



The Parish Magazine for

£1

**STOCKBRIDGE
LONGSTOCK
& LECKFORD**

October 2024



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

Rector: Appointment in Progress

All Services during the interregnum covered by the Ministry Team

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

Please contact the Benefice Administrator, Lois Opperman

Phone No: 07900 927913 or midtestbenefice@gmail.com

This Magazine: 11 issues a year.

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St Peter's Stockbridge	St Mary's Longstock	St Nicholas' Leckford
<i>Churchwarden</i>	<i>Churchwarden</i>	<i>Churchwarden</i>
David Williams 811072	Madeleine Hedley 810284	Vacancy
<i>Hon Secretary</i>	<i>Hon Secretary</i>	<i>Hon Secretary</i>
Micki Nadal 810567	Richard Robinson 810388	Micki Nadal 810567
<i>Hon Treasurer</i>	<i>Hon Treasurer</i>	<i>Hon Treasurer</i>
Jean Farnan 07590 532460	Madeleine Hedley 810284	David Barnes 810516
Beavers	Pastoral Visitors	Stockbridge Parish Council
Frances Waghorn 01962 776048	Vacancy	Chair: Derek Halle
Bell ringers (Longstock)	RBL (Houghton branch)	Derek@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Chris Reynell 810569	David Williams (Chair) 811072	Clerk: Belinda Baker 07770 406607
Bell ringers (Stockbridge)	New Secretary to be appointed	clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org
Micki Nadal 810567	Angela McMeekin: Poppies 810236	Stockbridge Pharmacy 810624
Brownies (meet in Chilbolton)	Scouts	Stockbridge Police Station
Julie Shone 01962 761269	Mark Lovell 07786 435847	(Non emergencies) 101
Church Mouse Books	Scout Group Explorers	Stockbridge Primary /Pre School
Micki Nadal 810567	Andrea Zanchi 07747 720735	Emma Jefferies (Head) 810550
Cub Scouts	Louise Henderson 07436 899054	Stockbridge Rec Ground
Mo Collins 01256 895534	St Thomas More Church	Michael Porter (Chair) 810595
HCC County Councillor	Father Mark Hogan 01962 852804	Mob 07775 632632
Cllr David Drew 357024	Stockbridge Church Flowers Sec	Stuart Mawson(Sec) 07766 150055
mob 07738 289902	Angela McMeekin 810236	Stockbridge Surgery 810524
Kent Hill Scout Hall	Stockbridge Community Cinema	Out of hours urgent treatment /advice
Leigh Dance 811074	Paul Kidd 07732 580721	Hants Doctors On Call freephone 111
Leckford Parish Council	Stockbridge Community Market	Stockbridge Town Hall
Vacancy	Carol Preston 07925 287870	Kim Candler (Chair) 811776
Longstock Garden Club	Stockbridge Court Leet	On-line bookings
Peter Moore 07881 573493	Guy Boney (Lord of the Manor) 810614	www.stockbridgetownhall.co.uk
peter.r.moore@gmail.com	Andy Soper (Bailiff) 07776 258398	or phone 513299
Longstock Parish Council	Stockbridge Dramatic Society	Test Valley School
Chair: Selina Musters 810459	Mark Frank 810562	Ms Jo McKeown (Exec. Head) 810555
Clerk: Gill Bulpitt 07763857512	Stockbridge Football Club	Trout 'n About
Longstock Village Hall	Trevor Dance (Chair) 07780 661223	Bob Powell 07802 524433
Selina Musters 810459	Kieran Wilson (Hon Sec) 07883 624808	TVBC Councillor
Longstock & Leckford WI	Email: stockbridgefc@hotmail.co.uk	Cllr Ian Jeffrey 01794 388872
Selina Musters 810459	Stockbridge Music	Unity Transport (Dial-a-Ride shopping bus) 356808
Neighbour Care 0845 0943713	Paul Wing 07764 581601	
<i>Calls cost 7p/min +network charge.</i>		



Welcome to our new Rector Reverend Joe Sweetnam

We have now received the formal announcement of the appointment of Revd Joe Sweetnam as Rector of the Mid Test Benefice. Revd Joe's ministry here will commence on Sunday 10 November. His current appointment is Associate Priest, Swaythling.

Joe Sweetnam has lived in Hampshire all his life and is delighted to be moving to the Mid Test with his wife Kelly and their three children. Before being ordained he was an Architect, working on projects across the south coast. Joe comes to the Mid Test after serving at Swaythling in Southampton, Valley Park in Chandlers Ford, and Winchester. Joe has a passion to see all people flourish to become the people God wants them to be, and is very much looking forward to starting ministry in the Mid Test.

The Induction Service for Revd Joe will take place on Wednesday 6 November at 7.30pm at St Peter's Church, Stockbridge. Officiating will be The Right Revd Philip Mounstephen, the Bishop of Winchester.

For October and part of November we will continue to be supported by the Clerical Registry and the team of lay worship leaders until Revd Joe begins his ministry on Sunday 10 November.

Revd Joe will find congregations looking forward to his ministry and growing in faith together and churches and communities in good heart. We feel blessed he and his family are joining us.

Maddie Hedley

For further information, please see page 28.

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Cover Photo: Fieldmouse (Pixabay)

October's footers offer thoughts about Autumn - in the garden, in the fields and in our lives.

Stockbridge Town Hall Events



Weekly

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

This Month

Oct 1	Stockbridge Drama Society
Oct 4	Stockbridge Ukraine
Oct 5	Antique Fair
Oct 7	Stockbridge Fisheries
Oct 7-9	Jennifer Gay Alpaca
Oct 8-9	Tiggy Bradshaw
Oct 10-20	Hampshire Artists Co-operative
Oct 10	Neil Holley-Air Source Heat Pumps
Oct 15	Stockbridge Ukraine
Oct 17	Stockbridge Parish Council
Oct 18	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Oct 21-22	Capital Cashmere
Oct 21	Stockbridge Town Hall AGM
Oct 22	Longstock and Leckford WI
Oct 23	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Oct 24	Myddelton & Major
Oct 24	Stockbridge Surgery
Oct 25	South Central Makers
Oct 26-27	Antiques and Curios
Oct 26-27	Hawkmoor Books
Oct 27-28	Jules At No.43
Oct 29	Stockbridge Parish Council

Wherwell History Group

**Friday 18th October
at 8.00pm**



**The Countess of Brecknock Hospice
- Facilities Available
and Services Provided.**

A Zoom Presentation by

Michele Gard

(Charity Director for the C of B Hospice)

Please book in advance via our website:
www.wherwellhistory.com/about/programme



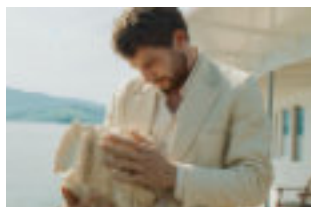
**Stockbridge
Community
Cinema**



LA CHIMERA (15)

Friday 18 October

7.30 pm (2hrs 10min)



A British archaeologist becomes embroiled in the theft of historical Etruscan treasures across the Tuscan countryside in this 1980s-set eccentric Italian

crime drama, with themes of love and loss.

[In English and Italian with subtitles]

THE END WE START FROM (15)

Wednesday 23 October

5.00 pm and 7.30 pm (1hr 42min)



When an environmental crisis sees London submerged by flood waters, a young family is torn apart in the chaos.

As a woman and her

newborn try and find their way home, the profound novelty of motherhood is brought into sharp focus in this intimate and poetic portrayal of family survival.

Tickets £6.00 (£5.50 + £0.50 booking fee)

available online via our website

stockbridgecinema.org.uk or via the

TicketSource telephone booking service

0333 666 3366 (no additional fee)



**The Royal British Legion
Houghton and District Branch**

Contact David Williams (Chairman)
01264 811072

Social evenings are held on the first Wednesday of most months in the Greyhound on the Test

Copy for Magazine

Copy date for the November Magazine:

15 October 2024

Please send emails to:

editorsstockmag@gmail.com

or phone Frances on 01264 811776

Jennifer on 811179 or Thea on 07730 964481

4TH OCTOBER 2024 - STOCKBRIDGE TOWN HALL

A concert for UKRAINE

A CELEBRATION OF UKRAINIAN AND BRITISH MUSIC, DANCE, AND SONG
FEATURING THE LARONDINA DANCE COMPANY, UKRAINIAN MUSICIANS,
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OLGA SHCHERBINA
LALA SMAGLOVA
ANNA PANKOTOVA
ZARINA IVANOVA
THE LARKS

TALENTED UKRAINIAN MUSICIANS, WHO PREVIOUSLY CRACED STAGES IN THEIR HOMETOWN, NOW GENEROUSLY SHARE THEIR GIFTS WITH US. JOIN US ON OCTOBER 4TH FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING OF MUSIC, DANCE, AND SONG. FEATURING THESE ARTISTS, THE LARONDINA DANCE COMPANY, AND THE LARKS.

TICKETS ONLY £15.00
BUY YOUR TICKETS ONLINE AT
BUYTICKETS.AT/STOCKBRIDGEUKRAINE
CONCERT STARTS AT 7PM

ALL PROFITS WILL BENEFIT STOCKBRIDGE UKRAINE, A LOCAL GROUP SUPPORTING UKRAINEANS HERE IN STOCKBRIDGE AND IN UKRAINE. WE PROVIDE AND AS NEEDS EVOLVE, RECENTLY FOCUSING ON SUPPLYING AND VOUCHERS FOR USE AS AMBULANCES. EACH CAR IS ESTIMATED TO SAVE 10 LIVES.

Sunday 6 October

Harvest at Longstock



Harvest Festival
at St Mary's Church at 5.00pm

This is followed by
Harvest Supper (Hog Roast)
at Longstock Village Hall
Eating from around 6.15pm
Supper tickets £12
(children 14 and under no charge)
Please ring Maddie on 810284
to book your place
It will be a good evening

St Peter's Church Stockbridge, SO20 6HF

Friday, 11th October 2024 - 7pm

Mark Jennings - Guitarist

The Spirit of Spain

An Evening of Virtuoso
Guitar Classics



Tickets: £15 (under 14s free)
In Advance: midtestbenefice@gmail.com
or 07900 927913 or on the door.
Interval Bar at the back of the church
markjenningsmusic.com

Stockbridge Town Hall



Annual General Meeting 2024

Monday 21 October 6.00pm

This is the Annual General Meeting of
Stockbridge Town Hall CIO and STH Trading
Company Ltd and the agenda includes

- Chairman's Report
- Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts
- Nomination and election of Trustees
- Appointment of Directors

It is your Town Hall. Please come and support
the Trustees, hear about our achievements and
future plans and let us know what you think.

Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society's Curtain Calls . . .

Come and be entertained by readings and
performances from plays, poems and novels
- and often songs


Tuesday 1st October
at 7.30pm



Stockbridge Town Hall

You don't have to be a member of SADS to
come along, (but we'd love it if you'd join).
We're also looking for new blood to act, direct
and be part of the backstage team.

No experience necessary!

stockbridgeamdrams@gmail.com
or find us on Facebook

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

6PM – 8PM (TALK BEGINS 6.30PM)
AT STOCKBRIDGE TOWN HALL

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

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

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

TICKETS £35 – BUY AT www.buytickets.at/stockbridgeukraine

Test Villages u3a

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

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

**Thursday 7th November
at 2pm in Chilbolton Village Hall**

'The work of two local support charities'

Presentations by
Thomas James, Operations Manager from
Citizens Advice Test Valley, and
Hannah Scott from **Trinity, Winchester**.

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

New members are very welcome at our meetings

BRONTË
By Polly Teale

**Against a backdrop of drink & drugs,
the sisters write...**



28-30 Nov 2024
Town Hall
Stockbridge
7.30pm



Tickets £12 + booking fee
www.ticketsource.co.uk/sads
Or call 01264 513 676

SADS


Patron Professor David Owen Norris MBE (Chairman) FRAM FRCO

STOCKBRIDGE MUSIC
Friday 8th November, 2024 at 7.30pm
Doors open at 6.45pm
St Peter's Church, Stockbridge



Nadine Benjamin MBE
soprano
Andrea Kmecova, piano
"Puccini and More
The Joys and Challenges of Love"
Tickets £20 (U18s £5)
from stockbridgemusic.uk
or on the door, if still available



LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD WI

Tuesday 22nd October

Stockbridge Town Hall 6.45pm for 7pm start.

Gordon Lewis

presents

'Theme Parks and Chocolate - The History of Paultons Park'

Guests always welcome.

Please contact Sue Hill on 811779 for further details



Houghton WI

10am Monday 21st October

at Houghton Village Hall

Flower Demonstration and Talk by Angela McPherson

Visitors welcome. Further information from
Jane Anderton 01264 810928



Longstock Garden Club

Tuesday 8th October

Rosemary Legrand

will give a talk on

Spectacular South African Flora and Fauna

We meet at 7.30pm in Longstock Village Hall

(Doors open at 7.00pm)

Guests welcome, £3 each evening.

Don't forget the raffle tickets are still only £1
or bring a prize.

<https://longstockgardenclub.com/>

Peter Moore 07881573493



Stockbridge Community Market

**Every Thursday morning
9.30 - 11.45am
in Stockbridge Town Hall**

Selling the very best local and home-made produce

Pies, cakes, breads, soups, eggs and vegetables.
Handmade crafts, toys, books, plants & bric-a-brac.

Please come along and browse

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

The Amici Singers Songs of Solace

at

St Peter's Church

Stockbridge

Saturday 16th November

at 6pm

Conducted by

Mark Williams

Admission Free

Retiring collection for Marie Curie Charity

The Amici Singers are a group of experienced singing friends who have come together to present this concert of reflective, contemplative and beautiful choral music, from the Renaissance to the 21st century.

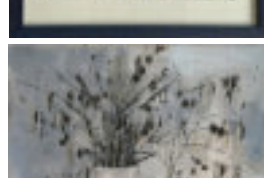
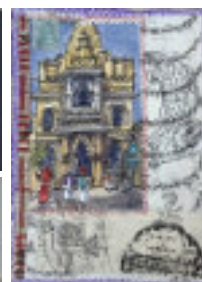
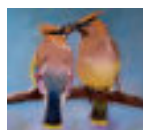
They are directed by the eminent Winchester based conductor Mark Williams. The concert is presented by writer and journalist James McConnachie.

'Songs of Solace' is a concert to remember those who we have loved and known. Family, friends and community. Wherever in the world, however recent or long ago.

The concert is free to attend with a retiring collection going to The Marie Curie Charity which is optional.

GOODWORTH CLATFORD VILLAGE CLUB ART AND CRAFT WEEKEND

1st to 3rd NOVEMBER 2024



FREE ENTRY

FRIDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

SATURDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SUNDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Thurs, Fri 7.30am - 5.00pm

Saturday 7.30am - 4.00pm

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Happy 30th Birthday – to the Fairtrade Mark!

It's been a tricky time for Fairtrade sales with Traidcraft plc going bust a couple of years ago and, with it, many of the Fairtrade stalls that used to be in churches struggling or closing as they had no regular supplier. Before I came to the area, I went to a church in Windsor and ran a Fairtrade stall in church for over 20 years. It was a great way to show Christian care for the world in a practical way - as well as a great favourite with the children as they got to play shop with real money and pester their parents for snacks after the service!

Fairtrade is still with us – albeit in a different form now and the Fairtrade mark still shows us products that have given their producers a fair wage and helps promote trade justice across the world.

So where can you buy Fairtrade goods?

1. In your supermarket. Just look out for the Fairtrade mark on tea, coffee, sugar etc.
2. Buying direct from Transform Trade. This is the charity that used to be called Traidcraft Exchange and was unaffected by the collapse of the trading arm. It still focuses on wide issues connected with trade justice but is also expanding its range of fairly-traded goods. When you come to buy your Christmas cards this year, please take a look at their website and we're testing our first box of their toilet paper at home at the moment and can recommend it! Go to store-transform-trade.org
3. The internet. There are lots of stockists out there who supply Fairtrade goods but I'm going to give a special mention to 'True Origins' as they are now the go-to website for Traidcraft tea following its recent re-launch. Catering packs are available for church teas! See trueoriginfoods.co.uk

So, happy birthday to the Fairtrade Mark. A real cause for celebration as:

millions of farmers benefit from the work of the Fairtrade Foundation.

this mark is known across the UK as a signifier of fairer wages and higher standards

after 30 years, it's still going strong



In **other eco news** – I had a lovely afternoon with Dr Matt Stephens from the Hawk Conservancy a couple of weeks ago, touring some of the benefice looking for owl box sites. Houghton, Broughton and Bossington may all have possible sites and their PCCs are looking into getting the appropriate faculty. Our tawny owl nesting box in St Mary's churchyard was not used this season – it did go up a bit late - but the good news is that we have no squirrels squatting in there so here's hoping for next season.

Lisa Traylor



Unused medication

We can accept unused medication at Stockbridge Surgery if we have dispensed it. If you use a local chemist, please return unused medication to them.

Flu and Covid Vaccinations

We will soon be inviting patients for flu vaccinations. The first clinic is 4 October 2024. If patients are eligible (we are still waiting for guidance) and want to have the Covid vaccination, we will give this in the same appointment.

If you wish to have the vaccinations separately, please book with us for flu (we have to order the vaccines in advance) and book the Covid vaccination by calling the Hampshire Covid Helpline on 0300 561 0018 9am-5pm Mon-Fri and 9am-1pm Sat-Sun.

We will also be offering the flu vaccination for 2- and 3-year-olds, starting in September.

Diabetes Prevention

The number of patients with diabetes has been rising considerably over the last 30 years. In 1994, 1.8% of our patients were diabetic, this rose to 2.5% in 2004 and then 3.4% in 2014. Currently, 5% of the practice population have diabetes.

Patients who are shown to be pre-diabetic are invited to participate in the NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme which, by addressing eating patterns and encouraging light exercise, can help to prevent you from becoming diabetic. These patients are also offered an annual blood test.

For more information about diabetes prevention please search for Diabetes UK online or use this link: [How to prevent type 2 diabetes](#)

*Ann Spooner
Practice Manager*



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Stockbridge Primary and Pre-School News

A Welcome Return to Routine



By the time you read this we will be well ensconced in our routines and rhythm of school life after the six week summer holidays. It has been a joy to return to school

and hear of all the children's escapades during their time off as well as watch how brilliantly they have settled back down into school life. Very quickly, we have re-established the responsibilities which our children are proud to take on once they reach upper school

:

Bronze Ambassadors – these children play a vital role in creating and running physical activity games at lunchtime and are specially trained to pick teams fairly, referee matches, deal with discord and inspire others including running our daily mile programme whereby all children run a mile each day at the end of lunch.

Peer Mentors – this group of 10 children works with our Mental Health Lead Teacher and THRIVE practitioner and they are so keen to learn how to help their peers when resolving friendship upsets or how to help children feel good about themselves or make sure others have friends to play with. It's rare that we have children without someone to play with so our 'buddy bench' is in infrequent use but this group will know what to do and how to help if anyone is sat on there needing support.

IT technicians look after the growing amount of IT resources our school has and take great responsibility in educating others about how to charge, switch on and off and generally look after what we have.

Our small team of 6 **Librarians** give up a lunchtime once a week to open our library and ensure children can choose 'love to read' books. They also have grand plans for running competitions, book reviews and much more!

Pre-School Buddies are a vital cog in making our very young children feel welcome in the school and not afraid of the 'bigger children'. They are never more at home than getting down and dirty in the mud kitchen or stuck to the table with copious PVA glue in the creative station! They will also read the pre-schoolers stories and join in with singing all whilst helping their own self-esteem to grow – you can't fail to feel buoyed with spending time with our 2, 3 and 4 year olds!



A very active **Garden Gang** of 6 children has already been to the garden centre with me and chosen their seeds for planting. They look after our hanging baskets and polytunnel beds as well as the borders

around school. I select key reading from magazines and guidebooks and they each take responsibility for teaching our other Garden Gangers about how to plant garlic or onions, for example.



To complete the return to routines, we have nominated 4 **House Captains**; each oversees a colour family group and represents the school as ambassadors, motivators and general all round organisers!

We are just embarking on the democratic process of voting in our **School Council**. Children all design a poster for themselves or, if they do not wish to be a councillor, one of their friends. These are displayed in school and we will take a vote on our preferred candidates with the announcements keenly anticipated on the last Friday of the 3rd week of the term. There's hot competition but it's an important part of modelling the British value of democracy in action in a way the children can understand as it relates to them.

Big Red Minibus

You might have seen me nipping around Houghton, Leckford, Longstock or even up to Chilbolton Down Farm in our brand new red minibus – this is a very welcome service for families who live within our catchment but have no safe route to school because of the lack of footpaths and safe walking routes in our rural area. This superb facility from HCC is fully funded and enables our families to have safe access to school. We took delivery of our bus in the second week of the term and it's brand, spanking new so we're still enjoying the fresh 'new car' smell and the children are marvelling at the clean and comfortable seating!

It's good to be back!

Emma Jefferies
Headteacher

Longstock Village Fête 2024



The weather may change year to year, but one constant is the fun and friendship of the Longstock Fête.

Despite the threat of rain at the end of a very wet week (and there was a bit of drizzle in the afternoon), it didn't dampen spirits and numbers were, if anything, slightly up on last year, which was a pleasant surprise.

But the forecast did lead, sadly, to the cancellation of the Ukraine Dance Troupe since they needed a stage to dance on; in the open air, they

and the stage would have got wet, while inside the tents there would have been no room with all the punters also needing shelter. So we had to make a hard decision the day before.

Apart from that, all the usual sideshows were there – books and bottle tombola, teas, produce, kids' corner and inflatable adventure tunnel and bouncy castle. Those of a competitive disposition could have a go on the golf putting and football shoot.



And of course there was Longstock's own version of Crufts, a perennial favourite!



One welcome return was the all-afternoon barbecue, next to the popular bar where The Peat Spade team again dispensed beers, punches and soft drinks.

For the first time, and in their centenary year, we welcomed Otterbourne Brass to provide a variety of martial and popular tunes, including a post horn gallop that drew great applause for the soloist.

Although final totting up needs to be done, we expect to have nearly £5,000 to share equally between St Mary's and the playground.

John and Selina Musters



... in this time of harvest, the Cornucopia

With thoughts of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness' we were exploring images of abundance and plenty, and were immediately drawn into the world of the 'Cornucopia', with its origins in classical mythology.

The word derives from the Latin cornu copiae ('horn of plenty'). It first began to be used in English in the early 16th century, with a definition very close to its Latin origin - 'a curved, hollow goat's horn or similarly shaped receptacle (such as a horn-shaped basket) that is overflowing especially with fruit and vegetables (such as gourds, ears of corn, apples, and grapes) and is used as a decorative motif emblematic of abundance.' A century later saw its meaning broaden, taking on the sense in which the word is often found today - 'abundance, an overflowing supply.'



Poussin - the infant Jupiter (Zeus) nurtured by the goat Amaltheia c.1636-7, Dulwich Picture Gallery

While there are many origin stories, one of the most widely known myths involves the infant Zeus, who was hidden by his mother Rhea on Crete, in a cave on Mount Ida, to protect him from his father, the Titan Cronus. Cronus believed that he would be overthrown by one of his children and to avoid this fate, swallowed them at birth. The baby Zeus was cared for and protected by a number of divine attendants, including the goat Amaltheia, ('Nourishing Goddess'), who fed him with her milk. The future king of the gods had unusual abilities and strength, and while playing with his nursemaid accidentally broke off one of her horns and it had the power of providing endless bounty. Later, the horn was filled with flowers and fruits, and given as a present to Zeus.

Fortunately, when Zeus reached manhood, he made Cronus disgorge his five siblings – Hestia, Demeter, Hera, Hades and Poseidon.)

Alternatively, according to the Roman poet Ovid in his work the *Metamorphoses*, the cornucopia was created when Hercules tore off one of the horns of the river god Achelous, (sometimes portrayed as a bull) whom he wrestled to win the god's daughter. The river nymphs, the Naiads, then took the horn and turned it into a vessel overflowing with sweet fruit and flowers. The wrestling match is represented in the 1947 *Achelous and Hercules* mural by the artist Thomas Hart Benton - a section show here, Hercules wearing blue jeans..



Smithsonian American Art Museum

The cornucopia became the attribute of several Greek and Roman deities, particularly those associated with the harvest, prosperity, or spiritual abundance, such as personifications of Earth (Gaia- Zeus' grandmother) the child Plutus, god of riches and son of the grain goddess Demeter (Zeus's sister); the nymph Maia and Fortuna, the goddess of luck, who had the power to grant prosperity.

In Roman Imperial times, abstract Roman deities who fostered peace and prosperity were also depicted with a cornucopia, including Abundantia, 'Abundance' personified, and Annona goddess of the grain supply to Rome. Hades, Zeus' brother and the classical ruler of the underworld, was a giver of agricultural, mineral and spiritual wealth, and in art often holds a cornucopia.



Today, a search for 'cornucopia' is mostly likely to come up with guidance on table décor for your Thanksgiving celebrations, as in most of North America, the cornucopia has come to be associated with Thanksgiving and the harvest. The cornucopia remains a universal symbol of plenty, and to this day, is featured in national emblems such as the state seals for Idaho and North Carolina as well as the national coats of arms for Colombia, Chile, and Peru.

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Stockbridge Parish Council News

Safe Crossing Zone for Stockbridge High Street

The Council has been engaged on a project to provide a permanent safe crossing zone between the Co-op and the Greengrocer for some time. The two shops are popular destinations but, if cars are parked in front of the island, then those with mobility aids and wheelchairs are unable to cross safely because they cannot get between the parked cars. The planters provided a safe crossing zone because they stopped cars parking but they were only ever meant to be a temporary solution. After two planters were destroyed in a collision with a car in August, the installation of a permanent solution became essential. Fortunately, HCC's contractor has been able to step in and install the footplates with the bollards. There is still some line painting to do but that will be done by a separate contractor.

Solar Together 2024

The opportunity for you to save on future energy bills and take action on climate change is available through the Solar Together 2024 scheme. Solar Together is supported by the County Council to offer you a hassle-free way to make a cost-effective switch to clean energy and to give you confidence in your decision. Go to www.hants.gov.uk/solartogther by 18 October to find out how you may benefit from competitively-priced, high-quality solar panel installation. When you register, you will receive an illustration of your potential savings on energy bills and learn how to earn extra income by selling excess energy to the National Grid.

Pothole Repairs.

Cllr David Drew (the County Councillor for Stockbridge) informed SPC in July's meeting that HCC is now filling more potholes that are reported to them. Between April and June this year, HCC's work fixing potholes and road defects alone saw over 41,400 repairs made, helping to strengthen their roads. You can report road defects online at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem>. You can find a full list of the works on Hampshire's roads, including those by National Highways and utility companies on the [one.network](#) map.

Rural Business Grants

Do you run a rural business in Test Valley or know someone who does? If so, the government is offering grants of £5k to £25k for up to 50 per cent of the capital project costs for small and medium sized rural businesses. Typically, the grants can fund equipment, machinery and building work with planning permission already in place. Projects must be completed by the end of March 2025, with all invoices submitted before this date. Further information and an application form can be found at <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/business/businessgrantsandsupport>.

Anti-Cyber Crime Seminar

On Tuesday 29th October at 6:30pm at Stockbridge Town Hall, the Parish Council will be hosting an Anti-Cyber Crime seminar by Hampshire Police and the South East Police Cyber Crime Team. It is undoubtedly the case that the best way to tackle cyber crime is to prevent it. The Police have limited resources to go after the perpetrators because, by the very nature of the crime, they are difficult to locate, often being overseas. Cyber and cyber-related fraud (otherwise known as 'scams') makes up a significant number of reported crimes each month and costs the public and UK economy substantial sums of money each day, week and year. So it is important that we all know how to spot scams when we come across them. South East Police Cyber Crime Team have prepared a session which will cover a number of different aspects of both online and offline scams, methods to keep yourself safe and opportunities to spot behaviour which may be the start of someone trying to 'scam' you. A few simple tips from the Cyber Crime Team will help keep you safer online and enable you to spot these offences before they develop. The session will last no more than 45 minutes with questions afterwards. All are welcome and there will be no charge. Please see notice on page 21.

Stockbridge Parish Council will next meet on 17th October at the Town Hall at 7:15pm.

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

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Pickups for Peace Convoy to Ukraine 7 - 11 August 2024



A short while ago I ended my working career encompassing 37 years in the Army, 6 years brewing in Hurstbourne Tarrant and 3 years, 6 months with GWR. Needing something more than my new greenhouse in retirement I contacted a friend with experience in sending aid to Ukraine who told me about "Stockbridge Ukraine", a small group supporting the Ukrainian Army Brigade. One member of our group is displaced from Ukraine and has a son working in this Brigade. We provide drones, generators and much more through fundraising and with minimal admin costs and this association led to my recent venture. Stockbridge Ukraine bought a vehicle, and I volunteered to drive it as part of a "Pickups for Peace" (P4P) convoy to Lviv. I found a co-driver (Will), a friend from my old regiment, and we left home at midday on 7th August to overnight in Cologne. Having been given the third-degree search by French customs we passed through the Channel Tunnel, and all went smoothly.



On day two we rose early to try to reach our rendezvous (RV) with the rest of the convoy near Wroclaw in Poland, meeting 37 other pickups and their 76 drivers! After some well-deserved beer, wine and food, we slept, having been briefed to depart the next day (9th August) at 07:15 at the latest so as not to be late for our next RV close to the border with Ukraine at 13:00. We achieved this and gathered for a tight convoy to the border post where we passed through both Polish and Ukrainian Customs which took 3 hours for the full convoy. We had made it after 1300 miles and 10 hours of driving per day for three days.

The purpose of our journey started here! We were briefed to form a tight convoy not letting anyone break the chain of pickups, not to stop for red lights, level crossings, zebra crossings or any trams. With 4-way flashers on, we set off behind our Ukrainian police escort. An hour later we were on the outskirts of Lviv driving into an isolated thunderstorm with a double rainbow arching over the city skyline. As we entered the storm it cleared to the East, and we arrived, still in tight convoy, at the Town Hall in Lviv from where we were taken to our hotel for a reception of food and wine. And Sleep!

No words can capture the feel of Lviv. We were taken on a tour of the city, and I soon saw in real life and death, what Putin has done to Ukraine, and the depth of the Ukrainian frustration and determination to fight against it. The cemetery was hugely moving, as was to be expected. Families were sitting quietly on benches beside the graves of their sons, fathers, brothers, wives or daughters. Photos of the dead were on every grave with an age range of 19 to 60, and new graves were being dug. I find Military cemeteries hugely moving, but this was all too current to avoid reaching for a handkerchief.

But our one evening, sitting outside a restaurant drinking Ukrainian red wine and watching the world go by was the most striking. The first thing I noticed was the absence of men. Groups of girls all out having a good time but without the (dare I say), "brashness" which one sees elsewhere. Couples displaying a closeness which could only be from them having a limited time together before returning to the front, a man in a donkey costume, insisting on hugging everyone, a young chap sitting on a bench on his own being dragged up by a couple of strangers to join them, the busker singing slightly mournful songs but people dancing anyway, and the overpowering feeling that everyone seemed to be looking after each other and trying to be happy. A beautiful well-dressed girl sat alone in a pub singing an angry passionate song whilst skilfully playing the piano. I've never really felt anything like it (and it wasn't just the vodka we had been given by the Mayor of Lviv!) – it was just sort of, "special", and extremely moving.

The gratitude as we handed over the vehicles and aid items was overwhelming, with much handshaking and hugging (with some of the toughest-looking guys I have ever seen), and then they were on their way. Straight to the front to deliver supplies and recover the dead and wounded from the front line. Each vehicle is expected to last only a matter of weeks but is also expected to save an average of 10 lives. The Ukrainians are determined people, worried that politics over the pond might cut a major lifeline, but convinced the British will never let them down; I dearly hope they are right. I have been so inspired by this journey that I have already booked my next trip



which leaves shortly and I have found a good pickup for them.

If you wish to contribute, please go to my Just Giving page (and please use the gift aid option to boost donations by 25%) at: www.justgiving.com/page/mark-betteridge-1723742453339


The drivers are almost entirely self-funding, and I can guarantee that your contribution goes where it is intended through Pickups for Peace. It is a registered charity which delivered its 419th vehicle last week. If you would like any further information, feel free to contact me on mbetteridge@btinternet.com.

Thank you for reading

Mark Betteridge

jennifergay and artisan route

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St Catherines is now offering weekly drop-in support for any individuals, and carers of individuals, in the community who experience dementia whilst still living at home.

We are pleased to include the poster above in the magazine as we are only too aware of how difficult it can be to access this type of support. Do contact St Catherines for more information (01962 892200) Or, for a more informal conversation about the provision, feel free to talk to the editors - contact details on page 2 of the magazine.





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National Trust Update



Autumnal greetings to you all – the seasonal tide is on the turn; the winds blow cooler and the evenings are drawing in. The landscape is beginning, oh so gradually, to metamorphose out of its summer wardrobe and into the fiery vibrancy of autumn.

And in keeping with the season, we are undertaking our Tree Safety Management surveys across all our sites, the frequency dictated by their usage zonation, and this year includes surveying all our trees along the main Stockbridge Down road. This busy, fast road is always horrible to survey mainly because you have to inspect each and every roadside tree from its base to its crown to look for any signs that the tree may pose a danger to the road and its users; fungi, rot holes, root heave, loss of crown vitality, splits, heavy leans, broken branches, deadwood and all sorts of indicators that may hint towards a potential impending tree fall or branch failure. Doing this alongside a 60mph road, which you have to cross constantly in order to be able to view the top of the tree you are surveying before returning to its base on the other side of the road, makes for a very long and tedious day. Should you happen to see a ranger in high vis clothing stumbling in and out of the roadside bushes and woodland and peering up at the canopy of the trees, then this is what they will be doing.

We have had contractors working on the carparks of the Down to fill in the craters and improve the surfaces. The marsh carpark didn't require any works this time around.

At the time of writing this, we are planning to tractor mulch the small scrub bushes which are popping up on the mid-to-southern end of the Marsh, to try and keep them in check. We are hoping for the weather window between the end of bird nesting season and the start of the autumn rains – if it hasn't been done by the time you read this, then we missed the window!

We continued to do water sampling on the Marsh throughout the summer holidays and the results were coming back ok. Once the autumn rain returns, we will look to start the monitoring again as I suspect the levels of nasties will rise again. However it is fair to note that, since we have been doing our monitoring and reporting it back in, Southern Water have been on-site several times to look at what was going on. Fingers crossed they remain this vigilant in the upcoming winter.

We are not doing any cutting of rotational scrub on the Down this winter, but we will be working on clearing back the scrub that is starting to dominate the earthworks – the linear bank that runs down the hill and which is currently being decimated by both scrub and rabbits. The rabbit numbers have risen over the last year or so and whilst they assist in grazing the site, they are incredibly detrimental to the site's archaeology. Where scrub creeps in and

provides cover, you will often get higher rabbit activity as they like having the safety of the scrub nearby so, to this end, we will be clearing back a load of scrub from the earthworks and trying to reclaim the grassland – and deter the rabbits!

We are also planning to, once again, clear back the scrub from around our ageing Juniper population by both tractor and volunteers. These trees are forever under threat from being shaded out by other faster-growing scrub species and require constant assistance to prevent extinction. They are the giant pandas of the scrub world.

Finally, the cattle on the Down recently demonstrated to us that the long stretch of fence line along our north-eastern boundary is in need of replacement and so we are getting quotes together and are hoping to replace this 900 metre stretch as soon as we can.

So it's 'game on' with our autumn/winter work programme – after not much of a summer really, the weather has been rubbish this year. Butterflies, moths and insects in general have had a poor year and already their life span is done, and death or dormancy beckons.

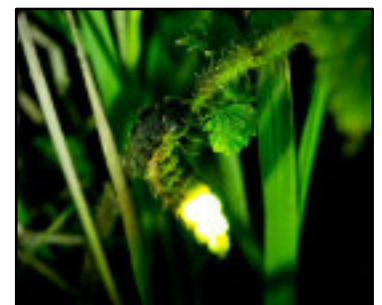
However, one invertebrate success story to leave you with is that of our glow worms on the Down – whilst June was a chilly affair which only gave us 13, July was a different story and we had 185 glow worms found across the three transects on our late-night survey! 165 were females, glowing like beautiful neon temptresses and 20 were males who were found with the females, preparing to mate. An amazing result!

Wrap up warm and get the Stockbridge Down sloop on the go – happy Autumn!

Catherine Hadler
Lead Ranger National Trust

Glow Worms

Every summer, the National Trust surveys the glow worm population on Stockbridge Down. The tiny insects like the short glass maintained by grazing cattle, and the unimproved soil, which is also popular with their food source - slugs and snails. A 30-second film recorded by BBC Inside Out on Stockbridge Down shows females glowing like little green beacons from grass stems, which they climb up to attract a mate - see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-0q0oITJU>



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CRIME CORNER

Crime is thankfully fairly rare in this area but that does not mean that it doesn't exist. Here is a list of those reported locally in August

1 Aug Stockbridge - Car window smashed in car park, bags stolen, some recovered nearby.

2 Aug Houghton - Car stolen, later recovered in Totton

9 Aug Stockbridge Down - Car window smashed, handbag stolen

6 Aug Stockbridge - Van window smashed in car park, handbag stolen

16-17 Aug Stockbridge - Car broken into overnight, wallet stolen

20 Aug Stockbridge - Two people seen in resident's garden at night

31 Aug Stockbridge - Van abandoned, damaged and with engine running

Source: Houghton Neighbourhood Watch

The best way to tackle cyber crime is to prevent it.



South East Police Cyber Crime Team will be in Stockbridge for a free seminar to show you how to keep yourself safe from both online and offline scams

Tuesday 29th October 18:30
Stockbridge Town Hall



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Be Aware of Doorstep Scams

A doorstep scam (or doorstep fraud) involves someone calling to your front door out of the blue, with the aim of tricking you out of money or stealing your property.

There are several different scenarios – rogue traders, hard-luck stories, but one to look out for at the moment is the bogus official.

The scam: an official looking person with a uniform and ID badge turns up on your doorstep. They might say they are there to read the gas meter or conduct a survey for the local council.

The reality: their ID could be fake. They want to get into your home or trick you into divulging personal information that can be used for ID theft or fraud.

Currently we understand there are people going door to door pretending to be Home Office employees. They are smartly dressed and have official looking documents with the Home Office letterhead and claim they need to check that everyone has valid ID for the next census. They may have an official looking list of questions which you are asked to answer. They may carry a laptop and a biometric device and ask to take your photograph or a fingerprint.

This is not a government initiative. Do not give them any information. Even better, come along to the event advertised above and find out more.

Register for Hampshire Alerts to Stay Informed.

As a local resident, you can play a key role in helping us to prevent and detect crime in rural areas.

By signing up to Hampshire Alerts, you will receive timely updates covering crime prevention advice, crime alerts and witness appeals for incidents. Go to www.hampshirealert.co.uk/ to receive regular Hampshire Alerts

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Potting Shed Cuttings for October

New gardening books to try :

The Money-Saving Garden Year: A Month-by-Month Guide to a Great Garden that Costs Less - Anya Lautenbach;

A Year in Bloom: Flowering Bulbs for Every Season - Lucy Bellamy & Jason Ingram;

The Rubens Garden: A Masterpiece in Bloom - Klara Alen;

The Secrets of Great Botanists: And What They Teach us About Gardening - Matthew Biggs.



Pruning

Newly planted trees can be pruned now, as we move into the dormant period; this should be done to achieve a more balanced shape and to remove damaged branches.

The approaching autumn/winter weather also signals stronger winds, so taller shrubs such as Lavatera and Buddleja can be cut back by about half, to prevent wind damage.

Shoots of blackberries and other hybrid varieties can be pruned after they have fruited. Tie in new shoots in preparation for next year's crop.

Sowing

A quiet month for sowing: sweet peas can be sown under glass for potting up next spring.

Provided a suitable variety is chosen, broad beans can be sown outdoors where they are to grow.

Finally, consider sowing some hardy annuals, to provide early colour in the flower border.

Planting/Potting Up

Continue planting up containers with autumn/winter arrangements. Evergreen variegated shrubs can provide interesting focal points, circled by winter pansies and heathers.

Spring bulbs, such as tulips, lilies and the last of the narcissi can still be planted in borders and containers and spring bedding should be planted by the end of the month.

Onion sets and garlic bulbs should be in by month end too, as well as spring cabbages.

The soil is still warm enough to plant container-grown shrubs, climbers and perennial flowering plants; light levels will be lower but, by planting now, plants should be well established by the spring.

Miscellaneous Jobs

This is a prime month for clearing up leaves, spent compost, dirty pots, empty compost bags and stray plant labels. Burn any diseased material to prevent diseases and pests from infecting other plants.

If you have room for a leaf compost heap, start layering leaves as you rake them up; otherwise, use black bin bags with holes for drainage.

Clear beds as you empty them of crops and prepare them for the 2025 season, whether this is by digging over or covering and operating a no-dig programme. The no-dig programme is becoming increasingly popular; soil health and condition improves when we leave soil microbes to grow and improve structure and nutrients. Well-composted manure or garden compost layered over the soil will help microbes and worms to do their work.

Fruit and Vegetables

If you haven't yet done so, cut asparagus ferns down to the ground, along with Jerusalem artichoke shoots.

You should be able to continue harvesting carrots and beetroots and lifting main crop potatoes. These should all be stored carefully.

Winter brassicas should be checked for yellowing leaves and insects and these should be removed.

You should be picking the final crops of apples and pears; only store perfect fruits; if there is any damage, eat them now, rather than risking them spoiling the remainder of the crop.

Plant up strawberry runners and make sure they don't dry out over the winter months.

If you are keen to use fresh herbs throughout the winter months, pot up some mint and parsley and keep on a sunny kitchen windowsill; provided it's a sunny spot and is frost free, you can also keep basil growing over the colder months.

Micki Nadal



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Spring Forward Fall Back



Winter is fast approaching, as is that moment at the end of October, dreaded by some and welcomed by others, when we turn our clocks back and say goodbye to British Summer Time. (BST).

This year it happens at 2.00 am on Sunday 27th October and if you are able to appreciate that extra hour in bed your thoughts may turn to the 'Why' and the 'When' of this established practice.

A widely held view is that it has 'something to do with farmers and farming practices' and that, in the agricultural industry, benefits accrue from achieving an extra hour of daylight during the working day. However, accounts of the practice's origin show that this is a myth and that the measure was never popular with farmers who lobbied against it in the early days and are said to dislike it to this day.

Another view is that it began 'in the war' although the reasons for its introduction and popular spread through many countries of the world are less well known. In fact, in the Spring of 1916, the German army was the first to turn the clocks forward. Their objective was to promote the conservation of energy and specifically precious coal resources. The USA and the UK quickly followed suit, reasoning that an extra hour outside meant less time inside with lights on and so less money spent on fuel and electricity.

Although the combined power and influence of the German army was the first to make it happen, the idea was by no means new. In 1784, in a letter written in Paris, Benjamin Franklin, inventor, philosopher and political heavyweight, joked that Parisiens should be roused from their slumbers at an earlier hour by ringing church bells and firing canons in the street. The idea resurfaced in 1895 when New Zealand scientist George Vernon Hudson proposed to his government that the clocks should go forward by 2 hours every summer. He was unsuccessful.

In Britain, William Willett, a builder who also happened to be the great-great-grandfather of Chris Martin, singer and songwriter with the hugely popular UK band Coldplay, campaigned until his death in 1915 for a change. It is variously reported that he was eager to secure longer hours of daylight to enable him to pursue his hobbies of golfing and horse riding into the evening. Again, the campaign was unsuccessful.

Opinions continue to differ as to the benefits of the twice-yearly adjustment to our clocks. Some say that it upsets the natural rhythm of sleep which can lead to health problems. Some claim that if it was stopped darker mornings in winter would be unsafe

on roads. In March 2019 the European Parliament voted to end the practice requiring its member states to decide whether they would permanently remain on winter or summer time by the end of 2021. However, the reform has temporarily been put on hold. Currently, there are no plans for change in the UK.

Whatever your view, don't forget to put those clocks back when you go to bed on the night of the 26th of October.

Editors



Remembrance 2024

Last year from Stockbridge we sent a wonderful £8680 to the Poppy Appeal. Thank all of you who gave so generously of your

time helping with poppy selling or made donations to the appeal.

This year our appeal begins on 26th October until 9th November. I have a great team of helpers, but would love to have even more, so if you could spare an hour or two during that time do let me know.

Hoping for another good year.

Angela McMeekin 810236

June Baseley

June Baseley who very sadly died on 1st September, will be remembered with great affection by many of us here in Stockbridge. June and David were very well known because of how much they did for our village and were both greatly missed when they moved to Netley.

June was always part of all our church activities. She loved flowers and gardening and was an important member of our church flower team and of Broughton Flower Club. June was a great supporter of the Poppy Appeal and she and David still came back to help after they had moved away.

For many years June ran the Country Market very successfully every Thursday. When David was Chairman of the Parish Council together they kept our village garden areas looking wonderful. June was always in the planting team every year at O.S.P. Garden.

June was a lovely lady, very kind and friendly. She was also great fun to be with and loved parties. We have been a group of old friends, who have always met together. This year we had a wonderful lunch together and June excelled herself by being on sparkling form and that is how we will always remember her.

Angela McMeekin

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Well, didn't the summer just fly by?
For all of you who grow your own, I think it has been a productive year. So, last month we had an excess of green beans; this month it's a recipe for the last of the ripening tomatoes.

This, of course, coincides with the approach of Halloween and this recipe is an excellent soup to warm you and little 'ghosties' after a little trick or treating!

Fresh Tomato and Bean Soup

Serves 4

Ingredients

900g / 2lb fresh ripe tomatoes (plum are good, but any tasty ones will do)

30ml / 2 tbsp olive oil,

275g / 10oz onions, roughly chopped

2 garlic cloves, crushed

900ml / 1½ pints vegetable stock

30ml / 2 tbsp sun-dried tomato paste

10ml / 2 tsp paprika

15ml / 1 tbsp cornflour

425g / 15oz can of cannellini beans, rinsed and drained

30ml / 2tbsp chopped fresh coriander

Salt and pepper

Crusty white ciabatta to serve.

Method

Peel the tomatoes by putting a small cross in the top of each, then cover with near-boiling water for 30-60 seconds to loosen the skins.

Take off the skins, cut into quarters and then in half again.

Heat the oil in a large pan and cook the onions and garlic for 3 minutes or until they just start to soften.

Add the tomatoes to the onions and stir in the stock, sun-dried tomato paste and paprika. Season with salt and pepper and then bring to the boil before simmering for 10 minutes.

Mix the cornflour with 2 tablespoons of water to create a paste. Add the beans and the paste to the soup and stir, cooking for a further 5 minutes.

Adjust the seasoning to suit your taste. Stir in the chopped coriander just before serving.

Linda Hotchen



**Stockbridge Primary
and
Pre-school**

Bag2School

Stockbridge Primary and Pre-School are holding another BAG2SCHOOL event in October! If you have any pre-loved or unwanted items you would like to donate, please bring them, bagged-up, to Stockbridge Primary School's main reception on

**Sunday 13th October,
11am-1pm**

Donations can include clothes, bags, jewellery, belts, shoes, soft toys, household linen or curtains (no duvets or pillows). If you will have difficulty dropping off your donations, please email Friends of Stockbridge School at friendsofstockbridgeschool@gmail.com who will be only too pleased to help.

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Dear Friends

Following an announcement made by Downing Street on 13th September, we are pleased to share the news that the Venerable Rhiannon King, currently Archdeacon of Ipswich, will be the next Bishop of Southampton.



Rhiannon's ordained ministry has spanned the dioceses of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, Birmingham and Ely, serving her curacy in the market town of Huntingdon, then as Rector of a multi-parish benefice just outside Cambridge, then as Director of Mission for the Diocese of Birmingham, before becoming Archdeacon of Ipswich. She is also a trustee of 'Leading your Church into Growth'.

Rhiannon grew up in Oxford and is from a strongly Welsh family. She is married to Philip, a physicist and photographer, and together they love to travel in the UK and further afield whenever possible.

She has loved visiting Hampshire over the years and has felt a strong call to this particular rôle. Her experience working in Ipswich and Birmingham will be invaluable as she moves to serve Southampton, Bournemouth and the nearby towns and villages in the south of the diocese.

In a short video at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTZBNCBwIE4 filmed for the diocese, Rhiannon says, 'I love adventures and I look forward to creating some new adventures with God and with you. I have seen God at work so much and know that God can do far more than we can ask or imagine so I am putting my hand in God's, trusting Jesus for everything and hope to spend most of my time encouraging others to do the same.'

Rhiannon has already met representatives from different communities in the south of our diocese, spending time at St Denys Community Food Project and meeting students and staff at St Katharine's CofE School in Southbourne. She joined the community of Romsey Abbey for a service of prayer and blessing on 13th September where we welcomed and prayed for our new bishop as she prepares to join us later this autumn.

Rhiannon will be consecrated as bishop on 18th October and welcomed formally at a service in Southampton, before moving to the city to begin her new rôle. She will be the 17th bishop of Southampton, following the Rt Rev'd Geoff Annas who has been acting bishop since November 2023, and the Rt Rev'd Debbie Sellin following her appointment as Bishop of Peterborough.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Philip, Bishop of Winchester

Final Progress Report on the Vacancy

As reported on Page 3, we are delighted to have received the formal confirmation that the new Rector will be Rev'd Joe Sweetnam.

The rectory will be ready after undergoing many improvements – new kitchen, decorated throughout and uneven path renewed. The house will also have steps from the dining room and sitting room to a newly laid patio. All the improvements will be finished by 18 October. David Williams and Michael Woodhall have worked hard to keep this on track.

We are grateful for the help and support of Acting Bishop Geoff, who has worked well with us during the recruitment process and who came to take a service at Longstock in July and the Benefice Service in Broughton on 29 September. He will now return to his retirement, which we hope will be long and fulfilling. We are also most grateful to the Rural Dean, James Pitkin who has always been available for help and advice. Finally, our thanks to the clergy who have helped us during the vacancy and including the retired local vicar, Revd John Rennie and from the registry: Revd Matthew Grayshon, Revd Jill Bentall; Revd Sue Kipling; Revd Sue Hobbins; Revd Warwick Heathcote; Revd Peter Brown; Revd David Mapes and Revd Tom Benson from the Braishfield Benefice who have helped us on numerous occasions.

The churches have all been maintained during the vacancy, weddings, funerals and baptisms have continued and as always fund raising has continued. The churchwardens are grateful for all the help and support from the many volunteers who turn out for all the many jobs which need doing.

If you have any queries during the final weeks of the interregnum, please contact Maddie Hedley Churchwarden, 810284; email mjh723@btinternet, or the Benefice Administrator, Lois Opperman at midtestbenefice@gmail.com

Church News

St Peter's and Old St Peter's Stockbridge



Our New Rector

When our former Rector Philip finished work here at the end of December, he left a large hole at the helm of our churches. This has been ably filled by the Team Ministry, the church wardens, the PCCs, Lois our administrator, Sarah our organist and many volunteers. It is a tribute to Phill's legacy of uniting the Benefice and putting organisational structures in place, that we have continued to manage so well since then. It was announced in last month's magazine that the Rev'd Joe Sweetnam had successfully applied for the post and his appointment has now been confirmed by the Diocese of Winchester. We look forward to welcoming Joe as our new Benefice Rector and after moving into the Rectory in October, his official Institution Service will be held in St Peter's on November 6th.

Ride and Stride fund-raising

The PCC would like to express gratitude to the gallant walkers from Stockbridge who participated in the Ride and Stride fund-raising event on 14th October 14th. Victoria Muers Raby provided homemade lemonade at Old St Peter's, the church warden set up our Stockbridge churches with water and paperwork and we set off on our modest stride.



Congratulations to Geoff Cox (a marathon of six churches) and Catherine Williams (four churches). Thanks also to the many people who sponsored us all on this HICHT worthy cause, including the very friendly group of veteran steam engine and tractor owners on their way to the Longstock Rally after they enjoyed quenching their thirst with Victoria's lemonade. This year Stockbridge has raised almost £2,000 before the addition of gift aid.

Harvest Festival and the Andover Food Bank.

We will celebrate Harvest Festival at the Eucharist Service with choir in St Peter's on Sunday, October 6th. It is an opportunity for us all to be thankful for the harvest, for the food we eat and for our beautiful countryside and those who care for it. Do come along. The church will be decorated with autumn colours as we express our gratitude for the food our farmers provide us with. It is also an opportunity to give back to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Hence, we collect bags of food at the service all of which go to the Andover Food Bank. The food bank does give out fresh fruit and vegetables but, due to



the shorter shelf life of these items, they prefer tinned and non-perishable goods. In particular, they would welcome cereals, tinned fruit and veg, soups, pasta and curry sauces, jam and peanut butter, packets of biscuits, chocolate bars, long-life fruit juice and milk, coffee and hot chocolate, toothbrushes, toothpastes

and any bathroom products for adults or children. Just bring a bag along to church that day and it will be taken to Andover for distribution from their hub.

Old St Peter's Visitors

The visitors book at Old St Peter's has just reached its final page. Its first entry was on the 26th August 2012 in which a lady from Durham writes: 'Wonderful to find this delightful place open. Thank you'. A recurring theme throughout the book (and I will bring you more special comments next month) is the gratitude people feel at finding this beautiful old sanctuary open for them to visit and pray in. A tribute to all those who open and close and care for Old St Peter's.

Looking Ahead :

Sunday October 6th at 11am: Harvest Festival Service, collecting donations for the food bank.

Sunday October 6th at 3pm: Teas in the church for those who live alone.

Friday, October 11th at 7pm: A concert of classical guitar music by Mark Jennings, see p5 for ticket sales. 50% of concert proceeds will go to our two churches. Interval drinks will be available.

Friday, November 6th at 7.30pm: The Institution of the Rev'd Joe Sweetnam by the Bishop of Winchester in St Peter's Church.

Janet Williams

Church News

St Mary's Longstock



The Village Fête on

7 September was a great success. We were worried about the weather but, apart from a couple of very short showers, the afternoon was dry, allowing people to enjoy the many things on offer. The BBQ did good trade during the afternoon, as did the tea tent and bar. The dog show was, as ever, great fun and so was the tug-of-war. I and the PCC are so grateful for the financial support the fête provides the church – the income may allow us to stay in the black!

Sunday 8 September was our **Patronal Service** when we celebrate our Saint, St Mary. The Venerable Jean Burgess came to take the service and, whilst I would have loved to see a few more people, we did have a respectable congregation.

14 September, Ride and Stride



A small but select group headed by Lisa Trailor headed off for our walk round the local churches. A smaller group than

we hoped for, but committed nonetheless! The collective age for the 4 of us over 250 years. The maturing walker has staying power!



If you have not already, please reward our effort by donating to: *GoodHub | Lisa's 2024 Ride and Stride for Longstock* and mark your contribution for St Mary, Longstock so we can receive 50% of all the contributions received. The other 50% goes to the Hampshire and Islands Historic Churches Trust.

The next event to definitely book in your diary is **Harvest**. The Harvest Festival service will take place at 5.00pm at St Mary's Longstock and is followed at 6.00pm or thereabouts by our Harvest supper in Longstock Village Hall. By popular request, Richard Woods is returning with a Hog

Roast for supper. This is served with jacket potatoes and salad. Puddings provided by a superb band of local cooks will follow.

Tickets are £12 for adults. Children 14 and under, no charge. We will have a raffle with a selection of prizes. Please ring Maddie (or email mjh723@btinternet.com) to book your place. You can pay on the night - see also notice on p5.



Church Services at St Mary, Longstock for October 2024

6 October	5.00pm	Harvest Festival
13 October	9.30am	Parish Eucharist
20 October	9.30am	Morning Worship
27 October	9.30am	No Service

If you have any questions on 'The News', please contact Maddie on 810284 or mjh723@btinternet.com

Maddie Hedley

Prayer for October

Lord, the Ëme flies by so quickly, now we are in October, gateway between summer and winter. We pray we can make Ëme daily to walk and talk with you, sharing joys and sorrows and asking for courage to seek jusÈce and fairness in all we do.

There are too many tensions in the world and the peace which is sought for all, seems a long Ëme coming.

We pray especially for peace, tolerance and love between Gaza and Israel. There is too much violence, death and vengeance.

We pray your love and peace can enter the hearts of leaders and can bring a fair seÎ lement so each can live with the other.

Likewise in Ukraine, so much damage and loss of life. We pray for a just soluÈon and an end to war.

We give thanks for the fun of the fetes, the joy of harvest and pray that the church can remain as a symbol of hope, love and faithfulness.

Amen

Church News

From the Rural Dean

Across our parishes and the Deanery, Harvest Suppers and Services are planned for this time of year.

At Harvest, we also try to give some food to needy people. This year, again, our parishes are supporting the Andover and Romsey Foodbanks, both part of the Trussell Trust. Please see 'St Peter's News: Harvest Festival and the Andover Food Bank' on page 29 to see a list of the items the Andover Food Bank is currently seeking.

We also need to keep supporting the church financially – the money that goes on 'Parish Share' pays for our local clergy.

Your Rural Dean, James

Revd James Pitkin - romseyareadean@gmail.com



St Nicholas' Leckford



St Nick's in Leckford welcomes you all to our

Harvest Festival Service

on Sunday 20th October at 6pm.

Please join us in raising the roof in harvest hymns and join us afterwards for a glass or two of wine and nibbles. We will be making our annual collection for the Andover Food Bank - we hope you can help!



October Services for

Stockbridge, Longstock and Leckford

6th October (Trinity 19)

- 08.00 **Leckford** Holy Communion BCP
- 11.00 **Stockbridge** Parish Eucharist (Harvest)
- 17.00 **Longstock** Harvest Festival

13th October (Trinity 20)

- 08.00 **Old St Peter** Holy Communion#
- 9.30 **Longstock** Parish Eucharist
- 11.00 **Stockbridge** All Age Service

20th October (Trinity 21)

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

27th October (Trinity Last)

- 11.00 **Stockbridge** Morning Worship

Hampshire Downs RC Parish St Thomas More

Services are held on Sundays at 9.00am

The Column For September

Baptisms

22 September at 12noon. Florence Proctor was baptised in St Mary's Church, Longstock

29 September at 2.00pm. Benjamin Adami was baptised in St Mary's Church, Longstock

Weddings

20 September at 1.30 pm. Ciara Macdonald and Fahad Jarjees were married in St Peter's Church, Stockbridge.

21 September at 2.00pm. Louise Bowdler and Ed Morris were married in St Peter's Church, Stockbridge.

Funerals


9 September at 2.00pm. The funeral for Peter Reeves took place at St Mary's Church, Longstock followed by burial in Longstock Cemetery

30 September at 2.30pm. The Thanksgiving service for Richard Marsden took place at St Peter's Church, Stockbridge



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