



The Parish Magazine for

£1

STOCKBRIDGE LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD

April 2023



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

Rector: The Rev'd Philip Bowden

Phone no. 01264 810810

rector@midtest.org.uk

Website: <http://www.2day.ws/stockbridge>

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

Please contact our Rector (see details above)

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Micki Nadal 810567

Brownies (meet in Chilbolton)

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Church Mouse Books

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Cllr David Drew 357024
mob 07738 289902

Kent Hill Scout Hall

Leigh Dance 811074

Leckford Parish Council

Dawn Williams 810724

Longstock Garden Club

Peter Moore 07881 573493
peter.r.moore@gmail.com

Longstock Parish Council

Chair: Selina Musters 810459
Clerk: Gill Bulpitt 07763857512

Longstock Village Hall

Selina Musters 810459

Longstock & Leckford WI

Sue Hill 811779

Neighbour Care 0845 0943713

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Mark Lovell 07786 435847

Scout Group Explorers

Andrea Zanchi 07747 720735

Louise Henderson 07436 899054

St Thomas More Church

Father Mark Hogan 01962 852804

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Angela McMeekin 810236

Stockbridge Community Cinema

Paul Kidd 811179

Stockbridge Community Market

Carol Preston 07925 287870

Stockbridge Court Leet

Guy Boney (Lord of the Manor) 810614

Diana Tym (Bailiff) 810363

Stockbridge Dramatic Society

Mark Frank 810562

Stockbridge Football Club

Bob Powell (Chair) 07802 524433

Rob Blandford (Hon Sec) 07799 289756

Email: stockbridgefc@hotmail.com

Stockbridge Music

Karen Malim 07964 194530

Stockbridge Parish Council

Chair: Alex Lawrence

Clerk: Belinda Baker 07770 406607

clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org

Stockbridge Pharmacy 810624

Stockbridge Police Station

(Non emergencies) 101

Stockbridge Primary /Pre School

Emma Jefferies (Head) 810550

Stockbridge Rec Ground

Dave Webb (Chair) 810819

Stuart Mawson(Sec) 07766 150055

Stockbridge Surgery

810524

Out of hours urgent treatment /advice

Hants Doctors On Call freephone 111

Stockbridge Town Hall

Kim Candler (Chair) 811776

On-line bookings

www.stockbridgetownhall.co.uk

or phone 513299

Test Valley School

Ms Jo McKeown (Exec. Head) 810555

Trout 'n About

Bob Powell 01264 810966

TVBC Councillor

Cllr Tony Ward 01794 389649

Unity Transport (Dial-a-Ride

shopping bus) 356808

From the Rector

Hope in the resurrection

At the time of writing this piece, four different people who have been living on my street have passed away. This is unusual, and surprising, but surely just a sad coincidence. Towards the end of last year, it was Broughton parish where there were a series of funerals, now it is Stockbridge's turn. The pain and sadness that come with losing loved ones can be overwhelming, and it is natural to feel a sense of despair in such difficult times. However, as Christians, we have a hope that goes beyond this life, a hope rooted in the promise of resurrection.

The Easter season, into which we will soon enter, is a time when we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Through his death and resurrection, Christ conquered sin and death, and opened the way for us to eternal life. As we reflect on this central message of our faith, we are reminded that death is not the end, but a new beginning.

For those who have lost loved ones, this promise of resurrection can bring comfort and peace. Although we may grieve for those we have lost, we can also take comfort in the knowledge that they are now in the loving arms of our heavenly Father, and that one day we will be reunited with them in the fullness of life.

As a community, we can also support one another in these difficult times. We can offer our prayers, our presence, and our love to those who are hurting. We can share stories and memories of those we have lost, and celebrate their lives and the impact they had on our community.

In the midst of our grief, let us also hold fast to the hope of resurrection. As we approach Easter, may we be reminded that death does not have the final word, and that, through Christ, we have the promise of new life. May the love of God surround you all this Easter, and may we find comfort in the hope of the resurrection.

The Rev'd Philip Bowden

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Cover Photo: Lilies, taken by Herry Lawford.

A reminder both of Herry and his enormous contribution to our magazine and of last year's gift of lilies to Old St Peter's, where Easter was celebrated with a traditional liturgy.

From the Editorial Team

March has been a difficult time for many in the villages, coping with ill health and, sadly, for some among us, the loss of loved ones. And all of us, in different ways, are affected by the challenges brought by the cost of living crisis. We are troubled by global issues - the continuing war in Ukraine and the effects of climate change and pollution. The weather hasn't lifted our spirits.

But you just have to look into our pages to see signs of positivity in the air. Spring is on its way and Ryan Bundy has shared some lovely photographs of our earliest spring flowers (page 13). Our local Ukraine Support Group organised an event which through the generosity of local residents raised enough money to buy five new generators. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Harriet Asher from Chilbolton, these, with two reconditioned generators, also sponsored locally, were delivered to destinations in the east of Ukraine within 20 days (page 18). And the money is still coming in.

Our local organisations continue to bring events entertaining, educational and cultural to our door, notably Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society, Stockbridge Music and Stockbridge Cinema. Other groups provide opportunities to share common interests, follow an enthusiasm, get a little exercise and meet up socially. No need to lead a quiet life here, unless you prefer it that way!

When it comes to protecting and improving the local environment, we can see in the National Trust's update (page 15) an example of managing the land for diversity, though we will miss the sheep!

So lots going on and much to look forward to!

Frances Candler, Jennifer Kidd and Thea Taylor



**Stockbridge
Community
Cinema**



DECISION TO LEAVE (15) FRIDAY 14 APRIL 7.30pm (2hrs 18min)

From a mountain peak in South Korea, a man plummets to his death. Did he jump, or was he pushed? When detective Hae-joon arrives on the scene, he begins to suspect the dead man's wife Seo-rae. But as he digs deeper into the investigation, he finds himself trapped in a web of deception and desire.

THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN (15) WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL 4.45pm and 7.30pm (1hr 54min)

Lifelong friends Pádraic and Colm find themselves at an impasse when Colm unexpectedly puts an end to their friendship. A stunned Pádraic, aided by his sister Siobhán and troubled young islander Dominic, endeavours to repair the relationship, refusing to take no for an answer.

MATILDA THE MUSICAL (U) SUNDAY 23 APRIL 3.00pm (1hr 58min) £5.00

Roald Dahl's *Matilda the Musical* is an inspirational musical tale of an extraordinary girl who discovers her superpower and summons the remarkable courage, against all odds, to help others change their stories, whilst also taking charge of her own destiny.

Standing up for what is right, she is met with miraculous results

A fundraising film for The Friends of Stockbridge School.

Tickets £6.00 (unless otherwise indicated) available online via our website stockbridgecinema.org.uk or via the Ticketsource telephone booking service **0333 666 3366** (additional £1.80 fee per booking) Refreshments on sale



LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD WI

Meetings are held in Stockbridge Town Hall
6.45pm for 7pm start

Tuesday 25 April

Body Language Communication

Alan Jones

Guests always welcome

Please contact Sue Hill on 811779 for further details



Houghton WI

10.00am, Monday 17 April
at Houghton Village Hall

'A Day in Iran as a Housewife'

Sandra Simmons

Visitors welcome

Further information from
Jane Anderton 01264 810928

Stockbridge Community Cinema
A FUND-RAISING FILM FOR THE FRIENDS OF STOCKBRIDGE SCHOOL

ALMA WIGG LARRARA LYNCH STEPHEN GRAHAM ANNEKA RUSKIBROUGH EMMA THOMESON

Matilda
The Musical

SUNDAY 23 APRIL 2023 3.00pm
Stockbridge Town Hall

Tickets (£5.00) sold online via from www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk

Bean Car Club Daffodil Run 2023

Sunday 2 April

Stockbridge is on the route of this traditional vintage car run. The cars will be gathering near the Grosvenor Hotel at about 10.30am; an ideal opportunity for enthusiasts to see a wide range of Classic Cars.

The Run is open to all cars manufactured before 1940. For further details, see <http://beancarclub.org.uk/Daffodil-Run/>

Copy for Magazine

Copy date for the May Magazine:
15 April 2023

Please send emails to:
editorsstockmag@gmail.com
or phone Frances on 01264 811776
Jennifer on 01264 811179 or Thea on 07730 964481

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

Alexander Chance, counter tenor
Toby Carr, lute

World-renowned duo to perform in Stockbridge in a 'genre first' for Stockbridge Music

(Photo credits: Benjamin Ealovega; TC credit Andrew Mason)

Friday 5th May 2023, 7.30pm
St Peters Church, Stockbridge SO20 6HE

Tickets £20 (U18s £5)
from stockbridgemusic.uk or on the door

For more details about this and future concerts please see page 19

TALKING HEADS
BY ALAN BENNETT

Bed among the lentils.
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6-8 APRIL 2023
STOCKBRIDGE TOWN HALL
7.30PM

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Stockbridge Town Hall



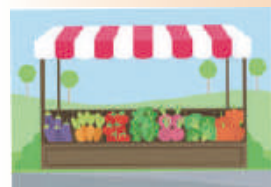
Events

Weekly

Mon am	Pilates with Paula
Mon am	Pilates Unlimited with Clare
Tues am	Iyengar Yoga with Melissa
Tues am	Michelle Buhl-Nielsen Art Class
Weds am	Yoga with Dionne
Thurs am	Iyengar Yoga with Melissa
Thurs am	Stockbridge Community Market
Thurs am	Su Joy Art Class
Thurs pm	Joga
Fri am	Moo Music

This Month

Apr 1	Antique Fair
Apr 2	Hampshire Assoc of Cricket Officials
Apr 2	Art Sale
Apr 3-5	Jennifer Gay
Apr 8	Jules At No.43
Apr 11	Stockbridge Drama Society
Apr 13-17	Daniel Hooper Art
Apr 14	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Apr 18-19	Capital Cashmere
Apr 18	Test Valley Friends of the Earth
Apr 19	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Apr 20	Stockbridge Parish Council
Apr 21	Infinito
Apr 22	South Central Makers
Apr 23	Wild Bazaar
Apr 23	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Apr 24-26	Wild Bazaar
Apr 25	Longstock & Leckford WI
Apr 27	Stockbridge Surgery
Apr 28	Stockbridge Parish Magazine
Apr 29-30	Hawkmoor Books
Apr 29-30	Antiques & Curios



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 Wi-Fi access

Test Villages u3a

**Thursday 6th April at 2pm
Chilbolton Village Hall**

'A Conspiracy History of the World'

Andy Thomas explores why people believe in conspiracy theories and investigates the evidence to support them.

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

Doors open at 1.45pm for the presentation, followed by refreshments.

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

u3a provides the opportunity to socialise and learn for fun.

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



Longstock Garden Club

David Tite

Carnivorous plants from around the world and their care and cultivation

**Join us on Tuesday 11 April 2023
at 7.30 pm in Longstock Village Hall**
(Doors open at 7.00pm)

<https://longstockgardenclub.com/>
Peter 07881573493

Wherwell History Group



8pm, Friday 21 April
Wherwell Hall

'At Sixes and Sevens' a look at London Livery Companies

David Poole

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



The Royal British Legion Houghton and District Branch

Contact David Williams (Chairman)
01264 811072

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



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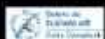
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Stockbridge Parish Council News

The Parish Council met in February at the Town Hall.

The planters that provide a crossing point between the Co-op and the Greengrocers have been licensed for another year. The planters are there to provide a safe route to the islands in the middle of the High Street. Without the planters the area of the road on each side of the island is liable to be used for parking. It therefore becomes extremely difficult for those with mobility aids or in wheelchairs to navigate between the vehicles to reach the edge of the road and so to cross to the island. The Council has been told by HCC that the licence will not be renewed next year and a permanent solution needs to be sought. The Council has approached HCC Minor Works to achieve a crossing solution similar to that outside the public toilets.

There has been a litter pick by TVBC's contractor on the A303 and A34 verges, lay-bys and slip roads within the borough. 337 bags of litter, just over 2 tonnes, of litter and other roadside debris were collected.

The Parish Council has approached Sparsholt College to work on the pocket park design. The students will produce a number of designs that will be put to the community in order to agree the preferred solution. The Council will then have to decide how the chosen design can be paid for and installed. The Council is very pleased and grateful to receive Sparsholt's involvement and is hoping for some inspiring designs that will put the space to imaginative use. However, due to present commitments, Sparsholt College will be unable to get involved until September but the Council looks forward to working with them after that.

HCC's Trading Standards has produced a short quiz and online video to help protect residents from online scams. Criminals are finding ever-more sophisticated ways to take your money whether through online offers, emails or telephone calls and HCC's Trading standards team recommends you learn how to recognise a scam. Go to *Trading Standards | Business and economy | Hampshire County Council (hants.gov.uk)* for further advice.

Stockbridge PC will be replacing the doors and some of the glass of the BT phone boxes in the High Street. The intention is to install a defibrillator in one of the phone boxes and to use the other for community information. Both the phone boxes are listed and therefore care must be taken to preserve them as iconic features of the High Street.

TVBC will be monitoring the spread and progression of Ash Dieback through their council-owned trees in the Spring and Summer. When the trees are in full leaf it is easy to monitor and determine what stage

of the disease the tree is in. Sadly, the fungus stays in the leaf litter so the disease can often be passed on to neighbouring trees. The fungus will then enter the tree's vascular system eventually blocking the tree's vessels, leaving the tree unable to move water around its internal system. The effect of this causes a significant reduction in the strength of the timber, leaving trees liable to limb failure without warning. In order for public spaces to remain fully open and used as they currently are, where monitoring finds trees have become unsafe, their removal becomes essential. There will be replanting schemes drawn up for the majority of these areas, although some will be allowed to regenerate naturally and form coppice areas.

The Parish Council will meet next on the 20th April.

Belinda Baker

*Clerk to Stockbridge Parish Council
clerk@stockbridgeparish council.org.uk*

THE HOUGHTON TRAIL EVENT

"Through the heart of the Beautiful Test Valley"

**4K/11K
RUN**



**11K
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**14K/32K
MTB**



**At Houghton Village Hall
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SUNDAY 14th MAY 2023

**REGISTRATION: 9:00 AM
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The Coronation Weekend, 6-8 May 2023

The Coronation – Live on the Big Screen



There are plans to screen the televised coverage of the Coronation on May 6 in Stockbridge Town Hall as a community event. This is for those of us who would like to make the coronation day more memorable by watching the event in more sociable circumstances amongst other residents.

The event will be free of charge and with light refreshments available. There will be further details in next month's magazine once timings have been clarified by the Palace.

If this is something you would like to attend, then please contact paulkidd51@gmail.com by the end of April to express an interest.

Celebrations in Longstock

There will be a Coronation Big Lunch from 12noon until 5pm on Sunday 7th May for all Longstock residents at the recreation ground - a bring-your-own picnic with a Bake-off competition of puds to be shared and fancy dress competitions.

The Official Programme

Their Majesties The King and The Queen Consort hope the Coronation Weekend will provide an opportunity to spend time and celebrate with friends, families and communities across the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

Saturday 6th May, 2023

The Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort will take place at Westminster Abbey in the morning. The Service will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury. As previously announced, the Service will reflect the Monarch's role today and look towards the future, while being rooted in longstanding traditions and pageantry.

Sunday, 7th May 2023

A special Coronation Concert will be staged and broadcast live at Windsor Castle by the BBC and BBC Studios.

The Coronation Big Lunch, at which neighbours and communities are invited to share food and fun together, will take place across the country on the same date - see below.

Monday, 8th May 2023

Members of the public will be invited to take part in The Big Help Out, which will encourage people to try volunteering for themselves and join the work being undertaken to support their local areas.



Coronation Big Lunch For Stockbridge

Sunday 7 May

12.30 – 15.00

Stockbridge Recreation Ground

Open to all Stockbridge residents

BYO food, drink, cutlery, picnic chairs, plates, glasses

And an extra plate of finger food to share

Children's prize for the **Best Homemade Crown**

(7 and under and 12 and under)

Please let us know if you'd like to come

Stockbridge-big-lunch@outlook.com or 07831 306902

Parking in the High Street. No dogs please.





Earth Day 2023

Every year on April 22, Earth Day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970 and brings environmental concerns to the fore.

In the previous decades, the developed world was consuming vast amounts of leaded fuel in large and inefficient vehicles. Industry belched out smoke and particulate matter with little fear of consequence from either the law or bad press coverage. Air pollution was commonly accepted as an (unavoidable) indicator of prosperity. Many people remained largely oblivious to environmental concerns and how a polluted environment threatens human health.

However, the publication of Rachel Carson's 1962 bestseller *Silent Spring* was a watershed moment in raising public awareness and concern for living organisms, the environment and the inextricable links between pollution and public health.

In 1969, Gaylord Nelson, a US senator, witnessed the devastating oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. Inspired by the energy of the student anti-war movement and an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution, he promoted a day of university environmental 'teach-ins', choosing April 22, a weekday falling between the Spring Break and Final Exams, to maximise student participation.

That first 'Earth Day' in 1970 prompted groups that had been fighting individually against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, sewage in watercourses and seas, toxic dumps, pesticides, the loss of wilderness and the extinction of wildlife etc. to unite. The scale of shared activism gradually brought environmental issues to the world stage.

Over the following years, environmental leaders and governments created an increasingly global framework of environmental legislation and best practice covering all aspects of ecological damage, biodiversity protection and responsible resource management. United Nations Earth Summits provided a powerful forum for coordination and the arrival of the Internet brought a supremely critical tool to facilitate global and local communication. As the evidence for, and our understanding of, planetary climate change has developed, there has been additional focus on global warming and a push for clean energy.

The scientific evidence of environmental change and the imperative to act are now embraced by governments, industry and the financial world generally. The dissenting voices of climate change deniers, well-funded fossil-fuel lobbyists, reticent politicians, an unengaged public and a divided environmental community have been largely dismissed, although their political and financial influence persists as a drag on speedy progress and there remains the challenge of assisting unindustrialised regions of the world to develop

sustainably. Unpredicted events - such as wars - present further serious obstacles.

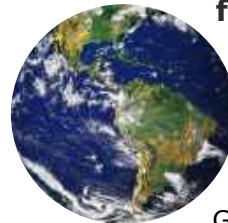
The fight for a clean environment continues with increasing urgency as the ravages of climate change become more and more apparent and we are having to (literally) 'firefight' environmental and human catastrophes. Clever technology, scientific progress and ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) business regimes are increasingly building creative solutions - testament to enduring human ingenuity - but global society must devote the will and the means to implement change.

This 22 April, Earth Day highlights that 'call to arms' to promote effective pro-environmental action.

Further information at www.earthday.org

Editors

The first of our Interesting Facts for Earth Day 22 April



How did the Earth get its name?

The name Earth is an English/German name which simply means 'ground'. It comes from the Old English words 'eor(th)e' and 'ertha' and the German 'erde'. Earth is the only planet in the solar system whose name doesn't originate from Greco-Roman mythology.

Earth Facts 2



How old is the Earth?

Earth is thought to be about 4.6 billion years old as measured by the rate at which elements of radioactive uranium in ancient rocks decay into lead. Meteorites which have fallen to Earth's surface and moon rocks brought back by Apollo astronauts were formed around the same time as Earth and show similar ages.

Earth Facts 3



Why does Earth spin?

Our Solar System formed when a huge cloud of gas and dust started to collapse under its own gravity and started to spin, the material gathering into swirling eddies and eventually forming planets. As material gravitated together more closely to form each planet, the material spun faster (similar to when skaters pull in their arms and spin faster). The Earth keeps on spinning because there are no forces acting to stop it.

The welcome arrival of Spring Out and About with Ryan Bundy



The catkins have been spectacular this year



The arrival of snowdrops always lifts the spirits.

And they are followed swiftly



by primroses and daffodils.

Spring ploughing is well underway.



The scale and majesty of the geological processes that formed our planet can defy comprehension but spark poetic inspiration -

CHALK STREAMS

Throughout the long Cretaceous, Planet Earth Was hotter than it's been in epochs since. And part of southern England lay beneath A tropic ocean's warming ambience.

Coccoliths - forms of plankton, cased in lime, Teemed in the sun-soaked waters. When they died Showered to the sea floor. After untold time Deep beds of chalk lay underneath the tide.

Then Earth's crust heaved and sea-beds rose as land.

Hills, valleys formed and rain-fed rivers grew. Now all chalk's pores store winter's rainfall and Release it gently, cleansed, the seasons through.

Hugh Saxton

The Cretaceous Period lasted about 85 million years, ending some 65 million years ago. The term 'cretaceous' comes from the Latin 'creta' meaning 'chalk'.

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National Trust Update

A long-awaited greeting to you all! It's been a year since I waddled off on maternity leave and have now been back at work since mid-January. I am just about back in the swing of things – as much as one can be when balancing rubbish sleep, a baby-almost-toddler, work and any resemblance of 'normal life'! Still, it's great to see the sites again through sleep-deprived eyes and focus on conservation and nature once more.

With that focus, we have been considering the future of our sheep flock, based on their age and the needs/benefits for the site. We have had the sheep for a decade now which seems long enough to assess their use as management tools and their impact on the slope. The Stockbridge slope is lesser quality grassland than the main down which, since prehistoric times, has remained chalk downland. As a result, the floristic diversity and, consequently, other species' (i.e. butterfly) diversity of the main down are far greater than the western slope which was historically yew/beechnut woodland/scrub area, cleared around 20 years ago to extend the grassland area. This is largely why the slope has never improved in diversity much, having had years as different habitats, and the grass area cuttings being left on the ground on a regular basis, increasing soil nutrients and reducing diversity.

These aspects of the slope perhaps indicate that it will never be as diverse a grassland as the main down, no matter what the grazing regime. Having observed the limits of what long-term grazing can do, I have been thinking of making that slope something better – a large scrub bank to attract nightingale, turtle dove, overwintering birds etc. I really feel that slope could offer more benefit to nature from being an area like this than it would by continuing to try to improve a *brachypodium*-heavy grassland that was historically nutrient-enriched and overstood with yew/beechnut.

I've also felt for a while that our grazing system is not holistic enough to be properly sustainable. We don't have enough areas of land to move the flock between so as to control grazing impact at different times of year, as I would like to; the only way I've managed to reduce impact is by reducing numbers but then this means we don't have enough mouths as we need in lush growth times. Our staff resources are so depleted since Covid redundancies that we cannot provide full out-of-hours cover nor initiate any kind of breeding programme to replace older animals. Our flock is aged and will continue to diminish in number. All this, alongside monitoring the slope grassland for ten years, has led us to decide the time has come for 'pastures new' (we will, of course, be keeping the footpaths that cross it).

Don't get me wrong, I will be very, very sad to see the sheep go. I first bought the flock in 2013, with additions in 2014 and 2016. I have watched them grow, escape and die in stupid and awkward ways. I have wrestled them many, many times, being

dragged through mud like a rag doll, to administer vaccinations or medication. I've trimmed their hooves and chased individuals across neighbouring fields after daring escapes, culminating in a rugby tackle to bring them down. I've watched them flow out of the scrub like a woolly wave in answer to my sheep yodel, followed them to shelter in a blizzard, and lain with them in the shade of the yew canopy on scorching hot summer days. I've popped their abscesses, cleaned maggots out of fly strike wounds, sawn off a horn growing into a face, dug pus out of their feet and attended to all manner of typical sheep ailments. In return for Florence Nightingale care, they've given me Orf and Lyme diseases, black eyes, nosebleeds, more bruises than I can count and a particularly exciting sheep nasal botfly larva infestation in my eye. It's lucky for the sheep that I've not sent them on sooner!



Proof that they will follow a bucket!

I set up the 'sheep looker' system, a rota of volunteers who checked the flock every single day come rain or shine, be it Christmas or lockdown. Without these loyal individuals, we never could have had the flock in the first place. I thank them all deeply, past and present sheep lookers, for all the help they have given us over the years.

With all these memories – and scars – forever etched on my mind and body, it's safe to say I will miss the humour – and tears – that these animals have brought to us over the years, especially before they were bucket-trained and positively feral to round up. But I'm looking ahead to what could be and the benefits that could result.

The flock is currently at Mottisfont on lush pasture from where we hope to find them a new home. Although ageing and beyond breeding, they are in good condition, self-shearing and tough animals, able to winter outside comfortably. Should anyone know of anyone who may want some conservation grazers who generally need very little looking after (the anecdotes above may go against this but were spread across a ten year period! Generally, Wiltshire Horn do very well with little intervention), then please email Catherine.hadler@nationaltrust.org.uk We have 13 sheep between 8–11 years old; they are well bucket-trained and some enjoy a nose scratch. Our deadline for re-homing as many as we can is **May** so keep your ears to the ground for anyone wanting walking lawnmowers!

In the meantime, it's butterfly season at last! After missing last year, I'll be out seeing the little winged beauties emerging into the warmth and light of a long-awaited spring.

Catherine Hadler, National Trust Ranger

Generating Funds for Ukraine

by Amanda Lambert and Nicholas Muers-Raby

'Ukraine – What they Need Now', a fundraising event at Stockbridge Town Hall on 17th February, raised over £5000 for much-needed generators for hospitals, schools and families in the front line of Eastern Ukraine. A further six generators were donated by individuals across the Test Valley, including Chilbolton, The Wallops, Lockerley and Stockbridge. The event, organised by stockbridgeukraine.org, sold out early and had a waiting list of over thirty people.

Headline speaker, Major-General Tim Toyne Sewell, ex-Commandant RMA Sandhurst, from Nether Wallop, started on a light note recalling his connections with Ukraine and how, retired from the Army, he inadvertently found himself Co-Chair of the Kyiv Festival. He built his address on creating good leadership, contrasting the failure of Putin and the success of Zelensky; the poor quality of Russian junior officers versus the superior quality of Ukrainians, the latter trained to make decisions according to the circumstances, the former dependent on orders. Tim reminded the audience of the importance of the Sandhurst motto - 'Serve To Lead' - officers putting the wellbeing of their troops first, ensuring good morale and willingness to fight.

Second speaker, Charlie Hutchinson, was introduced by Ukrainian guests, Rymma and Yuliya, who he helped evacuate from Mariupol and for whom he found hosts in Stockbridge and Kings Somborne.



Rymma and Yuliya introduce Charlie Hutchinson.

Charlie gave a fascinating overview of his six years living and working around Mariupol, deployed by the FCDO to the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe as a military observer. His work included patrolling on both sides of the front line, identification of proscribed weaponry, civilian casualty verification and assessing artillery impact sites. Charlie spent time off travelling Ukraine, hiking in the Carpathians and skydiving in Dnipro.

Charlie shows his friend, Ghenadie, receiving a generator sourced by Harriet and funded by a member of stockbridgeukraine.org.

When the instruction to evacuate was given on 13th Feb 2021, many of Charlie's colleagues, thinking they



would return in a few days or weeks, only packed a suitcase of essentials. Charlie packed his van with all his belongings, took a last photo standing by the Mariupol billboard, and left.



Theatre Square in Mariupol before the War. Charlie's flat is in the top left-hand corner of the square.

The order to evacuate comes and Charlie just finds room for all his belongings.



On evacuating Mariupol, Charlie finds time for one last photo.



Mariupol Theatre Square after shelling.

Final speaker, Harriet Asher, Chilbolton mother of twins and a six-month old, woke on the morning of 24th February, heard the news and said to her partner, 'I have to go and do something'. Three weeks later, she had hitch-hiked across the Polish-Ukraine border into Ukraine where she identified the priority was safe travel for women and children - always so vulnerable - by air and coach travel, using safe houses in Ukraine and Poland. So far she has transported OVER ONE THOUSAND refugees to the UK and she showed harrowing videos of scenes of her transporting families over the border to safety in Poland, and arriving in the UK. That number has now dwindled, with delays of months in processing visa applications.

Harriet is now sourcing humanitarian aid - generators, wound dressings, stretchers, even woollen hats for premature babies. During eight frantic days following her presentation, with monies

raised that evening and generators subsequently donated, Harriet was able to prepare eleven generators for despatch to Ukraine. At 9pm on 25th February, Torhalle, a 30-year-old Lithuanian girl, arrived in a white van, identified by red crosses on its side. She is a driver for *Transport A Sister*, a charity started in Warsaw by TV presenter Daniel Sandford, and had driven all day on her own, collecting humanitarian aid including stretchers.

With generators loaded in the dark helped by Jasper (Harriet's partner), Torhalle set off alone for the Harwich overnight ferry where she was joined by a helper, taking the Hook of Holland ferry, before the 20-hour drive across Europe to the Polish border crossing into Lviv, western Ukraine.



The new palleted generators ready for loading.



Jasper and Torhalle loading the generators.

On Wednesday 1st March, stockbridgeukraine.org received a video showing the generators being transferred from Torhalle to the driver who would take them onwards all over the country, mostly to Eastern Ukraine and the front line. The same day, Harriet sent notification that the first generator had been delivered to a Kharkiv school now being used as a large shelter.



Harriet told us 'I can't push drivers for photos as they are doing dangerous work. Today's a big day as they are going to a battalion in the east and a field hospital as well as 300 little neonatal hats being dropped off to a neonatal hospital in Kharkiv.'



Neonatal hats, hand-knitted by Beryl Drew of Little Dean, being delivered.



A lady running a refugee centre in Kamenetz Poldolsk receiving two donated generators.



Two generators delivered to Borova regional hospital in Kharkiv.

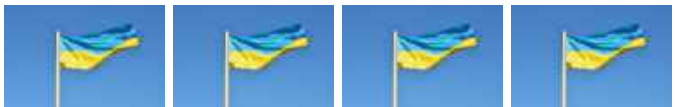
On the 7th March, just twenty days after the fundraising event at Stockbridge Town Hall, we received notification from Harriet that the eleventh and last of the generators had been delivered to soldiers, visibly tired, in the front line. The operation to make the delivery had included British, Polish, Lithuanians, American and Estonians.



One of our generators being dropped to a battalion in the East of Ukraine

But perhaps the last word should be given to Charlie's friend, the Ukrainian soldier Ghenadie. The morning after his Stockbridge talk, Charlie said: 'Hi all, I sent a few of the photos of last night to my friend Ghena (Ghenadie) whose unit Harriet sent the generator to. I thought I'd share his reply, and feel free to share it further.

'There are no words to express our gratitude to you, the people of England. We are fighting for our freedom. They came to destroy us. You help us survive and protect the future. Everything will be fine even if we are gone. But we must defeat these orcs. Otherwise, there will be no life on the planet. Glory to Ukraine. The glory of England.'



If you'd like to donate, you can be assured your money will be spent wisely on Humanitarian Aid to Ukraine with absolutely minimal administrative costs. Everything we purchase with your donations can be traced right through including, where possible, photographs or a video. Harriet works from home and has none of the normal charity overheads unless travelling to Poland to shepherd refugees.

To donate or join the stockbridgeukraine.org mailing list, please email us at stockbridgeukraine@gmail.com.

(Next month we hope to write about Alex Lewis' work in Ukraine with prosthetics.)



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Stockbridge Music

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

Morassi Quartet, 3rd March 2023



Stockbridge Music has unearthed a young treasure in the form of the Morassi Quartet. Average age 23, these four talented artists played as one, with an emotional maturity belying their years.

We were taken on a tour of the string quartet's development over three centuries. The concert opened with Haydn's "fifths" quartet from the 18th century, the dazzling peak in Haydn's career. Unusually for Haydn, three of the four movements are in a minor key, and the ensemble clearly articulated the contrasts between the work's overarching austerity with the mood-lifting folk dance sections.

Fast forward to the mid-20th century, the folk music theme continued with Bacewicz's Quartet No. 4. This was a revelation: while the quartet is definitely 'modern' in feel, it was accessible and vibrant. The Quartet clearly loved playing this piece, and the energetic communication between them was wonderful to watch. The lively finale was the perfect way to send us off to the interval.

The second half was devoted to the 19th century with the great 'heart on their sleeve' Romantics, Rachmaninov and Mendelssohn. The quartet brought out Rachmaninov's youthful lyricism, warmth and wistfulness, beautifully contrasting the composer's long languid lines with his clear and precise pizzicato and tremolo sections.

The highlight of the evening was the rendition of Mendelssohn's last major work. We were left in no doubt that here was a man wracked with the pain and turmoil of grief following the death of his beloved sister, Fanny. The quartet dived headlong into the emotional whirlwind and led us on an exhilarating and virtuosic journey of bristling intensity. The audience burst into grateful applause at the end, having been moved and touched in the way that only great music played brilliantly can do.

As an aside, it was delightful to see two primary school-aged children in the audience. Stockbridge

Music has long held an ambition to nurture the next generation of classical music lovers, and its recently-launched concession pricing for under 18s appears to have got off to a good start.

Karen Malim

Next Concert

Friday 5th May 2023, 7.30pm
St Peters Church, Stockbridge

Alexander Chance,
counter tenor



Toby Carr,
lute



Join us for a rare opportunity to hear superstar counter tenor, Alexander Chance (yes, son of Michael...) and renowned lutenist, Toby Carr, explore gems from the English Renaissance. Their gorgeous programme 'Drop Not, Mine eyes' charts the emotional range of the Elizabethan lute song, as composed by English lutenists such as John Dowland, Thomas Campion and Thomas Ford, and its development through the Stuart period by Henry Purcell and his contemporaries.

You can hear Chance's exquisite timbre, gently accompanied by Carr, in a video recording of 'The Cypress-Curtain of the Night' by Thomas Campion (which they will perform on 5th May) on www.alexanderchance.co.uk

Tickets £20 (U18s £5) from stockbridgemusic.uk or on the door

Dates for your diary, 2023

All concerts start at 7.30pm and are in St Peter's Church, unless otherwise stated:

Saturday 15 July

The 'From Bohemia to Broadway' Opera Quintet 'Music for a While' - A smörgåsbord of hits from opera and the musicals

Friday 22 September

Spiritato! 'The Taste of this Nation' Concertos and Cantatas 'after the Italian Manner'

Friday 20 October

The Beaufort Singers "O Magnum Mysterium" - featuring some of the UK's best choral singers

For more information and to book tickets, go to stockbridgemusic.uk

'Old Man Rain he fell all day and washed the crops and animals away' Aboriginal Dreamtime Tale



Our climate in Australia swings from years of drought to years of flooding rain. We are just coming to the end of three years of high rainfall; the Murray River is carrying flood water as it flows from Queensland through

New South Wales into South Australia, overflowing levy banks and into populated areas. Homes are



flooded, animals stranded and infrastructures badly damaged. When the waters recede, evacuated people return to their damaged homes and businesses.

The road surfaces are broken, the tar surface rolled up like wet wallpaper, and bridges have crumbled into the raging torrents below them.



These changes in weather patterns are caused by the Pacific Ocean and the atmosphere above it changing from a normal (neutral) state. The winds near the surface of the tropical Pacific usually blow from east to west. The changing phases swing back and forth every three to seven years. El Niño is the warm phase, when western trade winds weaken along the equator causing warm surface water to move eastward. La Niña is the cool phase, when the trade winds are stronger, pushing surface water into the western Pacific and causing cool water to rise from deeper in the ocean.

During El Niño, rainfall decreases and temperature increases. There have been twenty-seven El Niño events since 1900 and eighteen have brought severe drought conditions. The last event cumulated in the 2019 bush fires across eastern and southern Australia. We spent weeks swathed in thick smoke from fires many miles away. The fires spread from Queensland through New South Wales across Victoria into Southern Australia and large areas of land and many homes and businesses were destroyed. Several people lost their lives during the fires.

Then the weather changed and, as COVID arrived, a La Niña phase developed, the rainfall increased

and the temperature decreased. At first the water bounced off the hard, parched soil and entered storm drains but gradually the land soaked up the water and vegetation, crops, grass and trees began to grow. Even very dry places in inland New South Wales became green again with flowers blooming and farmers able to sow crops and feed their animals on lush grass. As the rain continued, the land became saturated. The water caused minor flooding as it made its way into rivers and dams. The rivers became swollen and overflowed their high, protective levy banks. The Hawkesbury River burst its banks taking animals



and trees in its path. The river flows into the ocean near us and the ocean turned red carrying Hawkesbury Valley topsoil and, sadly, large animals and trees were washed up on our beaches.

Near Mudgee in New South Wales, the river overflowed into the fields dumping large shoals of European carp on the land. As the water receded the carp died and were ploughed into the ground as fertiliser.



Although the rain has stopped, the floods continue as river systems carry the water into Southern Australia from New South Wales.



Residents near the border are the next communities to be evacuated as more than 10 metres of flood water will

inundate their land and houses. The destruction caused by the powerful wall of moving water is shocking. Dams that were built to ensure a constant supply of water during droughts are now full and overflowing into the swollen river systems causing more intense flooding.

The flood water will eventually make its way to the ocean and the people will count the cost of another weather disaster as they clean up and rebuild. Some have flooded homes which had just been rebuilt after the 2019 fires, others were just trying to rebuild when their burned homes were flooded. Some farmers are celebrating; after a decade of drought, farmers inland in New South Wales and Queensland have full dams and hope to rebuild their animal numbers and store hay and other fodder in preparation for the next drought. A new El Niño phase is just beginning.

In 1904, Dorothea Mackellar wrote *'I love a sunburnt country, a land of sweeping plains. Of ragged mountain ranges. Of drought and flooding rains.'* And so the cycle will continue.

Jill Goodwin

Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society (SADS) in April



Deborah Smart as Susan in *Bed Among the Lentils*

SADS has planned a busy April. Over the Easter weekend is our Spring production of three of Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads* monologues. First performed on the BBC in the 1980's, and then repeated at intervals (most recently in 2020), these monologues are absolute treasures - a devastating combination of wit and pathos from one of our most famous playwrights. Tickets are £12 from www.stockbridgeamdrams.org.uk or leave a message on 01264 513676.



Mandi Beacham as Lesley in *Her Big Chance*

The following week, on Tuesday 11th April, is our monthly 'curtain call' meeting. These are open to anyone and this one will have special appeal to anyone who is interested in the poet Edward Lear - whilst famous for his nonsense verse, there is much more to him. SADS member, John Baxter, has written a script about his fascinating life and works which will be read by members of the society. If you are interested, just come along to the Town Hall at 7:30pm. All we ask is £1 to cover the cost of the room.

Mark Frank



Vanessa Sharpe as Muriel in *Soldiering On*

Earth Facts 4



What is Earth made of?

Earth's central core is mostly of nickel and iron. Then comes the mantle, comprising rock containing silicon, magnesium, iron, aluminum, oxygen and other minerals. The rocky surface layer, the crust, is made up of the elements oxygen, silicon, aluminum, iron, calcium, sodium, potassium and magnesium and is mainly covered with liquid water. Our atmosphere is kept in place by the pull of Earth's gravity and comprises predominantly nitrogen and oxygen, with smaller amounts of carbon dioxide, water vapor and other gases. If Earth was a much smaller planet, like Mercury or Pluto, its gravity would be too weak to hold a large atmosphere.

Earth Facts 5



Where did organic life come from?

During the first billion years of Earth's history, the ocean formed and then life developed within it. Life spread globally and began to affect Earth's atmosphere and surface, leading to the Great Oxidation Event two billion years ago. Homo sapiens emerged around 300,000 years ago, reaching a population of about 8 billion today. Earth is the only place in the known universe confirmed to host life.

Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society's

Curtain Calls...

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

A biography of Edward Lear - His Writings and Art

Tuesday 11th April
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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 always looking for new blood to act, direct and be part of the backstage team.

No experience necessary!
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Further information on SADS on this page.

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Medical exemptions and pre-payment certificates

We have seen an increasing number of patients contacted by the NHS Prescription Agency because their medical exemptions or pre-payment certificates have expired. Medical exemption expires after 5 years and you will be notified in writing. It is your responsibility to contact us if you want to renew your certificate. We also need to be updated regarding new pre-payment certificates – please provide the information with your repeat prescription request.

Minor Eye Conditions Service

Minor eye conditions are best reviewed by an Optician. You can either ring a local participating Optician (details available at primaryeyecare.co.uk) or call the triage helpline 0300 303 4922.

Easter Bank Holidays

Please do not put your repeat request in early before Easter. Our dispensary team will be working as normal over the two Bank Holiday weeks and if everyone puts in their request early then there will be a delay for all patients in receiving their medication. As a reminder, we need 1 week (5 working days) to process your repeat medication request. If you collect from a shop, this is very important as we have to allow for the time to take the medication to the shop.

Patients who do not attend appointments

In February 2023, we had an average of 25 patients every week who failed to arrive for booked appointments without contacting us to cancel them. This is the equivalent of losing a full doctor or nurse clinic for a whole day every single week.

Blood tests

Just a reminder that you can access blood tests at Andover and Winchester hospitals by calling 01256 314751 to book.

HRT

We continue to experience shortages of HRT and may change your prescription to another approved brand or provide a prescription for you to try and source the medication at a local pharmacy. If you have queries regarding this, please call our dispensary team between 9am-10am or 2-3pm each day by phoning Stockbridge Surgery (01264 810524) and choosing option 3.

Ann Spooner

Easter is almost upon us; time flies! Chocolate treats are such a tradition and here is a favourite recipe of mine. I make these brownies for friends and family, dressing them up with a gift box and ribbons - even better than a shop-bought chocolate egg. They are simple to make but the cooking time is the important thing.

Rolo Brownies

Serves 4-6 nice-sized squares.

You will need a 20cm square cake tin.

Ingredients

- 100g milk chocolate, broken into pieces
- 100g good quality plain chocolate, broken into pieces
- 200g unsalted butter, cut into cubes
- 3 large eggs
- 125g golden caster sugar
- 125g muscovado sugar
- 125g plain flour
- 16 Rolos or other chocolate-covered caramels.

Method

Preheat the oven to 160°C/140°C fan/Gas 2-3.

Grease and line the cake tin with baking parchment.

Place both of the weighed chocolate pieces and the butter into a heat-proof bowl over a pan of hot water, stirring occasionally, until just melted and mixed. Allow to cool slightly.

Whisk the eggs with the caster and muscovado sugar with a balloon whisk until combined. The brown sugar can be lumpy so make sure it is broken up properly within the egg mixture.

Pour the melted chocolate and butter mixture into the bowl containing the eggs and combine.

Fold in the flour with a spatula, gently ensuring it is mixed through, then pour the mixture into the cake tin spreading the top so that it is level.

Drop the Rolos evenly over the surface of the brownie batter and bake for 40-45 minutes.

The brownie is ready when a skewer inserted in the centre of the bake comes out with a few moist crumbs attached. IMPORTANT - the cake should still be moist on the skewer as that ensures it's squidgy and not over-baked into a cake.

Once removed from the oven, leave to cool completely before removing from the tin. Cut into squares and wrap up.

Happy Easter Baking!

Linda Hotchen

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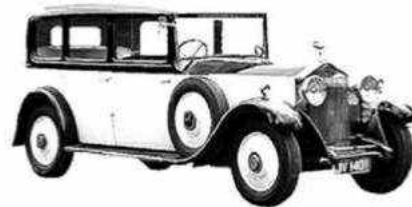
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Potting Shed Cuttings for April

'Yellow Book' gardens open this month -

Beechenwood Farm, Hook; Durmast House, Burley; Lepe House Gardens, Exbury; Little Court, Crawley; Bay Tree House, Crawley; Paige Cottage, Crawley; Twin Oaks, Chandler's Ford.

General Maintenance and Preparation

If the weather is warm and sunny, some greenhouse shading and daily ventilation may well be sensible, especially if you have tender plug plants and seedlings, which can easily dry out and become scorched; don't forget to close the door each night as April is still prone to heavy frosts. As you clear and mulch borders, look out for wildlife or birds' eggs amongst leaves and twigs. Weed growth will be rapid, so hoe beds regularly, whilst weeds are still tiny.

The Flower Garden

There is still time to divide congested late-flowering perennials and foliage plants such as hostas; discard older sections and replant newer, healthy clumps, adding fresh compost and feed to the planting holes. Fix in stakes for tall varieties or those with weak stems, before they start growing strongly. Spring bulbs will be going over now so continue dead-heading shoots; don't remove the leaves or tie them into tidy clumps. The leaves need to die down naturally and release their nutrients back into the bulbs. As space is freed up, or containers emptied and filled with fresh compost, summer flowering bulbs and tubers can be planted out. Remember, though, to check plant label details carefully; a number of summer-flowering bulbs such *acidanthera* are not fully hardy and planting should be delayed until late spring when threats of frost have passed. Tie in rambling and climbing roses, honeysuckle and clematis and feed plants with a general purpose fertiliser. Prune shrub roses, winter-flowering jasmine and buddleia if you haven't already done so. Plant up containers if you have somewhere they can be kept safe from frosts, such as a greenhouse or conservatory.

The Vegetable Garden

Second early potatoes and main-crop potatoes can be planted at each end of the month and asparagus beds planted up; continue to earth up potato varieties planted in March. Fleece and black plastic are still useful to warm up beds which will be planted up over the coming weeks. Sow tomatoes, aubergines, courgettes, cucumbers, squashes, French and runner beans, celery, sweet peppers, sweetcorn and kale under glass. Outside, parsnips, beetroots, broad beans, carrots, salad crops, brassicas and leeks can be sown directly into soil, provided the soil temperature has reached 6°- 8°C. Thin carrots sown earlier in the year; try to do this in the evening, as there will be fewer carrot fruit flies around.



The Fruit Garden

Feed and mulch around rhubarb crowns if they were used for forcing earlier in the year and you haven't yet done so. Fruit trees and shrubs will also benefit from some high potash fertiliser to encourage high-quality crops. For border-grown fruit bushes, a granular feed can be used; for container-grown fruit varieties, use a liquid feed.

The Lawn

Now is the time to apply a spring 'weed and feed' to lawns. This is a high-nitrogen fertiliser which will encourage leaf growth and suppress moss and weeds. Grass will be growing strongly now and will need mowing at least once a fortnight, with blades lowered; check the instructions on any fertiliser you use to ensure sufficient time is left after mowing before it is applied; you may also need to water the lawn if the weather is particularly dry.

Ponds

Algae on the surface of ponds may appear as light levels increase; this can be dealt with one of the many products available. Divide congested water plants, re-pot into fresh suitable compost and return to their normal level in the pond. Do not divide irises until after they have flowered.

Micki Nadal



Stockbridge Primary and Pre-school Bag2School Update

Stockbridge Primary and Pre-School's next BAG2SCHOOL initiative is on Wednesday 3rd May – a good opportunity to get rid of any spring-cleaned clutter!

Donations can include clothes, bags, jewellery, belts, shoes, soft toys, household linen or curtains. Please bring bagged-up items to Stockbridge Primary School main reception on Monday 1st May (Bank Holiday) between 10am and 12noon. If you will have difficulty dropping off your donations, please email Friends of Stockbridge School on foss.stockbridgepta@gmail.co.uk, who will be only too pleased to help.

Thanks again,
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Notes from a Bookseller



On April 15, we're celebrating 5 years of The Bookmark in Stockbridge. Where does the time go?

It's been an eventful period – for us, for the town, for the bigger world too. We're so happy to have survived and modestly prospered, and especially to have become a fixture on the High Street and a part of the community. In the Covid Era, this has been a real challenge. The Bookmark is the first ever bookstore in Stockbridge history and we're delighted that people have found and embraced it!

We've had five years of meeting new people: customers, authors, visitors and book-lovers of all ages, and have so enjoyed our conversations with them! Some people we see weekly and others drop by once in a while on their way to or from somewhere else – but most always have time for an interesting exchange of views! People have been wonderful in their support for the shop, their suggestions for new books, and their enthusiasm for our events.

We've also been lucky to benefit from visits by notable authors including Claire Fuller, Sir Michael Morpurgo, Tom Bradby, Claire Balding and Andy McNab. Tim Dee, Rukmini Iyer, and Lu Fraser have also been major highlights. And special occasions like our Stockbridge Primary School event with Jim Eldridge for Remembrance Day, and the Orvis event

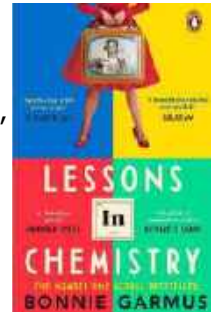
with fishing writers Simon Cooper, Luke Jennings, Charles Rangeley-Wilson and David Profumo on the banks of the Test went really well.

Putting down roots as a new independent bookshop (especially one as small as ours), we've been so grateful to have customers who tell us how much they enjoy the choice of titles on the shelves, the 'smell of books' which greets them as they walk into a real place and the chats they can have with the staff about virtually anything at all.

People always ask how we decide what to carry on our shelves. We'd love to add more titles and genres and hope to expand our selections in the future but, of course, we are limited by our size. We choose the books by a combination of research on popular titles, listening to the customers and their requests and, of course, with a bit of intuition and our own, sometimes quirky, taste. How else to explain *The Unexpected Genius of Pigs* or *How to Kill Your Family* (now a national best seller)?



Continuous non-fiction top sellers for us include *The Thing Explainer*, *Brilliant Maps*, and all titles by Ben MacIntyre! For children, virtually everything by authors Julia Donaldson and Alex Scheffler, Michael Morpurgo and the classics from *Goodnight Moon* to *Anne of Green Gables*. In fiction, the current runaway hit is *Lessons in Chemistry*, newly out in paperback. And much in demand are novelists Margaret Atwood, Sally Rooney, Maggie O'Farrell, Mick Herron, Neil Gaiman and Philippa Gregory. The most popular classic authors include Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, the Brontës, and Jules Verne, and cookery author stars are Mary Berry, Yoram Ottolenghi, and the River Cottage Series.



To celebrate our anniversary, we're having a party on Saturday April 15 during shop opening hours (10am-4pm), complete with nibbles AND a 10% discount on all titles. (See adjacent notice).

We are also announcing the start of our children's book subscription service - book packages available in various sizes, deliverable quarterly, with our special selections of new and classic work. (Ask us for more details on how this will work!)

We are hoping to see a lot of new and familiar faces, and to say a huge thanks to all of you.

Elaine Sperber, Suzannah Jackson, Julia Brigdale and Nick Manzi

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Remembering Tony Hales

10 June 1936 - 19 November 2022

A Boy from Coventry

Tony Hales' (Dad's) life spanned nearly nine decades and he packed a lot in. Before his funeral, I spent some time thinking about what words best described him –

determined, hardworking, adaptable, resilient, intelligent, patient, caring - just a few that came to mind (and others were very kind to add to these at the wake, where the word 'gentleman' was frequently used).

So, what made Dad who he was? It would take a book to answer that question but I have tried to capture some highlights from each decade of his life. He lived through an amazing period of change and he embraced it all. He started out in Coventry – but who knew quite what was ahead of him?

1936-46. What a first 10 years! Whilst Dad's family grew (he was the oldest of three brothers and two sisters), his first 10 years involved a world war and being evacuated to London from a war-torn Coventry. Most people were evacuated to the countryside – Dad went to Kingston-upon-Thames (home to his mother and father's families – the Coles and the Halls (and that is not a typo!)).

1946-56. Dad was back in Coventry, really enjoying his education and broadening his mind. Grammar school was an option but he chose the Navy (Fleet Air Arm) where he specialised in electronics – a skill that became the foundation of his career. And he also got to travel a lot – there are too many stories to include here and a few I will always treasure, not least the ones that cannot be published!

1956-66. Again, he packed it in. The Navy and some great voyages on the Ark Royal, Mum (Joy), marriage and two children. Peter and I are both 'Navy leave babies' – born in September and August.

1966-76. Dad left the Navy in 1967 and entered civvy street. He retained his love for, and skill in, electronics and became a technical author (a label that completely understates his ability and knowledge). He bought his first house (a new-build in Titchfield Common) and first car. He moved to GEC/Marconi as he found his niche, and moved to the house in Warsash which excited both him and Mum - I still recall their horror at spending £18,500 on a house.

1976-86. This was Dad's 'Brave New World' period. He changed jobs and ended up buying the company that he worked for (a story too long for here); he learnt to sail and bought a dinghy (leading to too many close encounters with the RNLI); and he managed to cope with two teenage boys, including the perils of teaching us to drive in a fantastic

Morris Minor. His work was really important and he did some great things which many people never knew – we had the plans for Skylab on our dining room table for six months as he wrote the manuals on how the electronics worked, and then he had the most amazing mini-computer that simulated a British Steel factory. Peter and I went off to university, and I found the General Wolfe pub in Coventry where Dad used to buy beer for *his* dad when he was a boy.

1986-96. A time of change – Peter and I left home, Dad's business came to an end, he built a kitchen using the cupboards from a dispensary in a hospital in Portsmouth that was being demolished, and he finished his working life back at Marconi. And, oh yes – he started singing in a choir.

1996-2006. Mum and Dad retired, but was it to be a quiet time? Definitely not. Mum passed in early 2001 which was a shock to all, and Dad had to find himself as he started the next phase of his life. He volunteered at Manor Farm where he was able to show his love of tools and wood, and began to meet new people. One name was mentioned with increasing frequency - Wendy; this time marked the beginning of his move from Warsash to Stockbridge.

2006-16. Wendy became a permanent part of his life and they married in 2007 so he made his move to Stockbridge permanent. We got to know the Evans family, and Dad and Wendy also welcomed Isla to Adagio. All in Stockbridge will know a lot about his activities – the choir, the parish magazine, walking and the IT support group (back to his love of electronics and helping people). Few can have had such an active retirement as he got to his 80th year.

2016-22. Dad stayed true to himself to the end. He never stopped. He survived his first bout of cancer, only to find that he was suffering with myeloma – sadly incurable. He wouldn't give up and battled to the end, again showing his resilience as he got through the Covid years. He continued to be active for so long, and was always planning his next project, tinkering with something to keep him active, and listening to music (Radio 3 of course) when he wanted to rest.

Dad's passing was very sad for many and we will all miss him. But, as I realised as I prepared for his funeral, he had a remarkable and full life - something that we needed to celebrate. I end with my opening question – Dad, a boy from Coventry? Yes he was, but he was so much more, though he never forgot his roots (and if anyone wants to know, Peter and I can explain why he took his name from Hales Street in Coventry). We have all benefitted from knowing Dad – what a life.

Dave Hales

Church News

St Mary's Longstock



February was a fairly quiet month with the start of Lent on 22 February. We held the usual 'Ashing' service, with a loyal, but small congregation.

At the PCC Meeting which was held on 14 March, topics discussed included:

- Safeguarding
- Applying for the Bronze 'Eco Church' award
- Fund raising
- Budget for 2023
- Annual Meeting 2023
- The date 23 June was agreed for a 'Thank you' social evening at the church for all the volunteers.

I was delighted to be able to confirm to the PCC that St Mary's Longstock has been awarded an Eco Church Bronze level. This is a good start and the work now begins on addressing the things we need to do to achieve Silver and then Gold. The levels are:

- Worship and Teaching - currently at gold level
- Buildings - currently at silver level
- Land including the churchyard - bronze
- Community and Global Engagement - bronze
- Lifestyle - bronze

We will be looking to see how we can prepare a wild flower area in the churchyard and make and place a 'hedgehog hotel' and a 'bug palace'. We need to work on off-setting our carbon footprint and invite speakers on the environment during the next 2-3 years.

The Diocese is encouraging churches to participate in 'Eco Church', which is managed by A Rocha UK. Further information can be found at ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

Mothering Sunday this year was 19 March, with a service at 9.30am. Pretty posies were made and distributed to both mums and dads, grannies and grandpas. It was good to see the church almost full with a full range of ages.

The Lent Bible Study took place over five weeks, with Bishop David speaking at St Peter's, Stockbridge on 22 March to a full church. There were three different groups meeting on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Thursday group met at 'Fulwood', Longstock, hosted by Rev'd Dr John Rennie and his wife, Sheelagh. We read different Bible passages and considered what the

Cross meant to our lives. Varied, deep and interesting discussions.

We also had four Lent lunches in different venues throughout the Benefice, meeting on Friday lunchtimes. Gracious hosts, great soups and thoughtful discussions on the readings taken from the book by Stephen Cottrell - *The Things He Carried*. We met in Houghton, Broughton, Mottisfont and Leckford.

In terms of a church 'fabric' update, nearly all the repairs identified in the quinquennial inspection have been done. We have applied for a grant refund of the VAT on some repairs and have been successful, with over £700 refunded - much-needed help to our accounts. The PCC is also grateful for the financial support from 'The Friends of St Mary' who presented a cheque towards the upkeep of the churchyard and the window repairs.

Dates for your diary:

Sat 1st April - Churchyard Spring Clean at St Mary's. 10.00am - 12 noon. Refreshments provided. Some equipment is available but long-handled dusters, lightweight vacuums are welcome, as are secateurs, garden bags and rakes.

2nd April - Joint Palm Sunday Service at 11.00am at St Peter's, Stockbridge

7th April - Good Friday. The Good Friday walk, hopefully along the River Test. Starting at 10.30am from the Lych Gate, St Mary's. A chance to walk and talk, listen to readings, with a summary at the end of the walk. The walk will be led by Rev'd John Rennie and Maddie Hedley.

9th April - Easter Day All Age Communion Service at 9.30am, with Easter Egg Hunt.

25th April - The Annual Parochial Church Meeting. 7.00pm at St Mary's Church, Longstock. The election of Churchwardens, Deanery Representative, approval of the Annual Report and Accounts. The revision of the Electoral Roll for the Church started on 15 March with the revised Electoral Roll being displayed from 11 April.

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

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

Maddie Hedley

For listing of Services for April at St Mary's, Longstock, please see page 31.
(NB. There is no service on 23 April)

Church News

St Peter's and Old St Peter's Stockbridge



The whole of March fell in Lent so the churches displayed no flowers and the liturgical colour was purple, representing penance and preparation. The only exception to the practice of no flowers during Lent was on Sunday 19th March, which was Mothering Sunday. Our outstanding team of flower arrangers got together and made up posies for all the women in the congregation. The service that day was led by one of our Team Ministers, the Rev'd John Rennie. Maddie Hedley preached a meaningful sermon making reference to mothers and their role throughout the centuries. On 22nd March, we welcomed Bishop David of Basingstoke to St Peter's for an inspirational talk about the meaning of the Cross.

So now we are looking forward to Easter Sunday which this year falls on April 9th. Palm Sunday on 2nd April marks the start of the last week of Lent (Holy Week) and commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. This was foreseen in the oracle of Zechariah (9:9):

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

During this Holy Week, Maundy Thursday evening is the start of the Triduum which ends on the evening of Easter Sunday. Maundy Thursday commemorates the institution of the Last Supper and Christ's washing of the disciples' feet. In St Peter's Church on that day, 6th April, there will be a service at 7.30pm during which you can participate by having your feet washed, if you wish. The word 'maundy' probably comes from the latin word 'mandatum' (mandate or commandment) in reference to those beautiful words in St John's Gospel (John 13.34):

I give to you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

On Good Friday, we remember the events leading up to the Crucifixion. A meditation and veneration of the Cross is held in churches throughout the land during the hours 12noon to 3pm. In St Peter's, there will be a service at 2pm on that day. In the

silence and solemnity, with the church stripped of decorations, we can acknowledge and share in the sense of desolation at the death of Jesus Christ. But, within that silence, we begin to anticipate the extraordinary event of the resurrection. And on Easter Sunday, we celebrate that triumphant resurrection of Christ from the dead. There will be a Vigil in Old St Peter's at 7.30am followed by the Eucharist. And an Easter Eucharist will take place in St Peter's Church at 11am. The period of Eastertide then lasts for fifty days until Pentecost (or Whit Sunday) which falls this year on 28th May.

Looking ahead:

There will be teas in the Church for those who live alone on Sunday afternoon 2nd April at 3pm.

The Annual Parish Church Council Meeting will take place at 7pm on Wednesday 12th April in St Peter's Church. All are welcome to attend this event.

Sadly, Harry Vialou Clark died during March. Harry was a regular member of our congregation in St Peter's and he will be sadly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with Alison and his family. There will be a thanksgiving service in his memory at 2pm on Thursday 20th April.

Janet Williams

Prayer for April

Thank you, Lord, for your creation,
signs of spring – despite the cold weather.
Snowdrops, crocus and daffodils brighten
each day.

In our studies, Lord, we reflected on the
cross,
your sacrifice for us. Our sins redeemed.

You carried the crossbeam, your robe, the
disappointments of others,
Yet after 3 days your glorious resurrection,
bringing life and hope.

Thank you for Easter. We pray our eyes can
be opened in the same
way as the disciples on the road to Emmaus.
May your last supper of bread and wine be for
us the reminder
of your body broken for us and your blood
spilled to save us.

Christ is risen – Alleluia.

Amen.

Church News

Mozart: Requiem in D minor



On 18th March, Salisbury Chamber Chorus and Nova Foresta Classical Players performed a programme of music by Mozart in St Peter's Church, directed and conducted by Simon McEnery. The concert opened with four choruses from Mozart's opera *Idomeneo*, and culminated in the magnificent Requiem in D minor, which showcased the talents of both choir, including its impressive soloists, and orchestra.

Although space for the musicians was necessarily restricted in the church, it was marvellous to experience such wonderful musicians and talented singers here in Stockbridge and to hear the glory of a requiem mass soaring to the rafters.

Editors

The Column for March

Baptisms

There were no baptisms in March.

Weddings

2 March 2023 at 1.00pm. The marriage between Adam Portsmouth and Beth Tucker took place in St Peter's Church, Stockbridge.

Funerals

21 March 2023 at 11.30am. The funeral service for Margery Roads took place in St Peter's Church.

23 March 2023 at 1.00pm. The funeral service for Major General Peter Sheppard CB CBE took place in St Peter's Church, Stockbridge, followed by a private burial at Tidworth Military Cemetery.

27 March 2023 at 12.30pm. The funeral service for Iris Harman took place in St Peter's Church.

R.I.P. Monica Robinson, whose funeral will take place at 10.30am on Wednesday 5 April in St Peter's Church, Stockbridge.

R.I.P. Harry Vialou-Clark, whose thanksgiving will be held at 2.00pm on Thursday 20 April in St Peter's Church, Stockbridge.

April Services for Stockbridge, Longstock and Leckford

2nd April (Palm Sunday)

11.00 **Stockbridge** Palm Sunday Procession

6th April (Maundy Thursday)

19.30 **Stockbridge** Foot Washing Service

7th April (Good Friday)

10.30 **Longstock** Good Friday Walk

14.00 **Stockbridge** Good Friday Service

9th April (Easter Sunday)

07.30 **Old St Peter** Vigil

08.00 **Old St Peter** Easter Liturgy

08.00 **Leckford** BCP Eucharist

09.30 **Longstock** Easter Eucharist

11.00 **Stockbridge** Easter Eucharist

16th April (Easter 2)

09.30 **Longstock** Morning Worship

11.00 **Stockbridge** Parish Eucharist

18.00 **Leckford** Evensong

19th April (Wednesday)

10.00 **Old St Peter** Holy Communion

23rd April (Easter 3)

11.00 **Stockbridge** Morning Worship

30th April (Easter 4)

10.00 **Houghton** United Benefice Eucharist



Hampshire Downs RC Parish St Thomas More

Services are held on Sundays at 9.00am



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