



The Parish Magazine for

STOCKBRIDGE LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD

September 2022

£1



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

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Please contact our Rector (see details above)

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From the Rector

Counting your Blessings

What a lovely summer we have had - a bit too hot at times and, of course, our gardens could use some rain, but it has been truly glorious to enjoy. Just as the weather has made life difficult for gardeners, it has also done so for farmers. Most harvests have now been completed and, depending on the crop, some yields have been affected by the lack of rain over the last six months. However, there are stories of fruitful harvests too.

Throughout September and October, we will be gathering for harvest thanksgiving services and meals to give thanks for God's provision to us all for our basic needs from the earth. This year we are all even more aware than usual that this is not just about food. The current crisis, both in global food distribution as well as the cost of energy, draws our attention that our basic needs are not met only by God's grace but also by humanity's willingness to act responsibly in response to being made stewards of creation. This responsibility of stewardship involves not only ensuring that all people have access to the resources they need, but also protecting the earth for future generations.

In our benefice, Longstock parish, in particular, has chosen to place protection of God's creation at the centre of church and parish life. In particular, the PCC has set a goal of achieving an 'A Rocha Eco' environmental bronze award. More details of the steps that the parish will be taking in order to do this are elsewhere in the magazine and will be explained in more detail at Longstock's patronal festival celebration on 11th September. If you are also passionate about protecting the natural world, do please talk to me or Maddie Hedley about how you can get involved.

This year, as we count our blessings at harvest time, let us also be aware of our responsibilities to each other, our communities and the world, and take steps to fashion our lives accordingly.

The Rev'd Philip Bowden

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Cover Photo: Stockbridge Sunset, by Janet Williams

This month's footers remind us that that precious commodity, water, must never be taken for granted.

From the Editorial Team

Nobody will be surprised that this issue of the parish magazine is all about the weather. With large parts of the country in drought status and Southern Water the first to implement a hosepipe ban, we are all looking at our lawns and the skies, hoping for rain. The impact on farmers and food producers will be desperate and will affect us all with higher prices in the shops.

We have taken a broader look at water in our Footers and Watery Quiz, but we can't ignore the quotation from Jacques Cousteau we didn't include - 'Water and air, the two essential fluids on which all life depends have become global garbage cans.' The problem for us all is how to rectify the situation, as individuals, as organisations, businesses and as nations.

The Rector describes the concept of stewardship of the environment and how the church can play a role. Specifically, Longstock Parish will be putting environmental awareness at the heart of church life, as it works towards achieving an eco award. Take a look at the prayer this month, on page 31, which addresses these issues and suggests some simple ways in which we as individuals can make a difference. And where the government acts on our behalf, we need to hold it to account.

Frances Candler, Jennifer Kidd and Thea Taylor



**Stockbridge
Community
Cinema**



Drive My Car (15)
Friday 16 September
7.30pm (2hrs 59min)

An aging, widowed actor seeks a chauffeur. The actor turns to his go-to mechanic, who ends up recommending a 20-year-old girl. Despite their initial misgivings, a very special relationship develops between the two.

Downton Abbey: A New Era (PG)
Wednesday 21 September
4.30pm and 7.30pm (2hrs 4min)

The Crawleys and their staff welcome a movie crew and their glamorous stars to Downton for the filming of a new silent movie, while other members of the family go on a grand adventure to a villa in the south of France to uncover a mystery about the Dowager Countess and her past.

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)
Refreshments on sale



Houghton WI

Monday 19 September
at 10am
Houghton Village Hall

**Lejog - Lands End to John o' Groats
by Tandem**

Sarah McClelland

Visitors welcome
Further information from
Jane Anderton 01264 810928

Wherwell History Group



Friday 16 September
at 8.00pm

Archives Forever
Jan Smith

Meetings are free for members, admission to non-members is £5. Please check our website at <https://www.wherwellhistory.com>

Copy for Magazine

Copy date for the October Magazine:

15 September 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

Sept 3	Antique Fair
Sept 4	The Flower Baby
Sept 5-7	Wild Bazaar
Sept 8	Citizen's Advice Bureau
Sept 10	South Central Makers
Sept 11	The Flower Baby
Sept 13-14	Wild Bazaar
Sept 15	Stockbridge Parish Council
Sept 16	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Sept 17-18	Antiques & Curios
Sept 17-18	Hawkmoor Books
Sept 20-21	Infinito
Sept 21	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Sept 23-25	Contemporary Craft Fair
Sept 27	Longstock & Leckford WI
Sept 30	Sand & Ashes



LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD WI

Tuesday 27 September at 6.15
in Stockbridge Town Hall

What the Butler Saw Victorian Manners

John Pitman

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



Test Villages U3A Thursday 1 September at 2.00pm

Chilbolton Village Hall

Our speaker is **Jude Hayland** who is a writer of fiction and tutor of creative writing. Initially a writer of commercial short stories, she now writes full length novels. She also tutors creative writing and runs classes and workshops.

For further information please see
u3asites.org.uk/test-villages/home

To join Test Villages U3A please email
tvu3amembership@gmail.com



Longstock Garden Club

Our Autumn programme begins on Oct 11 in Longstock Hall 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

Saturday
Sept 3rd



2.00
till
5.00

Bar Teas
Band Jams
Books Trout
Cakes Produce
Bouncy Castle Dog Show
Bottle Tombola Kid's games
Adventure Tunnel Coconut Shy
Golf Challenge

Separate BBQ 6.30
Music by Nick Ferretti



In aid of St. Mary's Longstock & village organisations
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Stockbridge Community Market

**Every Thursday morning
9.30 - 11.45am**

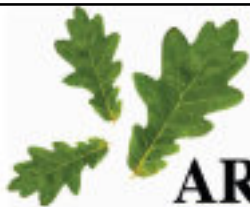
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The Jubilee Arch



I am pleased to be able to report that work on the Jubilee Arch has now started. Permission from the Church Authorities finally came through on 9th July, and today, Blackwell and Moody, who were the stone masons who repaired the War Memorial,

prepared the tops of the gateposts. This needed to be completed before fabrication begins, since although the tops of the posts are now flat and level, they are not at exactly the same height, and this disparity needs to be accommodated in the arch. The contract has been awarded to Philip Grob Blacksmith. It will be installed in the Autumn.

Kim Candler

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Charity Concert at King's Somborne Parish Church

**Sunday 18th September 2022
2.30pm to 4.30pm**

Featuring the Basingstoke Hospital Male Voice Choir & the Larks

A special concert of uplifting music, choral and a *capella* singing with joint proceeds in aid of the Cancer Unit, North Hampshire Hospital and Friends of St Peter and St Paul's church

Admission is free with a retiring collection at the end of the concert and all are also welcome to attend the 'afterglow' in the Village Hall for teas, coffees, sandwiches and cakes

Note: There will be an interval at 3.15pm (Toilet facilities are available at the Crown Public House where interval drinks can be pre-ordered in person or call 01794 388360)

For more information please contact Bill Martin – 01794 388510 or 07562 600437

About BHMVC

Formed in 2011 with just 8 singers the choir now has over 30 members comprising hospital staff and local residents.

They have raised thousands of pounds for local charities and good causes and follow two common aims - "sing for fun and sing for health!"

About The Larks

Originally formed in 2005, and now comprising residents of both Stockbridge and King's Somborne, these 6 enthusiastic *a capella* singers regularly perform at local shows and events and at SADS 'Curtain Calls' evenings in Stockbridge Town Hall

Winchester Heritage Open Days

Hampshire History Trust (HHT) is thrilled to confirm that booking is now open for events in the 2022 Winchester Heritage Open Days (HODs) festival.

The festival will run from 9 to 18 September and marks the seventh year that the Trust has supported this thriving celebration of local heritage. The programme includes over 100 events, right across Hampshire.

This year's theme is 'Astounding Inventions' and highlights include live demonstrations of 'astounding foodstuffs' at the Honesty Cookery School, behind-the-scenes insights at the much-loved Watercress Line railway and trailblazing talks, like Winchester City Museum's 'Become an Inventor' offering for budding young brainboxes. Stockbridge's famous hotel, The Grosvenor, will be hosting a tour and talk with refreshments on September 16.

The full programme can be found online at www.winchesterheritageopendays.org. All events are free and most don't require booking but, where needed, it's just a few easy clicks. The online programme will be updated continuously as details are confirmed in the run-up to the festival.

Winchester HODs is one of the biggest Heritage Open Days hubs in the country. Beginning informally in 2016 with a programme of 40 events, by 2019, it was offering over 140 attractions ranging from chocolate tastings to live theatre.

Hampshire History Trust was founded in 2020, seeking to build on, and out, from the success of Winchester HODs. Reflecting increasing momentum in HHT's work to nourish Hampshire's thriving local history scene, HHT runs free and low-cost history and heritage educational projects for the public benefit such as the podcast channel *Hampshire HistBites* throughout the year.

Volunteers

Hampshire History Trust is always on the look-out for new volunteers - both for the HODs festival and for our *Histbites* podcast.

Anyone keen to know more about either of these opportunities can get in touch for an informal chat via the Volunteering page on the Winchester HODs website <https://www.winchesterheritageopendays.org/volunteer>

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Advance Notice

We hope to be running joint flu and COVID clinics at our Broughton site this Autumn. We have not yet had all the details regarding the COVID vaccination so are

unable to allow booking yet. The clinics will be held during October with Saturday clinics, provisionally on 1st and 15th October, and other clinics during the week.

Text messages requesting information

The NHS has purchased a system called AccuRX for GP surgeries. This enables us to send text messages to patients. It also enables us to request information from patients by text. This function is called a 'Florey'. Information is recorded securely and saved in your patient record.

Why can't you ring me to ask for this information?

We often need information from several hundred patients. It would take a very significant amount of staff time to call every patient – and leave messages if you were not available. If Receptionists are calling patients, they are not available to answer the phone which adds to delays in answering calls.

What sort of information are you collecting?

We have recently asked for height and weight and blood pressure. We are also using this system to send out questionnaires relating to asthma symptoms.

What if I don't have a smart phone? If you cannot reply to the request, then you can ring us with the information or drop it into us.

National Patient Survey Results

Every year, random people are sent questionnaires to ask about their experience of using their GP surgery. The results of the 2022 survey have recently been published. You can review them using this link: GP Patient Survey (gp-patient.co.uk) Of the patients who responded to our Friends and Family Survey in July, 94% rated their experience as Very Good or Good.

Self-referral

There are increasing services which patients can use without going through the GP surgery:

- Minor Eye Conditions Telephone: 0300 303 4922
- Physiotherapy: Complete a form online. Search for: Southern Health Physiotherapy
- Prostate tests email: prostatehealthtest@uhs.nhs.uk

There is more information available on our website: stockbridgesurgery.co.uk

If you've had an accident and think you have broken a bone, please call 111 who can arrange for you to have an x-ray.

Staff Changes

We are sad to say Emily Kerton will be leaving us at the end of September. We wish her well.

Ann Spooner

Take a dip into a watery world with our literary and musical quiz, Part 1

Can you name the poem or song and the poet or lyricist?

1. All along the backwater,
Through the rushes tall,
Ducks are a-dabbling.
Up tails all!
2. Full fathom five thy father lies;
Of his bones are coral made;
Those are pearls that were his eyes:
Nothing of him that doth fade,
But doth suffer a sea-change
Into something rich and strange.
Sea-nymphs hourly ring his knell:
Ding-dong.
Hark! now I hear them,—ding-dong, bell.
3. Day after day, day after day,
We stuck, nor breath nor motion;
As idle as a painted ship
Upon a painted ocean.

Water, water, every where,
And all the boards did shrink;
Water, water, every where,
Nor any drop to drink.
4. The sea is calm tonight.
The tide is full, the moon lies fair
Upon the straits; on the French coast the light
Gleams and is gone; the cliffs of England stand,
Glimmering and vast, out in the tranquil bay.
5. Sail on silver girl
Sail on by
Your time has come to shine
All your dreams are on their way
See how they shine
Oh, if you need a friend
I'm sailing right behind
6. From the waterfall he named her,
Minnehaha, Laughing Water.

Part 2 on p 13
Answers on page 25

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Trout 'n About 2022

After a 2-year absence, the High St came alive on Sunday 7th August with street music, the steady chug of the King Alfred buses, tasty food cooked alfresco and the hubbub of happy families.

Trout 'n About was back - as vibrant and busy as it was in 2019, with slightly fewer stalls but a similar number of visitors. The football ground was busy with music, entertainment and bell ringing.

The TnA team was supplemented on the day by our wonderful volunteers who manned the information desks and helped ensure the day ran smoothly. We also had great support from our local scout group who ran the raffle and helped set up the bell tower.

With over 80 stalls, crowded car parks and a busy family area at the recreation ground, it was great to see so many happy faces (maybe a few grumpy ones in cars stuck in the traffic at midday - an issue to be addressed for 2023). We think that, as in 2019, at least 8,000 people came along. By 6.30pm the High St was back to normal with hardly a sign of the crowds of earlier in the day.

Feedback from stallholders and visitors has been very positive. Our visitors were happy to be back and enjoying the friendly welcome they received from the bus crews, stallholders and locals.

We made a reasonable surplus (despite some higher costs - e.g. for parking support and the King Alfred buses) which, as previously, we plan to allocate to charities and good causes from the SO20 Post Code. As before, we will base the allocation of donations on a poll of our volunteers, in two stages:



Stage 1 - we are seeking nominations from our volunteers of charities and good causes within the SO20 area.

Stage 2 - we will allocate donations based on the poll of the wider TnA team.

The donations will be made to the recipients at a Donations Evening in November or early December (date to be confirmed). Trout 'n About will return to the High St on Sunday 6th August 2023. As always, we are grateful to everyone in the community for their support and forbearance. We are always looking for new members of the TnA Team, so if you are interested, please contact us via the editors.

Richard Gueterbock

With thanks to photographers Helen Jones and Nigel Rugman.



Rupert Lobb - a Stockbridge War Hero

In my presentation, 'The Story of the Tank', in Stockbridge Town Hall on 19th July, I paid tribute to James Bradfield, Rupert Lobb and William Sims. They were killed in the Second World War fighting in tanks and are named on our war memorials.

We were aware that Rupert Lobb had been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry as a tank commander. I discovered in my research that he had been awarded a second Military Medal – a bar to his first medal – and that he was also mentioned in despatches for distinguished service. The purpose of this article is to spread awareness of the gallantry of this remarkable man.



This photo is of Rupert Lobb as a private in the Royal Tank Corps while doing his basic training at their Depot at Bovington in Dorset; probably just after his 18th birthday in 1936. Readers who knew his younger brother, Ray, will note the likeness to Rupert. Ray emigrated to New Zealand last year, following the death of his wife, to live with his son.

Rupert Lobb joined the 6th Battalion, Royal Tank Regiment (RTR) in Egypt on completion of his training. He transferred to the 44th Battalion, RTR in 1940 and fought with them in the Western Desert, Sicily, Italy and Northwest Europe.

The Military Medal, instituted by King George V in 1916, was awarded to warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers for acts of gallantry in the field. It is the equivalent of the Military Cross for officers and was a coveted medal for other ranks.

Rupert Lobb's regiment, 44th RTR, was involved in fierce battles against Rommel's Afrika Corps in June and July 1942. As a troop sergeant commanding a tank, he was decorated for gallantry on two occasions.

For the second award, his commanding officer recommended Rupert Lobb for the Distinguished Conduct Medal – next below the Victoria Cross for gallantry for other ranks. This was downgraded by General Montgomery to the Military Medal.



The citations for Rupert's two Military Medals are displayed side by side below:

On 7th June 1942, Sergeant Lobb was in command of one of five tanks operating against the enemy at GOBI EL FACRI. One of these tanks was hit, its track being blown off. Without waiting for orders Sergeant Lobb went to assist it under heavy and accurate shell and machine gun fire. He got out and attached a tow rope but it gave way. This happened a second and third time, but on each occasion Sergeant Lobb got out and refastened it. During this time his tank was hit and the 2-pounder gun rendered useless.

His driver then stalled the engine and was unable to restart owing to flat batteries, so Sergeant Lobb signalled the crew of the other tank to evacuate and used his own smoke mortars and remaining machine gun to cover them. He returned later with his own crew and with the assistance of another tank successfully recovered his own tank still under direct fire from the enemy. Throughout this operation Sergeant Lobb showed complete disregard for his own safety and his coolness and leadership, combined with his resolute refusal to abandon his tank made a magnificent example of devotion to duty.

Sergeant Lobb has been a troop sergeant in every action fought by this battalion since November 1941. He distinguished himself in the GAZALA fighting of June and again at ALAMEIN in July, he fought in several actions with the greatest credit.

On 16th July 1942, at TEL EL EISA, he and his troop were ordered forward, having already taken part in one action that day to support 'A' Squadron. His was the only tank of the troop that arrived intact and on his own he carried out a successful flanking movement, knocking out 2 anti-tank guns and being instrumental in capturing approximately 200 prisoners.

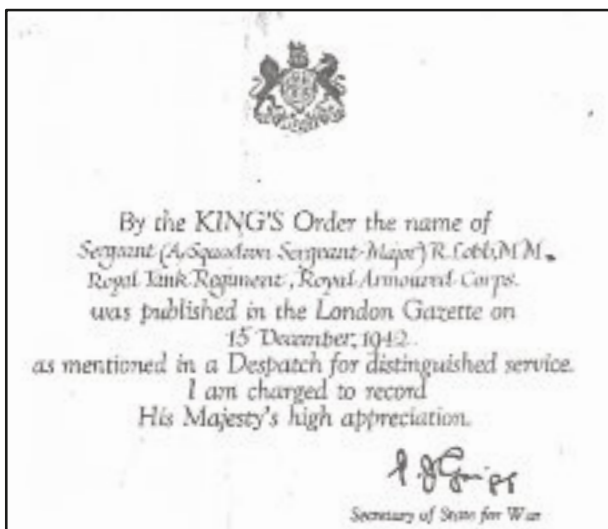
Having completed this task, thereby greatly relieving the situation of 'A' Squadron, Sergeant Lobb saw that the Squadron Commander's tank would not move. Though under heavy shell and small arms fire, he got out of his tank, attached a tow rope and towed the Squadron Commander's tank out of action.

On every occasion that Sergeant Lobb has been in action, his coolness, courage and devotion to duty have been worthy of the highest praise.

Rupert Lobb's distinguished service during the battles in the Western Desert in 1942, including in the battle of Alamein, was also recognised with a mention in despatches in December 1942. Members of the armed forces mentioned in despatches appear in official reports, written by a senior officer and sent on to

higher command, in which their meritorious actions in the face of the enemy is brought to notice.

No citations are available for this award. The award is recognised with a small bronze oak leaf on the ribbon of the 1939-1945 War Medal and a certificate.



Rupert Lobb, as Squadron Sergeant Major of B Squadron 44th RTR, was killed on 7th September 1944 in an action near Kerkhove in Belgium. The regimental war diary records that he was killed when

a high explosive artillery round burst on the turret of his tank. Thus ended the life of a courageous 'tankie' who had commanded tanks in the front line in the Western Desert, the invasion of Sicily, the advance up the Adriatic coast in Italy and in the bloody battles in Normandy. He was only 26 years old and would have enjoyed a glittering career as a regular soldier.

Rupert Lobb is buried in the Commonwealth War Grave Commission's cemetery at Heverlee in Belgium.

David Williams



Literary and Musical Quiz, Part 2

Can you name the poem or song and the poet or lyricist?

7. I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky,
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by;
And the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail's shaking,
And a grey mist on the sea's face, and a grey dawn breaking.
8. And I'm never, never sick at sea!
What, never?
No, never!
Hardly ever!
He's hardly ever sick at sea!
9. Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!
The river glideth at his own sweet will:
Dear God! the very houses seem asleep;
And all that mighty heart is lying still!
10. I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore.

Answers on Page 25



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Stockbridge & Longstock Homes for Ukraine Group

NEWSFLASH! A NEW scheme

Details of this exciting new scheme come from Rosie Wilcock, the Refugee Caseworker at TVBC, who has always been very positive about our local support network.

She is keen to launch the new scheme through our group and writes, "We realise that the Stockbridge group is very innovative and proactive in so many ways and it would be great if you could help us to get this new scheme off the ground."

We believe this initiative, details below, could transform the Ukrainian Refugee Hosting scene.

Want to help, but unable to commit long-term?

Could you be a short-term Foster Host for a Ukrainian household in need?

Sometimes, due to unforeseen circumstances, Homes for Ukraine sponsorship arrangements come to an end suddenly, when there is not always alternative accommodation immediately available. A Foster Host can provide short-term accommodation (4-12 weeks) in an emergency, where a guest's previous sponsorship has ended and a longer-term solution is being identified.

The NEW scheme is ideal for those that would like to help and were unable to commit to long-term placements. Please also note this is a scheme running throughout Hampshire and is not a Home Office initiative.

If all eligibility criteria are met in advance of arrival, the host will receive the Government's £350pcm thank you payment for the time that guests are resident in their accommodation. Guests must stay for a minimum of 4 clear weeks in order to qualify for the payment.

If you feel you could help refugees in this new way, please request FURTHER INFORMATION by emailing: - refugeesupport@testvalley.gov.uk"

For further information about how you can help, and to find out more about the **Stockbridge & Longstock Homes for Ukraine Group**, please contact Mark Frank on 01264 810562

Iryna's story

Many of you will have seen Iryna in Stockbridge – one of our Ukrainian guests staying with James and Christine Leslie. I recently had a chance to talk to her about her experience and this is her story.

Until the Russian invasion on the 24th February, Iryna was enjoying life as a young professional woman in Kiev, a large vibrant city. Although she was aware of Putin's threats to invade, she did not believe it would happen. There had been so many threats before. Then she woke up on the morning of the 24th to the sound of sirens and explosions. It was 5:00 AM and the road outside her flat was full of cars fleeing the city.

She, a cousin, and a friend immediately decided that they had to leave Kiev for somewhere safer. They spent the day getting cash and buying some food and other essentials. They then abandoned their flats and took a train to a smaller town. There a woman, who didn't know them, very generously took them in and they thought they were relatively safe. However, the town soon came under rocket and missile attack, and about a week later a rocket landed very close to Iryna's bedroom; fortunately it failed to explode or she would not be here to tell her story. They decided they had to leave Ukraine and squeezed onto the first available train going West without even knowing the destination.

The journey was horrendous. The train was freezing cold and so crowded they couldn't sit down. It seemed to be under attack with frequent sirens and explosions. This lasted for 12 hours until they arrived in Poland with nothing except what they were carrying. Iryna hadn't slept for 36 hours. In Poland they were given temporary accommodation

while they tried to find a country that would accept them on a long-term basis. Iryna chose the UK because of its strong support for Ukraine and is sure



she made the right choice. As Iryna says "We used to think of Ukraine and Russia as sister nations, now the UK and Poland are our sisters".

While in Poland, Iryna came into contact with Harriet Fisher whom she describes as her angel. Harriet helped her get a visa, arranged a flight and temporary accommodation in a hotel in London, met her off the plane and helped her with the bureaucracy once in the UK. As Iryna says, as a refugee, it is essential to have help when you come to the UK and Harriet provided it. Her original UK sponsor withdrew their offer but luckily, after an appeal from Harriet on the Stockbridge WhatsApp group, James and Christine Leslie stepped in and became her sponsor. Which is how she ended up in Stockbridge.

Iryna stressed how friendly and supportive the people of Stockbridge have been. All those Ukrainian flags make a difference! She says James and Christine have been like a family to her. She has a job at the Grosvenor and is rapidly learning English. Like many young people, Ukrainian and British, she hopes to be able to move to London or a large city eventually, but is impressed how the not-so-young of Stockbridge live such full lives. She says that in Ukraine you are considered old when you reach 60.

The war has forced Iryna to start her life again. She is in contact with her family, most of whom have decided to stay in Ukraine, but she has had to leave behind her job, her flat, her friends, the fabric of her life. She feels like she was a responsible adult and now she is a child dependent on others. She does not know what happens next, but she is desperate to become independent. After meeting her, I am sure that she will succeed.

Mark Frank

Meeting The Grosvenor's New Beautician

Have you noticed how beautifully groomed the Ukrainian ladies are? They all have perfect make up, without even an eyelash out of place! I used to think I was more or less holding my own, but no longer.



Enter Rimma, the lady who does more than tidy up or wax your straggly bits, and can help you feel a hundred dollars in just a short space of time. It is all in the detail - and wow - it seems to work!

My first treatment was a semi-permanent eyebrow dye: with skin tone, shade and susceptibility to sun, taken into consideration. The next one was eyebrow curling, a good half century after having tried it once and having decided that it was a no-go area for me. Thanks to Rimma, that has all changed - and should the day ever dawn when maturity receives equal status to youth, along with others who relished the swinging sixties, I will be elbowing the teenage stick insects off the runway (catwalk in my day!).

Back to Rimma and her treatment room in 'The Shed'. This was the brainchild of Teresa Henderson, who with her husband Simon, has given new life to The Grosvenor. Teresa heard about Rimma's successful Kiev beauty business and provided the opportunity for her work to continue in 'The Shed'.

Like all the Ukrainians in Stockbridge and the local villages, Rimma is a shining example of someone working hard to forge a new life in the UK.

This young lady is truly a star! *Christine Leslie*

Winchester City Festival Choir

Next year will be a very special year for the Winchester City Festival Choir as we celebrate our Centenary. Our Centenary Concert will take place on Saturday 28th January 2023 at 7.30pm at the Harvey Hall of the Performing Arts Centre at St Swithun's School. We will be performing Haydn's *The Creation* and have also commissioned Oliver Tarney, Head of Composition at Winchester College, to write a special piece for us in celebration of this auspicious occasion. This piece will include a children's choir and will be at the start of the concert.

We begin rehearsals on 7th September at Littleton Village Hall under the direction of our Musical Director, Paul du Plessis Smith. We are holding an open evening for anyone interested in singing with us on Wednesday 14th September. Due to the pandemic and other reasons, we are in particular need of sopranos but, if you sing other parts and would like to come and see what we have to offer, you would be very welcome indeed.

If you would like to speak to someone prior to those dates, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. Tel: 01264 810054

E-mail: geoff@medlarcottage70.plus.com

Many thanks.

Geoff Cox - Chairman



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Extreme Weather (for Hampshire)

We Brits are well known for our obsession with the weather. According to social anthropologist Kate Fox, who did a study for an update of her book *Watching the English*, 94% of British respondents admit to having conversed about the weather in the past six hours, while 38% say they have in the past 60 minutes. This means at almost any moment in this country, at least a third of the population is either talking about the weather, has already done so or is about to do so.

And there is plenty to talk about. Britain's position at the edge of the Atlantic places it at the end of a storm track feeding on the temperature difference from the equator to the poles. Add in the Gulf Stream, which means the British climate is milder than it should be given our northern latitude, plus our island nature ensuring lots of moisture in the air - all combining to make our weather particularly unpredictable.

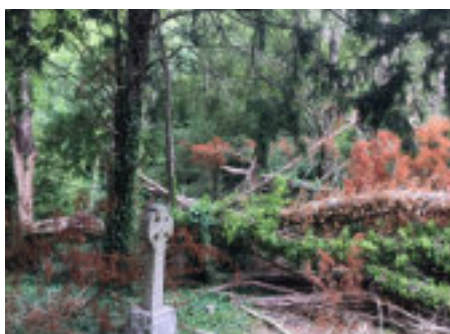
So why is it so dry now? Droughts occur when rainfall is low, which can be driven by a variety of factors like climate change, ocean temperature and changes in a local landscape. In the UK, an extremely hot July and an unusually dry spring have contributed to the onset of drought. Another heatwave at the beginning of August has exacerbated the situation.

We have all but forgotten our very wet and stormy February, when Storm Eunice struck the south coast on February 18 with a (provisional) record gust for England of 122 mph recorded at the Needles.

We suffered local damage with many trees affected and power cables brought down. Much work was done at the time to clear roads and restore power. Some of us were without electricity for three days. A lot of the clearance work was completed quickly but six months on, residents can't help but notice that some work remains to be done.



Most obviously the tree on the White Hart roundabout (above) is an eyesore, but Winton Hill cemetery has also been badly affected.



Although much of the cemetery has been cleared and is looking peaceful and cared-for, many cut and broken branches and brushwood still lie uncleared at its entrance, covering some of the graves and affecting space for parking.



It seems a pity it has taken so long to complete these jobs.

Editors

For further fascinating and very detailed information about the weather in the UK, see www.trevorharley.com. Trevor is Emeritus Professor of Psychology at the University of Dundee, a science journalist and weather enthusiast.



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David Owen Norris Piano Trio



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Making a Difference

'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world'. Nelson Mandela

Colonel Harry Vialou-Clark, a recent resident in Stockbridge, was born in Nairobi. His father died when Harry was five years old and he was raised by his mother. He was sent to England in 1953 to attend Ardingly College in Sussex and then joined the British Army. During his time in the army he became a chartered civil engineer.



In 1992, when Harry had retired from the army, Harry and Alison were able to return to Kenya where Harry was appointed as the bursar of an English prep school, Pembroke House. One day Harry asked Peter, who worked in his home, if he would take him to a local primary school. Harry was

surprised to find little more than a goat shed with very few educational facilities. Harry's vision of giving an opportunity of a good education for all local children began to develop. The map shows the area of the charity's work in Kenya's Rift Valley.

Harry's visit to a local school confirmed his belief that education was one of the most important life skills for rural local children. From this visit, the Kariandusi School Trust was formed. Over the next twenty years, Harry built sixteen stone-built primary schools, two secondary schools and five nursery schools. During term times, about 9,400 children benefited from greatly improved learning environments and teaching resources. All were state schools but parents were expected to build the schools themselves and the state would appoint and pay for the teachers. The School Trust supported the building work.

Ndogo Primary School for 250 children was built with help from Ardingly College. Teams from the school still visit annually to teach the children and add to the buildings.



Secondary education is fee-paying in Kenya and is often beyond the expectation of rural children. Some of the brightest children were poor and so

Harry, through his Kariandusi School Trust, was able to award scholarships. The first scholar came from Komothai in 1999 and the Langalanga Scholarship was set up.

These children were supported scholars at the Jomo Kenyatta High School and two other good secondary schools.



The School Trust built schools in destitute areas and the Langalanga Scholarship Fund gave 284



scholarships to the brightest children, giving an opportunity of secondary and tertiary education over the next 20 years. The scholars needed lifeskills support to begin their

secondary school, from practising tie-tying and using stamps to post letters, to understanding and adapting to their new lives in school.



Many scholars are in good jobs such as doctors, nurses, bankers, and engineers. All have attended university or college in Kenya. Funding for the scholarships came from many generous individuals, schools, Rotary Clubs and businesses. The scholars have their own tie or scarf to recognise their success and partnership. All the work was undertaken and led by volunteers.

Hosea Ndungu was the first scholar. He is presently in the UK to undertake an MSc in Electronic and Electrical Engineering at Birmingham University.

Harry was awarded an MBE by the Queen for Services to Education in Kenya in the 2012 New Year's Honours List.

(More details at www.langalangatrust.org.uk)

Jill Goodwin



The Palazzo Bo

'Allowing the honour of being home to the scientific revolution might be said to belong to one single place and that it is Padua'. - H.Butterfield, Harvard University 1958



Padua University was founded in 1222, but even before that the city was home to 'schools' for the study of law. There was a spirit of academic freedom in the university which would continue to be its characteristic over the centuries. At first a centre for law, the university would gradually expand to cover other disciplines - the study of medicine, philosophy, theology and astronomy. The original building is now the main campus of the modern university and it is right in the middle of the city.

From the sixteenth century The Great Hall housed The Great School of Jurists and was where lessons were held. One of those who taught here was Galileo and the hall is now dedicated to his memory.



Galileo's rostrum is housed outside the hall. It was set up by his students so that he could teach to the large crowds that thronged to his lectures. He taught at Padua for eighteen years and later recalled that they were amongst the happiest periods of his life. Here he would take the first steps towards the development of modern scientific theory.

The university began teaching medicine in 1250. It played a leading role in the identification and treatment of diseases and ailments, specialising in

autopsies and the inner workings of the body. The Theatre of Anatomy was built in 1594 for the professor of anatomy, Gerolamo d'Acquapendente.



It was the first permanent theatre of anatomy in the world. The wooden structure has the form of an inverted cone with an elliptical ground plan. The six concentric ranks of seats rise above the anatomy table. Here public dissections took place before packed audiences of artists and scientists. The lighting for the lessons was provided by burning torches. The two-week dissections only took place in the winter months to avoid the summer heat. Scientists and doctors who travelled to Padua to observe the dissections included William Harvey, who based many of his drawings on his observations here, and Thomas Linacre, physician to Henry V111.

The medicine hall is now used by medical students to publically discuss their theses; it used to host lessons in anatomical theory. This ornate certificate was awarded to Jan Dammam in 1642. At the foot of one of the staircases is a statue of Elena Piscopia, a Venetian noblewoman and mathematician. In 1678, she would become the world's first woman graduate when she was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree. Women at Oxford were not awarded the University degrees that they had earned until 1920.



We visited the University of Padua in June 2022. The building was busy with students and teachers working in small open spaces while visitors wandered throughout the ancient building joining the celebrations of 800 years as a continuous university in the centre of Padua. *Jill Goodwin*

Over the Hedge in Wales



The Royal Welsh Show was held from 18 to 21 July 2022 at the showground in Llanellwedd. Along with the fantastic livestock, the show provides something to interest everyone through its wide range of activities including forestry, horticulture, crafts, countryside sports, food and drink and a 12-hour programme each day of exciting entertainment, attractions and displays.

While on holiday in Wales this year, we were lucky enough to be able to pop along to this year's Royal Welsh Show. Having been cancelled for the past 2 years due to Covid 19, this was going to be a show that everyone was looking forward to.

In this part of Wales, the main harvest of forage had been completed. There is very little in the way of cereal crops in this area which gives the local agricultural community the opportunity to be able to go to the Show to show their animals, meet up with friends and family and just have a good time together.

Showing animals is taken very seriously. I found this young lady cleaning her cow, giving a quick covering of soap, then power-washing it off; the cow seemed to love it.



The end result of all this care can be seen with this young chap proudly showing his cow.



From pigs to goats, the whole spectrum of farm animals was at its very best.



This was also a family event with Mum, Dad and the children all taking part in the show.



There was so much at the Show that everyone who came along had plenty to do. Out in the main ring, we were able to watch a range of animals as they took part in their competitions.



For those perhaps not so interested in animals, there were plenty of tractors and machinery to have a look round. I took a liking to this little bit of forestry kit.

Looking around it was really good to see some of the old skills being kept alive; this lady was spinning wool.

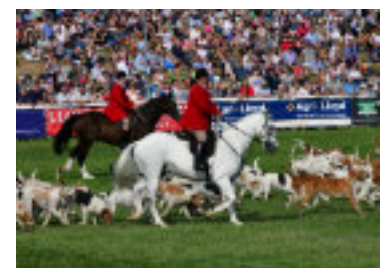
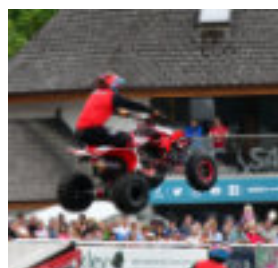


Back in the ring, this chap involved the children in a little bit of sheepdog activity. His sheepdog was given the task of moving 4 sheep through the gap that the children had left between them.



The question he gave the children was 'how many legs were involved in the task?'

And to end with a few more pictures -



A fantastic day out!

Ryan Bundy

*(And the answer to the question as to how many legs: 4 sheep = 16 legs, 1 sheepdog = 4 legs, 1 shepherd = 2 legs. Total 22)

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Stockbridge Parish Council News

Village Design Statement

At the July meeting of Stockbridge Parish Council Mrs Jean Boney, the Chair of Save Our Stockbridge came to talk to the Council about updating the Village Design Statement. She said that the present design statement was an excellent document but it had been produced in the early 2000's and it now needed updating. This would not be a straight-forward task but, because it was very much in the interests of Stockbridge, members of the Stockbridge community would come forward to help. The Council agreed to hold a public meeting in early October to explain its importance, what would need to be done and to seek volunteers to help with the updating. More information will be available in the Council newsletter and on their website. If you are interested in becoming involved in updating Stockbridge's Village Design statement please contact the Clerk.

Children's Playground

A member of the Stockbridge Recreation Ground committee asked the Council to undertake weekly inspections of the children's playground. The Chair explained that the Council's insurance only requires monthly inspections and that the Council was engaging the manufacturer to undertake quarterly inspections which would include undertaking any necessary repairs. The Council's insurance only provided cover for volunteers to do the inspections. If any member of the Stockbridge community would be prepared to undertake some of the inspections as a volunteer please let the Clerk know.

England Coastal Path

HCC has announced that a 52-mile continuous walking route from Calshot to Portsmouth via Gosport is now open for you to enjoy. This is Hampshire's first complete section of the new England Coastal Path, this will be a 2,700-mile-long national network which will connect the country's entire coastline into one long National Trail. HCC has worked closely with Natural England to help shape the coastal path, which includes improved boardwalks and signage (carrying the distinctive acorn waymarker). Rambling, uninterrupted, along Solent's coastline will help connect you with nature and you can enjoy the unique environments en route: unspoiled countryside, with its abundance of wildlife, as well as busy marinas, industrial heritage, and historic castles. See England Coast Path - South East Information - National Trails for more information.

Romsey Flood Scheme

Romsey flood scheme has now been completed. The project run by the Environment Agency to help boost Romsey's flood defences has been officially opened after an event at the end of July. The works along the River Test will reduce the risk of fluvial flooding by utilising earth embankments, temporary barriers, a

flow control structure across Fishlake stream, penstocks and a new bridge and spillway along the Causeway. The project officially became operational last autumn thanks to funding from various organisations, including £300,000 from TVBC.

HCC Survey

HCC is asking for your views for the National Highways and Transport Network annual public satisfaction survey. The survey will ask your opinion about Hampshire County Council's highways and transport services – including the condition of roads, provision for cyclists, public transport and how utilities' works, such as gas and water, are managed on the road network. The survey is open until Friday 30 September.

Adults' Health and Care

Did you know that HCC provides 24/7 support to make life at home easier and safer. Adults' Health and Care Service offers a lifeline to thousands of people experiencing mobility issues. They can provide more than 10,000 items of vital equipment each month to help elderly and disabled adults and children to maintain their independence, which includes hoists and adjustable beds. This includes patients returning home from hospital who need support. As well as installing the equipment, HCC will service and repair it when needed.

The next meeting of Stockbridge Parish Council will be on 15th September 2022.

*Belinda Baker, Clerk to the Parish Council
clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk*

A Defibrillator Near You!

It's always good to be prepared in case of a health emergency so here's a reminder of the location of defibrillators available for public use across the Benefice -

- Stockbridge Fire Station (available 24 hrs)
- Longstock Village Hall (available 24 hrs)
- Leckford Estate Office (restricted hours).
- Leckford Farm Shop (restricted hours)

For further details, and for other UK locations, see www.defibfinder.uk

Instructions for use are given when the device is commandeered but AED, defibrillator suppliers, hold online awareness sessions to train anyone who would like prior understanding of how to use one.

See <https://www.aeddonate.org.uk/events/>

(The Editors would be interested to hear from anyone willing to tell us about an experience of using a public defibrillator. We may not wish to think of such misfortune but sharing helpful information could save a life.)



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Potting Shed Cuttings for September



Gardening Events for September:

The Garden Show - Broadlands, Romsey;
Designing Gardens for Climate Adaptation -
Chichester;
Malvern Autumn Show;
Lambeth Palace Garden Open Day

The Drought Garden

We have all become experts in managing our gardens in drought conditions this summer and it seems likely it's something we need to become used to. Re-reading Beth Chatto's '*Drought Resistant Planting*' and '*The Dry Garden*' has proved useful as I look at my mixed borders in a new light! Some ideas to help our plants to survive through such periods may be too late now, but are worth considering. Avoid using fertilisers, which will encourage tender, leafy growth needing more water and especially synthetic fertilisers, which can leave salts to build up in dry soils. We know that a weekly, deep, slow soaking, early in the morning or at night and directly onto the soil, is better than more frequent light sprinklings; the latter will not encourage deep root growth and will not help to remove a build-up of salt in the soil. Hard pruning of shrubs and trees will also encourage new growth, so this should be avoided. Fit in as many water butts as you can; they come in all shapes and sizes and can also be things of beauty in a small garden, where they are not easily hidden. Apply 2-3"/5-7.5cm of mulch wherever you can; this will not only help to conserve moisture, it can help insulate the soil against higher temperatures. Continuing drought conditions can weaken plants and leave them exposed to diseases and to attack by insects; their hardiness over the winter may also be compromised.

The Flower Garden

Only continual watering and feeding will have saved summer bedding containers and baskets over the past few weeks, and vegetable growers may well have sacrificed these to protect food harvests. In any case, this month is a good time to empty containers, clean and refill with new compost for winter and spring bedding. If the weather changes and frosts appear, tender container perennials should be brought inside or protected in sheltered spots. For those whose late summer flowering perennials, such as dahlias, have survived, continue dead-heading to encourage new flowers. Don't assume that perennials have died in our dry summer, leave them in place and wait; they may well recover next year.

The Fruit and Vegetable Garden

Take care of developing vegetables on your plot: squashes, marrows and pumpkins should be raised off the ground onto old carpet, wood or tiles or sheets of plastic to protect them from insects and,

if there is any, damp soil. Lift and store root vegetables and pinch out the growing tips on tomatoes and squashes; new fruits will not ripen now. Take out the lower leaves of tomato plants and around squashes and courgettes to allow as much sun as possible onto the remaining fruits. If your leeks and celery need earthing up, now is the time to do it. Remove the base leaves around developing celeriac and, if there is still little rainfall, continue to water regularly. Plant spring-heating cabbages, garlic and overwintering onion sets and sow broad beans, swedes, winter salad leaves, spring cabbages, turnips and onions. In the fruit garden, complete summer pruning of cordon-trained fruit trees and prune.

The Lawn

You may well ask – 'What Lawn?' Last month has left most of us with the brown, shrivelled remnants of what was previously our green and pleasant land. But grass is resilient and an autumn and winter of regular rainfall (we hope) should see our lawns return to their normal condition eventually. Long-range forecasts from the Met Office are only for up to 15 days ahead and, although conditions are likely to be unsettled, they report that temperatures should remain warm.

Christmas is coming!

This month is traditionally the time to plant up bowls of forced hyacinths for Christmas. Buy early and look for individual bulbs: they should be healthy, firm specimens, with undamaged bases and a single tip.

Christmas at Kew will be taking place between 16th November and 8th January; tickets bookable now.

Micki Nadal

Watery Quiz Answers

1. Duck's Ditty - Kenneth Grahame, 1908
2. Ariel's Song, from *The Tempest* - William Shakespeare, 1610/11
3. *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* - Samuel Taylor Coleridge, 1798
4. *Dover Beach* - Matthew Arnold, 1851
5. *Bridge over troubled water* - words and music by Paul Simon, 1969
6. *The Song of Hiawatha* - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1855
7. *Sea Fever* - John Masefield, 1902
8. *From HMS Pinafore* - W.S. Gilbert, 1878
9. *Composed Upon Westminster Bridge, September 3, 1802* - William Wordsworth
10. *The Lake Isle of Innisfree* by William Butler Yeats, 1888

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Recipes from Ukraine

Beef and Root Vegetable Pot



Ingredients

300g shin, or equivalent, of beef
300g of beetroot, cubed
400g white cabbage, shredded
500g potatoes, sliced
100g carrots, sliced
2 medium onions, sliced
3 cloves of garlic
1 sweet pepper, sliced
2 parsley roots*, sliced
2tbsp clarified butter
50g fat (lard)
1 bay leaf
Large handful of chopped parsley and dill
Pepper and salt to taste
Sugar, tomato paste
Vinegar
150g sour cream

Method

Fry the beetroot in butter, add a tablespoon of vinegar and cook until tender. You may need to add a small amount of water. Add 1 tbsp sugar and 2 tbsp of tomato paste.

Cut the meat into small cubes and place in 3 litres of water in a large pan on hob. Add salt and pepper and boil for 10 mins.

Add potatoes and cabbage and cook for another 15 mins.

Add the bay leaf, beetroot and all other vegetables and cook for further 15 mins.

Add finely chopped garlic (which could be pounded with the fat, then added). Season with salt and pepper.

Bring to the boil then let stand for 20 minutes.

Scatter the parsley and dill on the surface and serve in bowls with sour cream and chunks of fresh bread.

*Petroselinum crispum, also known as Hamburg parsley. It tastes like a combination of celeriac, parsley and carrot. Use it to add depth and aroma to soups, stews, beef roulades, vegetable salads and many other dishes. It looks almost exactly like a parsnip and can be used in a similar way.

Ukrainian Pancakes with Cabbage



Ingredients

1 kg potatoes
300g sauerkraut
2 eggs, beaten
1 onion
100g wheat flour
200g milk
cabbage
salt, pepper, vegetable oil

Served with:
cabbage, cooked
sour cream

Method

Peel and wash the potatoes and coarsely grate into a bowl. Squeeze excess water out.

Squeeze the juice from the sauerkraut and add to the potatoes.

Mix beaten eggs into the above.

Finely chop an onion and mix into above. Pour in the milk, flour and a pinch of salt.

The mixture should be the consistency of batter. If required, either gradually add milk or flour and mix well.

Heat the vegetable oil in a pan. You may wish to add a little butter.

Take a tablespoon of the mixture and put into the hot pan. Each pancake should be pressed to flatten into shape. Fry for 3-4 minutes on each side, checking it doesn't burn.

Serve with the cooked cabbage and sour cream.



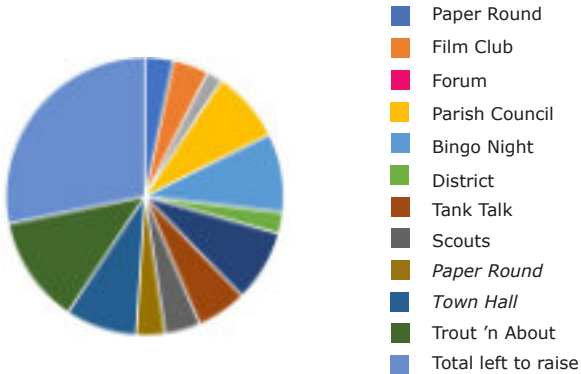
With thanks to our Ukrainian guests:

Rimma, Victoria Shamshina, Lydia Shamshina and Gergiy Rotary

THANK YOU from the Stockbridge Explorer Jamboree Team!

I want to open with a huge thank you for all the support the Jamboree team have received from the Stockbridge community. The international camps are less than a year away and we are three quarters of the way through the fundraising. With all the money that has been promised and secured we have raised £8,620 of the required £12,000.

Stockbridge Explorers Jamboree Fundraising



Since I last wrote we have done a fair amount of fundraising. In May we held a mini fete outside the church followed by another very well-attended Bingo night at the Town Hall, and braved a very cold car boot fair in Weyhill. More recently we have supported the Stockbridge Music Summer Concert and run the raffle for the Trout 'n About festival.



A special thanks must go to David Williams who gave up his time to research, write and deliver an interesting talk on the history of the tank in July on one of the hottest days this year. It was well attended and attendees were incredibly generous.



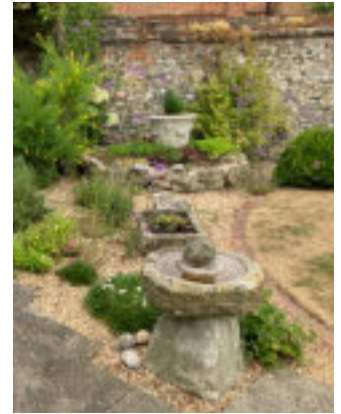
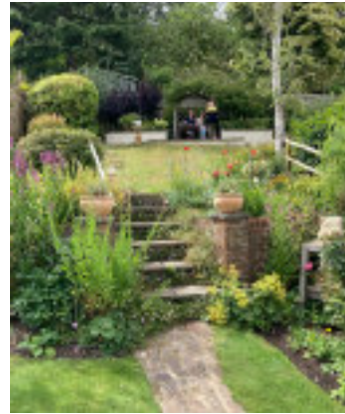
The Explorers are looking forward to jamboree training weekends in September and will then be taking part in a sponsored walk in London called 'The 20 Bridge Walk': 22 miles past or over 20 bridges in London.

It will be a long day but we are all looking forward to it.

Thank you again for all your support.

Andrea Zanchi
The Stockbridge Jamboree Team

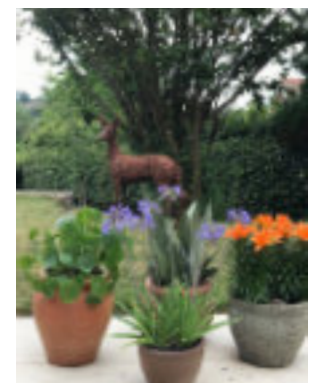
St Peter's Church, Stockbridge Gardens Open, 30th and 31st July



As the UK has experienced the hottest summer since records began, with temperatures hitting 41°C, the intrepid gardeners of Stockbridge's west end took on the drought and opened their gardens to the public to raise funds for the church. Visitors were rewarded with some magnificent gardens, with colour despite everything, and thanks to the



new owners of Old Church House and The Greyhound, could enjoy a delightful riverbank walk which emerged, or started, through the arch of Woodfire, conveniently close to the church lawn where tea could be enjoyed to the accompaniment of Amesbury Brass Band.



Church News

St Peter's and Old St Peter's Stockbridge



The month of August falls in 'Ordinary Time' in the Liturgical Church calendar. Ordinary Time lasts from Pentecost, usually in June, until Advent in November. During this time, we are called to live in love, giving our best to others and to the Church.

Following the generosity of the community in response to St Peter's Gift Day and the money raised on the Church lawn during the NGS Open Gardens and then the Flower Festival, the last weekend of July saw more 'service in action'. Alison Vialou-Clark organised Open Gardens at the West End of the village which attracted visitors from far and wide. Those who opened their gardens to the public made a huge contribution to the fund-raising effort and the Church is very grateful. Angela McMeekin, helped by a substantial team of volunteers, valiantly served tea and home-made cakes on the Church Lawn on both 30th and 31st July. The Amesbury Brass Band, protected from the hot sun by a canopy, played a range of music on both afternoons. The village was positively buzzing. The money raised for the Church at this event was £5,500 and the total for the three events including gift aid will be over £13,000. Everyone who played a part, in whatever capacity, should be proud of this, having 'given of their best'. The money raised in this way is used exclusively for the running and maintenance costs of our two Churches and those responsible for managing the funds extend grateful thanks to everyone.

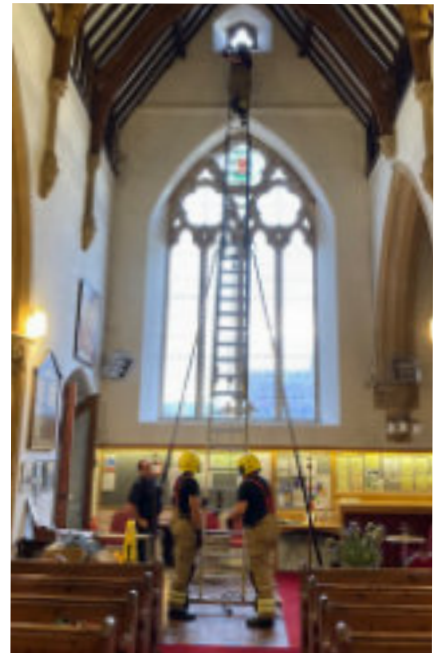
The Benefice Service on the 5th Sunday of July was held in St Mary's Church in Longstock, organised by Maddie. Due to a wedding the day before, the Church was beautifully decorated, inside and out, with glorious summer flowers. There was a large congregation and we had the privilege of all three priests of our Ministry Team, Phill, Sue and Pete, being in attendance. Adding to the sense of occasion, St Peter's Church Choir, led by Dawn, our organist, was also in attendance and added to the volume of praise.

Following the long dry summer, the Church lawn was soon completely brown. It has always been lovingly tended by Jane Lambert and we are so grateful to her. We know it will revive and Jane will be back with her mower before long.

The weather takes its toll on our buildings too. In preparation for the statutory Quinquennial Review of St Peter's in August, in which the Church Architect inspected the fabric of the building, our Church Warden, David Williams, assisted by Robin Colenso, appointed roofers to inspect the roof of St Peter's. The roofers replaced tiles on the south side but reported that renovating the north-facing roof would be a much more extensive job, requiring scaffolding and many more tile replacements.

Also in preparation for the Review, Catherine Williams, in charge of cleaning teams for St Peter's, requested the Church Warden to call the Fire Brigade! Fortunately, not because of a fire, but because only they have the ladders and expertise to clean the high windows and the rafters inside St Peter's. The

firemen are all volunteers and several of them kindly came along with their supervisors, Rick Mawer and Ian Tranham, and spent several hours removing huge and matted cobwebs from the upper windows and rafters. Christine Leslie and her team keep Old St Peter's immaculate, but height is not such



a problem there. Jill Goodwin has returned the kneelers and cushions to OSP which were kept dry since early lockdowns in the Rectory attic. Thank you to Catherine, Christine, Jill and all others who help clean and decorate our beautiful Churches.

Looking ahead:

Sunday 4th September: Tea and cake in the Church at 3pm. All welcome.

Saturday September 10th: 'Ride + Stride' - a sponsored bike ride or walk between churches, exploring and enjoying the countryside and our local Benefice churches. The money raised will help to repair churches and chapels throughout England, and we receive some of the funds raised for our own churches. Information from the Church Warden.

Harvest Festival: Whilst most of the South has enjoyed a long warm summer, the lack of rainfall has been really hard on the farmers. On September 18th, St Peter's is celebrating Harvest Festival in the service at 11am giving us the

Church News

opportunity to thank God for our daily bread. Please bring contributions of fruit, veg and other foodstuffs to the service; they will be donated to the Andover Food Bank.

The Church Choir

Congregations always appreciate the services when the choir is in attendance. Sadly, when Karen O'Donnell left last month for her new job in Cambridge, she was the third alto to leave the choir, leaving the alto pew sadly (but happily not completely) depleted. Dawn would welcome anyone who would like to join us in the choir which currently sings in St Peter's on the 3rd Sunday of each month, at Benefice services and special occasions such as Christmas.

Janet Williams



St Mary's Longstock

Patrick Donegan and Lucy Eastwood were married at the Chapel of St Thérèse of Lisieux, Farleigh, on Friday 29 July.



A service of Blessing and Confirmation was held in St Mary, Longstock for friends and family – a packed church with over 160 guests. The church was beautifully decorated for this very smart occasion. The bride was able to walk to the church from her home at Upper Manor Farm.

On the following Sunday, 31 July, the Benefice Eucharist was held at St Mary, Longstock and we were so fortunate that many of the floral displays were left at the church. The congregation was most impressed.

Dates for the diary:

Saturday 3 September - Longstock Fete at the Recreation Ground. In addition to the usual attractions, there will be a dog display. The fete will start at 2.00pm with a break at 5.00pm so that the Evening Barbecue can be set up. That will start at around 6.30pm.

Saturday 10 September - 'Ride and Stride' – when the fit get fitter by riding or walking, with sponsorship, to raise money for their church and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Historic Churches Trust. Its never too late to sign up. I will be walking and would love company on the journey.

Sunday 11 September – the Patronal Service for St Mary, Longstock. The service will start at 9.30am and this year the theme will be *Creation and the Environment*. St Mary's PCC hope that we will start working on our Environmental Bronze Award, working through the questionnaire to see what actions we need to take. Volunteers to help with this project are warmly welcomed. The bronze level will, among other things, look at how often we preach on the environment, heating, insulation, fair-trade and the churchyard.

A date for October – Sunday 2 October.

5.00pm Harvest Festival at St Mary, followed by a Hog Roast at Longstock Village Hall, starting around 6.15pm. Tickets £12 (£6 for 12 and under) Book by calling Maddie on 810284.

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

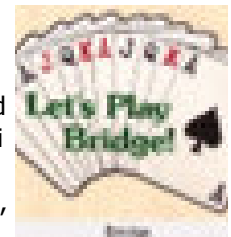
Maddie Hedley

Church Services at St Mary, Longstock for September 2022

4 September	9.30am	All Age
11 September	9.30am	Patronal Service for St Mary
18 September	9.30am	Morning Worship
25 September	No Service	

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A very kind person has donated a number of brand new Caspari packs of bridge playing cards and matching score sheet pads, together with a small number of new presentation boxes of bridge pens to Church Mouse Books.

If anyone is interested in making a donation to Church Mouse Books for these, please phone me on 07563753079 or 01264 810567. There are 32 score sheet pads, 7 double packs of cards and 3 boxes of pens. Thank you.

Micki Nadal



Church News

From the Area Dean

After the Summer Holidays, we go back to school and, for some, work. We start a new year in our schools. I am sure that everyone will settle in quickly whether in a new class or starting school for the first time – all of our schools are very welcoming! Do give a thought (and a prayer) to all of those in school, college or university (staff and students).

It may be that you haven't been to Church in a while and are thinking of going back for the first time. We hope that, if you come to one of the services in one of the churches in our Deanery, you will be made welcome – we are all quite friendly! Harvest will start to be celebrated in September and October – do look out for local Harvest Suppers and Services.

Your Area Dean, James

Revd James Pitkin - romseyareadean@gmail.com

The Column for August

Baptisms

There were no baptisms in August.

Weddings

On 13 August 2022, John and Sheelagh Rennie celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary of 12 August with a celebration lunch in their beautiful garden overlooking the River Test and surrounding countryside. Congratulations.

On 13 August 2022 at 3.00pm at St Mary's Church, Longstock, Dan and Jo Hawkins, surrounded by their family and friends, celebrated their marriage with prayers and saying, each to the other, what their marriage had meant to them - lives full of love, laughter and mutual respect. The prayer and praise ended with the song 'Islands in the Stream'.

On 26 August 2022, the marriage between Michael Reynolds and Lucy Ludlow took place at 1.00pm at St Mary's Church, Longstock.

Funerals

There were no funerals in the churches in August.

Hampshire Downs RC Parish St Thomas More

Services are held on Sundays at 9.00am

September Services for Stockbridge, Longstock and Leckford

4th September (Trinity 8)

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

11th September (Trinity 9)

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

18th September (Trinity 10)

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

21st September (Wednesday)

- 10.00 **Old St Peter** Holy Communion

25th September (Trinity 11)

- 11.00 **Stockbridge** Morning Worship

Prayer for September

Lord, you created a wonderful world, a world full of surprises;

Waterfalls which take your breath away,
Canyons and deserts, mountains and valleys.

The oceans are full of colourful fish, small and large,
mammals which swim the length and breadth of the sea.

You have provided enough – minerals, sources of energy, food, fruit, vegetables and grain.

You made us stewards of your creation. We are so sorry that we have not done a very good job. We have plundered the resources, taken too much, shared too little.

The seas are full of plastic and we have created toxic waste we can't dispose of.

Lord, help us to mend our ways, to work hard to restore the right balance.

If we use just a little less of everything, take our rubbish home instead of strewing it along the motorways and beaches, it would be a start.

We thank you for all we have, the countryside, the farms and rivers;

We pray we can become the good stewards that you want.

Amen



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