



The Parish Magazine for

£1

STOCKBRIDGE LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD

July 2024



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

Rector: currently no incumbent

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

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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
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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>		



From the Editorial Team

As we write this, there are only two topics of conversation nationally; the forthcoming election and sport. You will guess from our cover that we have decided that sport is almost certainly the more unifying of the two, so unsurprisingly has been chosen as the theme for this issue.

The footers range from the inspirational and motivational to the humorous and wry, and although many of them are directed towards active participants in sport, they can be as meaningful in other areas of our lives to those of us who now tend towards the admiring spectator role.

In this issue, Dave Webb recalls 130 years of Stockbridge Football Club, the Robins, (page 12) with many ups and an almost catastrophic down due to the 1971 road improvements. That it has thrived for so long is a credit to the many volunteers who have run the club, its players and the support of the village. Further support is needed to take them to 150 years.

And of course, enjoy the summer's sport!

Frances Candler, Jennifer Kidd and Thea Taylor

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In this 'summer of sport' our footers reflect on the gift of sport to players and spectators alike.

Stockbridge Town Hall Events



Weekly

Mon am	Pilates with Paula Fletcher
Mon am	Pilates Unlimited with Clare Bates
Thurs am	Stockbridge Community Market
Thurs am	Su Joy Art Class
Fri am	Moo Music

July

Jul 1	Stockbridge Drama Society
Jul 1	Sing For Fun
Jul 2-3	Capital Cashmere
Jul 4	TVBC Electoral Services
Jul 7	Stockbridge Posh Bric-a-Brac
Jul 8-10	Wild Bazaar
Jul 10	Stockbridge Surgery
Jul 11	Stockbridge Drama Society
Jul 12-14	Jules At No.43
Jul 14-16	Nicola Hudson
Jul 15-17	Wild Bazaar
Jul 18	Stockbridge Parish Council
Jul 19	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Jul 24	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Jul 27-28	Hawkmoor Books
Jul 27-28	Antiques and Curios
Jul 29	Life & Wild



SOS - SAVE OUR STOCKBRIDGE

ALL ARE WELCOME!

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ON**

Friday 26th July 2024

**IN THE HURFORD HALL,
TOWN HALL, STOCKBRIDGE
AT 6PM**

SOS will hold our AGM on 26th July at 6pm in the
Town Hall, Stockbridge.

We hope to see as many of you as possible.



**Stockbridge
Community
Cinema**



The Taste of Things (12A) Friday 19 July 7.30 pm (2hrs 15min)



Cook Eugenie and her boss Dodin grow fond of one another over 20 years, and their romance gives rise to dishes that impress even the world's most illustrious chefs. When Dodin is faced with Eugenie's reluctance to commit, he begins to cook for her.

Wicked Little Letters (15) Wednesday 24 July 5.00pm and 7.30 pm (1hr 40min)



Based on a stranger-than-fiction true story, Wicked Little Letters follows two neighbours: deeply-conservative local Edith Swan and rowdy Irish migrant Rose Gooding. When Edith and fellow residents start to receive wicked letters full of unintentionally hilarious profanities, foul-mouthed Rose is charged with the crime.

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)



**LONGSTOCK &
LECKFORD WI**

Tuesday 23rd July

Garden Meeting. Members only.

Please contact Sue Hill on 811779 for further details

Copy for Magazine

Copy date for the August Magazine:
15 July 2024

Please send emails to:

editorsstockmag@gmail.com

or phone Frances on 01264 811776

Jennifer on 811179 or Thea on 07730 964481



An Invitation to:



A summer Garden Party in the beautiful Old Rectory garden (by kind permission of Robin and Chrissie) in Stockbridge SO20 6EU

on Tuesday 16th July 2024. 6.00pm – 8.00pm

In aid of the link between the churches of the Romsey Deanery and the South Rwenzori diocese in SW Uganda.

We are supporting their Teenager Project, which provides vocational training to young people who have no hope of employment.

The Bishop of Winchester, Philip Mounstephen will be present and speaking.

Admission on the door £25.00 pp cash. Contact: johnrennie47@gmail.com or chriseduganda@outlook.com or just come along!



Gala Concert

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THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

ADAPTED BY **SIMON STEVENS**
BASED ON THE NOVEL BY **MARK HADDON**

1-3 AUGUST 2024
STOCKBRIDGE TOWN HALL

FOR TICKETS VISIT WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/SADS
OR CALL 01264 513 676

JT
TICKETS £12 + BOOKING FEE
SADS

For more information please see page 9

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

STOCKBRIDGE MUSIC

Friday 5th July, 2024 at 7.30pm
St Peter's Church, Stockbridge

Stile Antico

Early Music Vocal Ensemble

“A Garden of Delights”

Tickets £20 (U18s £5)
from stockbridgemusic.uk or on the door, if still available

... And to test ourselves mentally, physically and emotionally in a way no other aspect of life can. (Dan O'Brien)

**Date for the Diary
Don't Forget
Trout'n'About 2024
Sunday 4th August**



See more on page 13



Community Café

Leckford Abbas
Leckford, Stockbridge, SO20 6JF
Wednesday 10th July 11 am - 12 pm
Pop in for a cuppa and a chat - it's a great way
to meet new people. Everyone's welcome!
£5.00 to include a hot drink & slice of cake

No need to book. Just turn up.



JOHN LEWIS | WAITROSE

LECKFORD ABBAS



Leaving Stockbridge after 25 years

YARD SALE

Sunday 14th July – 10am to 4pm

At Trevena, Winton Hill SO20 6HL

Pictures, clothes, crocks & pots + much more
Share of Proceeds to 2024 Trout n' About

Richard and Karen – 01264 810966

Test Villages u3a

Friday 5th July

at 2pm in Chilbolton Village Hall

Prof. Rick Titball presents

**'Bacteria and your Gut:
The Inside Story'**

Rick Titball is a globally-recognised authority on microbiological research. He was a Director-level scientist at the DSTL, Porton Down and, more recently, Professor of Molecular Microbiology at the University of Exeter. He will talk about the bacterial flora carried in our digestive tracts - the differences between individuals, how changes can both protect against and cause microbial diseases, and the mounting evidence that gut flora can modify the behaviour and health of individuals.

Thursday 1st August

at 2pm in Chilbolton Village Hall

Tony Harris presents

'Winston Churchill'

This year is the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings overseen by Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Join him - as the alter ego of actor-historian Tony Harris - for a journey from birth to death covering many fascinating aspects of the Great Man's life. Tony is a natural comedian and brings both the drama and the humour of Winston's career in politics to us.

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

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

u3a is a UK-wide network of groups that provides the opportunity to socialise and learn for fun.

Find out more at u3a.org.uk

or see the latest on

Test Villages group at

<https://testvillages.u3asite.uk/>

u3a
learn, laugh, live



**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

Spedan's Natural Trust Open Day

**Saturday 20th July
10am – 2:30pm
in Leckford,
starting at Leckford village hall.**

Are you interested in biodiversity?

Come along to our Open Day to find out more about the work of the Trust, which is helping to maintain and monitor small nature reserves on Leckford Estate.

There will be a variety of educational on-site demonstrations and informative briefings.

It's FREE to attend but there are limited number of spaces.

It will be outside;
please bring your own lunch.

Any enquires and to book a free place, email
spedantrust@gmail.com

Registered Charity No.313335
www.spedansnaturaltrust.com

Don't forget to Vote! Thursday 4 July

General Election

The candidates for our constituency, Romsey and Southampton North, are:

Paul Barrett, Reform UK

Geoff Cooper, Liberal Democrats

Christie Lambert, Labour Party

Caroline Nokes, Conservative and Unionist Party

Connor Edward Shaw, Green Party

Fennie Yap, Independent

To find out more about our candidates see the
'**Who can I vote for**' website:

[https://whocanivote.co.uk/elections/
parl.romsey-and-southampton-
north.2024-07-04/romsey-and-southampton-
north/](https://whocanivote.co.uk/elections/parl.romsey-and-southampton-north.2024-07-04/romsey-and-southampton-north/)



Longstock Garden Club

Our talks in the Hall will resume
on 8th Oct 2024

when Rosemary Legrand will give a talk on the
Spectacular South African Flora & Fauna.

For information about summer garden visits
please see www.longstockgardenclub.com

Members, please don't forget to take photos for
our December meeting.

For further information please contact
Peter Moore on 07881573493



Houghton WI

15th July

Garden Meeting

A visit to Gilbert White's house and garden
in Selborne.

This outing is just for Houghton WI members.

Further information from
Jane Anderton 01264 810928

A Defibrillator Near You!

Defibrillators for public use are located at: -

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, go
to www.defibfinder.uk

Instructions for use are given when the device is
commandeered but for anyone who would like
prior understanding of how to use one, see
<https://www.aeddonate.org.uk/events/>

Wherwell History Group

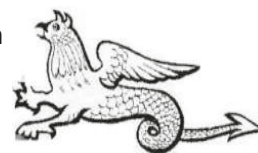
There are no meetings in
July or August.

We meet again on

Friday September 13th

(See details nearer the time).

For further information, please check
<https://www.wherwellhistory.com>



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



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SADS Unique August Production 1-3 August

SADS' next production is going to be special in many ways. It is a joint production with JT Productions of Salisbury (our first ever joint production) of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by Simon Stevens, based on the award-winning novel by Mark Haddon. The novel is narrated from the point of view of a teenage boy, Christopher. In our production Christopher becomes Christine, the first time this has been done. Christine has an extraordinary mind. She is exceptional at maths, but everyday life presents many challenges. She has never gone beyond the end of her road without an escort, cannot bear to be touched, and abhors the colour yellow. Many readers will know the novel and may have seen the very successful 2012 National Theatre production of the play.

The play takes a journey through a series of events surrounding the death of a neighbour's dog that Christine investigates. During the journey, she has to navigate the relationships she has with her parents, teachers, neighbours and deal with figures of authority such as the police. She experiences a world of new emotions and shocking discoveries



In rehearsal during a movement session

while pushing boundaries and daring to step outside her comfort zone. The result is very moving, often amusing, and provides a powerful insight into her view of the world. It is also a fascinating play theatrically. It is extremely fluid with scenes flowing into each other and the cast switching rapidly between rôles. It operates at multiple levels: Christine enacts her story, her teacher Siobhan narrates parts of the story from Christine's journal, and to some extent, it is a play within a play. Performing in the round adds to the theatricality and creates an intimate relationship between cast and audience. It will also be our first opportunity to use the Town Hall's new LED lights which are well suited to the play.

Working on this play with JT Productions is an extremely rewarding experience. When Tom approached us with the idea of a joint production, I knew his reputation and jumped at the opportunity. Rather neatly, the cast comprises four actors from SADS and four from JT Productions (this was the result of auditions, not a plan!). And we have been able to share the many backstage rôles according to the expertise in each group. There is a special stimulus that comes from two groups coming together like this - each bringing their own experience and talent. It's an extraordinary play and

Tom's remarkable energy and imagination is making it a thoroughly satisfying adventure for all of us.

To book tickets, visit www.stockbridgeamdrms.org.uk or call 01264 513 676.

This amateur production of 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time' is presented in arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd.

Mark Frank

Stockbridge Neighbourcare Regular Bus to Salisbury On Market Day!

The Stockbridge NeighbourCare Team is delighted to announce a wonderful new initiative for NeighbourCare users within the Stockbridge NeighbourCare service area. From next month, a regular minibus will be provided to take passengers to and from Salisbury on the first Tuesday in the month.

The service, which will be available only to those residents who have no other means of getting to Salisbury, will start on Tuesday 9th July - this will be the inaugural service, with NeighbourCare users and a member of the NeighbourCare Team acting as guinea pigs to 'test out' the service for NeighbourCare and iron out any potential issues. For future visits, places must be booked in advance, by phoning the NeighbourCare phone number - 0845 0943713. If numbers exceed 8, then additional transport will be organised.

The bus will leave Stockbridge at 10am; pick-up points will be confirmed after the inaugural run. Please arrive a little before the departure time to allow for stowing shopping trolleys and walkers. In Salisbury, the drop-off and pick-up points are just outside Bradbeers in the market square, just opposite the weekly market. The minibus will return from Salisbury at 1.30pm.

As you probably know, Tuesday is market day in Salisbury. As well as a good Marks and Spencer, Bradbeers Department Store has recently opened on the former Debenhams site in the market square and there are large Boots, W H Smith and many other national chains and independent retailers near this part of the city centre, as well as an excellent selection of cafés and restaurants.

A public lavatory is situated down a flight of stairs in the market square; in addition, a disabled lavatory is also available in the market square.

As with the other Stockbridge NeighbourCare services, there will be no charge for this facility, which we hope will allow those who rely on a less-than-frequent bus service to have access to the many shops and facilities in Salisbury.

The NeighbourCare Team

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The origins of the Olympics

Why?

The ancient Olympic Games were originally a part of a religious festival in honour of Zeus, the father of the Greek gods and goddesses. It is thought that Greek sport derived its origins from the idea that physical energy was being expended in a ritualistic manner, so Paleolithic age hunting practices were turned into a more social and stylised function, becoming sport. The Greeks chose to stage their competitions in prestigious facilities, with prizes and nudity that demonstrated the Greek ideal of training one's body to be as fit as their mind. Thus today we consider the Greeks to have invented the concept of sport.

Where?

The festival and the games were held in Olympia, a rural sanctuary site in the western Peloponnese, named after Mt. Olympus, the highest mountain in mainland Greece and, in Greek mythology, the home of the greatest of the Greek gods and goddesses.

When?

Aristotle reckoned the date of the first Olympics to be 776 BC, a date largely accepted by most subsequent ancient historians. It is still the traditionally given date and archaeological finds confirm the Olympics starting at or soon after this time. In 776 BC, Koroibos, a cook from the nearby city of Elis, won the 'stadion' race, a foot race 600 feet long. This was possibly the only athletic event of the games for the first 13 Olympic festivals or until 724 BC. From 776 BC, the Games were held in Olympia every four years for almost 12 centuries and eventually included discus, long jump, javelin, boxing, running, wrestling and equestrian (chariot racing). The Games returned 1,503 years later in 1896 when the first modern Olympics were staged in Athens, the result of an initiative by Baron Pierre de Coubertin

The Olympic Games and Politics

The celebration of the Olympic Games in antiquity was an occasion for citizens of scattered Greek city-states to assemble. At the Games, they discussed political issues, celebrated common military victories and formed political and military alliances. However, the Games could also lead to conflict; control of the Sanctuary and the Games brought with it prestige, economic advantages and, most importantly, political influence. As early as the 7th century BC there were disputes over the control of the Sanctuary of Zeus at Olympia between the city of Elis (30 miles to the north) and the small neighbouring town of Pisa.

The Olympic Truce was instituted by the city-state of Elis to protect against military incursions which interrupted the Games. Every four years,

special heralds were sent out to all corners of the Greek world to announce the approaching Olympic festival and games.

Along with this news, they would announce the Olympic Truce, which protected athletes, visitors, spectators and official embassies who came to the festival from becoming involved in local conflicts. A violation of the Olympic Truce was punishable by a substantial fine as the Spartans discovered in 420 BC, when they refused to pay 200,000 drachmas and were banned from the games.

The athletes: amateurs or professionals?

This was not a concern of the Greeks since ancient athletes regularly received prizes worth substantial amounts of money. In fact, the word 'athlete' is an ancient Greek word that means 'one who competes for a prize'.

An early insight into organised Greek athletics is the description in Homer's *Iliad* of the funeral games arranged by Achilles for his friend Patroclus, who was killed during the Trojan War. In each of the eight events contested on the plain of Troy, material prizes are offered to each competitor, including tripods, cauldrons, valuable metal, oxen, and women. Such prizes were awarded at most of the athletic festival sites over the Greek world.

This evidence suggests that there were no amateur athletes in ancient Greece, or professional athletes either, for there was no distinction between the two categories; all were simply athletes.

And what about the women?

Along with the athletic contests held at ancient Olympia, there was a separate festival in honour of Hera (the wife of Zeus). This festival included foot races for unmarried girls. Although it is not known how old the festival was, it may have been almost as old as the festival for boys and men. Pausanias, a 2nd century AD Greek traveller, tells us it was organised by a committee of 16 women from the cities of Elis and took place every four years. However, only unmarried girls could participate in the athletic contests of the Hera festival, and were allowed to watch the men's and boys' contests of the festival of Zeus. Married women could not take part in the Hera and were barred on penalty of death from the Sanctuary of Zeus on the days of the athletic competition for boys and men. It is not known whether the boys or the men were allowed to watch the girls' contests!

Frances Candler
(with help from the internet)



Stockbridge Football Club - 130th Anniversary 2024

To mark the occasion, the club will be holding a **Reunion evening on Sunday 28th July at the Recreation Ground starting at 5-30 p.m.** Our bar will be open and we would very much welcome anyone from the local community to join us as we celebrate this milestone of the Club's history. Like other small clubs we are finding it tough to keep going. If **any firm or individuals can help us by sponsoring a match for £50**, please contact our Treasurer, Jill Webb, by phone on 01264-810819 or email: daveandjillwebb@gmail.com.

The History

Stockbridge Football Club was formed in 1894. The only institutions in Stockbridge with a longer history than the Club are the Courts Baron and Leet and the Churches. The club, nicknamed 'The Robins', played its early games on the Common Down before moving to Little Dean field in London Road in about 1910, a site provided by Sir Norman Hill, Lord of the Manor. Stockbridge was proud of its team then and always has been, for, over the years, it brought success to the village at regular intervals, often against clubs with far bigger populations and resources.

Soon after the First World War, The Robins won the Jorgenson Cup, a competition based on the King's Somborne district and, during the 1920s, they won the Faber League Cup three times, and were three times champions of the Sutton Scotney League.



After World War II, Stockbridge again joined the Andover Junior League, winning the first division championship four times and the League Cup twice. The Robins also won the North Hants Junior Cup in 1955 and 1961. They were finalists in the Hants Junior 'A' Cup in 1952, a big day in the Club's history as they played at Portsmouth ground, Fratton Park.



This part of the Club's history came to an abrupt end in 1971 when Little Dean was taken from the club by Hampshire County Council for road improvements, dealing the club a near mortal blow, and leaving The Robins a nearly impossible task of finding a new home.

After seven long years of hard work by many people, the Recreation Ground opened in 1978 and The Robins had a new home and the Community a great new asset.

On the first full season on the new ground, the Club were Andover League Champions, a feat they repeated in 1982. In 1984, The Robins were promoted to the North Hants Senior League. In their first season in this, they finished in 2nd place and were Runners-Up in the League Cup. 1988 saw Stockbridge reach new heights when they became North Hants League Champions. In 1989, the club won the Andover Open Cup and, in 1990, the Andover Midweek Cup. 1991 saw Stockbridge have its most successful year in its history, winning the North Hants Senior Open Cup, North Hants League Cup, Andover Open Cup, and the Andover Midweek Cup and, in the same year, The Robins were promoted to Hampshire League Division 3.



The following years saw the team go from strength to strength rising through the leagues and winning many trophies, and now, many years later, with superb facilities which would not have been possible without the tremendous support of the local community.

Stockbridge Football Club is more than just a football club - it is a local institution and those who run it are its custodians and their job is to make sure 'The Red, Red Robin keeps bobbin along'.

Visit Dave Webb's Stockbridge F.C. website for news, match reports, action shots, history and much more <https://stockbridgefc.wordpress.com>

Dave Webb

Trout 'n About



As the Chair of the organising committee, I am so looking forward to this year's Trout 'n About on Sunday 4th August. Trout 'n About is not a private enterprise so our voluntary committee of local people has to work hard, outside their day jobs, to ensure the event is a success. We are always in need of volunteers so, if you can help, please email Mary Richards - volunteers@tnastockbridge.co.uk

As you know, Trout 'n About not only benefits the High Street, but perhaps more importantly, the proceeds go to good causes and community projects here in SO20. This year we are also working closely with Hampshire County Council and Test Valley Borough Council to look at closing the High Street to traffic on the day and thereby create a far safer environment for our residents and many visitors. I am pleased to say the road closure, although not totally confirmed, is looking very likely indeed. We plan to finance the road closure by charging visitors £5 per car to park on the fields; they will get a programme and five raffle tickets too.

I know that a safe and successful event, that ultimately helps our community, could not happen without the help and goodwill of Stockbridge residents and the support of our business community. So I am so delighted that, not only do so many local people want to help, but that The Greyhound-on-the-Test, River Dental and Hildon Water have all agreed to support our community in Stockbridge by becoming Gold Sponsors. I would be delighted if more of our local businesses become sponsors or take out adverts in the programme. Supporting Trout 'n About really helps our community enormously and ensures the event will be able to continue for many summers to come.

We also run a raffle on the day so we are always grateful for the donation of any prizes. Hayley Rampton manages the raffle and would love to hear from you by email to hrampton6@gmail.com

Further details about Trout 'n About are on our website at www.tnastockbridge.com

Bob Powell

ECOLOGY

New shop on Stockbridge High Street



We are delighted to welcome a new shop in Stockbridge!

ECOLOGY 1-3 High

Street (opposite Broughton

Crafts) is run by local residents Kathryn and Phil

Campling. Kathryn writes:

Our children go to the Primary School and as we've lived in the area for over 10 years now; we jumped at the chance to start a business in and for our community. We have both worked in the public and private sector, but this is our first retail venture.

ECOLOGY sells a wide range of refill food and household goods for you to fill your own containers with the items you might normally have to buy in single use plastic, ultimately reducing waste going to landfill. For example, you could buy red lentils for a curry, grains and beans for a soup, rice and pasta for the week ahead; top up your herbs and spices and then fill your washing-up liquid, bathroom cleaner and clothes washing liquid while you're here.

We also have chilled and frozen items, such as speciality artisan plant-based 'cheeses', organic drinks, snacks and all important delicious plant-based cakes! New items are being introduced to the shop all the time; we'd love to hear what you would like to see stocked.

We want to make sustainable shopping easier for our community; we understand that everyone wants to make a difference but time is precious. We are focused on responsible purchasing. The suppliers we work with and the brands we stock share our ethos and enthusiasm for this; we support local, fair-trade, and organic where at all possible. We are committed to donate 1% of our annual turnover to local causes.

We can't wait to welcome you into the shop; please pop in, we'd be happy to answer any questions you have about sustainable shopping.

Kathryn and Phil Campling





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///what3words - What's it all about?

Being asked by our magazine printers to provide a delivery address using *what3words* piqued our interest in this intriguing new(ish) tool which identifies locations more precisely than a postcode and in more user-friendly form than a grid reference or latitude/longitude coordinates.

Founded by Chris Sheldrick, Jack Waley-Cohen, Mohan Ganesalingam and Michael Dent, *what3words* was launched in July 2013 with its HQ in London. Sheldrick and Ganesalingam devised the idea when Sheldrick, a world-wide events organiser, was struggling to direct bands and their equipment to precise locations, often within sprawling venues with a single postcode. GPS coordinates seemed to suffer from 'user error' and Sheldrick deduced that mistakes were less likely with words than numbers. His mathematician schoolfriend, Ganesalingam, had the idea of dividing the world - land and sea - into 3-metre squares, and created the first 3-word address algorithm 'on the back of an envelope'. Another friend, linguist Jack Waley-Cohen, inputted the memorable words. Clearly, they were a very inventive group of chums!

Each square is assigned a distinct combination of three permanently-fixed dictionary words, enabling users to easily identify, find, and communicate precise locations without needing technical expertise. The benefits are legion - for a rock band trying to find a stage or a delivery driver seeking a building's specific entrance, for postal services and, not least, to assist emergency services, especially in open countryside and even at sea.

To find a *what3words* address, you can visit www.what3words.com or download the free app which operates in over 140 countries, using 50 different languages. There is also an invaluable facility for converting between *what3words* addresses and latitude/longitude coordinates.

Unsurprisingly, the ingenious algorithm which maps locations to words is copyrighted. There is often humour to be had - the algorithm can throw up quirky word combinations which makes the addresses all the more memorable - and there are often coincidentally-appropriate associations. By way of example, the entrance to St Peter's Church comes out as *///sing.trees.different*.

St Mary's Longstock lychgate appears as *///lace.latitudes.assume* whilst Leckford's St Nicholas' lychgate is *///agreeable.nibbled.plots*. You can see how precisely locations are subdivided as the churches have numerous different identifiers across their sites; indeed, it's quite fun to scroll around and chuckle at some of the word trios (though also, inevitably, randomisation generates the odd unfortunately insensitive combination).

Of course, every system has its operational glitches and critics, especially amongst the emergency

services, who warn of word ambiguity, mis-spelling, mis-hearing and even difficulty deciphering different regional accents. It seems wise, therefore, not to rely on *what3words* alone in safety-critical or other important situations.

One such occasion was in September 2022, when the government used *what3words* to direct mourners to the end of the queue to view the late Queen lying in state in London. Of the first five codes published, four led to the wrong place, including a suburb of London some 15 miles from the real end of the queue! Officials later moved to an automated system to disseminate the identifiers when they realised that having human beings involved in transcribing the words was causing chaos.

Nevertheless, for day-to-day life, the admirably-inventive *what3words* is destined to become another valuable navigational aid - and will certainly help your Parish Mag reach you in double-quick time.

*Thea Taylor
(with help from the internet)*

The Sporting Calendar for July

July is a bumper month for sport as you can see from the list below. There is more to come with the Olympic Games continuing into August followed by the Paralympic Games



27 June – 10 July
Wimbledon **Tennis**

29 June – 21 July Tour de France **Cycling**

3 July British **F1 Grand Prix**, Silverstone

6 - 31 July UEFA **Women's Football** Euros



15 - 24 July World **Athletics** Championships

14 June - 14 July UEFA **Men's Football** Euros



18 - 21 July British Open **Golf**
Royal Troon

26 July - 11 August **Olympic Games**, Paris

10 - 30 July Cricket **Test Cricket**
England v West Indies





National Trust Update



Midsummer's greetings to you all! By the time you read this we will be past the Longest Day of a year that, at the time of writing, barely feels like it has got going weather-wise. It was so wet for so long over winter and spring, with cool winds and grey skies for much of the first half of the year, that I can't quite bring myself to accept that we are on the turn back towards autumn already!

But enough of that, let's focus on summer whilst we still have it, in whatever form it comes this year. It was certainly a slow start on the butterfly front across both the Down and the Marsh. Both sites have transects walked upon them now, but the Down does rather steal the crown when it comes to butterfly species diversity. I managed to fit in a transect in one of the few decent weather windows of mid-May and was rewarded with a fresh hatch of Common Blue butterflies, vivid, shiny and abundant.



Common Blue



Green Hairstreak



Duke of Burgundy

The Green Hairstreaks have also had a decent emergence and were showing off their emerald green wings whilst the Duke of Burgundy

continued to patrol their territory up in the moat of the Woolbury Ring hillfort.

Butterfly Conservation came on a site visit to see the scrub clearance work we have done during the last two winters – which they part funded – and were as thrilled as I was to see the ground flora that was coming back on the area cleared two winters ago. I've always said the first summer after a clearance, the area looks pretty bleak – but get to the second summer, the second growth season and you are richly rewarded with a seedbank that has burst into bloom in the newfound light of the sun. The moths, butterflies, hoverflies and many invertebrates were all enjoying it. One of the BC team spotted burdock leaves with distinct looking holes in which, upon

inspection, revealed a small caterpillar he identified as the Spotted White Plume moth – a nationally-scarce moth with only 22 records in Hampshire in the last 6 years! How's that for showing off the richness of life on these common lands!



Spotted White Plume Moth

Meanwhile, down on the Marsh, we have been carrying out water sampling every two weeks since March, when we first identified the pollution issue with the storm flow pipe. We have also been liaising with Southern Water over the incidents and our sampling results. Every test we have conducted has shown elevated levels of ammonia and phosphate by the pipe. Southern Water has been coming out to site within the hour of us reporting each incident to do their own sampling and monitoring and I'm pleased to say that the last test we did at the time of writing (test date 27th May) showed the ammonia levels had gone down to 0 and the phosphate levels were within 'good' range. Nitrates were still high but that's not a sewerage issue and will have a source elsewhere. We will continue to sample every two weeks but, I hope that for now at least, this little stretch of water may be a fraction cleaner ... watch this space. It is still a huge issue throughout all our rivers and one heavy burst of rain may mean that storm pipe is used again so I'm not holding my breath that the worst is over but at least Southern Water is reacting to our monitoring results.

Whilst the wet winter and spring have given us no end of trouble for our winter works, it has done the job of making the Marsh look lusher than I have seen it in many a summer. When I think back to how dry and yellow it looked over the drought summers, it is great to see it green, thick and full of plant species. We were down to do some tractor mulching work of the encroaching small scrub bushes over the winter months but the ground was just too wet. We will revert to volunteers and hand tools once the autumn season begins again. We also have creeping thistle control potentially planned in for later in the summer – depending how large and thick the thistle patches, we may be tasked with cutting and topping them prior to seeding, in order to prevent spread.

The wet winter and spring also made me fear for the health of our barn owls – they suffer in wet weather as they cannot hunt in prolonged or heavy rain. Rain will waterlog their feathers and make them less efficient and noisier as they fly. They can starve to death in periods of constant rain – like we've had – as they cannot hunt for long enough to be well fed.



This can have a serious impact on chick survival rates if the parents cannot get enough food for them. I know we have regular barn owls on the Marsh, and we have a breeding pair in a barn at Mottisfont that I monitor each year via camera traps and bird ringing, and I worried for them this year. In 2022 they produced one chick, last year two. Matt from the Hawk Conservancy Trust kindly comes each year to check the box for chicks and ring any owls and, when he came recently, he reassured me that despite the weather, it's been a record-breaking year for kestrel, tawny and barn owls – due to a boom year in the field vole population. And I'm thrilled to report he was absolutely right and my fears were wrong – inside the box were four, possibly five, tiny fluffy barn owl babies, all squidged together in a pile of downy fluff, indistinguishable from each other. I hopped and skipped with glee, relieved that my fears were unfounded. The chicks will be ringed when they are a bit older.

I had also been monitoring a kestrel nest in our parklands where I have watched for weeks now, the kestrels bringing food to at least 4 chicks in an old oak tree. Matt checked this nest for me, seemingly oblivious to the danger of being so high up a ladder so high in a tree and, to my delight, this nest had FIVE babies! These were old enough to be ringed and so I had the joy of holding in my hand a fluffy, fierce little raptor, all attitude and fire and feather. There were four females and one male, and all were healthy weights – parents doing a fabulous job thanks to the field vole buffet of 2024.



These summer months are truly the most glorious of working days, when life is colourful and vibrant and noisy and thriving – I hope you get out there and enjoy it as best you can!

*Catherine Hadler
Lead Ranger National Trust*

Raspberries and blackberries – and their friends and relations



You may be familiar with raspberries and blackberries, but there's a whole world of related or hybrid berries, all about to come into season ready to be enjoyed 'as they come' off the cane, with cream, in a pie, in a crumble, on top of a pavlova or in a roulade . . . and then there are jams, wines, spirits . . .

Raspberries and blackberries – both actually members of the rose family – are native to our shores. Raspberries (*Rubus idaeus*) can be found in woodlands and on woodland edges. The wild form produces smaller fruit than cultivated varieties, but with a deliciously sweet, intense flavour. Blackberries, familiar to most people as brambles (*Rubus fruticosus*) and being synonymous with the end of the summer, grow almost anywhere, being happy on scrubland or in the garden. In the wild, blackberry fruits can be quite variable from one plant to another – large, sweet and juicy, or small, hard and sour. Then there's the less common dewberry (*Rubus caesius*), similar to a blackberry but with fewer, larger individual fruits. Their fruit surface is waxy rather than shiny and their stems tend to scramble along the ground rather than being tall and arching.

Over the centuries, new varieties of both raspberries and blackberries have been produced, suiting different conditions, or with resistance to pests and diseases, or without thorns, to suit the needs and demands of both commercial and home growers. There are yellow-fruited raspberries, late autumn-fruiting cultivars, plants with larger fruit, sweeter fruit, and others suitable for growing in pots. Many raspberry varieties have been bred in Scotland – Glen Ample, Glen Moy – and Kent, traditionally the 'Garden of England', produced mainly at the East Malling Fruit Research Station.

A natural cross between a raspberry and a blackberry or dewberry in 1881 in the garden of Judge J H Logan in Santa Cruz, California, produced the loganberry. Other hybrids have been bred deliberately – youngberries, boysenberries, tayberries, tummelberries, in varying shades from pink to deep purple.

All berries are an excellent source of vitamin C, calcium, iron and fibre, and locally-grown fruit will be for sale in July at Stockbridge Country Market. Raspberries and strawberries, along with gooseberries, black, red and white currants, should be regularly available, and special orders can be taken for loganberries and tummelberries. So, if you're a keen jam-maker or baker, pop along to the Market on Thursday mornings, or call Karin Taylor on 07309 071689.



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Christine Leslie 1947 -2024

Christine Leslie died in March 2024. Last September, she had open-heart surgery and tragically developed an infection during her recovery which led to sepsis. Christine had lived in our community for 35 years. She was an active member of the congregations of St Peter's, Old St Peter's and Bossington and is much missed by her local friends.



Christine was born in the north west of England. Having gained a PGCE (post-graduate degree in education), she started her career in teaching. She was soon encouraged to transfer into the Services as a teacher and was sent to Berlin where she ultimately became the Head of Infants at a large Primary School in Soest, North Rhine-Westphalia.

James Leslie was a captain in the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and the two met in Germany and were married in Berlin in 1978. Christine took a break from education for a few years as she brought up their two sons, Will and Charlie. James later transferred to the Army Air Corps at Middle Wallop. Eventually, when he retired from the Army, they bought a house in Trafalgar Way in 1989, subsequently adding a new wing and developing a beautiful garden, with spectacular views down to the Marsh.

Back in the UK, Christine's career went from strength to strength. She became the Founding Head of the new Godolphin Prep School in Salisbury. Godolphin was experiencing a period of expansion and confidence and wanted to open a new feeder Prep School. Christine was the perfect candidate, full of ideas, energy and practical experience. She gave the Prep School strong foundations and high standards which are still in place. In 2001, she established Hawkesdown House, a pre-prep school for boys in Kensington which equally was a great success.

Later she became an independent educational consultant working as a governor to many schools and becoming an Independent Schools Inspector. She was a highly-valued member of the Dukes Education Advisory Board where she used her experience and wisdom to ensure that children's needs were always at the centre of decision-making. She became an independent adviser with The Child and Family Practice which is an internationally-recognised centre promoting the psychological well-being and mental health of children, young

people and adults. She was highly esteemed for her guidance and nurturing of pupils with challenging needs and was an inspiration for many young people and their parents, who have paid tribute to her dedication and care.

On a personal level, Christine was a much-loved wife to James, an exemplary mother to their two sons and a loving grandmother of five. James described her as a truly rare person, thoughtful, full of wisdom, caring and kind. Her grandchildren meant the world to her. She was strong and determined, always stylish and very well-dressed. She was also a deeply spiritual person and a regular church-goer. Tellingly, just before last Christmas, and at a time when she had great difficulty communicating, Christine was able to make a firm request to the staff at the Royal Brompton Hospital that she be taken from Intensive Care to a church to receive Holy Communion. This was not possible but the nurses managed to take her to the Hospital Chapel where she was given the sacraments by the Chaplain. This must have been a great comfort to her.

Her strength and determination to recover were in evidence to the very end. Unfortunately, the devastation caused by the infection eventually overwhelmed her and she died in Basingstoke Hospital in March. On June 14th, the family held a Thanksgiving Service for Christine's life in St Peter's Church. The enormous number of people who attended was a testimony to the high esteem and love that so many felt for her.

Janet Williams

Test Valley appoints new Mayor Former Royal Navy Captain sets course for fantastic year as Mayor.

A former naval Captain has been announced as the new Mayor of Test Valley following an Annual Full Council meeting on Wednesday 22 May.



Councillor Ian Jeffrey, who spent 37 years in the Royal Navy and now represents us, the Mid Test ward, on Test Valley Borough Council, will be supported by his wife, Maura Jeffrey, as Mayoress.

At the same meeting at Crosfield Hall in Romsey, Councillor Linda Lashbrook was appointed Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Ian Jeffrey said: 'I am very much looking forward to representing our delightful borough during my mayoral year. I hope to meet many fellow Test Valley citizens, meet, support and encourage local businesses, enjoy and encourage local arts and culture, support local charities and showcase all that the stunning Test Valley has to offer.'

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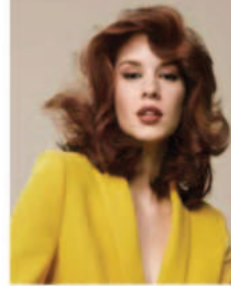
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Potting Shed Cuttings for July

New gardening books to try:

Kew answers for everyday gardeners: 100 questions - Kew Royal Botanic Gardens (Kindle);

One garden against the world: In search of hope in a changing climate - Kate Bradbury;

The Accidental Garden: Gardens, Wilderness and the Space In between - Richard Mabey



Pruning

The whippy side shoots on wisteria should be cut back now to around 6"/15cm; the main frame can also be pruned now, so the plant does not start to creep outside the boundaries you have set it. Complete pruning of Philadelphus shrubs; cut back the shoots which have flowered. This will leave sufficient time for growth to be made to support flowers next year. Evergreen hedging can be trimmed now and rambling and climbing roses pruned once flowering is over; these varieties of roses generally only have one flush of flowers. If it's dry, lavender spikes can be cut and dried this month.

Sowing

Most spring and early summer sowing is over now but it is never too early to plan for later crops. Turnips, kohlrabi, spring cabbages, oriental leaves, main crop carrots, peas and lettuces can be sown this month.

Planting/Potting Up

Winter brassicas raised earlier in the year can be planted out now. Lift, divide and replant bearded irises which have finished flowering; autumn-flowering bulbs should be planted towards the end of the month. Select strawberry runners and allow them to grow on, before potting up in the autumn.

Miscellaneous Jobs

Keep on top of harvesting crops and watering vegetable plants; you need to keep picking to enable more flower and fruit growth. Water containers regularly and don't forget to continue regular feeding as nutrients will be depleted in compost, especially peat-free compost, which loses stored nutrients very quickly. Nurseries feed plants in peat-free compost more frequently than compost containing peat. If compost in containers dries out, it is difficult to soak the compost by simply pouring on water. There are several ways to wet it again: stand smaller containers or baskets in bowls or buckets of water for several hours until water has soaked up from the bottom; break the surface tension by adding a small amount of washing up liquid to the watering can; slowly pour water into the centre of large containers and gradually increase the amount poured in. If the weather is warm, ensure good ventilation in the greenhouse. Spray the floor with water in the morning, to keep heat levels down and humidity levels up. Plants in the greenhouse will slow down or stop growing when the temperature exceeds 27°C/81°F.

Lawn mowing needs to be maintained on at least a weekly basis; raise blade levels if it is dry and warm; although not as attractive, clippings left on the lawn will keep in moisture. Dead-head flowers, especially annuals, whose short lifespan will encourage them to set seed as soon as possible. In the fruit plot, net as much as possible as birds and mice will be keen to plunder your summer treasures!

Micki Nadal



SAVE OUR STOCKBRIDGE Stop the Sewage

This is an indelicate subject but, following on from our article, kindly published in May's Parish Magazine, about the untreated sewage being pumped into the River Test, we have a suggestion. We know Southern Water needs to do much more to improve its treatment plants but is there something we could all do to lessen the problem?

Our suggestion is that we should never again put any sanitary products in the loo – whether they are said to be flushable or not. None of us should ever again drop into the loo: a wet wipe, a tissue, a nappy, a cotton bud, a panty liner, a condom, cotton wool, a sanitary towel, a tampon, any medication, an incontinence pad, kitchen roll, dental floss, hair or anything else apart from loo paper. That would mean that the local pumping stations might just be better able to cope with the sewage that otherwise may be pumped into our precious River Test.

So how about it? Save Our Stockbridge never envisaged it would be a group asking people not to throw stuff down the loo – but times have changed and we all now know about the sewage problem in the Test and Marsh Court Rivers.

So let's all do our bit to help, and maybe you would spread the word – however indelicate it may be!

Jean Boney, Chair of SOS

We are pleased to hear from Catherine Hadler, in her National Trust update (p16), that sewage-related pollution near the Marsh storm pipe was back to normal in late May - but monitoring will continue to keep Southern Water 'on its toes'.

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Summer is the time of BBQs and *al fresco* dining, well so they say, but I write this wearing my jumper looking out on a showery day. This is probably why, for this edition, I decided to write a lovely sunny side dish. It's also great for home vegetable growers, such as myself, who hopefully will have the first of their young vegetables ready for eating. Much of it can be made ahead too, see Tip 2 below.

Serves 4-6 people as a side dish.

Roast carrot, beetroot and marjoram salad with honey, fennel seed and yoghurt dressing

Ingredients

12 small carrots, tops still attached

8 small beetroots (about 600g)

4 Tbsp extra virgin oil plus a little extra to finish

6 bay leaves

Small bunch of fresh marjoram (or sprinkle with ½ Tbsp dried marjoram)

1 lemon - zest finely grated and juice of ½ lemon

150ml natural yoghurt

2 tsp fennel seeds – dry roasted in a pan (see Tip 1)

Small pinch chilli flakes

2 Tbsp clear honey

Small handful of fennel tops (optional)

Method

Heat the oven to 180°C/160°C fan/gas 4.

Cut the tops off the carrots (although personally I still like to leave a 2cm green stem for colour).

Scrub the carrots and the beetroots under a running tap but no need to peel either.

Cut the carrots in half lengthways if long and halve the beetroots.

Put in a large roasting tin. Drizzle with half the olive oil, tuck the bay leaves around, tear over the marjoram and sprinkle with the lemon zest. Season well with sea salt and pepper, then roast for 45-50 minutes until the beetroots are tender and the carrots are slightly caramelised and soft.

Meanwhile make the dressing. Combine the yoghurt with the lemon juice, remaining oil, toasted fennel seeds, chill flakes and 1 Tbsp of the honey. Mix well.

Arrange the roasted veg on a platter and spoon over the yoghurt dressing. Finish with a scattering of fennel tops, if using, the remaining honey and a drizzle of olive oil.

Tips

1. To roast the fennel seeds, heat a dry small heavy-bottomed frying pan. Add the fennel seeds and move them around so they heat and begin to toast. They are ready when the seeds begin to pop and crackle. Remove from the heat immediately so they do not burn as they will become bitter.

2. To make ahead, you can make the dressing up to 48 hours in advance and keep sealed in the fridge. The vegetables can be roasted for 30 minutes up to 12 hours in advance. Once ready to serve, roast again for an extra 15 – 20 minutes until cooked through golden and hot.

Linda Hotchen



Evening and weekend appointments

GP and Nurse appointments are available for our patients at the Adelaide Health Centre, Andover. Book by phoning Stockbridge Surgery (810524).

Ticks

It's that time of year again when ticks become a problem. Ticks can be removed at home using tweezers or a tick removal device available from a local pharmacy. A blood test is not usually required. Please contact the surgery if you have:

- A pink or red rash
- A temperature of 38°C (100.4°F) or above
- Other flu-like symptoms, such as a headache or joint pain
- Swollen lymph nodes.

Why does the receptionist ask me what's wrong?

GP receptionists are trained to identify the most appropriate service or healthcare professional for patients to see. GP appointments are a precious resource and, where other services are the most appropriate for patients, the GPs want the reception team to direct patients to these.

Other services and healthcare professionals are sometimes more appropriate than seeing a GP to avoid delays in care and get the right help first time. We have a physiotherapist, for example, who is the most specialised member of our team in joint problems. There is also a service for women over 30 with breast lumps and pain where the first contact is with the hospital, bypassing the need for a GP appointment. Some services such as vasectomy and audiology allow self-referral by patients, bypassing the need to see a GP at all.

Details of these services can be found on the Surgery website (stockbridgesurgery.co.uk): Do I need to see a GP?

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Stockbridge Parish Council News

Test Valley School Changes

Stockbridge Parish Council has been informed that, as it is now an Academy and in line with Government regulations, Test Valley School will be changing its name to Danebury School. The school uniform and school opening times will also change. The uniform will be a navy blue sweatshirt with a white shirt and navy blue skirt or trousers. The school day, which at present stretches for 8 hours for some pupils, will reduce to 6.5 hours starting at 8.40 am and finishing at 3.10 pm. This will make the school a more attractive proposition for both teachers and pupils. It is a positive step forward for the school which, it is hoped, will take the school on to further success.

Children's Playground

SPC has agreed to replace the wooden platforms on the climbing frame in the children's playground, which are showing signs of rot. This was flagged up in the quarterly inspection reports and the Council has acted quickly to ensure that the work will be completed before the school holidays.

HCC Cutting Back

HCC has informed all Parishes that they will not be undertaking their usual round of cutting back on the Rights of Way. The measure is designed to cut the costs of public services as HCC attempts to balance its books. HCC is asking the Parishes to undertake the work or to seek the help of volunteers. Grants will be available through the PCs for training and for any equipment that is needed. The cost to the PC of appointing a contractor to carry out the work would be considerable and would affect the precept, so any offers of help from community volunteers would be very helpful. Please let the Clerk know if you would like to be involved.

Citizen Scientists

Why not become a citizen scientist by monitoring butterflies or hornets - but for different reasons? The Asian hornet is an invasive non-native species, and everyone is being asked to help prevent it from becoming established in the UK. The Asian Hornet is the greatest threat facing honeybees and other pollinators in a generation and a public health risk to those allergic to bee and wasp stings. You can help by sending a photo, via the 'Asian Hornet Watch' App, or a report to <https://risc.brc.ac.uk/>. Meanwhile, the United Kingdom Butterfly Monitoring Scheme is looking for volunteers to monitor and collect data on local butterflies. Contact the United Kingdom Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKBMS). The project in TVBC is run in conjunction with Butterfly Conservation and they would like to hear from you if you'd like to walk a transect, record your sightings or collect information for TVBC's conservation work which will help TVBC plan how it manages areas in the borough.

General Election

Due to the approaching General election, HCC finds it necessary to postpone the announcement of any decisions to be taken as a result of HCC's Future Services consultation. This consultation, held between January and March this year, invited people's views on 13 proposals to reduce and change some local services to help the County Council deliver savings towards the £132 million recurring budget gap faced from April 2025. HCC needs to be sensitive to the content of pre-election publicity and will therefore postpone further action until the early Autumn.

Cost of Living

HCC has announced plans to distribute £7.1 million of extra funding to help local households struggling with the cost of food and energy prices. The funding is an extension of the Government's Household Support Fund (HSF) until September 2024. Visit www.hants.gov.uk/news for more information.

Stockbridge Parish Council will next meet on July 18 at the Town Hall. Don't forget the earlier start time for Council meetings which is now 7:15 pm.

Belinda Baker

*Clerk to Stockbridge Parish Council
clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk*



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Music in St Peter's Church

A Baroque Journey towards the Goldberg Variations

Stockbridge Music continues to enrich our musical lives. The Craig Ogden Ensemble attracted an audience from as far away as Wales for their concert in May. In the first half, David Juritz (violin), Craig Ogden (guitar) and Adrian Bradbury (cello) played a succession of delightful, short baroque pieces from composers across Europe during the 17th and 18th centuries, including a Ciaccona by Francesca Caccini. She was one of the very few women composers of her period outside the church establishment.



After the interval, we heard the *Goldberg Variations* arranged by David Juritz. He explained in the programme notes that he wanted to explore 150 years of very diverse music and had tried, in his adaptation of the *Goldberg Variations*, to stay as true as possible to Bach's original. He was delighted that, in spite of the demands his arrangement made on the performers, happily Craig and Adrian's virtuosity was matched by their flexibility and good grace!



The audience which packed the church for this concert was lucky enough to hear these talented musicians playing this selection of extraordinarily diverse and beautiful baroque music.

Church organs

Church organs are very versatile instruments and have been played in our places of worship for hundreds of years. They are a powerful accompaniment to our worship and, apart from being played at regular church services, they add joy or solemnity to baptisms, weddings and funerals throughout the land.

I recently came across a talented young organist on YouTube called Ben Maton (The Salisbury Organist).

Ben produces regular YouTube programmes of about 30 minutes during which he visits old English Churches in Wiltshire and Hampshire. He delves briefly into the often fascinating history of the church and its setting in



glorious countryside. Once inside through creaky old doors, he explores the church and then the organ, finally demonstrating it with an appropriate hymn or piece of classical music. He says he hopes that his travels 'give a flavour of the wonderful village life that exists in rural England' and enable him 'to share his love for an instrument which, for all its creaks and groans, is in perfect harmony with nature'. His descriptions of these rural churches and their sometimes quirky organs make for a perfect transition from the stress of everyday life to a place of tranquility.

Janet Williams

We can look forward to another concert organised by Stockbridge Music on July 5th. Stile Antico, an Early Music Vocal Ensemble (a group of 12 chamber musicians) will be singing 'A Garden of Delights', music for earthly and heavenly gardens which they will by then have performed also in the Augustusburg Palace, Brühl, in Germany. (See p5 for further details)



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Eco news from St Mary's

I'm writing this in 'Love Your Burial Ground' Week (which was 8-16th June). We celebrated at St Mary's by taking part in the Church Count on Nature, having a lovely time searching the churchyard for all sorts of plants and lichens and insects. Who knew we were home to lace weaver spiders and magpie moths? (OK – I now understand that they're quite common but I'd never heard of them before!) and seeing the barn owl out hunting was magical.



Many thanks to all who helped – hope you keep finding interesting parts of our amazing creation.

We'll get a report of what we found from Caring From God's Acre and will then have a think about what we can do to encourage things we didn't find, to share our churchyard.

And you may well have had enough of the election by now (only a few more days to go!). But did you know that the Church of England had set out 5 key environmental asks for candidates? They are:

- ensuring homes are energy-efficient and low carbon
- leave fossil fuels in the ground and invest in renewables
- commit to a 'loss and damage' fund for communities suffering from climate change across the world
- keep our promise to reverse the loss of wildlife and manage 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030
- support the Climate and Nature Bill which aims to join up the climate and nature crises, cut emissions and halt the decline of nature.

What have our local candidates promised about those?

NB. I'll be joining the 'Restore Nature Now' march in London on 22nd June which aims to support that Bill; major wildlife charities including A Rocha, RSPB, the Wildlife Trusts etc etc are leading the event. Watch this space for news from there.

Lisa Traylor

From the Ministry Team

During all the Annual meetings of the churches this year, Churchwardens were elected. Many may think that the process ends there. But no, churchwardens are not 'official' until they have attended a service called 'A celebration of the Ministry of Churchwardens' where all the newly-elected churchwardens are asked to stand and make a promise that they will diligently carry out their duties as churchwarden. We are then admitted to the office of Churchwarden. You may now rest easy in your beds in the knowledge that we are now properly admitted.

We enjoyed the spectacle of the Trooping of the Colour on 15 June. A good day, not too hot. The colour and pageantry are a joy to behold. The precision of the day is only achieved because of many weeks of practice and precise timing. It was so good to see the King and the Princess of Wales able to be there.

During July, we continue with the Gospel of Mark and follow Mark chapters 6 and 7 – this expands on the life of Jesus – and his surprising rejection by his home village. Then the sending out of the 12 disciples, with very clear instructions. The first taste for them of what will be expected. We will also learn about the feeding of the 5000. Each Sunday, we have small chunks to reflect on, but it is worth, from time to time, reading the whole book of Mark in one sitting, or if that is too much, then 2 or 3 chapters at one go. Chapters 6 and 7 show the development of Jesus' ministry and that of the disciples – they were learning all the time. If we can take time each week to read sections of the Bible, we will be a little like the soldiers on parade – our practice will enable us to see and understand the development of the story, the story of God's Kingdom.

Our search for a new Rector continues – the advertisement is now live, and we pray and hope there will be a good response. We will carry out shortlisting at the beginning of July with interviews on 24 and 25 July. Please continue to pray for a good response.

Amen

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Church News

St Mary's Longstock



A quiet month, with the usual Sunday Services. Our income is dropping so we need a push to encourage church attendance and/or to give on a regular basis by standing order. We also need fundraising ideas and volunteers to help. Please send a text or email if you would be interested in:

A summer quiz
A line dance or barn dance
A safari supper

Text 07884 583285
or email: mjh723@btinternet.com

When we had 'Church Count on Nature' on 9 June, quite a few turned up and were counting anything they could find - see the article from Lisa [on the page opposite](#). I photographed and submitted at least 16 things, including interesting lichen.

The funeral for Stephen Ellis took place on Wednesday 12 June. This was a quiet funeral, with his close friends and family from Ireland attending, together with all his close neighbours from Longstock. It was wonderful to have a member from the Royal British Legion bearing the standard, bringing in the coffin, and escorting it out. Stephen was a Major in the Army and the front cover of the order of service was a photo of the young Major, in uniform. Very sadly, his second wife Teresa could not be there as she is unwell with dementia.

There are many in Longstock and Stockbridge who have happy memories of Stephen, although in later years he has lived a quiet, private life. The Peat Spade supported him a great deal.

He was community-spirited in my experience, as when in 2020 the Churchyard wall collapsed, Stephen was one of the first to make a donation - and a very generous one too. He said that, whilst he and his wife did not come to church, they enjoyed the church and churchyard as a good neighbour.

13 June was one of the Celebrations of the Ministry of Churchwardens. This one was held in Romsey Abbey - a full church of churchwardens and their friends and family. This is an annual event which churchwardens are required to attend in order to make the promise and are admitted to the rôle.

The promise is this:

'I solemnly and sincerely declare before God and His people that I will faithfully and diligently discharge the duties of the Office of Churchwarden for the Parish for which I have been chosen during the period of my appointment.'

I and a number of wardens from this Benefice were there to make the promise.

Coming Events:

With the help and support from Sarah Seymour we could have a small concert. Sarah has copies of a cantata in popular style called 'Swingin' Samson'. A short musical based on the story of Samson. We would need around 15 singers from all age ranges. These are great fun to do - but need a commitment to attend a few rehearsals and of course at the event itself.

If you would like to take part, please email: mjh723@btinternet.com

At the beginning July, Sunday 7th, we will have our annual Pet Service. This will be in the Churchyard and we would really love to see a range of pets. Please make a note of this in your diary. Last year we had a good selection of dogs, who all behaved impeccably! But sheep, mice, parrots and goats are all welcome.



Church Services at St Mary, Longstock for July

7 July	9.30am	Pet Service
14 July	9.30am	Parish Eucharist
21 July	9.30am	Morning Worship
28 July	No Service	

For any questions on 'The News' please contact Maddie Hedley, Churchwarden, on 810284 or email mjh723@btinternet.com For queries about the Interregnum please contact Maddie as above or the Benefice Administrator, Lois Opperman at midtestbenefice@gmail.com

Maddie Hedley

Church News

St Peter's and Old St Peter's Stockbridge



From the beginning of June (still not quite summer weather), we became aware that the 80th Anniversary of D-Day was approaching. David Williams' article in last month's magazine gave a comprehensive overview of the assault in which he states that the D-Day landings in Normandy on the 6th June 1944 marked the beginning of the end of the Second World War.

In Stockbridge, David organised a service at our War Memorial which was led by the Rev'd Warwick Heathcote. We were reminded of the rôle that Stockbridge played in support of the invasion. Children from our Primary School attended and two boys, both from service families, read a prayer by St Francis of Assisi. Rory Christopherson carried the Royal British Legion standard and our regular cornet player, Richard King, sounded the calls. In the evening, loyal bell-ringers joined the nation's bells in the Ringing for Peace initiative.



On 14th June, St Peter's church was filled with the family, friends and colleagues of Christine Leslie for a Service of Celebration of her life. Our thoughts and prayers are with James and the family. (See page 19 for her obituary).

Open Gardens on the last weekend in June will take place after this issue has gone to print. We are all grateful for the sterling efforts of organisation by Alison Vialou Clark and Ghislaine Bell. There will be teas and cakes available for the public and live music on both days.

Our Benefice Service on June 30th was held in St Peter's Church, fittingly the day after St Peter's Day.

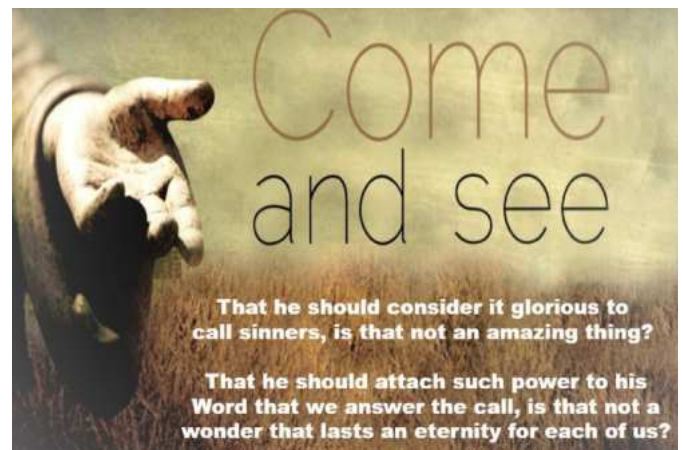
The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul is a liturgical feast in honour of their martyrdom in Rome and is widely celebrated throughout all Christian denominations. Saint Peter was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus and one of the first leaders of the early Christian Church. The service, led by the Rev'd Warwick Heathcote, was attended by people from across the Benefice, some of whom delivered the intercessions and readings. The choir, supplemented by Benefice singers, was in attendance and sang an anthem by John Rutter. The church bells were rung by ringers from across the Benefice.

Looking Ahead

Friday, July 5th at 7.30pm: Stockbridge Music presents the Early Music Vocal Ensemble, Stile Antico, in St. Peter's Church. (More details on p5)

Sunday, July 7th at 3pm: Teas in the church for those who live alone.

Janet Williams



Prayer for July

Come and see,
the invitation from Jesus;
to join his Kingdom,
to feel His comfort and love.

Come and see
God's creation, for which
we have stewardship.

Lord, reach out to all who
are seeking and invite them to come and see

The world is in turmoil,
wars, floods, heatwaves, revenge and greed for power.
Teach us new ways, ways of peace,
ways of care, for each other
and creation.

Lord, help us to come and see.

Amen

Church News

From the Rural Dean

June was wonderful – with all the Fêtes and Celebrations. July will mark the end of the academic years and many children and young people will be saying their goodbyes to their friends. It's a sad time but one in which memories of happy times can be recalled and treasured. As School Holidays start, and (hopefully) we enjoy good weather, I hope that everyone can have a time of rest and refreshment with families and friends. I hope that this Summer will be one to give you happy memories. I also hope that it will be a time when you can reflect on the busyness past and the busyness to come – perhaps a chance to reflect on the important things in your life?

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

Enjoy the Summer!

Your Rural Dean, James

Rev'd James Pitkin
romseyareadean@gmail.com

The Column for June

Baptisms

There were no baptisms in June

Weddings

There were no weddings in June

Funerals

12 June 2024. The funeral for Stephen Ellis, late of the Old Post Office, took place at 11.00am at St Mary's Church, Longstock, followed by burial at Longstock Cemetery.

14 June 2024. The Thanksgiving for Christine Leslie took place at 2.00pm at St Peter's Church, Stockbridge.

Hampshire Downs RC Parish St Thomas More

Services are held on Sundays at 9.00am

July Services for Stockbridge, Longstock and Leckford

7th July (Trinity 6)

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

14th July (Trinity 7)

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

21st July (Trinity 8)

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

28th July (Trinity 9)

11.00 **Stockbridge** Morning Worship



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