and locals to listen to Hampshire County Junior Choir under their conductor, Nick Duncombe. The children were very enthusiastic and obviously much enjoyed singing. They sang a number of songs which were interspersed by instrumentalists playing, amongst others, a French horn, a flute, and a double bass. There were some very talented youngsters and it was a real delight to listen to children who thoroughly enjoyed what they were doing.

There were very few expenses which have been very kindly covered by a private individual, and I was able to send £675 to Hope and Homes for Children. In response to this, Catherine Butt, the Supporter Fundraising Manager, commented that this amount will support four families to get the support and care that they need to stay together. So it really does make a huge difference. The Hampshire County Junior Choir does not make a charge but a donation of £250 was made which will provide music scores and other useful material in the training of children with their singing.

Thank you very much to everyone who came to support this evening and hopefully the same might be repeated next year.

Geoff Cox

SOS - SAVE OUR SWIFTS

Just a reminder that the swifts should be returning to Stockbridge by the time you read this at the beginning of May. With luck they may have started to return by the end of April but it does seem to be dependent on the weather and particularly the winds they meet on their journey from Africa and across Europe.

Many of you will know that we have installed a swift calling player next to some swift boxes which will be turned on at the end of April to come on every morning, every lunchtime and every evening to encourage swifts to investigate and, hopefully, to nest in one of the boxes. The hope is that this will encourage others to nest in other swift boxes up and down the High Street.

And you may know that the peregrines have nested again on the parapet at Winchester Cathedral (North side). Winnie has laid 4 eggs and they should have hatched by the end of April. So go to the Cathedral website, then click on *Explore*, and then click on *Peregrines* (<https://www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/explore/peregrines/>) and you will see the chicks growing by the day!

Jean Boney, Chair of SOS

LESSER-KNOWN FACTS ABOUT SOME OF OUR KINGS AND QUEENS

Royal Facts 1:

William the Conqueror (reigned 1066-87) went out with a bang



Think William I, and the Norman Conquest and Domesday Book spring to mind.

What's less well known is what happened at his death. The king died on 9 September 1087 from what is believed to be a rupture in his intestines from a riding accident. The nobles, knights and clergymen at his deathbed promptly left when the king breathed his last. Servants stripped his rooms of everything including clothing, linen, royal crests and arms and left William's dead body lying almost naked on the floor. When the body was finally moved to the Abbaye-aux-Hommes in Caen where a tomb had been prepared, the morbidly obese king's body was too large for grave. The priests tried pushing the body into the space, upon

which the king's bloated stomach exploded and released noxious gases into the church that not even the incense and spices burned during his funeral could mask. Retching at the stench, the clergy rushed from the funeral to escape the smell and that was how the mighty conqueror was laid to rest – burst open and stinking to high heaven in a monastery in France. An inglorious end for a formidable king.

JAMAICA - the island in the Sun by Peter Hughes



Sunset on Treasure Beach

In May 2021, the month in which the magazine welcomed the re-opening of pubs and restaurants after the third Covid Lockdown, we also published the third article by Peter Hughes about Jamaica, his childhood home. The stories of his adventures brought both sunshine and humour into our lives at a gloomy time, and when Peter wrote 'I will return in my final article to my early days in Jamaica', we were delighted. And here it is - welcome back, Peter!

Editors

One eventually grows up and reaches the ripe old age of 7 when the parents decide that one should be moved on to higher things - literally - education, distance and altitude. Far away from home (30 miles) and in a hilly tropical location with a climate described as 'bracing and salubrious' according to a tourist brochure I have here with me, was this how my parents were going to sort out and select my schools in the 1930s, I wonder?



Author and Mikey, the Irish Terrier

So off I was pushed to a little dame school* in Malvern set at 2500 feet and with a fantastic view

of the south coast of Jamaica. As the crow flies, the distance to the sea could not have been more than 8-10 miles but, of course, one had to first descend 2500 ft and a million hairpin bends to get to sea level. The school was named Mount Olivet and was owned and run by a Miss Gibb, assisted by a Miss Jeff. Miss Jeff was a bit of a mystery; she was pretty, had funny teeth and spoke English oddly i.e. without a Jamaican accent. She also had no idea about matters Jamaican.

Miss Jeff, it transpired, was a refugee of sorts who, sadly, may have lost her husband in the war which was still raging in Europe and the Far East. Miss Jeff was always kind, attentive and helpful. I recall nothing but pleasure in my dealings with her. We children were, of course, too young to understand what was going on in the world and the effect that the War was having on peoples' lives.

Miss Jeff's main duty seemed to be the escorting of the whole school after breakfast to the lavatory which was a cosy wooden structure with a very social 6-holer - 3 for the girls and 3 for the boys. We had no modern drainage or running water at Mount Olivet so please use your imagination. Miss Jeff duly ticked off our names in her little book and afterwards sent us on our way, always thankful that we hadn't fallen through to the bottomless pit.

Whilst I was at Mount Olivet, there was a big storm which someone said belonged to the edge of a passing hurricane. It did a lot of damage to both school and trees. One of the latter was a cedar with the highly-scented tropical wood of which furniture was made and, also most significantly, used in the manufacture of cigar boxes. This particular tree had a lot to answer for - its fallen foliage was eaten by our herd of milking cows. Their milk became undrinkable and no amount of cajoling could persuade us children to drink it, so

pungent was the flavour. Actually, the school dog and cat didn't like it either.

I cannot recall exactly how many of us were in the school when I was there; maybe about 14 girls and boys. We boys quite liked girls when we discovered they could rush around like us and create mayhem. They could even play cricket and tennis! Which reminds me of the night when there was a commotion coming from the girls' dorm. Well, excitement indeed! A bat had got into their room and was causing screaming hell. We boys got hold of tennis racquets and anything else that could be swung about and laid into the mellée causing no end of damage and injury. The girls seemed to be fearful of the bat getting snagged in their hair – an old wives' tale, I can assure you. The result: four broken glasses, a damaged table and Nora Meeny left with a black eye. The bat got away with its life. I got on with Nora who lived in Kingston and she kissed me one night in the shoe room! Why, I hadn't any idea.



Peter's family's seaside home



Painting by Peter's Father

After Mount Olivet our lives never crossed again which was a pity.

On leaving Mount Olivet, I remember two things that happened in 1945 which related to the War that was soon to end. First was a terrible noise coming over the bush towards our home in

Mandeville. It became so loud that I got into a state and ran for my father. Seconds later, this shape emerged over the trees and I thought the end of the world was upon us. Father, God bless him, knew a thing or two and said it was an American blimp which was just having a look-see. Phew! It was very low and seemed to be drifting along sideways! Can you imagine what effect, for instance, a helicopter would have had on a crowd of ancient Brits on Stockbridge Down?!

The second World War II event in my life was when, cycling around Mandeville, a man who used to sell us vegetables yelled across at me and said 'Mass P dem drop di booom!' This being the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Perhaps, had I known it, I should have feared this far more than the noisy blimp.

*(*Dame schools were small, private schools for young children operated, inter alia, in the British colonies, by a 'school dame', usually in their own home.- Eds)*

Royal Facts 2 Edward VI (reigned 1547 - 53), Child Geographer



Despite his youth (he was 9 when he was crowned and 15 when he died), Edward VI is credited with being the first English monarch to charter an exploration of the Arctic. The king was a keen geographer and had learned to read a compass from the Venetian explorer Sebastian Cabot.

In 1553, Cabot supported an expedition, led by Sir Hugh Willoughby, to reach China via the Arctic Sea. Willoughby took with him letters signed by Edward VI and addressed to 'the Kings, Princes, and other Potentates inhabiting the Northeast partes of the worlde.'

However, after a harsh storm, Willoughby's ships were encased in ice east of Murmansk and the entire crew perished. Luckily, one of the other captains, Richard Chancellor, found himself in Russia, where the letter was delivered to Ivan the Terrible and thus opened trade between England and Russia. History is full of unintended consequences!

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Hearing care including wax removal

01264 312654
 stockbridge@rawlingsopticians.co.uk
 High Street, Stockbridge SO20 6EU

RAWLINGS OPTICIANS SINCE 1878
 & HEARING CARE

Myddelton & Major

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR NEW OFFICE IN THE HEART OF STOCKBRIDGE

Contact us to discuss a valuation and tailored marketing strategy to suit you.

DavidSmith@myddeltonmajor.co.uk
 AlexisKirchell@myddeltonmajor.co.uk

The Old Police House, High Street, Stockbridge, SO20 6HE

01264 810400

Specialising in property in the Test Valley

S.L.G.M

Tree Surgery
 Hedge Cutting
 Stump Grinding

Fencing
 Grass Cutting
 TPO Applications

Local and reliable
 Fully trained staff
 Fully insured

Higher tier waste carriers licence held
 Contact Shane for a no obligation quote
 Email: shaneling1992@gmail.com
 Phone: 07557 405110

Winchester GP

High Quality
 Prompt
 Private Care

Same day appointments | Home visits
 Wellness Screening | Menopause Specialist
 24 hour online booking | Extended hours reception
 Easy access and free on-site parking
 Free to register, use alongside your NHS GP

01962 776010
 WinchesterGP.com

Winchester
 Chandler's Ford



Stockbridge Primary and Pre-School News

Getting reading going



Despite the rain during Easter holidays, summer term has arrived! In school, this is undoubtedly the busiest term of the year with national testing for Years 1, 2, 4 and 6 (6, 7, 8 and 11 year olds), summer sports activities and competitions, welcoming and visiting our new Year R children for September as well as going through transition arrangements for our Year 6 children who will be moving onto their secondary education at the end of the term.

Whilst all of this happens in the main school, our onsite pre-school is also very busy. We have a bumper number of children this term and we're already filling up for September too. Our pre-school runs on the same hours as school so we have many siblings who attend pre-school whilst their older brother or sister is at school and the greatest pleasure is seeing a family's first-born starting with us in pre-school and, over the years, welcoming along a brother or sister (or two!) and getting to know the family as well as the child.

We take up to 20 children at present in any one session but we're growing and looking for another member of staff so that we can increase that to 24. With a small forest school, meadow garden, softfill canopied outside space and a spacious room set up with a painting area, reading corner, home corner and snack space, we have a great space for our youngest children to explore and experiment in as they learn more and more about the world. As the pre-school is part of school and the Early Years curriculum runs from birth to 5 years old, our teachers in both Year R (children's first year of school) and staff from pre-school have joined forces and determined the top 10 things that we feel children need for each of them to be ready for the next step in their journey.

The top 10 learning points for our pre-school children, who are preparing to go up to 'big school' in September, include making meaningful marks and starting to write their name, and knowing numbers to 5 really well. Now these may be more academic but being able to get dressed and undressed independently as well as manage mealtime behaviours such as using cutlery correctly, clearing away and pouring their own drink are all critical to ensure children enter school happy and confident and able to be independent in their new surroundings.

Of course, all of this starts way back when children join us – many of them aged 2 and a bit. We would love children to be able to join in with stories and continue rhymes by the time they are 3 years old – my favourite book was 'Each Peach Pear Plum' which I can still recite off by heart even now!

Storytime in the spring may involve huddling in the cozy corner inside or basking in spring sunshine under the cherry tree in the meadow garden; that's the beauty of this time of year – both are possible!

Our oldest children are at the complete opposite end of the scale and are preparing to sit the annual SATs tests which will be taken in the week of the King's Coronation. We are, of course, marking this special event but ahead of the actual day due to timings – we will dress up as members of the Royal Family on Thursday 4th May and children are busy preparing delicious things to eat as part of an afternoon tea to celebrate the momentous occasion.

We hope the sunshine shows its face more frequently over the next month and especially shines brightly on our coronation event as well as on yours.

Emma Jefferies, Headteacher

THE HOUGHTON TRAIL EVENT

“Through the heart of the Beautiful Test Valley”

4K/11K
RUN



11K
CANICROSS



14K/32K
MTB



At Houghton Village Hall
SO20 6LW

SUNDAY 14th MAY 2023

REGISTRATION: 9:00 AM
EVENT START: 10:15AM

ADVANCE ONLINE ENTRY ONLY

www.houghton-trail-event.org.uk

AGE
LOCS

engage the preferences

HOBBS



Houghton Lodge
Gardens

HILDON

BRIDGE & BOTTLE MOUTH

ALEXANDRA
SPORTS

EVANS & PARTRIDGE

STOCKBRIDGE
ASTONISHING FRAGRANCE

Test Way Tree Works Destruction or Woodland Management?

A few years ago, I was lucky enough to do a part-time course in Horticulture at Sparsholt College. I have since forgotten many of the botanical names I had to learn off by heart but I do at least remember a fair amount of the practical tree pruning. So, with my limited knowledge on pruning, I was recently alarmed at the devastation seemingly taking place down the Test Way adjacent to Stockbridge's conservation marshland.

If you are a regular walker there, you will have seen the tracked machine working. The size of a military tank, its massive arm snaps off whole trunks, leaving behind jagged tree crowns and huge strips of bark torn away from what trunk is left. This was not the neat and tidy cut of dead, diseased, damaged or crossing branches that I had been taught to ensure. Chatting with fellow dog walkers, it became clear I wasn't the only one appalled by the degree of damage along the Test Way path.



Not wanting to jump to conclusions, I solicited opinion on social media. What was the objective of the work? Why were the Contractors damaging trees in apparently haphazard ways (felling some, leaving tall stumps and some branches of others)? How far along the Test Way would they go?

A flash of responses proved widening dismay and a few people suggested Ash Dieback as the reason for the works. But why then were they cutting back trees other than ash? And why was ash being left partially cut, with significant bark damage?



Christopher Bennett, a fellow Stockbridge resident (who, I found out, just happens to be a specialist and international lecturer in forestry and agroforestry) pointed out: 'a live trunk would seem to be leaving an active

reservoir of the pathogen to attack more trees.' He followed with: 'I wonder how effective tree pruning along the pathway is when ash trees in adjacent land are left untouched.'

My social media enquiry did teach me something new, which we hadn't covered at Sparsholt, called 'Fracture Pruning.'

Apparently, this practice mimics the way natural tears and fractured branches occur on stem woods and branches. It might look ugly but has benefits for the local ecology. When limb failure occurs naturally, these new features create a habitat for microorganisms and successive species like woodlice and earwigs. These in turn support birds and bats with food and shelter. However, an internet search tells me that, while good for the local ecology, Fracture Pruning generally isn't good for the tree, preventing the branch sealing the wound and allowing pathogens to enter.

I can't help still wonder if the use of Fracture Pruning isn't just a way to manage a lot of trees quickly and cheaply. And I'm not even sure if this is the plan so I emailed Hampshire County Council Countryside team raising all these questions.

We had hoped there might be an attempt to engage with us in Stockbridge and other affected communities to reassure us that the present tree-



felling and damage is in the interests of all key stakeholders in the Test Way landscape.

As Christopher says, 'those who enjoy walking the Test Way, locals and visitors, would value a timely explanation about the purpose of the tree felling and pruning that is impacting a cherished landscape.'

Amanda Lambert

Update 18 April 2023



Amanda promised to keep the Magazine updated, and on 18th April received the following response from James Lovegrove, who is Trees and Woodlands Senior Project Officer (CS Trees, Ash Dieback and Climate Change) at Hampshire County Council:

'I hope to answer your questions regarding the tree felling along the Testway.

These works are part of HCC Ash Dieback program to make safe Ash trees in areas where they could cause damage or harm to property or the public.

The works had been programmed in for the months before spring so not to disturb nesting birds but unfortunately this work has overrun due to weather conditions and other factors and so we are working to finish the works as soon as possible. The contractors have a strict risk assessment regarding the nesting birds and are doing checks prior to each tree that is felled. We have obtained a felling licence from the Forestry Commission and consulted Natural England prior to the works being undertaken. We also have had in-house ecologist survey the site to report on EPS species. These reports highlighted some potential habitats for Bats and so you may see some trees left without any branches; this is to retain the habitat for the Bats and standing deadwood which is vital for a host of other species. Though these standing deadwood can look somewhat unsightly they are in fact safer to be left than the whole tree as the impact zone is greatly diminished. Some other trees may have been needed to be cut to gain access to the Ash trees but this is kept to an absolute minimum.

Due to the nature of the Ash Dieback disease we are only able to use such specialist equipment to remove them, this is because the trees tend to break apart very easily when felling and so putting the operators at risk of injury.

There is a small amount of work left to do, mostly around the road edges and we will ensure great care is taken to protect the wildlife.

I hope this helps answer some of your questions but please do let me know if you have any other queries.

Kind regards

James Lovegrove

(james.lovegrove@hants.gov.uk)'

While it is reassuring that the work has been undertaken in a way which will minimise the impact on wildlife, it remains uncertain whether this response really answers the question as to whether the work has been done in a technically-competent manner, even if, as we now understand, that can appear unsightly.



It is to be hoped HCC officers will monitor the site and perhaps provide more information. Further queries to HCC and requests for clarification might encourage such action, and the magazine will carry any updates. If you are interested in making your own enquiry to HCC, the email address Amanda used was countryside@hants.gov.uk (use Ref CAMS 41380), or contact James Lovegrove directly, using the email address james.lovegrove@hants.gov.uk

We thank Amanda and Chris for raising this issue, which we know has been of concern to many residents.
Editors

www.tayloredroomdesigns.co.uk
Local Family Run Small Business

Fitted Bedroom Furniture

Maximise storage

Utilise those awkward spaces

Utilise those awkward spaces

Book your FREE no obligation design consultation!
julia@tayloredroomdesigns.co.uk
07771924952

Time To Recreate Your Space



www.WINLOCKS.com

David Small

Winchester's Mobile Locksmith

Locks Fitted ■ Locks Changed
Locks Opened

Phone 01962 849426 Mobile 07944 355000
Email info@winlocks.com

MLA trained & certified ■ CRB checked ■ Insured



NW Autos

London Hill Farm
Stockbridge SO20 6EN

Servicing and repairs to most makes and models of cars and light commercials. MOTs arranged and all MOT repairs undertaken.

Local collection and delivery arranged
All work carried out to a high standard and at a competitive rate

**Please call NEIL on 01264 810449
or mobile 07789 075956**

We Clean Ovens
so you don't have to



Let Greg - your locally based oven cleaning specialist - clean your appliances back to their best with glass gleaming, shelves sparkling and an immaculate interior



*All models perfectly cleaned
Range and AGA specialist
Quality results every time
Local, national, affordable*



01264 563464 | oven.co.uk/oven_cleaning/andover

Call now to book your oven cleaning appointment!

XL Cars

Incorporating Airport
Chauffeur Services

Airports, Business, Long Distance

Stress-free road travel in air-conditioned-vehicles
Smart and friendly drivers. Punctuality guaranteed

Luxury Jaguar XJL saloon and similar prestigious cars
All major credit cards incl American Express accepted

Visit our website for full details of all services
www.xlcars.co.uk email info@xlcars.co.uk

Telephone 01962 76 10 10

Sorry we are not a 24/7 local taxi service

hair by

Louise

MOBILE HAIRDRESSER

Previous experience working in top West End hair salon as well as top Winchester salons

Tel 01264 712037 mob: 07788 248378

fixmygaragedoor.co.uk



The Repair Specialists

Repairs
Locks
Automatic Operators
New Doors
No repair - No charge



01264 337711 / 07780 566033



RESTORATION SERVICE

FURNITURE | ANTIQUES | OBJET D'ART

By experienced craftsman in Barton Stacey

Repairs Polishing Upholstery

Marquetry Floors Banisters

Leather Tops Projects

Phone Tim Williams 07565 591481

Email: timwilliamsrestorations@gmail.com

Good Lady Cleaner Available



I will clean your home or office from top to bottom. Very good references 25 years' experience. Trustworthy and reliable. **Covering all villages.** Used to all pets. *Contact me for a quote*

**Phone Lynn 01264 366037
or Mobile 07843 112269**



Notes from a Bookseller

A large turnout helped THE BOOKMARK celebrate its fifth year on Stockbridge High Street on April 15



It was great to see so many regular supporters of the shop in person, and a pleasure to raise a glass and have a bite with them while they checked out the latest titles!

Elaine Sperber

Royal Facts 3 William IV (reigned 1830-37) What a Silly Billy



More people recognise 'William IV' as the name of a pub than they do as a king. An amiable man with very little interest in the machinations of power, William IV became king after his brother, George IV, died at the age of 67 leaving no heirs. William was more interested in seafaring than he ever was about ruling the country, hence his nickname 'The Sailor King'. However, the king is also suspected to be the origin of another, less flattering, nickname – 'Silly Billy'. William was often seen as a buffoon as he could be erratic, excitable and tactless. Although popular at first, he became embroiled in the Reform Crisis of the 1830's which turned many against him, leading him to be described as out-of-touch, dithering and silly. '...the people have now found out what a fool the King is,' noted the political diarist, Charles Greville. 'They find him rather shuffling and exceedingly silly.' The nickname 'Silly Billy' stuck, though today many people have no idea it has royal connections.



Griddled Baby Gems with blue cheese, pear and bacon

It's never too early to start thinking of lovely warm days and sunny salads. In fact, I eat salad all year! I love salad dressings too and have found it so simple to make your own. Once you have a base you can add all sorts of herbs and cheeses. It's also very cost effective and will keep in the fridge for a day or two if it's allowed to!

I had a little salad like this whilst on holiday recently. It is so simple, but the favours are amazing. This is my twist on it. The amounts of cheese are approximate so if you like a stronger flavour add a little more.

Serves 2

Ingredients

- 2 Little Gem lettuces, cut in half lengthways
- 2 small sweet pears, cut into wedges
- 100g Dolcelatte blue cheese
- 100g bacon lardons, chopped
- 3 tblsp crème fraîche
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 2 tblsp olive oil
- 1 clove of garlic, crushed

Method

Combine the crushed garlic into one tablespoon of olive oil and set aside.

Put the remaining oil in a bowl and put the pear and lettuce into it. Swish the lettuce and pear around so that they get a covering of oil.

Heat a griddle on a high heat and firstly cook the bacon bits until nice and brown and crispy. Remove the griddle from the heat and careful wipe it with a kitchen towel. Place it back on the heat and, once hot, place the lettuce and pear onto it, cooking for approximately 30 secs to 1 minute per side or until the lettuce is slightly charred.

To make the dressing, take the crème fraîche and mix in approx. half of the cheese, combining as best you can to evenly spread the cheese through the mixture. Beat in the lemon juice.

Place the lettuce and pear wedges in a bowl and top with the dressing. Sprinkle the bacon pieces and the remaining cheese over the top and serve.

Tips

There are lots of alternative toppings such as smoked salmon and avocado. The dressing can be varied too. Parmesan and a little mustard is a lovely alternative and not dissimilar to ranch dressing. Goats cheese is another.

Linda Hotchen

WINCHESTER
AUTO BARN
 & DRIVERS' CLUB

Competitive rates, quality workmanship and fast turnarounds.

SERVICING
 MOT'S
 DIAGNOSTICS
 BRAKES
 GENERAL REPAIRS
 AIR CONDITIONING
 CLUTCH & CAMBELT REPLACEMENTS
 MINOR BODY WORK REPAIRS

For all makes & models, old & new



Winchester Auto Barn
 Sutton Scotney, Winchester, SO21 3NS
 Tel. 01962 677776
www.winchesterautobarn.com



**HOME CALL
 VETERINARY SERVICE**

to STOCKBRIDGE and surrounding villages

Dr Phil Taragel BVSc MRCVS DipConVetMed

Dr Amy Saunders BSc (Hons) MSc BVetMed MRCVS

07957 349985

01264 782536

admin@walkaboutvet.co.uk

www.walkaboutvet.co.uk



Private Live-in Carers

We provide peace of mind for the whole family by arranging the finest, qualified & professional Carers to live with the elderly in their own home.

We'd be delighted to visit you at home to talk about Live-in Care.

01264 319 399



"I am so glad I discovered Access Care. Professional, organised, thoughtful, caring and friendly. Constantly go above and beyond. So grateful."



CARING FOR PEOPLE ACROSS HAMPSHIRE SINCE 1994
WWW.ACCESS-CARE.CO.UK

Outdoors or indoors

Forest school - polytunnel - field - mud kitchen - huge sandpit - inside kitchen - school hall - canopy. **WHATEVER THE WEATHER, WE'VE GOT IT ALL!**



Flexible hours for 3-4yo

We offer up to 30hrs childcare per week and you can use your tax-free childcare claim with us. All payments are online making it super easy!

Experienced staff

Early Years is our thing and we have a number of highly qualified, very experienced staff working with our children all day, every day.



Come & see us!

We'd love to show you around and talk to you about your child.

01264 810550

www.stockbridgeprimary.co.uk

Platinum Jubilee Lantern Arch

HRT prescriptions

Patients who are prescribed HRT can apply for a pre-payment certificate for these items. Please see the news section of our website stockbridgesurgery.co.uk for more information or ask the surgery to send you a text message with the relevant details.

Hayfever

Hayfever is a common condition affecting many children and adults. It can be safely treated with medication which can be bought at local pharmacies and supermarkets.

National guidance advises: *Hay fever is a common allergic condition that affects up to one in five people. There's currently no cure for hay fever, but most people with mild to moderate symptoms are able to relieve symptoms with over-the-counter treatments recommended by a pharmacist.*

The recommendation from NHS England is: *A prescription for treatment of mild-to-moderate hay fever will not routinely be offered in primary care as the condition is appropriate for self-care.* Advice about managing hayfever in both adults and children can be found in the news section on our website stockbridgesurgery.co.uk or we can send you a text with the appropriate link.

Self care

There are many conditions which can be managed with self-care, including sore throats, coughs and colds, head-lice, insect bites and stings, mouth ulcers, warts and verrucae. Information can be found by searching NHS and then the relevant condition.

For all eye problems, we encourage you to contact the National Eye Triage Service on 0300 303 4922. They can arrange an appointment with an optician if required (who have the relevant equipment to examine eyes) and also prescribe medication.

For parents, we would encourage you to download the Healthier Together app or use the website; www.what0-18.nhs.uk

Accessing self-care first, specifically if you are usually fit and well, helps us to have more appointments available for patients with more serious conditions.

Medication in May

Please do not submit your prescription early on Bank Holiday weeks unless you are going away and need them early. If you are going away, please let us know so we understand your reason for putting your request in early. Otherwise, please give us one week to dispense your medication.

The prescription charge rose to £9.65 on 1 April 2023.

Ann Spooner

The lantern arch over the gates of St Peter's church has now been replaced. The dates 1952-2022 are inscribed on its base plates to mark the Platinum Jubilee of HM The Queen. It has taken a lot of bureaucracy and numerous delays, but on 6th April, the new arch was finally erected.



The original arch, which had an oil lamp that was lit only occasionally, was removed when the Parish Church was refurbished in late 1950s early 1960s. The new arch matches the original as closely as possible.

It was fabricated and erected by local blacksmith Philip Grob. The main arch has been rolled from 40mm square hollow steel sections, shot blasted, hot zinc sprayed and top coated semi gloss black. The lantern was made by Tony West, using non-ferrous materials, which have been painted black. The glass on the lantern is 4mm toughened glass.

The masonry work to prepare the gateposts was carried out by Blackwell & Moody Ltd.

The Jubilee Arch has been a community project, initiated by Sally Milligan and Alex Lawrence. It has cost slightly over £5,000 and has been paid for entirely by donations. All work has been contracted by Stockbridge Parish Council, thus exempting it from VAT.

Kim Candler





Stockbridge Parish Council News

Trout Pond Work

The Council was notified at the end of March that the Environment Agency was going to issue the required licences for the Trout Pond work at the beginning of April. Fortunately, the contractor was able to start the work in April and Houghton Fishing Club were supportive of the work taking place until the first week in May. An on-site meeting was held between all parties to go over the project plan and HCC issued the licences for work on their highway. The work started on 12th April, removing all the weeds, debris and mortar from the sides of the pond. It soon became obvious that the previous renovation work had only involved putting new render over the old broken render which may not have sealed successfully. A mother duck and her seven tiny ducklings arrived immediately this work started in order to feed off the grubs that were dislodged as the weeds were removed. The contractor's staff admitted that taking steps to avoid the ducklings was something that had not been included in their risk assessments!

The work necessitated creating a dam in the pond to hold back the water from the wall and then re-render the brickwork to protect the bricks from wear. It is hoped that the improvements will ensure that the pond will continue as a feature of Stockbridge, attracting residents and visitors alike. A longer report and photographs of the project are available on the Parish Council's website at stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk/community/stockbridge-parish-council-12514/trout-pond



Where are the fish?

Stockbridge Parish Council would like to thank the following for their financial contributions to this project - TVBC, HCC, Houghton Fishing Club, Orvis, The Grosvenor Hotel and Robjents. Without their support, the work could not have been undertaken because the cost of the project represents over 75% of the annual Precept of the Parish Council.

Tree Works

In early April, there were many emails and complaints to the Council regarding the destruction of trees on the Test Valley Way. In fact, the work was being undertaken by HCC to remove ash trees weakened by Ash Dieback disease. The damage the disease does to the ash trees is not immediately obvious to the untrained eye but it will weaken the tree from the inside such that it will die and fall. HCC has a responsibility to protect the public from falling trees on a popular route like the Test Valley Way, which is why they took such drastic action. (See pp16/17 for more on this issue - Eds).

It can only be hoped that the area will regrow quickly because HCC has not communicated that it intends to plant new trees to replace those that have died. However, HCC *has* planted new cherry trees in Trafalgar Way (which was a project initiated by a resident in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee) and new native trees in the A30 central reservations just outside Stockbridge.

Pedestrian Sweepers

Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) has taken delivery of three new electric-powered pedestrian sweepers. These quieter, better-performing new machines will replace the Council's existing fleet of diesel pedestrian ones. The purchase of these items is part of the Council's approved Climate Emergency Action Plan, which identifies the actions the local authority will take towards becoming carbon neutral. Members of the public should start to see the pedestrian sweepers in action over coming weeks.

Council Tax

Your Council Tax bills have been arriving in April. Your bill will detail exactly how much you will pay each year and the breakdown to each organisation. Stockbridge Parish Council worked hard to ensure that the contribution that you pay for the Parish Council remains the same this year as last year. Other organisations that you pay a contribution to went up from between 3.25% (TVBC) to 6.63% (Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service). More information on how your money is spent is available on the websites of the relevant organisations.

Stockbridge Parish Council will meet next for the Annual Council Meeting on 18 May 2023.

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

CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

ST NICK'S CHURCHYARD TIDY-UP PARTY



Later this month, Leckford PCC will be asking friends and neighbours to help tidy the churchyard of this lovely church, whose origins date back to 947.

In return for an hour or two's help in pruning, shredding, weeding and removing moss and ivy, we will provide refreshments suitable for hungry gardeners in Dawn William's garden.

Micki Nadal will be emailing people shortly with a possible date. We hope you can help us!

Call Micki on 07563079 or 01264 810567 if you would like to help

Potting Shed Cuttings for May

'Yellow Book' gardens open this month -

Beechenwood Garden, Odiham;
The Cottage, Eastleigh; Lavender Gardens, Salisbury;
Allington Grange, Chippenham; Walhampton,
Lymington; Alverstoke Crescent, Gosport;
Hart District Allotments, Fleet.



General Maintenance and Preparation

Greenhouse seedlings will still be at risk this month, both from late frosts and from sunburn during warmer, sunny days. Put up shading to protect tender seedlings and plug plants but remember to close the greenhouse door at night. If you are hardening off plants and a sharp frost is predicted, move them back under cover at night.

Make sure compost does not dry out completely, as water will simply run off dried-out compost. If this should happen, add a tiny drop of washing up liquid to your watering can water; this should help compost rehydrate.

If you don't have room under glass to plant up entire pots and baskets, try simply potting on the plants you'll be using so that they are a decent size by month's end when you can safely plant tender bedding outside.

Keep ahead of fast-growing weeds and hoe regularly.

The Flower Garden

Plant gladioli bulbs this month; a few bulbs planted every 10-14 days will extend the flowering period.

Roses should be given a specific feed, especially container-grown varieties, where soil is lacking in nutrients; tie in climbers and ramblers and remove suckers; a combination spray will deal with aphids, blackspot, mildew and rust.

Plug plants ordered earlier in the year will be arriving this month. Open them straightaway or arrange for a friend to do this if you are away. They have spent some time on the move so water them thoroughly and put them in a sunny, sheltered spot, under glass if possible or on a window sill. If they have a good root system, pot them on straightaway into 3" pots. Water, feed and keep them frost-free until they can be planted out later in the month.

Why not try the 'Chelsea Chop' on some of your late-flowering border perennials? Towards the end of the month (after the Chelsea Flower Show ends) prune back 1/3 to 1/2 of the stems on perennials such as phlox, helenium, sedum, and echinacea by 1/2. These pruned shoots will not only flower later, but will be more floriferous. Choose a selection of plants of each variety or simply cut back up to half of the front shoots of a particular plant.

Deadhead the last of your spring bulbs. If they need to be lifted, lay wire netting along a

trench 12"/30cm deep. Put the lifted bulbs in the trench at an angle and fill back with soil. In early July, simply lift out the netting, the bulbs will come out easily. Clean and store them before replanting in October.

The Vegetable Garden

To prevent cabbage root fly from laying eggs near the base of stems, brassica growers should consider buying or making collars to place around the stems of plants; old carpet or heavy-duty cardboard is always useful when making your own collars.

Plant main crop potatoes and continue earthing up other varieties. In particularly dry periods, don't forget to water potatoes regularly to ensure tubers can grow unchecked.

A tip for encouraging earlier tomato fruits is to keep plants in fairly small pots until trusses have grown and tiny fruits set; plants can then be put in their intended growing position, whether in the ground, a growing bag or a large container. A high-potash feed will produce plump, juicy fruits and consistent watering in the cool of the morning or evening throughout the season will help prevent blossom end rot and leaf curl.

Plant out leeks, Brussels sprouts, summer and winter cabbages and, towards month's end, runner and French beans, celeriac and outdoor tomatoes sown under glass.

You still have time to sow beans outside, as well as courgettes, squashes, outdoor cucumbers, marrows, Florence fennel and your continuing salad crops.

Under glass, start off melons and sweetcorn to give them time to mature at the end of the season.

The Fruit Garden

Fruit bushes will benefit from a regular supply of water and a feed of sulphate of potash to encourage succulent fruits.

The Lawn

Weed and feed lawns and start to increase your mowing schedule. Grass will be growing strongly now so continue mowing established lawns regularly; if new lawns have reached about 3"/7.5cm, they can have their first cut of the year. For an instant cosmetic improvement, cut lawn edges for a sharp, neat finish. Don't forget it's your last chance to feed and weed before autumn.

Micki Nadal

RICHARD
EST **STEEL** 1860
& PARTNERS

**The Family Owned
FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

'Serving Hampshire since 1860'

▪ **Iain Steel** ▪ **Richard Steel BEM** ▪

Alderman House, 12-14 City Road
WINCHESTER

(01962) 862333 (24hrs)

- **Personal 24 Hour Service** ▪
- **Bespoke Funeral Plans** ▪

www.winchesterfunerals.co.uk

160 years of Family Service



Phone: 01980 670 226 01264 874 464
or 07850 849 960

email: graemelark@outlook.com



Classic Car Storage in Andover

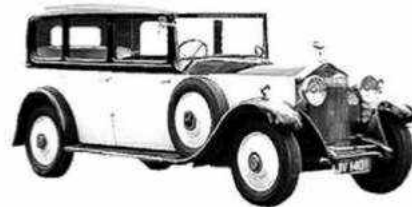
**SECURE
DE-HUMIDIFIED
INSURED**

01264 369773
bill@classiccarstory.co.uk
classiccarstory.co.uk



NIGEL EVERSFIELD MORGAN

CHAUFFEUR DRIVEN CLASSIC CARS



The White House, Sutton Scotney,
Winchester, SO21 3JW
01962 760254
nigel@eversfield-morgan.co.uk
www.eversfield-morgan.co.uk

Church and the Environment - a Personal View

Moving back to Hampshire, one of my important decisions was which church to settle in. After many months of being a tourist and visiting lots of churches in the area, I have settled on St Mary's Longstock. There were a number of reasons for that but one of the key ones was that the parish was taking environmental issues seriously (and, to prove that, has recently been awarded its Eco Church Bronze Award – well done everyone involved).

Why are environmental issues important to me and my faith? Not to be too depressing but I am completely convinced that, without a change of direction, our planet is heading for catastrophe. While those of us of a certain age in the UK may escape the worst effects (by dying before it gets too bad!), our children and grandchildren will suffer, and people in other parts of the world are already struggling with the effects of climate change. This was underlined for me on a recent trip to visit family in New Zealand*. While there, NZ went into a state of national emergency caused by extreme weather events, brought on by climate change. People lost their lives and communications/trade etc. were severely disrupted – and this in a country that is wealthy.

I was not brought up in a church or with any faith. It was spending time amongst nature that got me thinking about God as creator – and from there exploring Christianity in all its aspects (an ongoing

process). A walk in the countryside and seeing amazing scenery, a new flower emerging or birds singing from the hedgerows is still one of the ways I connect with God. As the community participation in the Longstock Good Friday walk testifies, for example, I don't think I'm alone in this.

Amongst other things, for me being a Christian means caring about the creation that God gave us to steward and which exhibits His amazing power and love for us. It means loving our neighbours – and that extends to our neighbours across the world who may be adversely impacted by our less-than-climate-conscious actions. So, while worship, my prayer life, pastoral care etc. are all important, I do not think that I can 'do church' now without it having an environmental angle.

It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the challenge facing us – but we are a people of faith and hope. And there are others in the wider church who are already doing inspiring things that perhaps we could also do at St Mary's and across the benefice? I'm looking forward to engaging with this to see if together we can make whatever small steps are available to us to be the stewards that God wants us to be.

Lisa Stone

(*I have no plans to fly in the future – every little helps.)

How to celebrate a Coronation!



Street Party in 1953 to celebrate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II

A tea party to celebrate the Coronation outside the flag decked Old Manse opposite the Town Hall.

With thanks to Geoff Merritt for the photograph

. . . and imagine that that's going to last forever and ever and ever.

Hm&G

— GROUNDS & GARDEN —

Working with

GARRISON GARDENERS

All aspects of garden
and groundwork undertaken...

- Grass Cutting • Regular Maintenance
- One-off Seasonal Tidy-ups
- Landscaping • Hedge & Tree Care
- Fence Erecting/Repairs
- Pressure Washing • Weed Control

Fully insured, Safecontractor registered and upper tier waste carrier.

Contact the team on: **01722 346 949**

Text on: **07881 378 600**

email: info@hmandg.co.uk

www.hmandg.co.uk



Good Meat
Means
Good Health



JOHN ROBINSON
High Class Family Butcher

**HIGH STREET
STOCKBRIDGE**

Tues, Weds 7.30am - 4.00pm

Thurs, Fri 7.30am - 5.00pm

Sat 7.30am - 4.00pm

Closed for lunch 1.00-2.00pm

Full selection of prime quality meat,
seasonal game, sausage, faggots made on
the premises, bacon cured on site.

Displayed cooked meats/salmon
for collection. Free local delivery on
Friday and Saturdays.

Telephone: **01264 810609**

Email: jrbutchers@btconnect.com

Worthy Heating & Plumbing Services Ltd

- Free Boiler Estimates
- Power Flushing
- Gas / Oil / LPG
- Boiler Servicing / Installations / Repairs
- Hot water Cylinders
- Central Heating Systems
- Plumbing work undertaken
- Fourth Family Business

Tel: 01962 776321

Email: enquiries@worthyheatingservices.co.uk



CARPETCLEANMAN
GRIME TO CLEAN WITH OUR MACHINE

CarpetCleanMan® for all your Carpet and
Upholstery cleaning requirements.

We provide the following services:

- Carpet, Rug & Upholstery cleaning
- Stain Removal
- Sanitising and deodorising
- Stainguard Protection

We can inspect your carpets and upholstery and
advise on the most effective methods to restore
them using Woolsafe® approved products and
training and give you a no obligation quote to
carry out the work.

Get that hygienic fresh feeling again.

Call your local **CarpetCleanMan®**
on **01962 435036**

or email admin@carpetcleanman.co.uk

Clothmaking



Cloth production in the early centuries used wool fleeces. Woollen cloth of the finest quality was made from short, fine wool fibres. The fleece was examined and categorised by a wool stapler.

Historically, the raw wool was first scoured by immersing in stale urine or hog's dung and beating it to remove the natural greases and lanolin. This was carried out in fulling mills and was a task for the fuller.



Sometimes the wool is dyed before spinning in which case it is said to be 'stock dyed' or 'dyed in the wool'. It is then blended and carded - or teased - to disentangle the mass of fibres. Carding used to be carried out using hand-held wooden boards containing teasel heads. Later the teasels were replaced with boards containing fine wire hooks.

The resulting slivers of thread are then spun into a single twisted thread of uniform thickness. At the start of the 18th century, this was still carried out using the prehistoric distaff and spindle or single-thread spinning wheel. Later that century, innovation in the cotton industry replaced most handlooms by power-driven machines but the principle of weaving remains the same. One set of threads - the warp - runs the length of the fabric. Between them is passed a cross thread - the weft - using a shuttle. The thread tension was held on the loom by hanging large rocks on the weft threads. In Bhutan, women still lean back on the ends of the weft attached around their waist to keep an even tension.

Cloth from the loom is dirty and requires the skill of the cloth worker to stabilise the fabric for use. Piers the Plowman observed 'Cloth that comes from the weaving is not comely to wear, till it is full'd underfoot or in fulling stocks, washed well and scrubbed with teasels, tucked and tenter'd.'

Cloth is processed in lengths, usually a 70 yard 'piece'. The fabric is checked for faults and specks of burr removed using long tweezers called 'burling irons'. It is then scoured and thoroughly rinsed and excess liquid is extracted, ready for milling.



Milling or fulling, is to mat or felt the fibres together to shrink the cloth. Urine and Fullers' Earth are used in the process. Fulling was the first process to be mechanised, using water-powered mills. Treading continued to be used for the finest cloth.

Once rinsed, the cloth is dried. Known as 'tentering', this was formerly carried out by stretching the fabric on frames to which it is attached by hooks, known as 'tenterhooks'. The



expression 'to be on tenterhooks' derives from the tension in the fabric as it dried. The full'd fabric is next given a pile or nap by raising it. Raising dry cloth creates a fuzzy finish valued for blankets; wet raising results in a lustrous smooth finish. Raising was traditionally carried out using teasels. The wet process was undertaken by fullers and the dry raising was the responsibility of shearmen. Hand raising was mechanised in gig mills in which the cloth was passed in one direction over cylinders covered in rods of teasels. Teasels have been mostly displaced by wire hooks but their action is considered to be too harsh for the finest fabrics used for billiard tables, piano felts and guardsmen uniforms which are still raised with teasels.

Once the nap has been raised, the cloth is finished by 'cropping' using large shears. This trimming of surface fibres to a fine uniform finish, a skilled process, was performed on a curved surface, the fabric held taut by hooks



Raising and cropping the fabric

attached to the selvage and shorn several times on each side. Replacement of hand cropping by machine came only after suppression of the 1811-16 Luddite riots when workmen fearing unemployment broke the machines.



The fabric was then planed or pressed flat; final stages may involve steaming and pressing.

The shearmen were traditionally responsible for folding and packing the finished cloth.



Folding and pressing into blocks for carriage

Jill Goodwin

My thanks to Jane and Lisa Hunter for providing my original resource materials.

The stained glass window is in the Tuckers Hall (of the Incorporation of Weavers, Fullers and Shearmen) Exeter.

The Easter Liturgy at Old St Peter's Church

From earliest times, Christians have gathered through the night of Easter to recall the story of God's work, from creation through to the death and resurrection. It is meant to be an experience of new life for the worshipper, a passing from darkness to light which offers hope to all the faithful.



We gathered at Old St Peter's church early on Easter morning to celebrate the Easter Liturgy.



The Easter Liturgy is made up of four parts:

The Vigil reminds us of the story of God's salvation of his people throughout the Old Testament. We gathered around a fire outside the church for an informal vigil of readings and psalms.

The Service of Light celebrates the light of the risen Christ, represented by the Paschal Candle, lit from the fire and carried into the church.



The Rector sang The Exultet (an ancient Easter song of praise) and then came the Easter Acclamation when all the candles were lit from the Paschal Candle and lights turned on.



The Liturgy of the baptism is an opportunity to renew baptismal vows. It is the traditional time of year for adult baptisms. We confirmed our baptism vows and were sprinkled with the water from the silver font. As an infant, I was baptised on Easter Sunday in St Peter's Church.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist is the first celebration of Holy Communion of Easter.

After the service we enjoyed a hot breakfast of sausages and bacon rolls with coffee. Thank you to everyone involved in the organisation of this very special service, the preparation of the Easter Liturgy

and its implementation, the readers, the preparation of our church and the provision of breakfast.

All the resources of the church - music, flowers, sounds and colours - are used to celebrate Christ's resurrection.



The Alleluia returns.

Jill Goodwin

(with additional photos from Janet Williams)

'From the Scalpel to the Sword' by John Rennie

I have been asked to write a brief introduction as I join the Mid Test team and serve in the churches of the benefice.

A year ago, I retired as vicar of the Dever benefice and moved to Longstock. Previously, we had served in a 15-parish benefice in Dorset for 13 years and enjoyed rural ministry - a great contrast with our lively inner city London church where we had brought up our four children.

So, serving now in Hampshire and wielding the 'sword of the spirit' which is the Word of God, I have moved from my previous profession of surgery where I wielded a scalpel.

The London teaching hospital environment was always a challenge with students constantly holding consultants to account for their decisions and actions. I miss the teamwork in surgery but did enjoy the introduction of keyhole surgery which has been of such benefit to patients.

I have always had an interest in overseas surgery especially in India and Africa, setting up surgical training for 'non surgeons' in Ethiopia, Uganda and Ghana as the numbers of trained surgeons in those countries was so low.

My wife, Sheelagh, and I enjoy good music, theatre and opera. We sail regularly and I play a modest round of golf.

Church News

St Mary's Longstock



The Church/Churchyard Spring Clean on Sat 1 April at St Mary took place with a small, but dedicated group who cleaned cobwebs, polished pews and tidied the bell tower. Outside, the volunteers removed ivy and weeded graves and spruced things up. The church was clean and tidy ready for Easter. A big thankyou to all who helped.

The Good Friday walk started at 10.30am from the Lych Gate, St Mary. 35 eager walkers climbed over and round the gate to start and then enjoyed the perfect weather, walking along the River Test which looked magnificent. We had eight readings, four from the bible with accounts of the trial and crucifixion.



Four other readings were from 'The things He carried' by Stephen Cottrell which reminded us all of the human suffering of Jesus.

The sun shone and such lovely weather made the event really special. We left, thoughtful, yet uplifted by the sacrifice made for us.

The Easter Day Service was led by Rev'd Dr John Rennie and was a moving start to Easter. The Church was decorated beautifully, thanks to Boo Milne and her team. The children enjoyed the Easter egg hunt after the service.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is to take place on 25 April. As this article is written before then, the outcome will be reported in the June magazine.

St Mary at Longstock will host the Benefice Ascension Day service on 18 May at 7.30pm. The newly-elected PCCs will be commissioned at this service. All are welcome.

Pentecost is 28 May, but sadly, St Mary does not have a service for this event. However, there are plenty of choices should you wish to take part in a service: 8am Holy Communion at Bossington; 9.30am Parish Eucharist at Houghton; 11am Parish Eucharist at Mottisfont or 11am Morning Worship at Stockbridge.



The Good Friday walk beside the River Test in glorious sunshine.

The village community was very saddened by the death of Margaret Taylor, in March, from a road accident. She was an integral part of the community, loved her family and friends and was always ready to help, whether at the village hall, fête or for other functions. She was a key member of the team which provide Longstock Soup and Sandwiches and she will be much missed, not only by her daughters and grandchildren, but by her many friends and neighbours.

Her funeral will be at 3pm on Friday 3 May, at St Mary's Church, with the wake taking place at Longstock Village Hall after the service.

Sadly, I also have to report the death of Ada Rogers who died on 19 April at the Countess of Brecknock Hospice. Ada was without doubt one of the most stoic souls – she managed with rheumatoid arthritis for many, many years and coped on her own after her husband, Peter, died in 2011. Ada was another long-term member of the Longstock Community, a loyal supporter of the church and a keen member of the Garden Club. She will be much missed.

Services for May at St Mary, Longstock.

| | | |
|----------|------------|----------------------------------|
| 3 May | 3.00pm | Funeral for Margaret Taylor |
| 7 May | 9.30am | All Age Worship |
| 4 May | 9.30am | Parish Eucharist |
| 18 May | 7.30pm | Ascension Day Service (Thursday) |
| 21 May | 9.30am | Morning Worship |
| 23 April | No Service | |

If you have any questions on 'the news', please contact Maddie on 810284 or email mjh723@btinternet.com

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

Maddie Hedley

Church News

St Peter's and Old St Peter's Stockbridge



April was the month of daffodils, primroses and early blossoms. On the first Sunday of the month, our churches celebrated Palm Sunday, leading into Holy Week. Our Rector Phill conducted a moving service on Maundy Thursday during which we remembered the Last Supper. At the end of the service in St Peter's, all the 'furnishings' (crosses, candlesticks, altar-cloths and other decorative items) were removed by the congregation in silence so that the church became an empty space. There was a short meditation at the back of the church sitting around a representation of the Garden of Gethemane (made beautifully by Angela McMeekin) with a candle lit for each disciple and then we moved outside and Phill closed the door of the church. Those who attended the service on Good Friday saw only a large, rough-hewn wooden cross at the altar as they venerated the crucified Christ.

Easter Sunday was a beautiful day and both our churches had been transformed by all our talented flower arrangers as well as Micki Nadal's wall-display of the Easter message proclaimed in 19 languages. An early morning vigil was held at Old St Peter's followed by a liturgy to celebrate the risen Christ (see page 28), and the Easter Eucharist in St Peter's, led by Team Minister Sue Kipling, was joyful and very well attended.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Arch and lantern have finally been installed over the entrance gate of St Peter's. It was designed by Kim Candler as a copy of the original arch and fabricated by the blacksmith, Philip Grob. Many thanks are due to Sally Milligan who initiated the project and to the many people who contributed to its funding.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish of St Peter's and Old St Peter's took place on Wednesday 12th April in St Peter's Church. Phill led the meeting with a prayer and then an outline of the agenda. As Church Warden, David Williams started his report by emphasising 'that we have two overriding obligations as a Parish; firstly we have two church buildings to care for and maintain (unlike most other parishes) which inevitably means higher costs; and secondly, for our share of the Common Mission Fund which is managed by the Diocese principally for the support of the clergy, we are required to contribute almost £34,000 annually.

Set against these two givens, we are beholden to the congregation for their donations and to the wider Stockbridge community for their support in fund-raising events.' He added that the PCC was committed to maintaining both churches, each serving the community in its own way, and that the Parish had been well rewarded with the incumbency of Phill as Rector who has now developed a strong team around him. A Benefice Administrator, Lois Opperman, has now been appointed which will free up time for the Rector to do more pastoral work. David also paid tribute to Patrick Melville, whose joyful and inspiring services bring many children into St Peter's.

He then expressed his great appreciation to the PCC, which supports him as Church Warden and has taken on some of his responsibilities, and to all the many people who help in a voluntary way to support the services, the buildings and the fund-raising events, including Dawn Williams for her music, Barbara North for having continued as Treasurer until handing over to Jean Farnan this year, and to Micki Nadal for being Secretary to the PCC and for raising money from the Church Mouse books. He also praised the Editorial Team, contributors and distributors of the excellent Parish Magazine which is always well-received and helps to keep the Church at the heart of the community.

In his report on the fabric of the two churches, David paid special tribute to Robin Colenso who has taken on a large share of the duties involved. He also acknowledged that a recent attempt to 'fix' the path of Old St Peter's to enable access to those in wheelchairs or using walking aids, had failed. The plan is now to remove all the stones as soon as possible so that everyone would be able to reach the church on the firm base.

A full copy of the Parish Report, which includes a comprehensive ministry report by the Rector, can be found at the back of St Peter's Church.

Monica Robinson, known to so many, sadly died recently. Monica was a Roman Catholic but her funeral was held in St Peter's Church on April 5th due to the large number of people attending who could not be accommodated in St Thomas More. Catherine Robathan's funeral was also held in St Peter's on April 13th. Condolences were offered to both families. A Thanksgiving Service for the life of Harry Vialou-Clarke was held on April 20th to a large congregation of family and friends who had known him through the years.

Looking Ahead

May 6th sees the Coronation of King Charles. Due to the Big Party being held on Sunday 7th for all of Stockbridge, there will be no teas in the church that day.

Janet Williams

Church News

From the Area Dean

The Coronation of King Charles III will be a special moment in the life of our nation. The Coronation Service will take place on Saturday 6th May 2023 at Westminster Abbey, conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The ceremony is rooted in a tradition that can be traced back to 973 and the coronation of King Edgar by St Dunstan but will also reflect the way the monarchy continues to evolve and the rôle of the King.

Throughout the Coronation Weekend, themes of community life, volunteering and service will be highlighted and celebrated. I know that around the Deanery there will be lots of activities. The afternoon of Sunday 7th May has been labelled 'The Big Lunch' – several places in Romsey Deanery are organising Street Parties and Picnic Lunches. On Monday 8th May, it is the turn of 'The Big Help Out' – a chance to volunteer and help with a local organisation (on a trial basis!).

A prayer, suitable for the Coronation:

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles, and all who are in authority under him; that they may order all things in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace, to the honour of your name, and the good of your Church and people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Your Area Dean, James

Rev'd James Pitkin - romseyareadean@gmail.com

The Column for April

There were no baptisms or weddings in April

Funerals

5 April : The funeral for Monica Robinson took place at 10.30am at St Peter's Church, with a Catholic Funeral Mass.

13 April : The funeral for Catherine Robathan took place at 10.00am at St Peter's Church.

20 April : The Thanksgiving service for Harry Vialou-Clark took place at 2.00pm at St Peter's Church.

The funeral for Margaret Taylor will take place at 3.00pm at St Mary's Church, Longstock on Wednesday 3 May 2023. Remembering Margaret's life after the funeral, at Longstock Village Hall.

Hampshire Downs RC Parish St Thomas More

Services are held on Sundays at 9.00am

May Services for

Stockbridge, Longstock and Leckford

7th May Easter 5

08.00 **Leckford** Holy Communion BCP

09.30 **Longstock** All Age Worship

11.00 **Stockbridge** Parish Eucharist

14th May Easter 6

08.00 **Old St Peter** Holy Communion

09.30 **Longstock** Parish Eucharist

11.00 **Stockbridge** All Age Service

18th May Ascension Day

19.30 **Longstock** Ascension Day and PCC
Commissioning

21st May Easter 7

09.30 **Longstock** Morning Worship

11.00 **Stockbridge** Parish Eucharist

18.00 **Leckford** Evensong

24th May Wednesday

10.00 **Old St Peter** Holy Communion

28th May Pentecost

11.00 **Stockbridge** Morning Worship

Prayer for May

Thank you Lord, for Easter, for the new Creation, For the time of renewal, growth and preparation.

Lord, we feel so much sorrow for the damage we do, the war-torn countries, the lust for power driving the fighting, the bombing and creating terror for those who live in warzones. For the way we treat your creation, taking, rather than tending.

So, Father, help us to find the pathways to peace and reconciliation, to nurturing the environment rather than plundering.

At the end of May we look forward to Pentecost, the coming of the Spirit. Open our hearts, Lord, to your Spirit and help us to become your disciples, working for your Kingdom.

Lord, help us to seek the lost, befriend the lonely and be happy in serving you, as you have served us.
Amen



THE HUB

Hairstyling in Stockbridge
We care about hair

Hair is the primary adornment of a person, an expression of their personality, style and feelings.

LA BIOSMETIQUE
PARIS

PREMIER HAIR SALON

Tel 01264 810139 www.thehubstockbridge.co.uk
Old London Road Stockbridge SO20 6EJ

The Fix-it


HANDYMAN

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Plumbing | Electrics | General Carpentry | Painting and Decorating
Garden Maintenance | Power Wash | Tiling | Flat Pack Assembly
TV Brackets | Curtains | Blinds | Mirrors ...and all your DIY requirements

*A fully insured, friendly & reliable service....
always happy to finish off those little jobs that no-one else wants!*

Call Glenn 07585 112523
Email glenncurtis@outlook.com





“For Now And Whenever You Need Us”

- Wills/Probate/Trust & Tax Advice/Powers of Attorney/
Elderly Care Advice
- Conveyancing – Sales & Purchases
- Divorce/Separation/Children Matters/Financial Settlements
- Employment Law/Settlement Agreements
- Contract Litigation • Will & Property Disputes
- Care Fee Advice • Personal Injury
- Business & Commercial Matters
- Road Traffic Offences • Debt Recovery

CALL US NOW ON 01264 353411

bsandi.co.uk
Email: info@bsandi.co.uk
32 High Street, Andover SP10 1NT


FEATHERSTONE'S ENGLISH FLOWER CO.

Featherstone's English Flower Co. is a sustainable flower farm and florist in Nether Wallop, offering a full floristry service, events and workshops.

Natural, compostable and reusable methods are used to create beautiful arrangements with an organic style.

**Bouquets • Events • Weddings • Funerals
• Pick Your Own • Workshops • Flower Club • Subscriptions • Buckets of Blooms**

www.featherstoneflowers.co.uk
[@featherstoneflowers](https://twitter.com/featherstoneflowers)
01264 302980



ARBOR-CALL TREE SURGEONS

- All Aspects of Tree Maintenance
- Hedge Cutting
- Stump Removal
- Tree Surveys & Reports
- Planning Advice & Applications
- Log Supply & Delivery
- Fully qualified & insured

01264 303303
enquiries@arborcall.co.uk
www.arborcall.co.uk





