



The Parish Magazine for

£1

STOCKBRIDGE LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD

July 2022



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

Rector: The Rev'd Philip Bowden

Phone no. 01264 810810

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Please contact our Rector (see details above)

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From the Rector

Moving on

At the time I am writing this, I am sitting on a bench in Winchester Cathedral Close, waiting for new tyres to be fitted to my car. In the space of a few minutes, groups of children from three different schools have been shepherded past in different directions, moving between the cathedral, the education centre and presumably the school coach that brought them into town in the first place.

It seems to be the time of year for school trips: with the school year winding down, and exams finished, a school outing to Winchester Cathedral and perhaps the Great Hall and the Round Table seems like a good way to keep children occupied and out of trouble, now that the syllabus for the year has been completed.

It has been a summer of exam drama in my household too and, by the time you read this, that will be complete and we will turn our minds towards moving on. I myself have also recently felt that I am at a moving-on threshold, preparing for the next season of life.

In the study of religious praxis, such times are sometimes described as being 'liminal moments'. Liminal moments are the no-man's land in our journey through life – when one thing has come to an end and another is yet to begin. Religious rites of passage are full of liminal moments. At a wedding, two single people walk into a church, and later emerge as a couple – what happens in between is liminal. At a funeral, the deceased has ended the passage of their life and is yet to be committed to their final resting place – that in-between time is a liminal moment. My son has already started to forget all the German he ever learned and yet has not embarked upon A-level chemistry – this summer will be a moment out-of-time during which neither matter.

Sometimes, to pick up something new in the next chapter of our lives, we need to first set down the old. The moments in between can be moments of change and transformation during which God is at work in secret, shaping us for the next part of our lives.

The Rev'd Philip Bowden

Contents

A poem for our times	15	Prayer for July	31
A Visit to Kew	27	Recipe: Mediterranean Savoury Picnic Bake	25
Church News	29-31	Ringing for the Jubilee	14
Editorial	4	Specialist Eyecare from a Family Business	16
Family Business with Pedigree	19	S&LHomes for Ukraine	28
From the Area Dean	31	Stockbridge Open Gardens	30
From The Rector	3	Stockbridge Parish Council	23
Introducing the new Vine Yard Gallery	25	Stockbridge Practice	7
Making Sense of Art for Children	27	Stockbridge Primary and Pre-School	9
Memories of Her Majesty - Investiture	14	Stock-U Puzzle	9
Missing and For Sale	15	Stock-U Puzzle Solution	17
My Schooldays in the Forties and Fifties	20-21	The Column	30
Over the Hedge in Scotland	14-15	The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Events	11-13
Peregrines and others	25	The Story of the Tank	15
Potting Shed Cuttings for July	17	Trout 'n About	7

Cover Photo: Summer Garden

From the Editorial Team

June has been a month of events, starting on a very high note with The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, which has been comprehensively celebrated in our three villages by all ages including the children at Stockbridge Primary School - we have big spreads in the magazine to prove it! Then we moved seamlessly into the NGS Garden Openings, followed swiftly by St Peter's Flower Festival, celebrated right at the end of the month. Sadly we've only managed to squeeze a taster photograph into this magazine, but the event will be featured properly next month. And summer progresses with the church open gardens, the return of Trout 'n About, Longstock Fête, and all the other events we've forgotten to mention.

The first thing that strikes us about all this activity is the amount of work done by volunteers behind the scenes to bring it about, and make the events so enjoyable for all of us. We raise a glass to all the planners and doers, and thank you for your dedication and commitment.

The second is particular to the magazine. We also salute those of you who write about and take photographs of these events and other local activities for us. You are often rewarded by your words being edited and your photos cropped or 'held over'. Thank you for your understanding and for bouncing back with yet more ideas and offers!

Frances Candler, Jennifer Kidd and Thea Taylor



Stockbridge Community Cinema



PARALLEL MOTHERS (15) **Friday 15 July** **7pm (2hrs 3min)**

Two single women meet in a hospital room where they are both going to give birth. One is middle aged and doesn't regret it, while the other is adolescent and scared. The two women form a strong bond with one another as they both confront motherhood.

THE DUKE (12) **Wednesday 20 July** **5.00pm and 7.30pm (1hr 46min)**

In 1961, a 60-year-old taxi driver steals Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery in London. He sends ransom notes saying that he will return the painting if the government invests more in care for the elderly.

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)
*Individual seats bookable but no socially
distanced seating for this month.*

Wherwell History Group



Friday 29 July

Keith Woodward

Quirky Winchester

(a guided walking tour of of the city)

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



LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD WI

Tuesday 26 July at 6.30
in Stockbridge Town Hall

Life under the Veil in Iran **by Sandra Simmonds**

*Visitors very welcome but please phone
President Sue Hill on 811779
as numbers of guests may be limited.*

Copy for Magazine

Copy date for the August Magazine:

15 July 2022

Please send emails to:

editorsstockmag@gmail.com

or phone Frances on 01264 811776

Jennifer on 01264 811179 or Thea on 07730 964481



The Royal British Legion Houghton and District Branch

Contact David Williams (Chairman)
01264 811072
or Iain Bell (Secretary) 01264 811636

Social evenings are held on the first Tuesday
of most months in The Greyhound.

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

Jul 1	Katy Botanicals
Jul 2	Antique Fair
Jul 4-6	Wild Bazaar
Jul 5	Stockbridge Osteopathic Practice
Jul 6	Landscape Painters
Jul 6	Test Valley Borough Council
Jul 7-8	Infinito
Jul 10	The Bookmark
Jul 11-13	Wild Bazaar
Jul 12	Stockbridge Osteopathic Practice
Jul 15	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Jul 16	South Central Makers
Jul 17-19	Wild Bazaar
Jul 20	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Jul 21	Stockbridge Parish Council
Jul 22-24	Brushstrokes Art Club
Jul 26	Longstock & Leckford WI
Jul 30-31	Antiques & Curios
Jul 30-31	Hawkmoor Books

STOCKBRIDGE OPEN GARDENS 2022

Saturday 30th & Sunday 31st July from 1.30 - 5.30pm

Many beautiful gardens at the western end of the village, including a walk along the river bank (sensible shoes are a good idea!)



Free off-street parking



On the church lawn you'll find delicious teas, a terrific plant stall and relaxing music from the Amesbury Town Band

Tickets are available at the church or car park -



Adults £10 and under 16s free

Look for the latest details on

www.stockbridgegardens.co.uk

Facebook Stockbridge Gardens Open

And www.opengardens.co.uk



Stockbridge Music

Classical music in the heart of Hampshire

From Bohemia to Broadway:
an evening of Opera and Musical Theatre

Saturday 9th July 2022, 7:30pm

St Peter's Church, Stockbridge SO20 6HE

Rosanna Harris soprano, Emma Stannard mezzo, Philip Clive tenor, Benjamin Lewis baritone
with
Alexandra Standing piano



Stockbridge Music steps out into opera for the first time and is delighted to welcome four rising stars of the opera stage and concert platform to Stockbridge.

Lust! Jealousy! Inigue! Romance! Join Rosanna, Emma, Philip and Benjamin, supported by their award-winning accompanist Alex, for an irresistible exploration of love in all its guises, deliciously captured in the music of Mozart, Bizet, Puccini, Rogers & Hammerstein, Delibes, Massenet, Britten, Tchaikovsky, Sondheim, Bernstein, Lerner & Lowe, L  har, Verdi and more.

For programme and booking information, and to join our mailing list, go to stockbridgemusic.uk

This concert is kindly sponsored by Christie Quayle

Thank you to Dorset Pianos Ltd for supplying the piano - www.pianos.eu.com



Test Villages U3A

Thursday 7 July
at 2.00pm

at Chilbolton Village Hall

Dogs for Good Charity

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Patient News

Online appointments

We will be making routine GP appointments available to book online from the end of July. Both telephone and face-to-face appointments will be available – please check carefully when booking. There are some GP appointments which require longer time. If you are at all unsure, please check with Reception after booking your appointment.

We will also be making smear test appointments available to book online. Please only book an appointment if you have received an invitation letter.

Friends and Family Test

From 1 July 2022 GP surgeries are being asked to use the NHS Friends and Family Test to seek patient feedback. After an appointment you may receive a text message from us asking you for feedback. There will also be forms available at both reception desks and there is a link on the front page of our website (keep scrolling down to the bottom of the page). There is no obligation to respond but we appreciate you taking the time if you are able to. We will make our results available to patients via this newsletter.

Going abroad?

We continue to receive a considerable number of requests for letters regarding the covid vaccination. A letter from your GP is not acceptable as a covid pass. We have no way of producing the relevant QR codes. Covid passes are available via 119, the NHS App or to download as a pdf.

The covid pass is only available via the NHS App for children aged 13 years or over. A recovery pass is also available online providing you have reported your test result via the NHS.

The links can be found on our website: stockbridgesurgery.co.uk – click on the blue box on the front page which says COVID-19. Please do not leave this to the last moment.

On-the-day urgent care

To provide a snapshot of activity within the practice we have seen a 17% increase in weekly patient appointments against the same week in 2019; week beginning 20 May 2019, 706 patients appointments. The equivalent week this year, beginning 23 May 2022, 824 patients appointments. To put this in context our practice population over this same period has only increased by 1% so, with the mix of options now available between phone and face-to-face appointments, we are accommodating greater interaction with patients. This is also the reason our clinical team continue to telephone patients requesting an on-the-day appointment.

Ann Spooner



Houghton WI

Monday 18 July

Garden Meeting at Hilliers Arboretum

meet in the courtyard at 10.30 am

For further information, please contact
Jane Anderton 01264 810928



Trout 'n About returns to Stockbridge on August 7th 2022 after a 2 year absence due to the pandemic.

Stockbridge Residents are a crucial part of the event and we greatly appreciate all the enthusiasm and assistance you have given over the years to make Trout 'n About such a successful and enjoyable event for everyone.

We are looking for volunteers to help on the day. If you are available this year to volunteer for an hour or two on the information points at either end of the High Street or at one of the parking area, we would love to hear from you. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Emma Montgomery on 0759 2132149.

As you are probably aware, any surplus from Trout 'n About is distributed to organisations and good causes in SO20 postcode, nominated and voted for by all volunteers. Over the years we have contributed over £40,000 to a wide range of recipients. We hope to add to that this year.

Kim Candler

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Stockbridge Primary & Pre-school Jubilations and celebrations!

Reading the June edition of the parish magazine, I was struck by how long lasting childhood memories are and how lovely it is to read about experiences that are similar to the ones we provide for the children now and yet also how much has changed. Back in February, Miss Tregunna, our Deputy Head and I sat down to think about how we'd approach the Queen's Jubilee. The more we looked into the planned national celebrations and the more we considered how significant the achievement of 70 years on the throne was, we also realised that it's highly improbable our children will experience a monarch who reigns for so long in their lifetimes.

We took the monumental decision to move topics in the curriculum to accommodate a new unit of study for all of the children based around the life of the Queen.

Pre-School and Year R learned about the Queen, who she and her family are, castles, knights and the life of the Royal Family with Year R visiting Windsor Castle and being able to march along to Changing of the Guard as well as exploring the castle – they were VERY excited to see that the Queen was 'at home' – the raised standard on our approach elicited much excitement!

Lower School delved much deeper into the Queen's life, her role, that of her family and, importantly, how people had celebrated jubilees and important events in the past. They searched family treasure boxes and created an in-school museum of commemorative memorabilia and had real-life experience of history-making in action.

Upper School investigated how life has changed during the Queen's reign and the role of the Commonwealth in her reign as well as how it came to be. Their art work in batik created magnificent flags that hung across Old London Road on the day of our street party and are now taking their turn to be hung in school.

All of that learning had to culminate in something special so we really went for it and closed Old London Road for 4hrs on Thursday 26th May 2022 and, using the lower school children's research as a basis, set up our own street party with tables, chairs, benches and countless games and races as well as arts and crafts. With help from Aly at Bobbin sewing school, children had sewn some of the bunting used to decorate the road and this flapped gleefully in the wind along with the Commonwealth flags Upper School had made.

Rose from Year 3 was our nominated Queen and pre-school and Sprat & Winkle class led her out with a rousing chorus of 'The Grand Old Duke of York'!

After a packed-lunch picnic and treats from the school kitchen, children danced their rehearsed maypole and country dancing dances, sang the National Anthem and a 'Sing Up' song all about street parties and then they partied away for an hour with much fun and excitement.

Knobbly knee contests, hat stack races, pin the handbag on the (cardboard cutout) Queen as well as designing your own crown and bunting were just some of the games on offer following children's research. In conjunction with the national competition to find a new pudding fit for a Queen, the children had all also designed their own version of a classic, Lower School taking the humble sponge cake and adding their own flavours and decorations to be fit for a jubilee. Year 4 got creative with the traditional English crumble and we had all kinds of weird and wacky flavours (although none fit for a Queen maybe?!). Year 5 made their own pastry and filled fruit tarts with their choice of fruits and cream and, to top it all off, Year 6 made their own pastry for newly-designed quiche fillings. They gobbled them all up after all of the merriment before receiving their commemorative mugs. Within 30 minutes of the last pastry crumb being eaten, the street was back to normal and all signs of the excellent party had gone!

We'd like to thank our Old London Road neighbours for moving cars and joining us in the party as well as putting up with the raucous noise of 168 children having a ball! We hope Her Majesty would be proud of the efforts and enthusiasm on Old London Road that day and that we've helped create memories that will last a lifetime for our children.

*Emma Jefferies
Headteacher*

(Please see some pictures of our events on page 11

Stock-U

Insert the numbers 1-9 in each row and column using each number only once.

2				7			9	
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Queen's Platinum Jubilee Events in June

Stockbridge Primary School

Creating memories for children is really embedded in our school vision and values; the Queen's platinum jubilee is a once in a lifetime event that we felt it important to mark. The changes she has seen in her 70 year reign are really quite remarkable and children's learning this term has been focused on the breadth of the Commonwealth and the extent of the changes in her time as Queen.



JUBILEE



SPECIAL



Knobbly knee competition



Pavement noughts and crosses



Galloping!



Pin the handbag on the (cardboard) Queen



Hat stack race



Arts & crafts



A hopscotch leap!



Learning how to limbo



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Events in June 2022



Stockbridge High Street Party

76 people ate 96 Jubilee cup cakes (provided by Lucy Foord) at St Peter's Church. There were two families there of four generations, and the group of Ukrainian guests enjoyed themselves. Music was from the 40s and 50s (some of the Queen's favourites). The Co-op supported us with bottled water and drinks for the children. Thank you to them, and to the Parish Council who provided us with Jubilee tableware, balloons, flags and bunting, and also the Queen (cardboard cut-out).

Trafalgar Way Lunch



Houghton Road Longstock Big Lunch



Liz Cox's Jubilee Trifle

Leckford Jubilee Celebrations



Everyone was having too good a time to take photos!

With bunting, gazebos, food, and something with which to toast the Queen, the party was enjoyed by more than 40 people.

Editors:

There were so many events we couldn't keep abreast of them all!

Our thanks to those who sent us words and photographs - too many to mention, but all much appreciated!

Jubilee Celebrations in Longstock



Memories of Her Majesty Investiture in Windsor Castle

In May, we asked for your stories or pictures of events when you saw or met Queen Elizabeth. David Williams kindly provided this picture



Following operations against the Taliban, an investiture for Special Forces was held in Windsor Castle in 2003. The photograph above shows Her Majesty the Queen talking to Major Richard Williams following the award of the Military Cross for gallantry. Also in the photo are his wife Philippa, and father David Williams".

Editors:

We hope you will have noticed other royal memories among the displays at St Peter's Flower Festival.



Ringling for the Jubilee

Stockbridge bell ringers were delighted to have been able to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with ringing at three local churches on Friday 3 June. Along with some help from a couple of local ringing friends, ringing took place at St Peter & St Paul's, Kings Somborne, St Peter's, Stockbridge and St Nicholas', Leckford. The three events were logged as part of the national record of Jubilee ringing.

Micki Nadal

Over the Hedge in Scotland

Finding myself in Scotland for 3 weeks, I thought I would take the opportunity to look over the hedge to see what I could see.

I found out very quickly that it's easy to get very wet. While people I know in and around Hampshire were desperate for rain, Scotland had loads of it.

We saw some fantastic views of Scotland and, yes, the sun did come out every now and then.



Sheep ... thousands of sheep everywhere. One of the main differences from farming sheep in Hampshire is the terrain; in the main, the sheep were grazing on very steep slopes. All over the mountain would be small white dots but, after a few minutes, you could make out that the small white dots were sheep - which came as a bit of a relief as I thought I was seeing things. Looking after these sheep through rain, hail and snow in freezing conditions must be an extremely difficult job.

The last of this year's potato crop was being planted. Contractors are used a lot in Scotland; the cost of buying equipment is so high, it would make the job worthless for the farmer.



We also found this tractor out rolling. What a fantastic view from the driver's cab!

I wanted to see forestry work being carried out as some of the equipment is just unbelievable. Sadly, my sighting of work in progress was too far away for any pictures but I did find this tractor kitted out with forestry equipment.



As luck would have it, I managed to find the largest agricultural grassland demonstration that takes place in Scotland every two years, this year in Dumfries. This is a massive show demonstrating the very latest in machinery at work in the field. As always also on display was the rain though, fortunately, it eased off and the wind dried out the crop enough for the machinery to be used.



Amongst all the machinery, I picked out this unusual tractor. With the price of fuel so high - even red diesel - alternative methods of powering tractors are being looked into. One model from New Holland is a methane-powered tractor. It looks a bit different but it works and customers are buying them.



It was fun to see the machinery dressed up in honour of the Queen's Platinum celebrations including this special Massey Ferguson tractor in purple livery.

Ryan Bundy

The Story of the Tank



Brigadier David Williams is giving a talk covering the 100-

year history of the tank, and those who fought in them, from WW1 to the present day. This will take place in Stockbridge Town Hall starting at 6.00 pm on Tuesday 19th July.

The talk will last no more than forty minutes with ample time for questions and discussion.

No tickets are required but there will be a retiring collection for the Scouts from Stockbridge who are attending the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea in 2023. Wine will be on sale before the talk starts.

Missing Tortoise

There is a tortoise on the loose in Stockbridge. One Hercules Hardshell Evans (48 years old) to be precise. Hercules (colloquially known as 'Torty' to friends and relations) was last seen in mid-May in my garden at 2 New Street, Stockbridge. Since then, there has been no sign of him, and we are unsure if he has escaped from the garden and is, perchance, still on the run in Stockbridge, or if he has been stolen by a wicked gang of tortoise rustlers.

If anyone has any intel on his whereabouts please call my son, Tom Evans on 07735589389.

Thank you

Joan Evans

A poem for our times

A young man was asked at his school to write a poem on immigration. This is his remarkable interpretation of the subject.

Goodbye Earth

A floating blue dot
In an endless void,
The plaything of gods,
A measly toy.

I look back on my home planet
Suspended in space
As the colour of stars
Lights up my face.

A new human colony
Sits galaxies away,
A new home where man can settle
At the dawn of a new day.

For Earth is wartorn
And many must flee
From the battlefields
And desolate seas.

There's nowhere to go
Except the depths of space
In the hope mankind
May clear its disgrace.

A rare second chance
Bestowed upon man,
And may we not destroy this world
As we know humans can.

*Finn, aged nearly 12
(Submitted by a parishioner)*

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Potting Shed Cuttings for July



Gardening Events for July:

Stockbridge Open Gardens
 Hampton Court Flower Festival
 NGS Open Days
 Creating Garden Plans, Bowood House
 Calne and Rare Plant Fair, Birmingham

General Maintenance and Preparation

If dry weather persists into July, watering newly-planted shrubs, perennials and vegetable plants becomes vital to keep them alive. To save water, avoid using water-costly sprays and target a gentle flow directly onto the base of the plant with a watering can. Water in the evening to avoid evaporation and, if possible, save 'grey water' from baths and washing-up bowls and reuse on borders. Adding mulches to borders can also keep evaporation down to a minimum. A very useful website: www.watersworthsavings.org.uk has lots of tips for saving water in the garden and house. Keep greenhouse shading in place and allow a good airflow, damping down the floor to maintain lower temperatures. Containers dry out very easily and potting compost is notoriously hard to re-wet. A few ice cubes left to melt on the surface or a small squeeze of washing-up liquid in the water will help break the surface tension. Ponds may well need topping up in extremely hot, dry weather. Use mains water sparingly if the ponds contain fish; it's much better to use water from a water butt. Another solution is to keep a few filled buckets in a warm and sunny spot to allow the chlorine to evaporate off. Keep the surface clear of dead leaves and duck- and blanket-weed and pull out handfuls of any plants which are becoming too rampant. Leave them on the side of the pond for a few days to allow any insect life to crawl out.

The Flower Garden

Keep dead-heading perennials and repeat-flowering roses to extend the flowering period and make sure perennial supports are firmly in place. Early-flowering perennials, such as delphiniums and geraniums, can be cut back to encourage a second flowering period later in the year. Brunnera, Oriental poppies and pulmonaria won't come into flower again this season so cut back old flower shoots and tired leaves; healthy, new foliage will appear to liven up tired borders. Divide congested irises and cut back leaves by half before replanting in soil to which some garden compost has been added. Wisteria can be given its summer pruning; cut back whippy side shoots to about five leaves beyond the main framework.

The Fruit Garden

Pruning will take priority at this time of year. Summer-fruiting berry and currant bushes which have been harvested can be pruned back as can apple trees although care should be taken not to disturb growing apples. Thin out fruit on fruit trees

to encourage better-sized crops. If you want to increase your stock of strawberry plants, pin down runners now to produce new plantlets; otherwise, remove all runners. To encourage better-quality fruit, side shoots should be removed from fig trees beyond the fifth leaf.

The Vegetable Garden

As spaces clear in the vegetable garden, sow late peas, French beans, salad crops, early-variety carrots, turnips and swedes, which will grow quickly, as well as beetroot, spinach, spring cabbages and winter radishes. Take side shoots from tomatoes if they require it and feed and water regularly. Add compost to plants when white side roots start appearing at the base of the plant. Remove some leaves to allow the sun to ripen fruit. Keep a sharp eye on brassicas for signs of the cabbage white butterfly and, if the weather is warm and humid, check potatoes and tomatoes for signs of blight. Check fast-growing plants such as courgettes and cucumbers and pick crops before they develop into over-sized monsters. Feed with a high-potash fertiliser and take out end tips to encourage branching shoots.

The Lawn

Frequency of mowing will depend on the weather; in really dry periods consider leaving the grass cuttings on the lawn as a mulch.

Micki Nadal

Stock-U Solution

From page 9

2	5	1	6	7	8	3	9	4
3	8	6	9	4	2	5	7	1
4	9	7	5	3	1	8	2	6
7	4	2	1	9	3	6	8	5
9	6	3	8	5	7	4	1	2
8	1	5	2	6	4	9	3	7
1	7	9	4	8	6	2	5	3
6	2	8	3	1	5	7	4	9
5	3	4	7	2	9	1	6	8

National Garden Scheme Opening in June

The five gardens that opened on 16 and 20 June saw 400 visitors and raised over £3,000 for charity.

We are very grateful to St Peter's Church for serving teas on the church lawn. £1,200 was raised for the church over the two afternoons.



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Rawlings Opticians comes to Stockbridge

In 1895, Alfred Rawling opened the first Rawlings Opticians in Croydon - and 127 years later they celebrate the opening of their newest branch in Stockbridge with



the Rawling family still at the helm. Last year, Stockbridge welcomed news of an imminent opening but Sally Hake, manager at the new branch, explains: 'The conservation department is doing a sterling job keeping the heritage of the town intact but having to make the necessary adjustments for planning has resulted in inevitable delays to our opening - but at last we are poised to open in July!'

Sally is Alfred Rawling's great-granddaughter and she is taking Rawlings' expertise into a new era, using sophisticated technology her great-grandfather could only have dreamt about.

'My great-grandfather, grandfather, mother and father were trained opticians so it was almost inevitable that I trained as a dispensing optician and contact lens specialist myself' Sally says. 'My brother manages the Alresford branch and my second cousin is Managing Director so the business remains in family hands. I think customers really appreciate that we have so many years of experience behind us. Rawlings is now the oldest family optician in the UK.'

She continues: 'Because we've always embraced the latest technology and advances in clinical practice, we've often invested in new equipment before anyone else in the high street. That's allowed our customers to benefit from advances in eyecare straightaway. You will find the same high-



tech equipment in our new Stockbridge branch. Also, as an independent business, we can offer customers a huge range of quality products rather than being tied into just a few manufacturers.'

But there's more to Rawlings' success than having the latest products and services. Our Optometrists at Stockbridge, Pamela and Kate, have 48 years of experience with Rawlings between them and have a loyal following of customers throughout Hampshire. Welcoming you at Reception and supporting the Optometrists with pre-screening, we have Trish and Sally with a wealth of optical

knowledge from their 43 years working in the industry and who complete the friendly team.

Customers are given 45 minutes for an eye examination. 'This gives us time to really get to know our customers and find out what they need from glasses or contact lenses' Sally says. 'That might be better clarity when driving at night, on the golf course or spending time at a computer screen.'

Customers can be certain they will receive the best of attention. 'Our success comes from giving our customers a really personal service using the best eyecare products on the market' Sally says.

www.rawlingsopticians.co.uk T. 01264 312654

(We welcome Rawlings to Stockbridge and wish the business every success - Eds.)

St Peter's Flower Festival 24-26 June



with the theme
'Happy & Glorious'

Just one of the many stunning arrangements.
Full colour page next month!

My Schooldays in the Forties and Fifties

by Geoff Merritt

Geoff has almost concluded his recollections of schooldays in Stockbridge. Last month he was describing the embarrassments suffered by pupils from poorer families. We pick his story up there.

It was difficult when the class was paying their dinner money. I was allowed free dinners as, not having a Mum or Dad, I was classed as 'being special' but those that were queuing up to pay used to glare at me for not paying up. This upset me so much that I told my sister May about it, and she said that she would make me a couple of sandwiches each day to take to school for lunch. When I was a lot older I made my own the night before. I used to make Sunny Spread honey sandwiches and wrap them up in a piece of greaseproof paper (no foil in those days) and put them in my lunch box which was an Oxo tin.



On my 14th Birthday I was given my first pair of long trousers for school wear and a Newmark wrist watch with a luminous dial, so a lot of time (no pun intended) was spent under the bedclothes just looking at the glow that came from the illuminated face.

All the 14-year old children were allowed out of school during the dinner time break and those with sandwiches would head for the Co-Op in the High Street, which in those days had a café both upstairs and down, where if you bought a bottle of Tizer or any drink, you could sit in the cafe and eat your own sandwiches. I could not afford a drink so I ate my sandwiches hidden in the corner. Of course, come dinnertime the honey in my sandwiches had dried into the bread, but I always compensated that by pouring some Daddy's Sauce, that was conveniently on the cafe table, onto them and eating them like that.

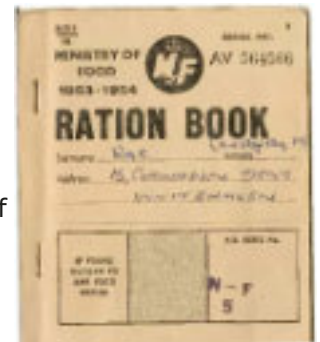
Afterwards, a school chum named David Holt and I, if it was not raining, would go for a walk down the Common Marsh footpath by the Waggon and Horses pub. Sometimes we would tear the last page out of an exercise book, make a paper boat each and race them down the stream.

I also recall that every time there was a horse-race meeting in Salisbury, the bookies would have their dinner in the same café. I was always having a bit of banter with them and they used to like my replies. Sometimes they would give me 6d (2½p) to buy some sweets - happy days!

The sweets we had were not a lot different from today. We had very little fresh fruit to eat as there was never much around to buy and the price would put you off from buying them.

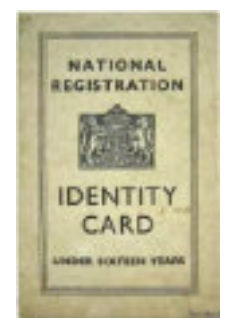
So we would survive on a bowl of Shredded Wheat for breakfast, then at odd times we would have bread and dripping (an animal fat produced from the fatty or otherwise unusable parts of cow or pig carcasses), toast with margarine (butter far too expensive), or bread, margarine and sugar sandwiches.

Food was scarce during and even after the war, and everything from food to clothes was still rationed, even sweets. In 1940 the British government had introduced a basic system of rationing, to try to make sure that what food there was available was fairly shared. People were issued with a food ration book and required to register with a local shopkeeper. In 1941 a system of ration points was introduced, and everyone was given so



many points a month to spend on rationed items, at any shop that had the items they wanted. There was a restriction of how many coupons could be used for each article. I was 12 years old when rationing ended in 1954 but we were still restricted even then because of the cost.

Also the government introduced National Registration Identity Cards during World War II. Everyone, including children under 16, had to carry an identity (ID) card always to show who they were and where they lived.



One great delight for me, was when I was in Form Four in one of the new outside classrooms, gone were the very high windows of the main school. We could actually see out of these with ease and, whenever a train entered the nearby station, I would glance up from my workbook and cunningly watch.

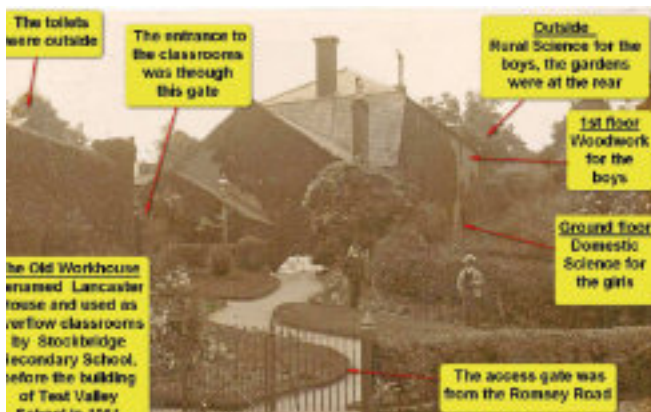
In 1951, a film was made at the nearby Chilbolton airfield, called "The Sound Barrier" which starred Ann Todd and was directed by her husband, David Lean. It was about a jet aeroplane named 'Prometheus' (the plane used was the Vickers-Supermarine Swift).

Each morning the Swift would warm its engines up before flying and we could hear its loud roaring in the playground at school, when the sound travelled down the valley. When the plane flew through the 'Sound Barrier', it made a really loud bang which would make us all jump. Some mornings one pilot would wait outside the Primary School to get a lift to the airfield each morning and we kids loved that! My brother-in-law Les, was working at the aerodrome at the time of the filming and he had his photo taken with the plane and the film stars.



For the boys a woodworking class was held on the first floor, with Rural Science being held in the grounds using a small allotment at the rear (when it was dry). On the ground floor, domestic science and needlework classes were held for the girls.

As space was limited at the school, Lancaster House (the old Workhouse), at the bottom of Steepleton Hill on the Romsey Road, was used for additional classes.



Intriguing to me as we were escorted in a crocodile formation to and from Lancaster House, were the huge concrete tank traps placed there during the war. They were set on either side of the road - one was in the front garden of Number One East End Cottages, with its twin immediately opposite in the boundary wall of old St. Peter's church.

After the dinner break on my last day at school in 1957, (we were in what was then one of the new classrooms that had just been built and were to be used by my twin girls Kay and Samantha as a pre-school playroom in the early 1980's), Mr. Gubbins, affectionately known by us as Worzel, had us doing maths as a punishment because he was annoyed that we had upset him just before dinner. To be fair we were all high-spirited to be leaving school that afternoon. Suddenly Mr. Brewerton, the Headmaster appeared at the classroom door, he asked for two boy volunteers, so George Ewens (a

good mate of mine at the time) and I shot our hands up alongside all the other boys. He chose both of us and asked us to follow him - what had we let ourselves in for? He took us up to Lancaster House and asked us to roll the big lawn with the heavy roller. The lawn was grassed over many years after it ceased to be gardens for the Workhouse; the bank was a steep one and we suddenly let the roller escape us and it rolled down the bank through the bottom hedge across the main Romsey Road, over another bank and ended against the dairy wall (now a private house). We then had to drag this heavy roller all the way back up again and tell no one!

I missed leaving school in the Christmas term by just five days, so had to stay at school for another full term, so for a whole term I was the oldest child in the school! I finally left on 12 April 1957.

So there, dear reader, is a small insight into my school life just after the ending of World War Two.



To sum up

With so very little schooling, the first thing that I did when I was earning a wage, so that I could carry on learning, was to buy a part work magazine each week that eventually built into several volumes of an encyclopaedia.

Just two weeks after leaving school, I was knocked off my bike and received a fractured skull - another two weeks in hospital. I was to suffer double pneumonia when aged 17 which meant another spell in hospital and then a Convalescent home.

I then had 50 glorious almost non-stop healthy years until 2009. Two years after I had retired from the Royal Mail, I had a heart attack, so it was back into hospital again for a small operation.

Geoff Merritt

For next month, Geoff has written about the school teachers he encountered while at school in Stockbridge. We wonder how many of our readers will remember them?

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Stockbridge Parish Council News

Stockbridge Parish Council met in the Town Hall for the Annual Council meeting. The Annual Council meeting is when the Chair and Vice Chair are elected. This year there was no change in these positions. Cllr Lawrence will continue as Chair and Cllr Leslie as Vice-Chair.

High Street Survey

Stockbridge Parish Council would like to express its gratitude to the volunteers who stepped forward to help undertake a survey on the High Street. The survey was set up to provide data to inform the economic argument regarding parking controls on the High Street. It was very hot on the days the survey was undertaken but the Traffic Working Group is pleased to say that the number of surveys that were collected was very high. This will mean there are good grounds for discussion in the meeting planned with HCC. The Council would like to thank Mr Roger Tym for his help designing the survey and running the survey on the days it was being held.

Test Valley School

Test Valley School has notified the Council that the Board of Governors has decisively recommended that the school will open negotiations to join the HISP Multi Academy Trust. The intention behind this decision is to preserve the many things that are unique about Test Valley School whilst delivering more stable leadership, a clear direction and access to resources which are hard for a smaller school to achieve on its own. Test Valley School, HISP and the Local Authority will be undertaking due diligence to ensure the school and the community's interests are protected through the transfer to the Trust.

Tree Planting

TVBC has announced that nearly 20,000 trees have been planted over the 2021/22 planting season, almost doubling the target that had been set. Last year, the council announced its target to plant 10,000 trees over the autumn and winter months in a bid to help tackle climate change and improve the environment and at present 19,325 trees have been planted across the borough.

Passenger Transport Services

Hampshire County Council is seeking residents' and stakeholders' views on proposed changes to supported passenger transport services and the Concessionary Travel Scheme in Hampshire. The proposed changes in this consultation would only affect discretionary provision - there are no proposals to make changes to services that the County Council provides by law. It is important to the County Council that the views of people and

stakeholders who may be affected by the proposals are carefully considered as part of the decision-making process. You are invited to complete the Response Form but it is recommended that you read the Information Pack, which is available at www.hants.gov.uk/passenger-transport-consultation. The survey is available at Snap Surveys (welcomesyourfeedback.net) and a link is also available on the news section of the Council's website. The deadline for making your views known is Sunday 24th July.

Houghton Neighbourhood Plan

The Houghton Neighbourhood Plan 2020 to 2029 was 'made' following the positive referendum on 19 May 2022. The Plan forms part of the Development Plan for the parish and will be used to guide planning decisions in Houghton. The made Plan, Decision Statement and declaration of result can be viewed at: [Houghton Neighbourhood Plan | Test Valley Borough Council](#)

Dementia Support

Dementia Support – Hampshire & IOW is a new charity that has been set up by local people with lived experience, to respond to the needs of local people living with dementia and their family carers. The charity provides a helpline which is available 8am – 6pm Monday to Friday (excluding Public Holidays). The website will include information about dementia, dementia pathways, finance and benefits, memory and living aids, as well as details about support groups and social events across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. For more information visit www.mydementiasupport.org. There is a link on SPC's website.

Stockbridge Parish Council will next meet on 21 July in the Town Hall.

*Belinda Baker
Clerk to the Parish Council*



Longstock Garden Club

has just returned from an enjoyable summer visit to Kew Gardens - see article on page 27

Our Autumn programmes of talks in Longstock Hall begins on Oct 11 when Philippa Bensley will give us a talk on 'Climbers - everything you need to know'.

To see the benefits of membership, please go to www.longstockgardenclub.com

Peter Moore



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It's time for a picnic so why not take something a little different but extremely tasty! It should be baked the day before but is well worth it.

Mediterranean Savoury Picnic Bake

Serves 4 - 6 people

Ingredients

1 large round cottage loaf
4 -6 tbsp olive oil
salt and pepper
200g thinly-sliced or shaved cooked turkey
210g tin of sweetcorn, drained
4 tbsp green pesto from a jar
4 fresh plum tomatoes, thickly sliced
250g mozzarella cheese, very thinly sliced
6 tbsp houmous
small handful of rocket leaves

Method

Preheat the oven to 200°C (fan) / Gas Mark 6.

Cut the loaf horizontally into 5 slices.

Lay out the slices on a chopping board and sprinkle the olive oil evenly over each slice. Season each slice with salt and pepper.

Take the bottom slice of the loaf and place it on a piece of foil large enough to completely wrap the whole loaf. Spread the turkey and sweetcorn evenly over the top of the bread slice.

Put the next slice on top and spread the pesto and tomato slices on top of this slice.

Add the next slice and spread the mozzarella evenly.

Add the next slice and spread with houmous and rocket.

Top with the final slice which should be the crust.

Carefully wrap the loaf in the foil, completely enclosing it.

Take a second piece of foil and tightly wrap the loaf within it, squeezing down to flatten it.

Place on a baking tray and cook in the oven for 30 - 40 minutes.

Take the loaf from the oven, keeping it in the foil.

Press it down again - the more squashing the better (I suggest an evenly-weighted plate on top works very well) - and leave to cool completely.

Chill overnight ready for the picnic the next day.

Unwrap, slice and serve.

Linda Hotchen

Introducing new Vine Yard Gallery

I am Caroline Hall and I recently opened a gallery/studio in Vine Yard, Stockbridge.

This is a space for me to showcase paintings and prints that have come back from exhibition as well as a providing a working studio. I moved to Broughton last summer and, quite by chance, premises became available at the same time in Vine Yard. It was the perfect opportunity to move my tiny Winchester studio to Stockbridge. In the few months that I have been open - and I have to confess to rather eccentric opening hours! - I have been bowled over by the number of people who have wandered into the Yard for a look around and a chat.

As a brief introduction to me and my work, I was a presenter and reporter for many years working with BBC Radio, BBC South Today, Children in Need and Countryfile before enrolling at Winchester School of Art. Seven years later, with a part time degree and then a Masters in Fine Art, I finally decided to forget broadcasting and become a full-time artist, which had always been my biggest passion. My inspiration is landscape and music - St Ives, The Lizard, Jersey, Yosemite, the Hampshire Downs and Ravel all feature in my work. I paint on a variety of surfaces, including aluminium, and have exhibited widely throughout the UK with major solo exhibitions at Southampton City Art Gallery, London, St Ives, Winchester and the Channel Islands where my family lives.

Do pop in for a look around the gallery whenever you are passing; in particular, I look forward to welcoming visitors during 'Trout 'n About' on August 7th.

Caroline Hall

Peregrines and others . . .

The two peregrine 'chicks' at Winchester Cathedral have both taken their first flights! They look as big as their parents. If you are in Winchester, go to the railings on the north side of the Cathedral where you may spot them flying around. They are hardly at the nest or the gully now, so no longer on the webcam.

Swifts are now circling and screaming over the High Street and one homeowner on the south of the High Street has reported swifts nesting under the roof . . . but, sadly, they have not gone into any of our swift boxes. We must wait another year!

The cuckoo has been holding forth almost daily as you walk across the Marsh and, finally, there have been sightings of a kingfisher on the Marsh Court River which runs alongside the Marsh.

Jean Boney

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A Visit to Kew

On the 14 June this year, a coachload of people from the Longstock Garden Club set off for Kew Gardens. The weather was wonderful – sunshine all day, but not overwhelmingly hot.

The group dispersed to see the gardens and attractions of their choice. I and 3 others opted to try the Treetop Walk. There were many steps to the top, but the effort was well worthwhile - glorious views across the whole site and over much of London.



The lake was the next stop with lunch postponed until I could find a seat without an audience of hungry Canadian Geese and their goslings.

The rose garden was splendid, as was the rock garden and the woodland glade.

Others visited the palace and some tried the 'hive experience'

I loved the tree, the 'Luscombe Oak' (right). This is a wondrous tree, planted at Syon in 1762 and then moved to Kew around 15 years later.

There are many other 'special trees' and I am sure I will return, possibly in the winter when I may be more willing to visit the Rainforest Pavilion which was too hot this time round.

Maddie Hedley



The Rock Garden



Some trees need all the help they can get



Look out for an exciting new initiative this summer at the Wykeham Gallery, Stockbridge!

Making Sense of Art for Children Sundays 2-4pm

Would you like your children to gain appreciation of contemporary art at a beautiful gallery with a qualified teacher with over 25 years' experience?

Jane will be in the Wykeham Gallery on Sunday afternoons from July for families to drop in.

She will be selecting a couple of works of art to show the children – works that will hopefully inspire them to stop and look at other art, now and in the future.

Whilst the children are occupied you have time to browse around the gallery in peace – or you can listen in.

With over 8 exhibitions every year there is always something new and exciting to see and explore at The Wykeham Gallery and Sculpture Garden.



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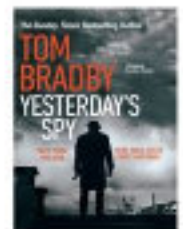
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High Street, Stockbridge

Sunday 10th July at 7:00pm

Tickets are £10 and can be purchased at The Bookmark or at

Eventbrite

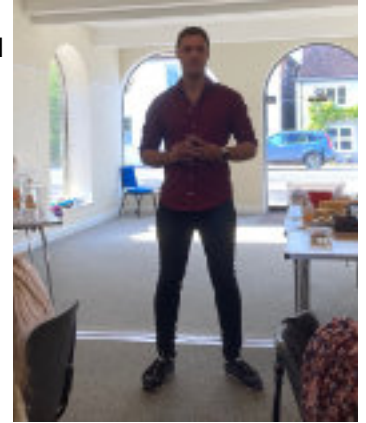
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Stockbridge and Longstock (S & L) Homes for Ukraine



Picture the scene . . . it's the second get-together to bring Ukrainians, none of whom knew each other before fleeing, their hosts and helpers, together in Stockbridge Town Hall. About 30 people - a little wine; a lot of chat; a welcoming inclusive atmosphere; news exchanged; new contacts made; Ukrainian morale amazing.

and networking. One host travelled to Poland herself and found a family which now shares their house in Broughton. Currently the group includes 7 hosts looking after 16 brave Ukrainians, 5 of them children still needing education. Of the adults, three are men excused military service. In Grateley, Chilbolton, Stockbridge, Broughton and Upper Somborne, but no matter where, they are cared for - safe, relieved and extremely thankful to their hosts, to the community, to the country.



Our first guest enters slightly diffidently, enfolding a little dog in its comfort blanket and accompanied by her 12-year old son. She's from Mariupol - her father killed; her husband in the army fighting. Another smiles as she enters, quite at ease and the third, a maintenance engineer, grins broadly as he pumps a handshake and uses his 'phone app to translate. The fourth, an IT project manager, bombed out of Irpin the day the Russians attacked, left with just two small bags; 15 hours to the Polish



border. He speaks and understands English well. He smiles and bows slightly with his right hand on his heart as he enters. Perfect manners all.

S&L Homes for Ukraine is a group of local people who got together with a mutual desire to help Ukrainians displaced by war. S&L stands for our two villages, Stockbridge & Longstock, but there are no strict geographical boundaries. The group has no structure, no formal leadership (anathema to those who favour corporate structures!). Anyone wanting to help can join - hosts and wannabe hosts, those with skills or time, those with jobs or transport to offer.

Countrywide, thousands have registered to be hosts but all our Ukrainians have come through contacts



The Government has set out the requisite formalities for arrival but not which bank is helpful, which mobile operator offers a good deal, which gym is giving free access, which insurer gives pet cover ... Need Universal Credit? We have an expert who takes each person individually through registration, around three hours work.

And that is where the Group has been invaluable - ask a question, and experiences and answers are shared almost instantly by WhatsApp.

The first arrivals from about ten weeks ago are establishing themselves; many are getting into work. Local people are being generous, selfless hosts but there are still potential hosts waiting to be matched and still more local hosts will be needed to find the right match. If you are considering hosting but are fearful of what that might entail, don't be, there are many in the group who can help you.

If you would like to help by hosting, or have jobs or transport to offer, please text me, Nicholas Muers-Raby, on 07808 939838 or email Amanda Lambert on amandal704@zoho.eu

(We hope to feature lots more news of activities with the Ukrainians in our August magazine. Eds.)



Church News

St Mary's Longstock



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee saw many celebrations and street parties – Longstock celebrated over the weekend with events on Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday, many residents enjoyed a barbecue and live music, all in the beautiful setting of 'Terstan', courtesy of Penny Burnfield.

The celebrations continued on Sunday, starting with an outdoor service, again, at 'Terstan'. This was a real fun service – Paddy Melville organised a



number of children to portray different jobs which provide service – a shopkeeper, doctor, policeman, firefighter, farmer etc. Each person was 'interviewed' about their job and then

linked the job to a fruit of the Holy Spirit, this being the day we also celebrated Pentecost.

Maddie opened the service and John Rennie provided an excellent reflection – linking the Queen's service to the nation, her Christian belief and Pentecost. We sang two well-known hymns and then a group of five, who had been trained and honed by Helen King, led the congregation in a new Jubilee Hymn written for the occasion. This went surprisingly well! Everyone was happy to join in. The service was followed by picnic lunches with much sharing - particularly of Coronation Chicken. After lunch the more energetic played cricket, the rules of which would not have been recognised by the MCC!. The teams were a blend of adults and children, men and women, boys and girls, (most of them very competitive!). A delicious range of sumptuous cakes and scones provided the afternoon tea. It was a real community event with plenty of helpers.

In July, we hope for a good response to the Pet Service on 3 July. This will start at 9.30am and will be in the churchyard. We welcome all kinds of pets and are hopeful they will bring their owners! This provides a good opportunity to give thanks for the environment and for the pets which bring so much joy and pleasure.

The remaining services will be Parish Communion and Morning Worship and then, at the end of the month, the Benefice Service will take place at St Mary's, Longstock, starting at 10.00am. I hope

many of the community can be there to welcome people from the other parishes in the Benefice. Refreshments will be served after the service giving plenty of opportunities to mingle and chat.

*Maddie Hedley
(Photo courtesy of Nigel Rugman)*

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

Church Services at St Mary, Longstock for July

3 July	9.30am	Pet Service in Churchyard
10 July	9.30am	Parish Communion
17 July	9.30am	Morning Worship
24 July		No Service
31 July	10.00am	Benefice Service at St Mary, Longstock



THE ANNUAL PET SERVICE

SUNDAY 3 JULY 9.30 am
ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD,
LONGSTOCK

All Pets welcome – and, we hope, with their owners!

Please join us for this fun service and for the blessing of your pet



St Nicholas' Leckford



Leckford Garden Party in aid of St. Nicholas Church

Friday 15th July from 5.00pm onwards.

Wine and hot dogs . . . tea and cake
bottle stall . . . raffle
and much more!

taking place at Guildway Bungalow

Please ring Dawn for more details - 810724.

Church News

St Peter's and Old St Peter's Stockbridge



Our season of celebration continues over the summer at St Peter's. We were delighted to celebrate a wedding at the church in June. Of course, the biggest celebration in the church during June was the Feast of Pentecost which coincided with Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. The Feast of Pentecost celebrates the empowering of the early Church to fulfil their calling as servants of God so this was a wonderful day to celebrate the dedication of Her Majesty to her own calling throughout so many decades. Rev'd Phill Bowden gave a wonderful sermon that encapsulated the two areas of celebration on this magnificent day and reflected on the power of the Holy Spirit to sustain vocational calling. The church was bedecked not only in red for the celebration of Pentecost but also with flags! Of course, there was a rousing rendition of all three verses of the National Anthem to finish off the service. Fortunately, the rain held off and we were able to share a Jubilee lunch on the church lawn and there was even some dancing at this joyful celebration.

We have had an abundance of celebrations and, of course, cake, at St Peter's this month. Accompanying the National Garden Scheme (NGS) Open Gardens, teas and cake were served on the lawn to all those enjoying the sunshine and gardens in Stockbridge on these days. The celebrations of both the church and the Queen continued with the St Peter's Flower Festival from 24th to 26th June. The theme this year was 'Happy and Glorious' and we were delighted to see the superb arrangements on display by our talented flower arrangers. The festival was accompanied by teas and cakes on the church lawn.

We finished off the month of June with the celebration of St Peter's Day. This was our Patronal Festival celebrating St Peter as the patron saint of our local parish church. There was a service at Old St Peter's Church to celebrate this festival. All homes in the parish received information about the Patronal Festival as it is also a fantastic opportunity to support the work of your local parish church. Huge thanks to all those who made cakes and helped

with serving teas to all our visitors over the weekend of the flower festival and also during the open garden days.

Next, a date for your diary; there will be more teas on the 30th and 31st July whilst the Stockbridge Open Gardens are taking place. All proceeds will be used in support of the church. If you are able to provide cakes or to volunteer your time to help with either of these dates we would be most grateful. For details of how you can help, please see below.

Finally, a reminder that the donation box for the Andover Foodbank can always be found in the church porch. The Foodbank is currently preparing summer food bags to support families over the summer holidays. Items such as tinned hot dogs, cake mixes, individually wrapped chocolate biscuits, multipack crisps, jelly, and baked beans, along with activity or colouring books for children aged 3-11, are particularly appreciated for these summer food bags.

Karen O'Donnell

STOCKBRIDGE OPEN GARDENS 30 and 31 July

Your village needs you!

Several gorgeous gardens at the west end of the village will be open this year, for the annual church fund raiser. We will definitely need volunteers to help as usual – whether this is helping at the car parking, selling tickets at the church, garden sitting at the entrance to the gardens open to the public or giving a helping hand to the tea team on the church lawn. If you can give up part of your afternoon on Saturday and/or Sunday to make this event a great success (or the whole afternoon!), please phone David Barnes on 810516, Alison Vialou-Clark on 810351 or Micki Nadal on 810567.

Thank you – the Open Gardens Team

The Column

Baptisms

There were no baptisms in June.

Weddings

The wedding between Rafael Baiao and Amelia Donaldson took place at St Peter's Church, Stockbridge at 3.30pm on Saturday 18 June 2022.

Funerals

There were no funerals in the three parishes in June

Church News

Prayer for July

Half way through the year, Lord -
The excitement of summer holidays – home or
away

The crops ripening, with always the worry - too
much sun, too little sun; too much rain, too little
rain.

Lord, we pray we can learn to be content;
content with whatever takes place –
good weather or bad, good news or bad,
safe in the knowledge that you will be with us
no matter what.

We pray, still, for peace in Ukraine;
that leaders will accept that force and invasion
are not the way.

We pray for justice and right decisions for
migrants and refugees;
That those who are seeking better lives will not
be misused or abused.

Pentecost has come and we prayed for the Holy
Spirit to come into our hearts,
so we pray the Spirit will guide us and help us
follow the right path.

We pray for all who are suffering, whether due to
sadness and despair or chronic illness, that you
will give strength and comfort.

Let us remember the words of Isaiah 55.10-12 :

*For as the rain and the snow come down from
heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered
the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*

*For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall
burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.*
Amen

Hampshire Downs RC Parish St Thomas More

Stockbridge Services are held on
Sundays at 9.00am

July Services for Stockbridge, Longstock and Leckford

3rd July

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

10th July

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

17th July

09.30 **Longstock** Morning Worship
11.00 **Stockbridge** Parish Communion
18.00 **Leckford** Evensong

20th July (Wednesday)

10.00 **Old St Peter** Holy Communion

24th July

11.00 **Stockbridge** Morning Worship

31st July

10.00am **Longstock** United Benefice Eucharist

From the Area Dean

June was wonderful – with all the Fêtes and
Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. There were glorious
flower arrangements (and festivals) in many of our
churches; I hope that you got to see some of them.
July will mark the end of the academic year and
many children and young people will be saying their
goodbyes to their friends. It's a sad time but one
in which memories of happy times can be recalled
and treasured. I hope that this summer will be one
to give you happy memories. I also hope that it
will be a time when you can reflect on the busyness
past and the busyness to come – perhaps a chance
to reflect on the important things in your life?

People frequently say 'You don't have to go to
church to be a Christian.' I would go on to say 'but
if you are a Christian you won't want to stay away!'
Take an opportunity to visit a church, remembering
that a church is really a body of people and not a
building.

Enjoy the summer!

Your Area Dean, James

Rev. James Pitkin - romseyareadean@gmail.com



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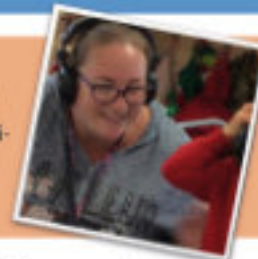


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