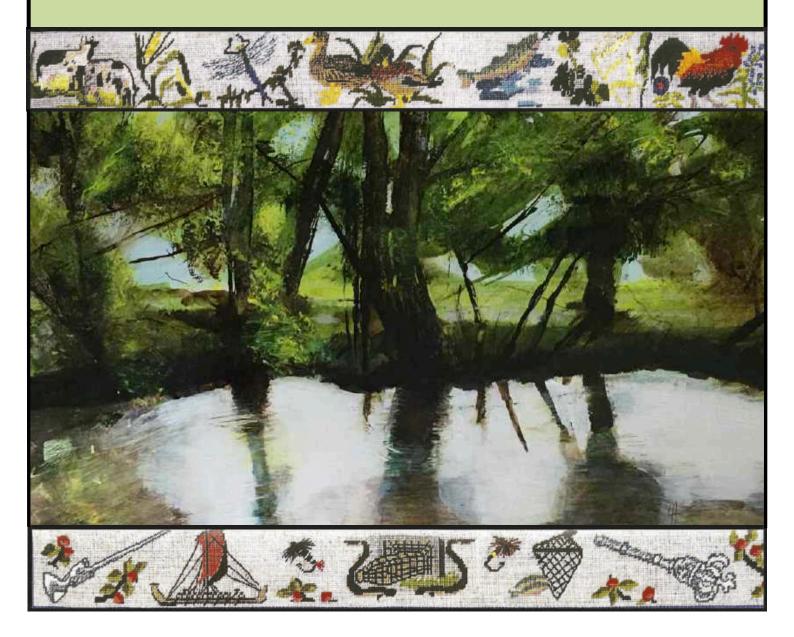


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The Parish Magazine for

STOCKBRIDGE LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD

August 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 or revdphilipbowden@gmail.com Website: http://www.2day.ws/stockbridge All Enquiries, including enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals: Please contact our Rector (see details above)

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Chris Reynell	810569	Vacancy		Chair: Derek Halle	
Bell ringers (Stockbridge)		RBL (Houghton branch)		Derek@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk	
Micki Nadal	810567	David Williams (Chair)	811072	Clerk: Belinda Baker	07770 406607
Brownies (meet in Chilbolton)		New Secretary to be appointed		clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org	
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Church Mouse Books		Scouts		Stockbridge Police Station	
Micki Nadal	810567	Mark Lovell 07	786 435847	(Non emergencies)	101
Cub Scouts		Scout Group Explore	rs	Stockbridge Primar	y /Pre School
Mo Collins	01256 895534	Andrea Zanchi 07	747 720735	Emma Jefferies (Hea	d) 810550
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Cllr David Drew	357024	St Thomas More Chu	rch	Dave Webb (Chair)	810819
mob 07738 289902		Father Mark Hogan 01962 852804		Stuart Mawson(Sec)	07766 150055
Kent Hill Scout Hall		Stockbridge Church Flowers Sec		Stockbridge Surge	ry 810524
Leigh Dance	811074	Angela McMeekin	810236	Out of hours urgent tr	eatment /advice
Leckford Parish	Council	Stockbridge Commu	nity Cinema	Hants Doctors On Cal	l freephone 111
Dawn Williams	810724	Paul Kidd	811179	Stockbridge Town	Hall
Longstock Garde	en Club	Stockbridge Commu	nity Market	Kim Candler (Chair)	811776
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peter.r.moore@gmail.com		Stockbridge Court Leet		www.stockbridgetownhall.co.uk	
Longstock Parish Council		Guy Boney (Lord of the Manor)		or phone	513299
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Clerk: Gill Bulpitt	07763857512	Diana Tym (Bailiff)	810363	Ms Jo McKeown (Exec	. Head) 810555
Longstock Village Hall		Stockbridge Dramatic Society		Trout 'n About	
Selina Musters	810459	Mark Frank	810562	Bob Powell	01264 810966
Longstock & Leckford WI		Stockbridge Football Club		TVBC Councillor	
Sue Hill	811779	Bob Powell (Chair) 07	802 524433	Cllr Tony Ward	01794 389649
Neighbour Care 0845 0943713		Rob Blandford (Hon Sec) 07799 289756		Unity Transport (D	ial-a-Ride
Calls cost 7p/min	+network charge.	Email: stockbridgefc@ho	otmail.com	shopping bus)	356808

From the Clergy

Time off

August is the start of what I think of as 'the silly season'. Children are off school, families are spending time together, there are fewer people in the office and it is impossible to get anything much done as there will always be one person necessary to whatever you are trying to achieve who is on a beach somewhere hot.

This is a natural part of the cycle of being a human being. Following periods of hard work, the body and mind can benefit from the opportunity to rest, not worry and to heal. We each have our own preferred ways of relaxing; for some it is to travel or engage in a particular activity; for others it is to go somewhere quiet or even just take the phone off the hook!

Rest has deep biblical roots, being first instituted in the very first chapter of the Genesis – where God is described as resting after his work in creation, and from which emerges the idea of weekly sabbath rest. Elijah is described as meeting God in the silence, and Jesus himself is described in the gospels as regularly 'withdrawing from the crowd' in order to find quiet and space that he might pray and find God.

In the early centuries of the Church, the idea of retreat or the aesthetic life was exemplified by characters such as John the Baptist or Anthony of Egypt, and some of the other 'Desert Fathers' who pioneered the practice of silent isolation in order to discover the divine, and eventually gave rise to monasticism and the religious life.

People often ask me if I will be going away or having time off in the summer. To be honest, I have no plans but will be trying to create some space, some silence and some peace. Whatever you like to do with your summer break, I urge you to find some sort of rest and, in it, be open to the idea it may provide an opportunity to meet with God.

The Rev'd Philip Bowden

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Cover: The river at Goodworth Clatford, by Lesley Heslop

From the Editorial Team

Our August magazine has a theme of art and creativity. This is the month of Hampshire Opens Studio, an annual art trail where visitors can meet artists in their studios and galleries. In the week from Saturday 19th - Bank Holiday Monday 28th August, more than 290 studios, galleries, artists and art groups will be opening their doors to exhibit unique and original artwork. We have full details of local openings on page 9, and we urge you to put a note in your diaries to visit some of these studios and exhibitions - not difficult, quARTet, for instance, have an exhibition in Stockbridge Town Hall from 17-21 August.

We thought this month we should ask a local artist for an image for our front cover, and we are delighted with Lesley Heston's interpretation of 'The River at Goodworth Clatford'. Other artists also sent lovely images which we wanted to show you - they can be seen on page 13. Thank you everyone who sent us a picture to consider.

Our footers and some of our articles have been inspired by our theme. We hope our readers will be encouraged to release their own creative passion during the summer, perhaps after the spell of the quiet reflection suggested by our Rector!

Frances Candler, Jennifer Kidd and Thea Taylor

Wherwell History Group



No meeting in July or August Next meeting September 15: History of 238 Squadron by Tom England at 8pm Chilbolton Village Hall

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



Houghton WI

No meeting in August

Next meeting 18 September

Further information from Jane Anderton 01264 810928





LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD WI Tuesday 29th August

Bring and Share Supper in Longstock Mill Garden

early start 6.30pm

Please contact Sue Hill on 811779 for further details

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

Copy for Magazine

Copy date for the September Magazine: 15 August 2023

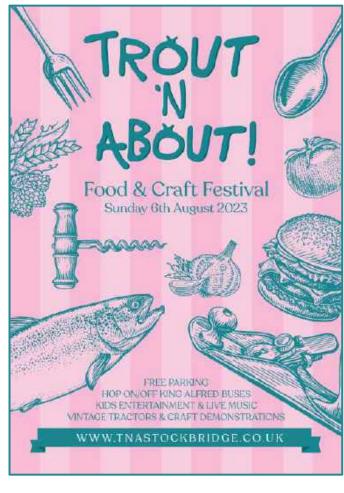
Please send emails to:

editorsstockmag@gmail.com or phone Frances Candler on 01264 811776 Jennifer Kidd on 811179 or Thea Taylor on 811101

Every child is an artist . . .



Telephone Dawn 810724 or Micki 810567



Stockbridge Flower Festival

At St Peter's Church From 25th – 28th August The theme this year is:

ANY THING GOES

Friday 25th, Saturday 26th and Monday 28th 10am – 6pm
Sunday 27th – Noon – 6pm

Teas on the Church Lawn on the

 26^{th} , 27^{th} and 28th

. . . the problem is staying an artist when you grow up. – Pablo Picasso

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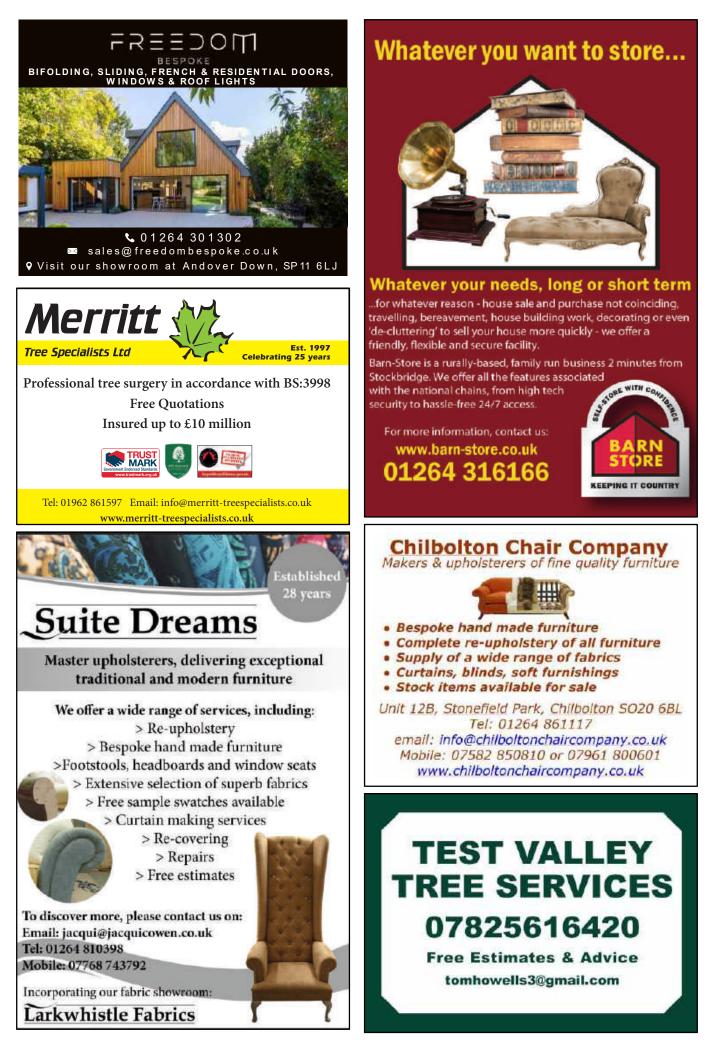
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If you hear a voice within you say, 'You cannot paint,' then by all means paint . . .

Test Villages u3a

Thursday 3 August at 2pm **Chilbolton Village Hall**

"The history of Enham - the village and the charity" Liz Cosgrove

Liz has been involved with the Enham Trust for 25 years, initially as a volunteer then working as their Community Fundraiser and is the former Volunteer Historian of the trust. Her talk is on how the village and trust has evolved since the early 1900s, from when the Enham Estate was sold, why the village became known as Enham Alamein to how the trust works today.

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

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

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

u3a provides the opportunity to socialise and learn for fun.

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



Longstock Garden Club



The Garden Club is for both experienced and inexperienced gardeners. At each meeting, there is a quest speaker, a chance to

socialise with other gardeners over tea or coffee and topical advice from experienced members.

Our next meeting in Longstock Village Hall is on October 10th when Lynda Warren will give a talk entitled A Spoonful of Herbs.

> www.longstockgardenclub.com Peter Moore 07881573493



Tickets £15 Children under 14 FREE

Tickets available from Chris Lynn- 01264 396511 Christopher.lynn36@gmail.com Tea and Lunch in a box available- PRICE on APPLICATION.





SHE SAID

Wednesday 23 August 4.30pm and 7.30pm (2hrs 9min)

Carey Mulligan and Zoe Kazan star as New York Times reporters Megan Twohey and Jodi Kantor, who together broke one of the most important stories in a generation - a story that shattered decades of silence around the subject of sexual assault in Hollywood, and impelled a shift in American culture that continues to this day..

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)



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, soups, eggs and vegetables Handmade crafts, toys, books, plants Please come along and browse Free Wi-Fi access

STOP PRESS

Stockbridge Community Market members are delighted to announce that they now have a marketdesignated card reader for non cash payments!

We are still more than happy to take cash, and have no plans to stop this, but we accept that for many, carrying cash is becoming less popular.

So, whether you prefer to stick with 'real money' or use your useful piece of plastic, we can do it. See you next Thursday!



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Painting is poetry that is seen rather than felt . . .

HAMPSHIRE open studios



Saturday 19th - Bank Holiday Monday 28th August www.hampshireopenstudios.org.uk

Hampshire Open Studios (HOS) is an annual art trail where the visiting public can meet artists in their studios and galleries. In the week leading up to Bank Holiday Monday in August, over 290 studios, galleries, artists and art groups open their doors to exhibit original artwork to the visiting public. www.hampshireopenstudios.org.uk

We have a free brochure which is widely available, and, new for 2023, you can download our free Hampshire Open Studios App to plan your days out, search by media, A-Z of artists, local maps and create a favourite wish-list to visit.

Broughton Village Artists

Group Mixed media Broughton Village Hall, High Street, Broughton, SO20 8AX *www.broughtonvillage.art* Open Sat 19, Sun 20, Tues 22, Wed 23, Thurs 24, Fri 25, Sat 26, Sun 27, Mon 28 10am – 5pm



Diane Haddon-Moore Painting, mixed media

High View, Mount Hermon Road, Palestine, SP11 7EW www.dianehaddonmoore.co.uk Open Sat 19, Sun 20, Fri 25, Sat 26, Sun 27, Mon 28 10am – 5pm

North End Studio Painting, cards, jewellery North End Cottages, North End Broughton, SO20

AN www.vpjewellery.co.uk Open Sat 19, Sun 20, Tues 22, Wed 23, Thurs 24, Fri 25, Sat 26, Sun 27, Mon 28 10am – 5pm

QuARTet & Challenge Group (6 artists)

Mixed media, quilting, embroidery Stockbridge Town Hall, High Street, Stockbridge SO20 6HE



www.qu-art-et.co.uk Open Sat 19, Sun 20, Tues 22, Wed 23 11am – 5pm

Roake Farm Studio Paintings, mixed media

www.annart.co.uk

Roake Farm Studio, Horsebridge Road, Broughton SO20 8BA

Open Sat 19, Sun 20, Wed 23, Sat 26, Sun 27, Mon 28 11am – 4pm



Renate West Acrylic painting Stockbridge Town Hall, High Street, Stockbridge SO20 6HE www.renatewest.com Open Sat 19, Sun 20, Tues 22, Wed 23 10am – 5pm

Sarah Seymour Painting

Morecroft, Muss Lane, King's Somborne, SO20 6PE Open all week, 10am-5pm (except Sundays from 12pm)

Sue Hyslop Painting, watercolour

Army Flying Museum, Middle Wallop, SO20 8FB Open Sat 19, Sun 20 10am – 4.30pm

Zoe Wilson Stonecarving, prints

Houghton Lodge Gardens, North Houghton SO20 6LQ https:zoewilsoncarving.com/ Open Sat 19, Sun 20, Mon 21, Wed 23, Fri 25, Sat 26, Sun 27, Mon 28 11am – 4pm



Full artist listings, mini-trail suggestions and maps to help guide you around are all available on our website

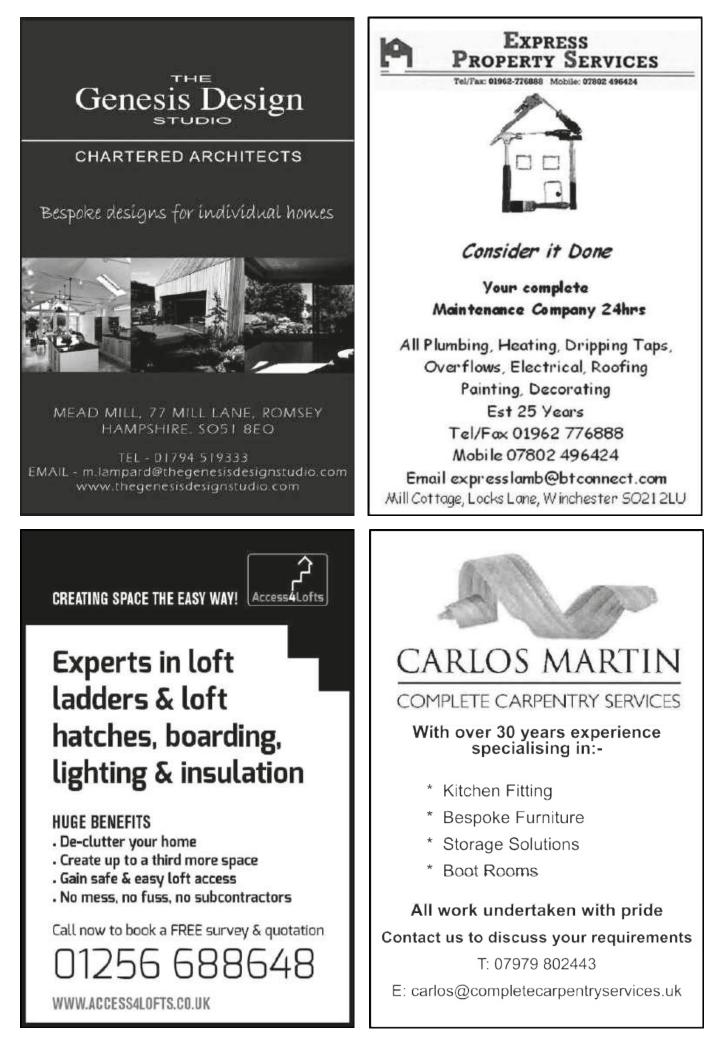
www.hampshireopenstudios.org.uk

Twitter @hantsopenstudio

Instagram & Facebook @hantsopenstudio

For further information please contact Lesley Self, email: *hampshireopenstudios@gmail.com*





Art washes away from the soul . . .



Holidays

Just a reminder that our GPs and Nurses will be having holidays over the coming two months.

This may mean you have to wait longer to see your preferred GP or for forms to be completed.

If you have an urgent need you can be seen by our duty GP on the day team.

Ticks

We are finding an increasing number of patients contacting us regarding tick bites.

You can remove a tick yourself using tweezers or a tick removal device available from a local chemist. You do not routinely need a blood test.

You should contact the surgery if you have:

- a pink or red rash
- a temperature of 38°C (100.4°F) or above
- other <u>flu-like symptoms</u>, like a <u>headache</u> or joint pain
- swollen lymph nodes

Blue Badges

A Blue Badge is only issued to people who have considerable difficulty walking due to a disability or medical condition which will last for more than 3 years. We are able to provide a summary of your medical conditions to assist you in completion of the form. Please only request a blue badge if you have a long term, relevant medical condition which impacts on your ability to walk.

Hearing Tests

Adult patients can now self-refer for a hearing test. This can be done by calling 01962 824437 or emailing *Audiology@hhft.nhs.uk*.

Dispensary

Our dispensary team is currently experiencing staff shortages. Please can we ask that you give one week's notice when putting in repeat prescription requests e.g. if you request your medication on Wednesday our aim is that you will be able to collect on the following Wednesday.

If you have a query regarding your medication please email *hiowicb-hsi.stockbridgedispensary@nhs.net* or call 01264 810524 (and press number 2 when prompted) between 9-10am or 2-3pm on weekdays. Outside of these times, we will take your query and get back to you.

> Ann Spooner Practice Manager



StockbridgeUkraine

continues to fundraise for Humanitarian Aid. This year we have donated 13 generators to hospitals, schools and

the front line. We have sent vital first aid dressings and clothes for soldiers and have supported a Ukrainian surgeon who is raising money to fix cars evacuating solders from the front line to his makeshift theatre in an abandoned home.

FLOAT

With close to 6000 military and civilians in Ukraine having lost limbs in this war, Ukraine needs urgent help to provide support to them. Since their prospects are dramatically improved with an earlier and integrated approach to rehabilitation, there is no time to lose. Alex Lewis has taken up the challenge through the project FLOAT, *see https://www.alex-lewis.co.uk/events-expeditions/build-back-better/* An Auction evening held on 24th June in aid FLOAT raised an incredible £12,665. Together with donations and ticket sales, over £20,000 was given directly to Alex. Our thanks to all who supported the evening by donating prizes, organising the event and by taking part.

The Omega Drone Club

More recently, following a request from a commander on the front line for desperately-needed drones, a sister group has been set up, The Omega Drone Club. Omega has already sent

five drones to save Ukrainian



Drone Kit The drone is controlled using a mobile phone

lives on the front line, a further ^{using a mobile pho} four to be sent in the next week and more in the pipeline. An interested audience attended a short briefing on the project and a demonstration on 12 July. If you'd like to know more about this work, please email *omega.drone.club@gmail.com*.

Donations

You can make donations for any of these projects by sending a cheque to us via Mark Frank, Birch Cottage, High Street, Stockbridge, Hampshire, SO20 6EU. Cheques payable to:`Stockbridge Ukraine' or BACS to Lloyds Bank, sort code 30-98-97 A/C No. 79874662. Please reference with your particular area of interest, e.g. Float (for prosthetics), Omega (for drones), Humanitarian (for various humanitarian requests we get from time to time).

We are not a registered charity and are run entirely by like-minded volunteers. Everything we purchase with your donations can be traced right through. You can be assured your money will be well spent to support Ukrainians and with absolutely minimal administrative costs and we will keep you up-to-date as to how your donation has been spent. *StockbridgeUkraine*



Stockbridge Primary and Pre-School News

I do hope you're all enjoying a lovely summer; mine has been spent

enjoying every last moment of sunshine and warmth in my new garden and transforming a barren large garden into a usable, productive, pretty wildlife-friendly place. Our school children are on holiday for the month of August and it's funny to look back in the school logbooks to previous years when other holidays are granted for 'blackberry picking' or hay baling or, in this lovely entry from July 12th 1899, 'Foresters and friendly society fete' or another entry dated Oct 1st – 12th 1945 when the school had been closed for the 'potato lifting period'.

12th Monday being the Foresters and Friendly Society; Fete a holiday was given and school reasonable on These day morning June 18 th. Bane on Physics Lessen in The Katter Whis afternoon

Botton 12 13th Los at aloud for potato lifting person

This year, we're encouraging the children to send us postcards from all the weird and wonderful places they visit on holiday – we're hoping to get one from each continent! If you are visiting farther afield and have a moment, we'd love to receive a postcard from the far-flung corners please – we were gifted a huge map of the world a few years ago and we'll be mounting it in the school hall for the autumn term to develop our sense of the geography of the world – children are fascinated by new places, people and cultures.

Building 'cultural capital' was a phrase coined by the current Ofsted HMCI Amanda Spielman when she reviewed and renewed the current Ofsted framework, and it is something we are absolutely committed to here in school. We cannot and must not, especially in the current financial climate, take for granted that every child in our care has rich experiences that build their understanding of the world around them and the different cultures and approaches of a modern Britain. Building cultural capital means, to us, ensuring children have the opportunity to experience the broadest range of activities, to meet different people and to consider, as a result, their place in society so that they may be better citizens. It means them having the confidence to approach people kindly; to expose them to things that challenge their perception of the world and to give fair and balanced views on topics that they may later want to engage with.

We took our Year 3 children to Bath as part of their Romans topic in the summer term. We could have taken a coach or minibus and that would have probably got us there a little quicker but instead,

we chose to travel by train. Of the 20 children in this year group, almost half had never had that experience and they would admit to being nervous in the build-up - however, we had a ball! The train journey was fun, we played good old-fashioned car and travel games and enjoyed time with friends and staff. We showed them key features of the train station; how to use the map to check you get the right train, who the guards and staff were and how they could summon help in case of an emergency. They learned about the yellow line and distance from the track and the information boards and ticket office too. This was all before we'd even left Salisbury station!! The Roman Baths, coping with tourist hoards and enjoying the entertainment from street musicians was all part and parcel of our day too and we returned tired but happy and all super-confident in doing something similar in future.

If I could count the amount of cultural capital built here in just one day, I'd be rich!

To reiterate, if anyone is travelling to anywhere vaguely off the usual holiday routes, we'd love a postcard, please!

Happy holidays.

Emma Jefferies Headteacher

Nicole Carrel MA, Dip ABRSM, MISM Piano and Classical Guitar Lessons



Now based in Nether Wallop and with a wealth of experience I enjoy teaching all ages, at all levels, for exams or just for pleasure!

Please contact for further information or to organise a trial lesson

07951 103 846 nicole.carrel@btinternet.com

Welcome to Meadow

MEADOW opened its doors last month and is delighted to be part of the thriving Stockbridge community. Housed in what used to be Stokes garage on the high street, and the home of British actress and theatre producer Lily Langtree, the building has been transformed into a minimalist café that is also home to a dynamic gallery, Mylo Art, showcasing works from emerging and established artists, and a curated programme of workshops and events. 'We wanted to bring the building back to life and revitalise people who walk through its doors' says founder Carrie Dunlop.

Opened by three local female entrepreneurs, inclusivity is at the heart of the trio's approach and Meadow hopes to be an innovative and inspiring meeting place for people in Stockbridge and beyond.



Meadow's ethos is one of collaboration and creativity and the roster of events includes kids' art classes, life drawing, weaving workshops,



Christmas wreath making, and seasonal supper clubs.



The café will serve delicious superfood salads with locally-sourced ingredients. The top-notch coffee is roasted locally by Moon Roast Coffee and its sparkling wines are produced by Cottonworth Vineyard four miles away. The sourdough is baked daily by Hoxton Bakehouse.

The stand out brunch menu features the 'Meadow Breakfast': smashed avocado, feta, greens, mushrooms and smoky beans; buttermilk pancakes laced with maple syrup, compote and coconut yogurt; and 'River Breakfast' of smoked salmon, herby potato rosti and poached eggs. 'At Meadow, we want

people to feel good about what they are eating and feel nourished by their experience with us' enthuses owner Laura Reynolds.

Kate Anniss, Carrie Dunlop and Laura Reynolds

Eds: We are delighted to welcome new enterprises to Stockbridge and wish Meadow every success.

Art is Alive in the Test Valley!

For our art themed issue of the magazine, we decided to approach local artists for an image of a painting for our front cover. We had a verv positive response and it was difficult to one to use.



decide which 'Longstock Water Gardens' by Fiona Forbes



As vou will have seen, we finally chose Lesley Heslop's very strong painting of 'The River at

'Danebury' by Sally Milligan

But we were very impressed with many of the other paintings and wanted to share three of our close contenders with our readers. Editors



Clarissa Russell



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01962 776010 WinchesterGP.com Winchester Chandler's Ford

Painting is easy when you don't know how -

Potting Shed Cuttings for August

'Yellow Book' gardens open this month -

Angels Folly, Fareham; Manor Farm, Wimborne; 22 Avon Avenue, Ringwood; Church House, Alton; The Homestead, Hayling Island; 'Selborne', Alton; Wheatley House, Bordon.

August always catches me by surprise; crops are growing and ripening quickly, hot days (we hope) mean more and more watering and feeding, late summer flowers start to take over and then, suddenly, cooler dawns, early morning dew and cobwebs across the marsh are signposts for autumn. This year I mean to make the most of August in the garden!

General Maintenance

Holiday advice for last month is really important for August, especially for those of us with containers, hanging baskets, greenhouses, vegetable plots or allotments. Compost will dry out quickly and crops become very greedy and will either need a kind friend or a drip-feed watering system to keep plants watered and fed. Crops will need to be picked and flowers dead-headed regularly too to encourage new growth.

The Flower Garden

To extend the flowering period in the flower beds some regular maintenance is needed. Staking taller perennials; deadheading annuals and perennials such as dahlias and roses; watering and feeding containers and baskets; collecting ripe seed from favourite plants; trimming back lavender and hardy geraniums, taking cuttings from penstemons, pelargoniums and fuchsias and dividing plants which have outgrown their spaces all take time but keep the garden colourful and tidy and will provide us with replacement plants for next year. Lily, colchicum, daffodil and narcissi bulbs can be planted from this month onwards but leave tulip bulbs for a few months.

The Vegetable Garden

Take out the tops of outdoor tomatoes this month as there will be insufficient time for new fruits to ripen. Harvest onion crops if they are ready; dry them out thoroughly before storing. If the weather is wet, dry them in a greenhouse or shed or under plastic sheeting. A simple square wooden frame with chickenwire fixed across the top is an effective drying tray, with dried soil falling through. Harvesting crops becomes a priority this month but planning for future crops is equally important; sow Japanese onion seeds or plant sets for early summer use next year; sow the last of the salad crops for this year and continue sowing spring cabbages and early, fast-growing varieties of peas, carrots and turnips, which may well have enough time to mature.



The Fruit Garden

Check strawberry runners pinned down earlier in the year and pot up or plant out the rooted plants. If summer-fruiting raspberries are finished, cut out the canes which have fruited and tie in new shoots. Prune gooseberries and redcurrant bushes, cutting back side shoots by about half. Blackcurrants can be pruned simply by cutting the whole fruiting stem and stripping off the fruit in comfort. Trained fruit trees and bushes should be pruned before the end of the month if possible.

The Lawn

Continue a regular mowing programme, although if August is hot and dry, blades should be raised and mowing decreased; consider leaving grass clippings on the lawn as mulch in very dry conditions.

Planting for Christmas

Treated hyacinth bulbs will be appearing in garden centres this month and can be planted and forced for Christmas if potted up this month. Choose large, solid bulbs with no damage. A small amount of crushed charcoal can be added to the bottom of bowls with no drainage holes to keep water sweet. Narcissi for Christmas take less time and can be planted next month.

Micki Nadal

British Art Treasures Girl with Balloon – Bansky



In 2002, graffiti artist Banksy began a series of stencil murals called '*Girl with Balloon'* depicting a

little girl reaching out for a red heart-shaped balloon being swept away by the wind. Street murals were located variously around London though none are now visible.

In 2018, at a Sotheby's auction, a framed replica of the work mysteriously shredded itself thanks to a hidden mechanism. The artist admitted responsibility for the destruction and retitled his work '*Love is in the Bin'* to reflect the change. As Sotheby's put it, 'the first work in history ever made during a live auction.'

I was a Stockbridge Firefighter 50 years ago - Part 3

We conclude with Geoff Merritt's memories of his time served as a volunteer firefighter in Stockbridge.



Over the coming years I was to attend 'shouts' to aeroplanes, helicopters, bomb hoaxes, train derailments, road traffic incidents (or as they were known then 'road traffic accidents'), house fires, including many of them thatched, bus and coach fires, chemical, chimney fires, barns, caravans, combine harvesters, churches, factories, garages, pubs, hedges, schools, stables, shops, hay ricks, stubble and corn

field fires. Others that were classified as special services, included a cat down a well, a horse stuck in a cattle grid, another stuck in a swamp, a cow stuck in a cess pit and another on a roof of a barn and an owl stuck in a chimney. We were often sent off our patch to assist nearby stations and over the border to assist the Salisbury fire crew.

In January 1990 we attended the Test Valley School during 100 mph winds to tie and make safe the roof of the gymnasium. A huge part had blown off ending up inside a temporary classroom and injuring three children inside who were smothered in flying glass fragments. Also we once attended Winchester prison when an inmate set fire to his bedding. One of the biggest blazes I attended was in Vears Lane, Colden Common, when a tyre dump in a disused clay pit caught fire. It was estimated that the dump extended some thirty-feet upwards out of the deep pit and that between 65,000 and 70,000 tons of tyres caught alight, with, at one point, 68 fire engines in attendance to put out the blaze. The fire-crews remained on site for 15 days in February 1974, damping down.

There were to be many very sad turnouts especially to fatal road collisions. Once we were called out to attend to two racehorses killed at Chattis Hill in 1974 when they were hit from behind by a Land Rover. One of the horses 'The Ghost' was entered in the Grand National that year, the other was 'Indaba' owned by Sir Gordon Richards son-in-law. Luckily the two riders were only shocked and bruised. Sadly 17 dogs died in a fire at the Ambergate Kennels at Hollom Down Road, Lopcombe. Deaths also occurred at the Wallop Fireworks Factory. I was by now familiar with using the fire engine's radio which involved keeping Winchester control informed that we were either mobile, telling them how many riders we had and who was in charge, (sometimes, being the senior member, I was the officer in charge), sending back stop messages, or requesting more pumps to help and finally when we closed down at the station after the shout. This was a daunting experience at first, because when you pressed the button on the radio phone to speak you silenced the rest of the Hampshire Fire Service, and everyone could hear you.

In June 1976, after four years service, I was to pass a pump operator's course at Eastleigh Fire Station. Just after that, we attended a huge fire at Rookwood joinery timber yard in Andover, with exploding gas cylinders sounding like bombs going off. I was ordered to stand on the nearby bridge to watch for oncoming trains as firemen were attacking the fire with their hoses from above and were standing perilously close to the tracks. This was the only time I was required to blow the warning hooter that we kept on board the machine for occasions like this.

In 1977 I attended a funeral for a retained Andover fireman who was sadly killed when he was rushing to the town's fire station.

In September 1979 our black helmets and waterproof leggings were changed to yellow for improved visual awareness - but what a devil to keep them clean!

At times we could go for as long as three weeks without being called out, but twice I was to attend four 'shouts' in the same day! One of my worst encounters on the fire ground was at a fire at Barker and Geary's workshop in Kings Somborne. I was using a fire hose alongside sub officer Jim Perry, when a gas cylinder blew up and the blast knocked Jim off his feet. The hose he was holding was now snaking about and can do a lot of damage to one's ankles, so I knocked off the water supply to my branch and threw myself on Jim's hose and turned it off. It was only my fourth shout but I was learning!

During the 1970's, stubble-burning by local farmers would often get out of hand. I recall once, when I was beating out the flames in a field in Broughton, the wind suddenly changed and I had to wrap a scarf (kept in an inside pocket of my tunic) across my face to avoid choking from the smoke. Unfortunately, that was where I always kept my wedding ring during 'shouts' and this time I inadvertently pulled it out with my scarf and lost it.



In 1972, a new machine arrived in the Hampshire Fire Service, it was a turntable ladder and all the crew went down to Eastleigh Fire Station to view it. They asked for volunteers and I was the first one in the Stockbridge crew to ride up to the top of the 100 foot / 30.48 beast. 'I can see my girlfriend's house

from here' I told the officer with me. 'As you had a ride up' he said 'you can now walk down'. I recall that it was just like walking down a railway track as I neared the bottom.

On a daytime summons to the Fire station in September 1980, with no alerting siren, we tried improvising by using a magnetic flashing 'Fire' warning sign on our car roofs to show the public we were in a great hurry. However, this did not last long as the batteries proved to be too expensive!

I remember an occasion when there had been a huge cloudburst over the Chattis Hill racing stables where Mike Channon, the ex-Southampton and England footballer, was training his horses. As I worked alongside him brushing the huge amount of rainwater out of the stables, I noticed that he was wearing his number 18 World Cup shorts!



In September 1980, my photo was on the front page of the 'Echo', taken by freelance photographer Ed Hendry (see above). I was also there when the Fire Brigade flew their hot air balloon over Embley Wood because of communication difficulties after a 15-acre site filled with undergrowth and very tall rhododendrons caught light during a fire in a nearby building. Apparently the site used to be a maze in Florence Nightingale's time. In December 1992 we were no longer to be classed as 'firemen' but were now to be known as 'Firefighters'. After 20 years service, I was one of the first to be awarded the Queen's Long Service Medal with the word 'Firefighter' engraved on it. Recreation-wise, we were lucky enough to have a billiard table in our lecture room and I played many a game in the Test Valley Billiards League. Sadly, the table had to be removed recently to accommodate the police station into the fire station.

Humour was always a way to help us let off steam after many a 'shout'. We attended many fêtes to display and sometimes to do a couple of drills for the crowd. Small kids would scramble all over the appliance and on one occasion I asked a small boy how old he was. 'Six' he replied. I said 'You won't believe this but I was six when I was your age!'. He looked at me, bewildered.



Following a messy chimney fire 'shout' we returned to the station and I noticed that George Hoffman's tunic was very dusty so I started to brush the ash off his tunic. He said 'I feel like a film star now' and I told the others, 'Yes I am Dustin Hoffman!'

On one drill night we were informed that a new divisional officer was coming to drill us the following week who was hot on the phonetic alphabet. We were to make sure that we all knew it as he was going to test us all. As we were all stood to attention the following drill night, he walked down the line, asking each fireman for his name and to spell it out phonetically. When my turn came (I'm afraid I never think before speaking) it went like this, 'Merritt....Mike-Echo-Romeo-Romeo wherefore art thou Romeo'. He went purple and was so angry, he shouted at me 'If you were a full timer, I would have you outside and running up and down that drill tower all day!'

We held yearly Open Days to raise money for the Benevolent Fund for firefighters. One year we held a fête at the fire station which was so successful that colleague fireman, Clive Hawkins, suggested reviving the Stockbridge Carnival, which we did. Every year the fire brigade entered a float and one year we dressed up as the 'The Brigadettes', a majorette group who stopped and did several routines during the procession through the High Street. We were taught by my wife, Elaine, a former Majorette, with my twin daughters carrying the banner ahead of us. We also held a few clay pigeon shoots for the Benevolent Fund.

Continued on page 19



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If you ask me what I came to do in this world, I, an artist, will answer you . . .

I was a Stockbridge Firefighter (Cont'd)

I will end here because altogether during my 21 years service I attended over 1,000 'shouts' throughout the following name changes: The Hampshire Fire Service(1972-74). The Hampshire Fire Brigade (1974-92). Hampshire Fire and Rescue(1992-93).

I will be forever thankful to my employers who allowed me to just drop everything and run. Firstly at the Caravan Café, Mr and Mrs Judd, followed by Claire and Gerald Savage and to Sandra the Matron of the Winton Hill Nursing Home. For the last 18 months of my service I was employed by Royal Mail as Stockbridge's postman.



Photo by Elaine Merritt I was not allowed to drop my postbag and run so, reluctantly, I had to go on 18-hour call out duty. It was always a source of regret to me that the Fire Brigade did not thank the employers of retained firefighters enough for letting their employees free to leave their employment and go.

Geoff Merritt

Thank you Geoff for sharing your memories with us. Editors

British Art Treasures Whistlejacket – George Stubbs



George Stubbs (1724 - 1806) painted what is possibly the most famous horse portrait in history. Unlike most painters of the time, he taught himself by studying the works of other artists. He produced numerous depictions of horses in a wide variety of settings and

behaviors, demonstrating his keen interest in, and anatomical knowledge of, the subject.

The 1762 painting was created on a practically life-sized canvas with a solid background; the Marquess of Rockingham's favorite racehorse was model. *Whistlejacket* hangs in the National Gallery in London and is widely regarded as one of the finest examples of Western equine art.

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. . . I am here to live out loud. - Émile Zola

Golden Wedding Anniversary in Longstock

We love to celebrate weddings and anniversaries and especially a 50 year wedding anniversary. On behalf of us all, Maddie Hedley writes :

'Congratulations to John and Selina Musters as they celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary. They were married in St Mary's Longstock, on 28th July 1973 and the reception was held at Selina's childhood home, Longstock Mill. John and Selina spent eight nomadic years with John's naval career before settling permanently at the Mill at the end of 1981.'



A lovely picture from the wedding day.

With a little prompting Selina remembered the detail behind the creation of her beautiful dress :

'I made the dress from inherited old family lace, which none of my older cousins had wanted, and the somewhat curious headdress was designed to avoid cutting the lace in case any as yet unborn descendants might want to remake the dress and use the long strip that I used for the headdress! My mother and I spent many exhausting hours trawling shops in several cities to find a suitable fabric for the underskirts and the bodice that didn't make the lace look tawdry.

Then the arch: my mother was rather shocked as we all came out of the church, to hear a loud clashing as the swords were withdrawn from scabbards; one of the arch was stuck in traffic by Stonehenge (some things never change!) so there were seven instead of eight, which worked fine because one was on the outside of a curving arch.

It's fun remembering lots of details... '

Congratulations to John and Selina from all at the Parish Mag. We hope you enjoyed very happy celebrations.

British Art Treasures The Lady of Shalott – John W. Waterhouse



This 1888 painting shows the conclusion of the 1832 poem of the same name by Alfred, Lord Tennyson. It depicts a scene in which the poet describes the

plight and predicament of a young woman (loosely based on Elaine of Astolat from medieval Arthurian legend) who yearned with unrequited love for Sir Lancelot from cursed isolation in a tower above King Arthur's Camelot.

Waterhouse was painting decades after the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood disbanded but he reprised much of their style in this famous work. *The Lady of Shalott* hangs in Tate Britain in London.

British Art Treasures The Hay Wain – John Constable

Constable (1776 - 1837) was one of the most



famous artists of the Romantic tradition. Trees and expansive landscapes were frequent subjects of his works. *The Hay Wain* was finished in 1821. The

farmer in the painting is seen crossing the River Stour with his horse-drawn wagon in the rural areas straddling the border between Suffolk and Essex, the area surrounding the artist's home ('Constable Country') about which he said 'I should paint my own places best; painting is but another word for feeling'.

The painting is in London's National Gallery.



"Don't think about making art, just get it done. Let everyone else decide if it's good or bad, whether they love it or hate it. While they are deciding, make even more art." Andy Warhol

It took me four years to paint like Raphael . . .



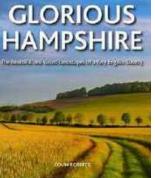
Notes from a Bookseller Great summer reading at home and abroad



For those planning a 'staycation' this summer, we have some great guides at The Bookmark for holiday-makers and explorers keeping it local.

These include a selection of walking guides: 'Hampshire's Test Way', '50 Walks in Hampshire & the Isle of Wight', 'Hampshire and The New Forest Pub Walks' and 'Outstanding Circular Walks of the New Forest, Hampshire and the South Downs', to name a few! OS Explorer maps of south-central England are available too so get your walking boots on! And if you want to impress your fellow travellers with inside knowledge, how about reading Rachel Hewitt's biography of the Ordnance Survey, *`Map of a Nation'?*

However, if you prefer to travel from your armchair, you could view our beautiful county through the seasons via the full colour photographs of 'Glorious Hampshire' by Colin Roberts. Or, for curious readers who enjoy a different slant on travel, 'Unofficial Britain' by



Gareth E. Rees takes us on a tour of some unusual and unexpected aspects of Britain's urban landscapes and 'The Stopping Places' by Damian Le Bas looks at Britain through the cross-country routes of the Romany gypsy community. Also, in Amy Jeff's 'Storyland', we travel into medieval Britain through the re-telling of myths and legends of the land. There's really so much to explore.

We have an ever-growing selection of books on wild camping, camp-cooking and other ways of spending time outdoors: Chris Salisbury's 'Wild *Nights Out'*, Heather Thomas's '*The Camping* Cookbook', 'The Hedgerow Cookbook' by Willson and Knox, 'Wild Camping' by Stephen Neale and *`Wild Guide; Devon, Cornwall & South West'* are all great reads for inspiration and information for those who want to submerge themselves in the greener places around us.

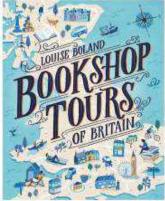
Bill Bryson's humorous and insightful look at Britain and the British can be found in his tours of the British Isles - 'Notes from a Small Island' and its sequel, 'The Road to Little Dribbling'. Raynor Winn's autobiographical trilogy takes us from the southwest coast path ('The Salt *Path'*), the Cape Wrath Trail



in Scotland ('Landlines'), and further afield to the Laugavegur Trail in Iceland ('The Wild Silence').

For the motor tourist, Tom Fort guides us into the west country with his classic 'The A303, Highway to the Sun', and if we take a short detour south, Jon Woolcott leads us on a journey throughout our near neighbour, the county of Dorset, revealing its hidden gems in 'Real Dorset'.

Once the reader has worked their way through 'Bookshop Tours of Britain' (The Bookmark, Stockbridge features on pages 297 & 299), bookish travels can be continued with the 'Inspired Traveller's Guide: Literary Places' by Sarah Baxter.



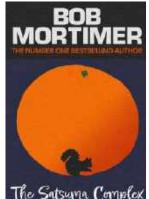
Great novels to get you

in the holiday mood or equally to enjoy at home include: Victoria Hislop's 'Cartes Postales', Santa Montefiore's 'An Italian Girl in Brooklyn' and Elif Shafak's 'The Island of Missing Trees'. Not to mention a number of top crime writers who set their books in wonderful places: Andrew Camilleri and Donna Leon (Italy), Jane Harper (Western Australia) and Alexander McColl Smith (Botswana and Edinburgh!)

New paperbacks to slip into our hand luggage: Bob

Amv

leffs

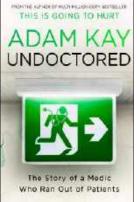


Mortimer's debut novel 'The Satsuma Complex', New York Times bestseller Celeste Ng's 'Our Missing Hearts', 'Demon Copperhead' by Barbara Kingsolver, Kamila Shamsie's 'Best of Friends', Medusa's story re-told in Natalie Haynes' 'Stone Blind'. Nonfiction in paperback: 'Wild' from

The Satsuma Complex

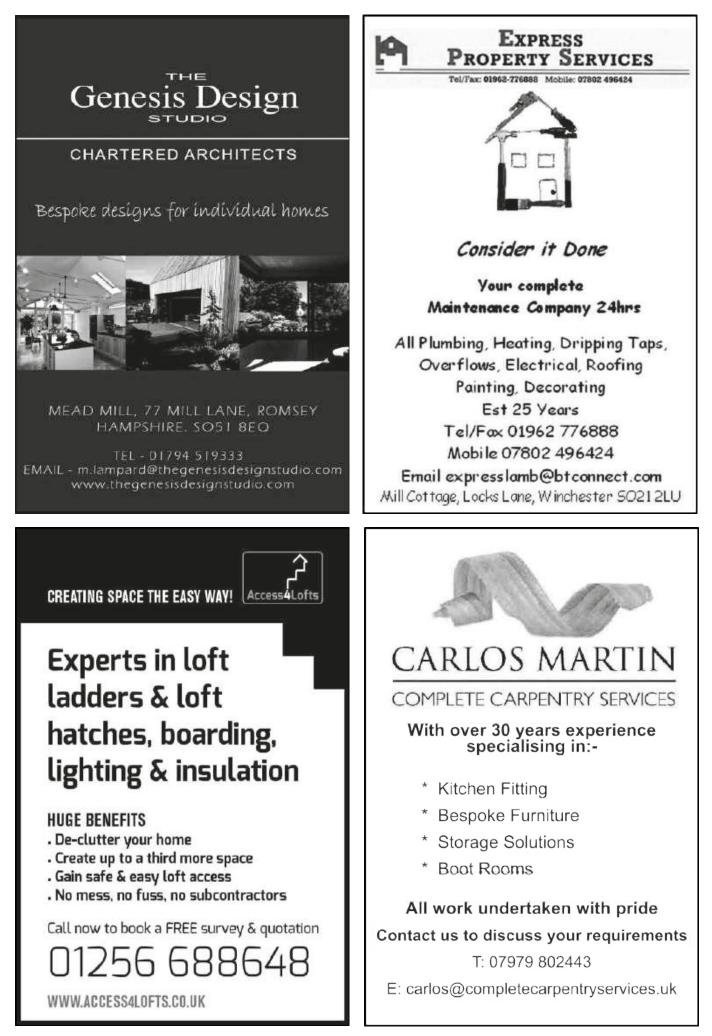
and Adam Kay's 'Undoctored'. For those unconcerned with luggage weight restrictions, in hardback there is Tim Marshall's most recent 'The Future of Geography' and Peter Frankopan's 'The Earth Transformed'.

Have a great summer of reading!



Elaine Sperber

. . . but a lifetime to paint like a child. – Pablo Picasso



The artist's world is limitless. It can be found anywhere . . .



Stockbridge Parish Council met at the Town Hall in June for the meeting. A number of residents from Old London Rd attended to query the progress on the safety measures that were proposed for the road. The Council explained that the matter was in HCC's hands and that, although a way forward had been agreed and HCC had promised it would be a quick solution (because legal permissions would not need to be applied for), the Council was yet to receive the plans. The Council promised that when these had been received they would be shared with the residents.

Stockbridge Parish Council is encouraging the Recreation Ground Trust to plan for the future. At present, the ground is open to all but is predominantly used and maintained by the football club. There is a possibility that this will need to change in the future and the Trust will be looking at alternative resources for maintenance should this be necessary in due course.

The small area of ground behind the toilets is now going to be known as Blandford Row Pocket Park and Councillors and the Clerk met with students from Sparsholt College to discuss the creation of a community garden here. The students were all tasked with coming up with 3 designs each, from the 'budget friendly' to the 'anything goes'. The students will be working on these designs in the Autumn and the plan is to be able to present them to the Council in early winter. The Council will need to reduce the number of designs, based on budget and practicality, and then present those to the community for the final decision. Sparsholt attended the Pocket Park fresh from winning Gold at Chelsea Flower Show so it is hoped that we can look forward to some inspiring designs.

HCC has announced that the 400 years of historic records that it holds are now online due to a partnership with Ancestry. The records will be available free to Hampshire residents via public libraries and Winchester's Record Office. Prominent Hampshire residents featured in the collection include Florence Nightingale, Jane Austen and Thomas Lord. Dating back to the 16th century, parish records are some of the longest-running records available and are some of the best resources to use when tracing family roots. *https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/* 20230526HistoricRecordsAncestry

HCC's new 'Live Longer Better' website is packed with useful ideas, resources, tips and information to help you in your 60's, 70's and beyond to live life to the full and keep doing what you love. 'Live Longer Better' is part of a three-year focus for the County Council and partners to support all Hampshire residents to live in good health for longer, as detailed in the recently published Public Health Strategy 2023–2026. TVBC is delighted to announce the opening of Bury Hill Meadows near Upper Clatford. The project offers a multi-user experience with breathtaking views of Test Valley and the North Wessex Downs Area of Natural Beauty. Visitors can stroll along the mown paths around the perimeter route, spanning approximately 1.3 miles, or opt for a shorter loop through the central path, which winds through the grassland and wildflower meadow. Benches have been strategically placed so that the spectacular views of the surrounding the area can be enjoyed. TVBC has worked with Andover Trees United to enhance the site's biodiversity and a new section of woodland will be planted to the south of the meadows. TVBC encourages visitors to access the site on foot or by bicycle but for those coming from further afield, there is a small car park off Red Rice Road, including disabled access spaces.

Could you foster an unaccompanied asylumseeking child and provide a loving, safe, and stable home to help transform their life? HCC is looking for people across the county who want to help make positive changes to the lives of children from other countries. There is a shortage of foster carers in Hampshire who can offer care and stability to these vulnerable children. HCC offers support and training, and excellent peer-to-peer networks. There is also a continuing need for 150 new fostering households in Hampshire by the end of 2023. If you can help, visit the 'Fostering Hampshire Children' website to find out more about fostering, upcoming events and for more information about the extensive training and support available for foster carers.

Stockbridge Parish Council will next meet on 21st September 2023 but this time in the Scout Hut behind the Grosvenor Hotel. The Council agreed to move from the Town Hall for this meeting in order to enable a more substantial booking in the Town Hall to go ahead.

> Belinda Baker clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

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Art is the only way to run away . . .



Longstock Village Fête will be on Saturday 2nd September at the usual venue of the Longstock Recreation Ground behind Charity Farm House, from 2 to 5 pm.

We extend a very warm welcome to our neighbours in Stockbridge and Leckford.

The usual stalls and popular attractions will be there including arena games, children's corner, book tent, teas, dog show, produce tent, pitch-andputt golf, tug-of-war, bottle tombola and bar. A new departure this time is a fairground organ (or more correctly a '49 Key Orchestral Organ') instead of a brass band. This should create a more traditional 'village fayre' feel to the afternoon.

The featured event in the arena will be a flying display by birds of prey, making a welcome return after some years. They will be here all afternoon, so all who wish can interact with the display team and perhaps even handle the birds.

With the birds here, anyone bringing a dog is asked please to keep it on a lead.

Grand Draw tickets are now on sale for $\pounds 1$, and will be during the fete. Prizes include $\pounds 100$ cash, dinner for two at the Peat Spade, tea and fizz for two at The Grosvenor, a dog grooming voucher, family ticket to the Army Flying Museum, food hampers and more.

The entrance fee will be $\pounds 2$, free for children under 12. For $\pounds 5$, children can buy a wrist band on entry that will allow them unlimited access to the adventure tunnel. This time, there are also an inflatable 10pin skittles alley, giant Velcro darts board and, for the very young, 'happy hoppers' and soft play.

We will again have card readers at the entrance and on some stalls so please bring a card and plenty of cash as money raised is for St Mary's Church and the playground.

John Musters





RIDE+STRIDE:

In aid of Hampshire & the Islands Historic Churches Trust

Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Ride+Stride, 9th Sept 2023

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 of the churches as you wish, between 10am and 6pm. You may cycle, walk, run, ride or drive to raise 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 or churches of your choice or donate all your sponsorship monies to the Trust.

Please take part if you can – contact your churchwarden for more information – details p2. More information : *Taking Part – Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust (hihct.org.uk)*



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Out and About with Ryan Bundy and Harvest Time

Mottisfont Abbey and Gardens



Out and about was a visit and evening walk around Mottisfont. There are loads of fantastic flowers to look at, and it is a really good place to just be able to relax and unwind. Made all the better with a hot pasty and cup of coffee.



Wallop Wheels & Wings 2023 Saturday 1st July



The Army Flying Museum's annual fundraiser, showcasing displays of classic aircraft, classic cars and motorbikes, and with a trader village with stalls selling arts, crafts and food and drink, was not to be missed. The event included some spectacular displays, including performances by the Red Arrows and the UK's advanced military aircraft such as Apache, Chinook, and others.



Aircraft that could be seen out on the Museum's field.

When I was there you could see a carpet of buttercups right across the airfield.







Harvest Time

Coming to a field near you very soon. Please remember that harvest is a very busy time of year for everyone involved in farming. Movements on the roads will be much heavier than normal. It's very easy to forget that these machine operators are coming to and from the harvest with tractors and machinery and are just trying to do their jobs. Please be patient and give them the room they need.

Ryan Bundy





. . . it is a success to be one. - Charles Horton Cooley

Open Gardens for St Peter's Church 2023 24th & 25th June

We had a very successful and happy weekend, with lots of visitors out and about enjoying themselves in the gardens or taking tea on St Peter's Church lawn.



It was hot and sunny on the Saturday; too hot for some visitors who might not have got to all the gardens but enjoyed teas

and ice cream in the village and made the most of any seats they could find in the shade. Sunday was cooler and kinder to the more intrepid garden explorers.



Visitors were rewarded with

Spitfire House came in for a lot of comment! Other

gardens made the most of

the village.

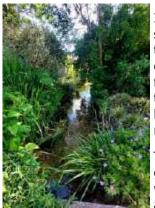
beautiful and interesting

gardens - the Spitfire at



Teas on the church lawn are always an important part of the experience and visitors were entertained by the Avebury Brass Band on Saturday, and on Sunday were serenaded by Paul, left ...





In total 318 tickets were sold and, with money from teas, £3,836 was raised over the weekend, though a few expenses will reduce the final total. A welcome boost for church funds nevertheless!

The Editors are always very grateful to the photographers who record events for us,

and this time, unusually, we have a rare photograph of them. Our thanks to Colin and Kelly Stokes, left, and to Janet Williams, sadly not pictured!





Lindy Lou's **Kitchen Recipes** & Crafty Corner

Grilled pears with Little Gem and walnuts

Pears are an amazingly underestimated fruit. They are just as good with savoury dishes as they are in a fruit salad and especially delicious if cooked with goats' or blue cheese in a puff pastry tart. This recipe is delicious with venison so, as it's summer, I serve it with venison burgers! It can be cooked inside or on the BBQ.

Serves 2 as a main course or 4 as a side dish.

Ingredients

- 100g walnuts
- 3 firm but ripe pears, guartered and cored
- 3 Little Gem lettuce hearts, cut into wedges

50a rocket

50g watercress

Juice of 1 lemon

Juice of 1 orange

4 tbsp cold-pressed rapeseed oil

Sea salt and pepper

Method

If cooking on the BBQ, start cooking once the fire has died down on a glowing heat.

If cooking inside, heat a cast-iron griddle pan over a medium heat on the hob until it's smoking hot.

Place a small frying pan over a medium heat and add the walnuts. Stir occasionally and heat until they start to release a lovely nutty aroma. Remove from the pan and allow to cool on a plate. Once cool break them into smaller pieces.

Place the pears and the Lttle Gem wedges onto the griddle or BBQ rack and cook, turning them occasionally, until they are charred on each cut side.

Place the Gems and the pears in a large bowl and add the walnuts, rocket and watercress. Trickle over the juice of the fruit and the oil and toss everything so that all are covered.

Season with salt and pepper and serve straight away.

Tips

It's also lovely with broken pieces of blue cheese added. You could use chicory instead of the Little Gems and tenderstem broccoli which can be cooked in the same way as the pears.

Linda Hotchen

No great artist ever sees things as they really are . . .

Church News

St Mary's Longstock



The Pet Service took place on Sunday 2 July at St Mary – 9.30am in the churchyard. This was great fun with 6 dogs of different breeds, but which all

behaved impeccably! The owners were pretty good as well. The weather was just right, not too hot or cold, bright and sunny and good to be outside in the churchyard.

Mark, our musician, brought his accordion and this was a wonderful way to accompany the hymns.







The 'Tea Party' on 16 July took place courtesy of Josie and John Eastwood. They kindly opened up their garden - and kitchen. Josie helped organise the proceedings

and recruited a team for sandwich making on Sunday morning. There was another sandwich maker in the village, so thank you for the delicious food. Many others helped by making cakes – we had the most wonderful selection and the bonus of scones with clotted cream and jam. Josie and John

worked very hard for the event - the garden was looking lovely and they added, inside, 2 TV's so those who wanted to see the Wimbledon final could do this with their tea. We had a great time so a big thank you to all who came, to the helpers and cake makers. The income will help balance the books.



The `leftovers'

'Soup and Sandwiches' takes place on the last Thursday of the month – if anyone would like to help by making sandwiches or cakes (ingredients supplied), please contact me (810284). If you would like to come and join us for good food and a chat, the next event is Thursday 31 August at 12.30pm in Longstock Village Hall. This is for anyone who would like company, make new friends, and catch up on what is going on.

The Church PCC meeting on 11 July agreed on things to take forward our bid for the Silver Eco Award. We are making two areas 'wildlife' friendly and agreed to contact Test Valley School to see if they would be interested in helping, particularly with a 'bug hotel'.

We would also like to place two benches at the top of the Churchyard for a place of quiet and reflection. If anyone has any garden benches they would like to donate, please phone me (810284/07884 583285).

Dates for your Diary:

2 September : 2.00pm. **Longstock Fête** at Longstock Recreation Ground. A traditional village fête with birds of prey demonstration, an oldfashioned fair organ and lots more to see and do.

9 September : Ride and Stride.

We need volunteers to cycle or walk, finding sponsors to fund this activity. Proceeds are split 50/50 with Hampshire and Island Historic Churches Trust and St Mary. You chose you own route. If you are interested phone or email for details.

10 September : St Mary's Longstock **Patronal Eucharist.**

1 October : 5.00pm. **Harvest Festival** followed at 6.00pm with Harvest Supper, possibly a hog roast.....

Services for August at St Mary, Longstock.

6 August	9.30am	All Age Worship
13 August	9.30am	Parish Eucharist
20 August	9.30am	Morning Worship
27 August	No Service	

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

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

Maddie Hedley



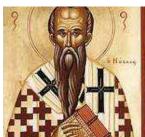
. . . If he did, he would cease to be an artist. - Oscar Wilde

Church News

St Peter's and Old St Peter's Stockbridge



Many fund-raising activities take place during this period in the year and we have been blessed with sunny weather for most of the outdoor events. The Rector and our PCC are very grateful to all those, both our regular congregation and those who are not church-goers, for their generous contributions. Gift Day envelopes have been coming in regularly and helping to secure our finances for the forthcoming year. Alison Vialou-Clark did a great job organising Open Gardens at the very end of June and, as we expected, the music provided by the Avebury Brass Band and subsequently Paul on his guitar was very popular. Enormous thanks to all those who opened their gardens for the event. Anyone who has a garden knows how much work is involved in preparing a garden for public viewing. As always, Angela McMeekin and her valiant team of helpers provided cakes and served teas on the lawn on both days, when all proceeds go towards the fund-raising effort. Thank you to everyone for supporting our two churches in this way.



On Wednesday 19th July, there was a service held in Old St Peter's. This day is when the Anglican Church remembers St Gregory of Nissa (329-391). He is one of the early church fathers who made a significant contribution to the doctrine

of the Trinity and the Nicene Creed. Gregory is revered in Christian communities everywhere and his sainthood is recognised by the Eastern Orthodox Church, the Catholic, Anglican and Lutheran Churches. He is one of a trio of Christian thinkers collectively known as the Cappadocians, because of their relationship with the extraordinary landscape of rock formations and caves in Cappodocia in Central Anatolia in Turkey. Gregory was also one of the early Christians opposed to slavery, declaring it to be inherently sinful.

A United Benefice Eucharist was held on Sunday 30th July in the lovely small 15th Century Church of St Andrew in Mottisfont. These services held in one of our Benefice churches when there is a 5th Sunday in the month are a very good opportunity to worship with others from the Benefice whom we otherwise might not meet very often.

On 6th July, the Diocese of Winchester communicated the news that the Rt Rev'd Philip Mounstephen had just been officially appointed as the new Bishop of Winchester. Bishop Philip was born in Hampshire and went to university in Southampton where he came to faith in Christ, which was a turning point in his life. He reported in a video shared on the website that 'being appointed as Bishop of Winchester has a very real sense of coming home to the place my faith was born and nurtured'. His prayer is that God will lead us together on a new adventure in serving his purposes, growing loving community and building his kingdom here in the diocese of Winchester. He is the 98th Bishop of the Winchester Diocese which covers 255 parishes, over half of them rural. It is one of the oldest dioceses, founded in the 7th century and now consisting of about two thirds of the County of Hampshire and most of Bournemouth in the County of Dorset. The Bishop of Winchester is supported by the Suffragan Bishops David of Basingstoke and Debbie of Southampton.

Looking ahead:

Sunday, August 6th is Trout 'n About so there will be no teas in the church that day.

Friday 25th - Monday 28th August is our Flower Festival for which the theme this year is 'Anything Goes'. The church will be full of wonderful displays that many of our talented residents will have designed and created. There will be teas on the lawn on Saturday 26th, Sunday 27th and Bank Holiday Monday 28th August.

Janet Williams

The Column for July

Baptisms

9 July at 2.00pm : the baptism of Mia Joy Moore at St Mary's Church, Longstock.

30 July at 2.00pm : the baptism of Leni Rae Taylor at St Peter's Church, Stockbridge.

Weddings

1 July at 4.00pm : the marriage between Kevin McArthur and Amanda Brown took place at St Nicholas Church, Leckford.

Funerals

There were no funerals in July.

Hampshire Downs RC Parish St Thomas More

Services are held on Sundays at 9.00am

Church News



DIOCESE of WINCHESTER

We are pleased to share the news that Downing Street has announced that the next Bishop of Winchester will be the Right Reverend Philip Mounstephen, currently Bishop of Truro. He will be welcomed at a service of installation in Winchester Cathedral later this year.



Philip Mounstephen

Bishop Designate of Winchester

On 6 July, Bishop Philip was introduced to representatives from across the Diocese of Winchester, first meeting students and staff at <u>St</u> Mark's Church of England School in Southampton, before visiting the port chaplain at the Mission to Seafarers at Southampton Docks and being introduced to the crew on board a container ship. Bishop Philip then spent time with representatives from the rural Benefice of Bright Waters, before concluding the day attending a service of Evensong at Winchester Cathedral.

The appointment marks a return to the diocese for Bishop Philip who was born in Hampshire and who studied English Literature at Southampton University.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: 'I am delighted that Bishop Philip Mounstephen has accepted the call to the See of Winchester. Bishop Philip has served the Diocese of Truro faithfully for five years and is well-placed to lead the next stage of the life of the Diocese of Winchester. He brings a wealth of experience of parish ministry and public leadership. Bishop Philip is committed to working together with the Church and people of the whole Diocese to take forward the mission of God. He will also make a significant contribution as he takes his seat in the House of Lords, especially on issues of freedom of religion and belief.'

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Debbie, Bishop David, Colin Harbidge

We will bring you Bishop Mounstephen's first address to the Diocese in next month's magazine.

August Services for

Stockbridge, Longstock and Leckford 6th August (Trinity 9)

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

13th August (Trinity 10/BVM)

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

20th August (Trinity 11)

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

23rd August (Wednesday)

10.00 Old St Peter Holy Communion

27th August (Trinity 12)

11.00 Stockbridge Morning Worship

Prayer for August

Thank you, Lord for the rain, which we prayed for in July.

This time a prayer for sunshine please, for the summer holidays.

We pray for local farmers, now gathering in the harvest;

for festivals celebrating creativity and flowers, for the fund-raising events needed to keep the churches in good order.

While we celebrate all the good things locally, Lord, we pray for the places in the world where only conflict is known:

Ukraine; Sudan; Israel; tensions in India/Pakistan.

The monsoon floods in Asia, sweeping away houses and livelihoods.

Thank you, Lord for the international charities which work tirelessly to bring help and support to places of tragedy.

Help us to be generous with our donations.

We pray for the Bishop Designate of Winchester, the Right Reverend Philip Mounstephen and we give thanks for the leadership and care shown by Bishops Debbie and David. May the service of installation be a joyous celebration.

We pray for all on holiday, that they find times of rest and pleasure,

recharging batteries; for safe journeys.

Thank you, Lord for all our blessings. Amen



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