



The Parish Magazine for

£1

STOCKBRIDGE LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD

March 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>

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Please contact our Rector (see details above)

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From the Rector

Human Flourishing

One Sunday during the past month, we had the opportunity to hear read in church the whole of the first chapter of Genesis: that opening passage of the bible that describes God's act of creation. It is a huge reading, and both readers and congregations alike settled in for the long haul as we heard about the fruit of each of the six days when God spoke his divine will into being.

We heard that the pinnacle of the creative effort was humanity, which God declared to be "very good". This idea that God's pleasure can derive from the quality of human life leads us to the idea of human flourishing – that God wants us not just to 'be' but to be the best that humanity is capable of. This gives the reason for salvation, but is also the reason that we might hope to live rich and fruitful lives full of joy and love.

A part of flourishing as a human being is our natural desire to improve ourselves. While, for some, self-improvement might be to do with their outward appearance, most of us understand this to be more to do with our mind and soul. During the season of Lent, the Church is offering a course of study and reflection to help us better understand the role of the cross in our faith. Later in the month, some from our congregations will be attending a workshop on prayer, to help those who lead the intercessions during our worship. Some members of our congregations are considering a programme of deeper study to prepare them for other specific leadership roles in church life.

As the saying goes – you can learn something every day - and it is by doing so that we work our way towards the fullness of human flourishing that God had in mind for us at the moment of creation.

The Rev'd Philip Bowden

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Cover Photo: Cherry Blossom at Leckford

From the Editorial Team

The sparkling light of a bright Spring day always gladdens the heart ... but it can shine unforgettingly on domestic dust! The ritual of 'Spring cleaning' is no coincidence. Just as in the natural world, we summon energy and enthusiasm for cleaning, clearing and renewing our surroundings; throwing open the windows is a physical and metaphorical act of refreshing our lives for the year ahead. Most of us love our seasonal climate for the way it supports an annual cycle of changing collective activity.

We may have seasonal weather and the religious calendar to mark the passage of our year, but the global community has found other ways to harmonise thought and deed across the divides. Programmes of national and international 'awareness days' are busy with all sorts of wonderful and worthy (and sometimes weird and trivial) events which prompt us to focus and act on oft-sidelined or forgotten issues. This month's magazine highlights several (worthy and wonderful!) March days - you won't miss our Women of Note series, with its nod to International Women's Day on 8 March. Some may dismiss the notion of just a day making a difference but, when life is frantic and difficult for so many, there is shared comfort, a galvanising of commitment and often fun to be gained from collective, simultaneous recognition,

Frances Candler, Jennifer Kidd and Thea Taylor



Houghton WI

10.00am, Monday 20 March
at Houghton Village Hall

'Accident or Assassination - the Death of William Rufus' Gordon Lewis

Visitors welcome
Further information from
Jane Anderton 01264 810928

Copy for Magazine

Copy date for the April Magazine:
15 March 2023

Please send emails to:

editorsstockmag@gmail.com

or phone Frances on 01264 811776

Jennifer on 01264 811179 or Thea on 07730 964481



Stockbridge Community Cinema



OFFICIAL COMPETITION (15) Friday 17 March 7.30pm (1hr 55min)

A wealthy businessman in search of fame and social prestige hires neurotic director Lola to produce his crowning achievement, a brilliant art film. She engages two well-known actors who boast not only an enormous talent, but also an even bigger ego and are not exactly the best of friends.

SEE HOW THEY RUN (12A) Wednesday 22 March 5.00pm & 7.30pm (1hr 38min)

In 1950s London, plans for a film version of a smash-hit play come to an abrupt halt after a key member of the crew is murdered. When world-weary Inspector Stoppard, and eager rookie Constable Stalker, take on the case, the two find themselves thrown into a puzzling whodunit within the glamorously sordid theatre underground, investigating the mysterious homicide at their own peril.

Tickets £6.00 (£5.50 + £0.50 booking fee)
available online via our website
stockbridgecinema.org.uk or via the
Ticketsource telephone booking service
0333 666 3366 (additional £1.80 fee per booking)
Refreshments on sale

Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society's

Curtain Calls...

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

**Tuesday 7th March
at 7.30pm
Stockbridge Town Hall**

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

No experience necessary!
Stockbridgeamdrams@gmail.com
or find us on Facebook

MANOR and BOROUGH OF STOCKBRIDGE

**in the County of Hampshire
COURT BARON & COURT LEET**

The annual meeting of
Stockbridge Courts Baron and Leet
has been called by

The Lord of The Manor, Guy Boney, KC,
to be held on

**Wednesday 8th March 2023 at 7.00pm in
THE TOWN HALL, STOCKBRIDGE**

During the evening, The Clerk to the Court will
appoint members to sit on the Jury for 2023/24.

The Lord of the Manor will welcome the return of
our National Trust officer and report on issues
relating to the past year in Stockbridge and
surrounds. While the Jury retires to appoint its
Officers, Catherine Hadler, from The National
Trust, will give a short update on the work to be
undertaken in the coming year.

Any questions you may wish to present to
The Lord of the Manor should, in the first
instance, be emailed to

The Bailiff at diana_tym@yahoo.co.uk
or delivered to The Old Manse, High Street,
Stockbridge from whence they will be placed
before his Lordship for response on the evening.

Wine and ice creams will be on sale before the meeting.

We hope to welcome you to this annual event.

The Bailiff



Stockbridge Music

**Friday, 3rd March 2023, 7.30pm,
St Peter's Church,
Stockbridge**

The Morassi Quartet



**Natasha Humphries (violin), Katie Mazur
(violin), Toby Warr (viola), Iza Stefańska (cello)**

The programme will include pieces by
Rachmaninov, Haydn, Mendelssohn and Bacewicz

Tickets available from stockbridgemusic.uk
or on the door

**Wherwell
History Group**



8pm, Friday 17 March
at Wherwell Hall

**French Prisoners of War in
Hampshire: Napoleon's Lost
Soldiers and Sailors**

Paul Chamberlain, FIBMS FINS FIBMS FINS

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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salisburychamberchorus.org



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Andover Riding for the Disabled

Quiz Night - 'Our Country Life' St Mary Bourne Village Centre on 16th March at 7pm

The Question Master will be Khalid Aziz. The questions, all set by local people, will be on sporting, historical, cultural and modern country living.

Bring your own picnic supper – crockery, cutlery and glassware will be supplied.

Please save the date and invite your friends, or just let us know you would like to be added to a friendly table.

Tickets on sale in advance.
Tables £120 (£15 per head based on 8 people). We will try to accommodate different group sizes. (Includes one bottle red wine, white wine and sparkling water on the table.)

Please don't forget to bring some cash for the Bar and Raffle

To book email marylchilds@icloud.com or telephone 07721 866 434

All proceeds will be used to look after our hard-working horses and ponies, or for the ARDA facilities, so we can continue to provide riding therapy to adults and children with disabilities.

Charitable Incorporated Organisation 1170641

Stockbridge Town Hall Events



Weekly

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

This Month

Mar 3	Stockbridge Music Society
Mar 4	Antique Fair
Mar 5	Hants Assoc of Cricket Officials
Mar 7	Cocoon
Mar 7	Stockbridge Drama Society
Mar 8	Cocoon
Mar 8	Courts Baron & Leet
Mar 11	South Central Makers
Mar 14	Wildfish
Mar 16	Stockbridge Parish Council
Mar 17	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Mar 18	Stockbridge Music Society
Mar 20-22	Wild Bazaar
Mar 22	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Mar 25-26	Antiques & Curios
Mar 25-26	Hawkmoor Books
Mar 25	Andover District Explorers
Mar 26	Hants Assoc of Cricket Officials
Mar 27-29	Cotton House Interiors
Mar 28	Longstock & Leckford WI
Mar 29	Andover Green Party



Hope and Homes for Children Charity Concert

at
St Peter's Church, Stockbridge
on

Friday 24th March 2023 at 6.00 pm
featuring

The Hampshire County Junior Choir
Tickets £10.00 to include refreshments
Children free

Available from the Lights Box Office
Tel: 01264-368368 or www.thelights.org.uk/booking

Longstock Garden Club Committee

invites you to our

AGM

followed by a talk by

Antony Powell: Colour of the Pyrenees

Join us on Tuesday 14th March 2023 at
7.30 pm in Longstock Village Hall
(Doors open at 7.00pm)

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



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LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD WI

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

Tuesday 28 March
People on Plinths

Tony Cross

Guests always welcome

Please contact Sue Hill on 811779 for further details



Test Villages U3A

Thursday 2nd March at Chilbolton
Village Hall

"It started with a Kiss"

Jacqueline and Brian Sutton present the fascinating life story of the world famous poet, Dylan Thomas, his Welsh roots and his connections with the Ringwood and Fordingbridge area, his American tours and his turbulent personal life.

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 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 our Test Villages group at u3asites.org.uk/test-villages

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 AED, defibrillator suppliers, hold online awareness sessions to train anyone who would like prior understanding of how to use one. See <https://www.aeddonate.org.uk/events/>

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

Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society's

Talking Heads by Alan Bennett

SADS April production will be a performance of three half-hour monologues from Alan Bennett's acclaimed series of *Talking Heads*.

Originally seen on television, these monologues are notable for presenting aspects of English life through the mouths of a very varied set of characters in writing that is humorous, poignant and perceptive of how lives can be derailed at any moment.

Three very different backgrounds and personalities are revealed in the pieces SADS will be presenting:

Bed Among the Lentils, features Susan, a vicar's wife with a sardonic view of vicarage life and a problem with alcohol. Though the vicar takes credit for it, her partial redemption is actually achieved away from the parish.

In *Her Big Chance*, Lesley, an aspiring actress, embarks on a dubious route to fame with a tremendously game, if naive, enthusiasm.

Muriel, in *Soldiering On*, is recently widowed. She is a conventional middle-class woman, used to organising and coping but with a blind spot where those nearest to her are concerned.

In the course of each monologue, the characters' lives undergo significant change. What they have in common in the end is a touching resilience.

Performances are on

April 6th, 7th and 8th
in Stockbridge Town Hall.

Tickets can be bought online at
www.stockbridgeamdrams.org.uk
or by leaving a message on 01264 513676

Judith Frank

The first in our series of Women of Note: Jane Goodall



"We can move toward a world where we live in harmony with nature. Where we live in harmony with each other. No matter what nation we come from. No matter what our religion. No matter what our culture. This is where we're moving towards."

Jane Goodall

Britain's Jane Goodall is the world's first chimpanzee expert. Her conservation and environmental work, as well as her work as one of the leading primatologists, has brought her a long string of awards including a UN Messenger in Peace award and a Benjamin Franklin Medal in Life Science.

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STOCKBRIDGE OPEN GARDENS

2023

A change of date for your diaries!
This year, Stockbridge Open
Gardens will take place on
Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th June
instead of the usual dates in August.
A selection of gardens will be open
at the east end of the village.

We look forward to seeing you then
– the usual refreshments and
entertainments on the church lawn
will be there too!

(Watch out for further details later in the year)

jennifergay and artisan route

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by Jennifer Gay
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April 3rd - 5th
9am-5pm



HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN



**Always family.
Never
orphanages.**

Every child deserves the love and belonging of a safe family home – never the violence, abuse or neglect suffered in orphanages. Denied the chance to grow up in a family, they are more likely to become homeless later in life, to have run-ins with the law and to experience mental and physical health issues.

But the shocking truth is that around 80% of children in orphanages have, or could have, a family to look after them with the right support. And there are over 5.4 million children right now in orphanages who don't need to be there. It's not right and it must stop. Children deserve so much better.

Since 1994, *Hope and Homes for Children* has been working to stop the institutionalisation of children. We're 250 people, in ten countries, inspiring organisations, including the UN and the EU, and governments around the world, to close the doors of orphanages forever. Instead, we fight for every child to feel the love and belonging of a safe family home.

Our child protection specialists set up community-based family support services. Our policy experts promote stronger child protection laws. And our skilled social workers work directly with children to keep families together, to reunite them, and to nurture new ones.

And we'll continue fighting to transform these systems, consigning orphanages to history until every child, everywhere, has the chance to thrive in a strong, supported family.

For further details or to get involved, go to www.hopeandhomes.org

Registered Charity number: 1089490

Please see p.7 for details of fundraising concert on 24 March 2023.

Poppy Appeal 2022



A very big thank you to all who helped in so many ways with the 2022 Poppy Appeal. The final total raised was a brilliant £8,044.

Angela McMeekin

Shakespeare Week

20 – 26 March

has been declared

'Shakespeare Week'

(although his birth and death both occurred in April).



If you think you know your Shakespeare, see how well you do with this quiz. (*Answers on p21*)

1. In which Shakespeare play does a Fairy Queen fall in love with an ass?
2. Which of Shakespeare's plays is the shortest?
3. Which character stated that life is a tale told by an idiot?
4. How many sonnets did William Shakespeare write in total during his career?
5. What was the name of the book that was published after Shakespeare's death and included all of his plays?
6. What is William Shakespeare's longest play, with over 4,000 lines?
7. During Shakespeare's lifetime, what major event forced the closure of London theatres twice?
8. In *Measure for Measure*, what is the name of the clown?
9. Which of Shakespeare's plays ends with the noble Trojan Hector's death?
10. In which country was the tragedy *Hamlet* set?
11. Falstaff appears in which of William Shakespeare's plays?
12. Which of Shakespeare's plays has a curse attached to it?

Post Script to Town Hall History from Hugh Saxton

An Apology -

When I wrote in the December/January issue about raising money for the Town Hall restoration, I mentioned that the Market Towns Initiative had given £130,000 to the community, with £80,000 to the Town Hall. I should have made it clear that the spade-work for the careful construction of our case was put together by Roger Tym. Among the many other community benefits which he then harvested was the handsome oak work now gracing the back of St Peter's Church.

Thanks, as ever, to Roger for what he brings to the community.

Celebration Lunch for the Coronation



Hold the Date
7TH MAY 2023

A small group of us thought it would be good for everyone in Stockbridge to come together to celebrate the Coronation on the 7th May 2023, which is the date fixed by Buckingham Palace for Big Lunches all over the country.

We would like all Stockbridge inhabitants to feel welcome. So we are alerting you to the date so you can put it in your diaries! No arrangements have yet been made, for example where in the village it will take place, nor what sort of lunch is planned, but we hope, by the time of the April edition of the Parish Magazine, that most of the arrangements will be sorted out.

What we envisage is a happy, fun get together to celebrate a very special occasion, over a good lunch and with lots of laughter and chat.

We shall be looking for volunteers to help, in due course please.

More details to follow!!

*Jean Boney, Chrissie Quayle, Chantal Halle,
Sally Milligan.*

Stockbridge Primary and Pre-school

Bag2School Update

A HUGE thank you to all who donated clothes, shoes, fabric and more for Stockbridge Primary School's Bag2School incentive back in November; we raised a super £246! Friends of Stockbridge School (FOSS) use funds raised to support and enrich the children's lives in many different ways - for example, just before Christmas, FOSS paid for every child in the school to attend the pantomime Rapunzel, at the Watermill Theatre in Newbury.

The next B2S event is on Wednesday 3rd May, so if you are having a spring sort, please put a bag aside for us! There will be more info about drop-off plans in next month's magazine.

Thanks again,
Friends of Stockbridge School
(FOSS)



Dr Richard Cross left the practice at the end of January. Dr Franco Cocca has finished his training placement with us. Dr Oliver Grieve will join us as a trainee on 1 February 2023.



Phone appointments

We know that some patients struggle with a mobile phone signal and do not have a landline. If this is the case, please book a face-to-face appointment. If you are booking online, please be aware that you can contact the practice and ask for a telephone appointment you have booked to be changed to a face-to-face.

Physiotherapy

We are pleased to let you know that we now have a face-to-face physiotherapist working for us on Wednesdays. Patients can book an appointment by calling reception. This service is available for patients aged 16 years and older.

Patient feedback

We know that it is frustrating for patients if you are seen late for your booked appointment. Whilst our team try to run on time it only takes one emergency, one IT problem, one patient arriving late to cause the whole clinic to run late. We want to ensure you feel as if you have had a positive consultation and not been rushed. When booking, please allow for the possibility of the appointment (telephone or face-to-face) running late.

Next of kin details

Very occasionally, we may be unable to get hold of a patient and are concerned enough about them to want to contact their next of kin or chosen emergency contact. We do not have next of kin details on all patients. If you live with another person who is registered with us then we would be able to contact them but, if you live alone, it would be helpful for us to have the details of one or two people you would like us to contact if we are concerned about you. We have forms at both surgery sites which can be completed or you can go online to stockbridgesurgery.co.uk and search for 'next of kin' to complete an electronic form.

Patient Participation Group

We have a small group of dedicated patients who have a meeting once a quarter with the Practice Manager and one of the GP Partners. Please see our website for more information – scroll down on the home page and click on Patient Participation Group.

*Ann Spooner
Practice Manager*

Stockbridge Football Club News



I must say that yesterday in the garden, with the sun on my face and seeing the first buds in the trees, it's starting to feel like, well, I won't say the word for fear of a sudden winter jinx, but it rhymes with ring. And at Stockbridge FC we have one in our step... Sadly, our step took a minor stumble when we lost 2 nil at home to Colden Common last Saturday, to now lie 5th in the table. It was a tough and even contest but the Robins were undone by a corner and free kick. That match is done now, we need to regroup and go again as Fran Mathers, our manager, reminded us all.

And go again we will. You'll recall I noted in my last column that maintaining the on-pitch momentum without a usable pitch has been a challenge but, now the weather is improving, I am confident that our excellent group of players under Fran's leadership will get that momentum back and fight for promotion to the Wessex.

As a committee, we've been busy running our 100 club; there are still few tickets left. It's a great way to support the club by paying £25 a year to go in the hat each month with the chance to win £50. By my reckoning, an extraordinarily lucky person could win £600 in the year. We are also finalising our sponsorship packages for the 2023-24 season. I am tremendously proud of the work the committee has put into compiling the sponsorship opportunities, a great way to forge a partnership between our club and local business. All will be revealed later in the season. Please get in touch with me if you'd like to know more about the 100 Club or sponsorship.

At our Life President Dave Webb's suggestion, we have also decided as a committee to honour the incredible service, both on and off the pitch for decades, to Stockbridge FC of the Savage, Dance and Mawson families. The clubhouse will be named The Dance Savage Clubhouse and our stand will be the Mawson Stand. I'm sure you'll all agree this is a fitting tribute to those families who have built our historic club up to what it is today. They should all be very proud and the club thanks them all.

So Spring is on its way everyone ... Oh no I let it slip! With this wonderful season starting to arrive, there is no better time to come down to the Recreation Ground and support the Robins. We'd also be delighted to meet you if you think you might like to volunteer at the club. We're always happy to make new friends. And really that's the point of having a club isn't it, for the people?

So come and join us and, as a friend of Stockbridge FC, you'll know better than anyone that this is sunny Stockbridge, home of The Robins.

Come On You Robins!

*Bob Powell, Chair Stockbridge FC
chair@stockbridgefc.com*

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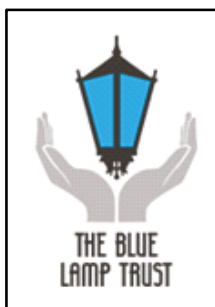
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The Blue Lamp Trust celebrates first anniversary of Hampshire's cyber-crime advisory service

You may already be aware of, or indeed used, The Blue Lamp Trust's **Bobby Scheme** service which provides free advice and home security visits to vulnerable

residents (particularly the elderly and victims of burglary and domestic abuse) in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, fitting locks, spyholes, door chains and smoke alarms where needed. In January 2022, they launched another service, **Cyber Bobby**, which seeks to help protect vulnerable people from becoming victims of cyber-crime. Much like the Bobby Scheme, this scheme provides home visits, giving advice and guidance about basic IT security.

Our police-vetted voluntary advisors offer a FREE home visit to residents of Hampshire and IoW who are:

- Over 65 years old
- Disabled (over 18)
- Previous victim of cyber crime

They will discuss and advise local residents on:

- What is cyber-crime
- Cyber and scam prevention advice
- How to check privacy settings
- Signposting to other advice and resources
- How to report issues
- How to recognise scam emails and text messages

All the Blue Lamp Trust advisors carry ID cards to reassure local residents that they are genuine – and please remember, they will not be offended if you ask to see their ID to validate their identity.

If you, or anybody you know, is eligible (based on the criteria above) and would benefit from a Cyber Bobby referral, please enquire via our website - <https://www.bluelamptrust.org.uk/about-cyber-bobby/>

If you organise a community group in Hampshire and would like a Cyber Bobby Advisor to come and give a talk, do email cyber@bluelamptrust.org.uk

Do you have a background in IT? Could you be a volunteer Cyber Bobby Advisor? Email the team at cyber@bluelamptrust.org.uk for more information.

Police will now attend every report of a residential burglary across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

Burglary is a devastating crime which can cause significant distress to victims. In the past, officers have been physically deployed when a crime was in progress and all reports underwent a rigorous assessment of threat, harm and risk. Following an ongoing review of burglary deployment across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, and recognising the Police and Crime Commissioner's commitment in the Police and Crime Plan to challenge the force to ensure community crimes that really matter are given the priority they need, officers will now attend every report of a residential burglary that the force receives.

Acting Chief Constable Ben Snuggs said: 'We know that residential burglary has a huge impact on those affected. That is why we are making this commitment. Over the past few years, we have seen a significant decrease in the number of residential burglary offences being committed across Hampshire and Isle of Wight. That means far fewer victims having to pick up the pieces after their home has been broken into.

'At the same time, however, we have also seen a reduction in the number of offences which have resulted in charges being brought. This is a priority area for the force. We have delivered a range of initiatives to increase the number of offenders who are identified and brought to justice, coordinated by a 'central burglary improvement group', ensuring all the right specialists are involved. We are determined that every residential burglary should be responded to effectively and every opportunity used to identify who is responsible.

'Our attendance will also help to improve public confidence and help victims to feel safer in their homes, which is a cornerstone of victim-focused policing. Our commitment will ensure that we take full advantage of the increased use of technology, both within policing and in our communities, such as good quality video doorbell footage, to identify and prosecute those responsible.

'It's important to remember that Hampshire and the Isle of Wight are safe places to live and work in, with an average of only eight burglaries reported to us a day. We want to give ourselves the very best opportunity to disrupt and deter all crime, and catch those criminals who are responsible.'

*James Pusey
Police, Senior Corporate Communications Officer
Hampshire and Isle of Wight*

The Stockbridge Workhouse



During medieval times, the care of the sick, infirm and elderly was the responsibility of families but natural disasters often caused great hardship and famine. It was during these years that men were compelled to place themselves into bondage with the landowners. Monasteries were used as hospital or hospice accommodation. During the 16th Century, the breakdown of medieval codes of law and the demise of the monasteries made the poor rely on their families for care or on the support of local benefactors and charities. The charities were slowly replaced with a land tax on the parishes as poor relief remained parish responsibility. From 1500 to 1601, the Poor Laws gave local government the power to raise taxes and use the funds to build and maintain alms houses. Outdoor relief was offered to the able-bodied unemployed with the parishes providing work and the necessary tools or equipment. Indoor relief was for work to be carried out inside the workhouses. This was organised through the parish overseers.



St Peter's Church plate includes a footed offertory dish, dated 1701, presented by Edmund White and Thomas Gosling, Guardians of the Poor in Stockbridge. It was used to collect alms during

church services to buy bread for the poor. The sealed-up squint in the south wall of Old St Peter's Church, which now contains the stained-glass window, was a space between the south aisle and the chancel. Poor people standing in the south aisle heard mass and received communion on saint's days and festival days through the squint.

The increasing numbers of men looking for work were a burden on the parishes. This was exacerbated in the late 1790's and early 1800's by a series of failed harvests and farm labourers gradually being replaced by the new machinery of

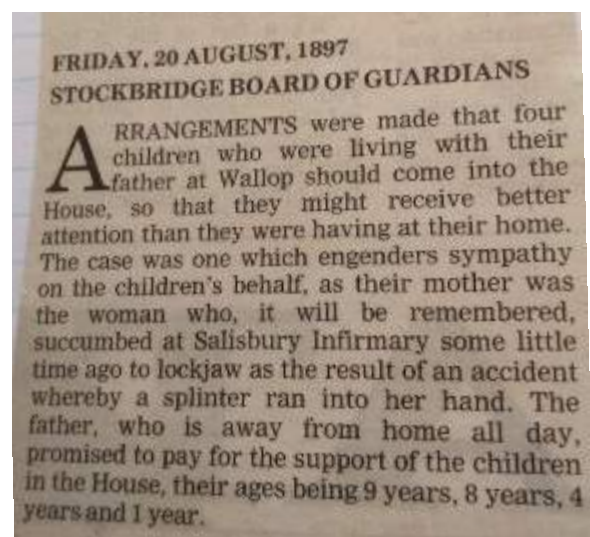
the industrial revolution. The unrest caused riots in Stockbridge and Houghton in 1830. The Settlement Act 1662 was used to limit poor relief to established residents and this discouraged mobility of workers. Vagrants were moved on to another place outside the parish boundary.

The 1834 Poor Law introduced a system of poor relief provided only in workhouses and banned outdoor relief. Before 1834, there was a workhouse in Kings Somborne able to house up to 35 paupers. In response to the new act, The Stockbridge Poor Law Union was formed in June 1835. Its operations were overseen by a Board of Guardians representing its fifteen constituent parishes.

The Stockbridge Union Workhouse (above left) was built in 1836 - 7 to house up to 200 inmates. The substantial building was made of brick with a tiled roof. It was built on land next to the cemetery in Romsey Road. The house stood in large gardens. An infirmary was added in 1896. The workhouse was managed by the Master of the Workhouse with a matron, school mistress, sick nurse, a matron's assistant and the porter.

The local doctor, Walter King Loveless, was the medical officer to the workhouse. The 1911 census recorded 57 males, 42 females and 7 children under the age of 13 years in the Stockbridge Workhouse. There were occasional visitors who brought seasonal food and other comforts to the inmates who greatly benefitted from their kindness.

In the small local community, Dr Loveless was more than a person who attended the sick; he was both confessor and friend, delivering babies and, for the elderly, a dentist to extract teeth. He was a good man and, if some of his poorer patients could not pay, he would, with a kind word and smile, send them away saying 'get well and the other can wait', meaning his fee. Many were grateful for the help and kindness given to them by old Doctor Loveless.



In 1896, the Matron of Stockbridge Workhouse reported that Dr Loveless recommended a change of air for two young women who had been ill, and that Miss Bird, of Chilbolton Down, had kindly offered to take them for a fortnight and pay all expenses. The thanks of the Board were conveyed to Miss Bird for her kindness in taking charge of the women.

In 1909, the residents were given a high tea by Mrs Hurford of Brightlands (now Little Dean) to celebrate the wedding of her daughter. Mrs Hurford and Miss Hurford were regular visitors to the workhouse bringing food and clothing. The family was held in high esteem and the residents of the workhouse collected enough money to buy a Carlton bowl as a wedding present. Local concert parties were performed at Christmas and during the summer months to entertain the residents.

One unfortunate incident was reported in a local paper. In 1895, the body of an inmate, who had died from dropsy, burst on the journey up Salisbury Hill to Nether Wallop church. The coffin leaked and caused unpleasant odours as the noxious liquid spilled into the church. The rector wrote a strong letter of complaint to the Board of Guardians. The rector also complained that, on another occasion, a coffin lid came off during the service. As the paupers' grave space in the far south-west corner of the churchyard began to fill up, some deceased residents from the workhouse were buried under the church path causing inconvenience to worshippers as the uneven path was difficult to negotiate. The problem was solved when the Romsey Road Cemetery opened.

In 1905, a Royal Commission was set up to investigate changes to the Poor Law. From 1911, the term 'workhouse' was replaced by 'Poor Law Institution' but people still spoke of 'the workhouse'.

Just before WW1, unemployment was rife throughout the country and men tramped from town to town looking for work. When the Stockbridge police cells were full, the tramps could obtain a warrant to lodge in the workhouse overnight.

The numbers using the Poor Law increased during the interwar years from 1921 to 1938 even though there was an extension of unemployment insurance for nearly all workers. Workhouses were officially abolished in 1921 but in 1931, 13% of the population still received poor relief in an institution.

In 1927, the Board of Guardians reported an outbreak of diphtheria in the nursery of the Stockbridge Institution. The Christmas concert arranged by the villagers was postponed until after Christmas.

In 1931, the Master reported that he did not have sufficient sleeping room to accommodate vagrants for two nights and often had two men in each cubicle. My mother was a volunteer at the institution at this time and remembered a constant

stream of tramps entering the building each afternoon asking for board. She helped the men remove the many layers of insulating newspaper under their clothing before they received the obligatory bath.

Also in 1931, a Mrs Evans from Broughton raised enough money to buy a wireless with two additional speakers for the entertainment of the residents.

In 1943, the Institution was used to accommodate chronically sick patients, tramps and vagrants. It was known locally as 'The Hulk' or 'The Grubber'.

Later, the building was renamed Lancaster House and used by Stockbridge Secondary School in the 1950's for lessons in practical subjects - Domestic Science for girls on the ground floor and Woodwork for the boys on the first floor. Rural Science (gardening) used the house gardens. I remember boys returning from the gardens wearing clogs with metal studs which would spark if they slid across the playground. The back area of Lancaster House was converted into flats to house local residents, some waiting for a local council house.

The building was demolished in the early 1970's and all that remains now are some brick foundations in the long grass.

Monica Harding, who came to Stockbridge in the 1920's as a small child wrote a long poem about her life and love of the area. She wrote: 'We'd workhouse then up the hill, And tramps that begged for tea'.

Tramps coming to our house to ask for tea in their tin can and bread and cheese was a regular occurrence during the summers of the 1950's. My father believed most were displaced soldiers from war, returning to find their families removed and their previous lives gone forever. He always treated them very kindly.

Jill Goodwin

(I am very grateful to my good friend, Geoff Merritt, for sharing his resources with us and also to the McMeekin Collection, donated by Angela, which is a valuable source of local historical information.)

Women of Note 2: Zaha Hadid



"I don't think that architecture is only about shelter, is only about a very simple enclosure. It should be able to excite you, to calm you, to make you think." Zaha Hadid

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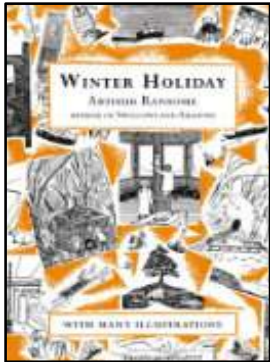
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Notes from a Bookseller

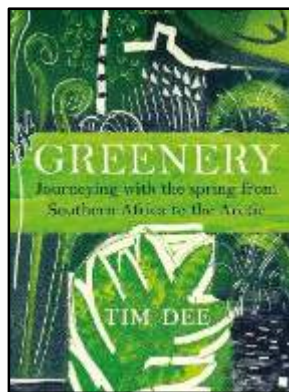


It is always great to read a book in keeping with the season, if we possibly can. When the weather and conditions around us at the time reflect the worlds we enter between the pages, the words become more meaningful, and the story becomes all the more compelling. Taking a page from children’s literature, Arthur Ransom’s ‘*Winter Holiday*’, for example, has snowy adventures set in cold, crisp air - with blizzards and tales of igloo building, sledging and heroic rescues set in the English Lakes.



Although written for children, it is by no means limited to their enthusiastic reading and can be particularly enjoyed on nippy days and evenings by all.

But moving into spring, there are some wonderful natural history titles which purposefully follow this season’s gradual unfolding. In *Greenery*, the writer, BBC radio producer and lifelong birdwatcher, Tim Dee follows the route of several migratory birds. With a chapter per month he traces the patterns of the blossoming of spring in accounts ranging geographically from South Africa to the Arctic. We’re invited to make the journey with him, listening out for the ever-strengthening dawn chorus and watching for the first blossom from the cherry plum in the hedgerows as we go. Closer to home, Neil Ansell shares a year in the New Forest with his readers in *The Circling Sky* describing the changing seasons through the weather, flora and fauna. He advocates visiting a place repeatedly, not to know it decisively but to enjoy its ever-changing and always-surprising changes.



For lovers of gardens – both vegetable and floral – spring is the time of year which really brings a smile and a host of new ideas. *The Gardener’s Travel Companion*



to England is a gorgeous guidebook; and full of useful and quirky information is *The Almanac - A Seasonal Guide to 2023* by Lia Leendertz . Growing things for the table is featured in *Incredible Edibles* by Matthew Biggs, and *Wildlife Gardening for Everyone and Everything* by Kate Bradbury is all about how to entice bees, butterflies, hedgehogs, and frogs to your plot of land – whatever its size!

On the fiction side, there are many classic and current novels which bring their own perspective to the season of re-birth. E.M.Forster’s *A Room with a View*, along with D.H.Lawrence’s *The White Peacock* are notable here, and Thomas Hardy always seems to give his Wessex landscapes a really extraordinary seasonal resonance.



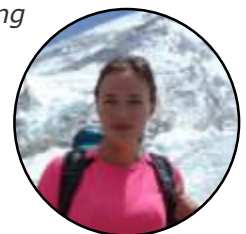
Newly out, and its own kind of miracle, is Salman Rushdie’s *Victory City*, and also a well-reviewed new debut novel, Jyoti Patel’s *The Things We Lost*. *Elegies*, by Carol Ann Duffy, has arrived just in time for National Poetry Day as well.

And finally, Spring is the time when publishers bring out a new round of titles that are sure to be mainstays for the following reading months so stay tuned.

Elaine Sperber

Women of Note 3: Bonita Norris

"What I've learned from climbing mountains is that we can push ourselves far beyond what we think we are capable of, and it's outside of our comfort zones that the most amazing things happen."



Bonita Norris

Summitting Everest is the challenge of a lifetime and one you would expect to take many years to prepare for. Bonita Norris, however, went from novice climber to the top of the world in just two tough years. This amazing achievement made her the youngest woman in history to reach the summit, at just 22 years of age.



Stockbridge Parish Council News

Would you be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor?

Every four years the whole Parish Council, by law, is put forward for re-election and this will be happening on May 4th 2023. In practice, an election only happens if more than ten people put themselves forward to be elected as a Stockbridge Councillor. However, having an election strengthens the mandate of the Council and provides a robust democratic tier of local government for the community of Stockbridge.

In order to put yourself forward to be a Councillor, you will need to be over 18, resident or an owner of a property/land or with your place of work in Stockbridge (for the last 12 months) and you are not disqualified for standing for election. The disqualifications are complex so please email the clerk at clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk or elecrag@testvalley.gov.uk for more information.

A Parish Council is the lowest level of local government in England but it does have authority and tax (precept)-setting powers and a Councillor is your legal representative at this local level.

Anybody who stands for election will need to commit themselves to attend the Parish Council meetings on the 3rd Thursday of the month (except August and December (2nd Thursday)). In practice a Councillor can miss 6 meetings before he/she is no longer a Councillor. The Council makes decisions collectively and is advised by their employee (the Clerk).

Becoming a Parish Councillor should be seen as a way of contributing to your local community in an official and influential capacity. The present Council has dealt with Covid protections, getting safety measures outside the primary school agreed, path improvements and planning applications. The Council's activities can be varied and challenging but they should always be in the best interests of the community of Stockbridge.

The application process is open from 22nd March and candidates have until 4th April to submit their application to TVBC (the election authority). Applications need to be submitted by hand but not necessarily by the candidate and this should be done by appointment from elecrag@testvalley.gov.uk. Please contact this email address for more information or the Clerk to the Parish Council.

To get an idea of the range of matters considered by the Parish Council, do take a look at the minutes of the meetings on the Parish Council website - www.stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk. At January's meeting, topics discussed included the project to

improve traffic safety in near the Primary School, plans to improve the trout pond and upgrade the telephone boxes, progress on the purchase of the old Workhouse site for community use, the reintroduction of the volunteer-run speed camera perhaps in cooperation with Longstock Parish Council and Trout and About.

Fishing in Andover

TVBC is now managing the angling at Foxcotte Lake (Charlton Lakes) and Anton Lakes Local Nature Reserve. Day tickets will be available to purchase through Challis Tackle in Andover and OJ's Fishing Tackle at Picket Piece. Information on fees and charges as well as rules for the site can be found on TVBC's website. Season tickets will be available to purchase through TVBC and will allow ticket holders to fish across all three sites in Andover including Rooksbury Mill Local Nature Reserve.

Winter Fuel Payments

TVBC residents who are over 66 are being urged to come forward for their winter fuel payment. With the rising cost of living, many people will be in a situation where they need more help than before and may not know how to access support. Anyone with an older relative who could do with a little extra financial help is encouraged to direct them to Citizens Advice who are administering the funds. Residents can contact Citizens Advice on 0808 178 6882 or go to their website www.testvalleycab.org.uk.

Stockbridge Parish Council will meet next on the 16th March 2023.
Belinda Baker
Clerk to Stockbridge Parish Council
clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk



Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal

Following the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria this week, we are encouraging the people of our diocese to donate generously through the **Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) Appeal** (<https://donation.dec.org.uk/turkey-syria-earthquake-appeal>), to help DEC charities provide vital medical care, emergency shelter, food and clean water.

We also commend the prayer resources offered by **Tear Fund** (www.tearfund.org/stories/2023/02/how-to-pray-for-the-turkey-syria-earthquake) and Christian Aid (www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/dec-turkey-syria-earthquake-appeal). Both charities are DEC members).

Voter ID is coming!

From 4 May 2023, you will need to show photographic ID to be able to vote in elections

You can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate if you do not have an accepted form of ID

You can apply online at www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate, contact Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) for a paper form, or visit the council offices in Andover and Romsey

For more information contact TVBC on 01264 368000 or 01794 527700, or email elecereg@testvalley.gov.uk

Test Valley Borough Council is urging residents to ensure they are prepared for the introduction of voter ID as the government rolls out major change to elections across the UK aiming to reduce and prevent voter fraud.

By law, from 4 May 2023, residents will need to show photographic ID at a polling station before they receive their ballot paper. People can use various forms of ID, including a driving licence, passport, Older Person's Bus Pass, a Blue Badge or Disabled Person's Bus Pass. The full list of accepted ID can be found at www.testvalley.gov.uk/voterID Residents can use expired ID as long as the photograph is still a good likeness.

Anyone who doesn't have an accepted form of identification can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) at www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate

Those unable to apply online can contact TVBC's electoral services team to request a paper form on 01264 368000 or 01794 527700, or by emailing elecereg@testvalley.gov.uk

The deadline to apply for a VAC for the Test Valley borough elections being held on 4 May 2023 is Tuesday 25 April, but residents are being encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

There is no need of photographic ID if voting by post.

And if anyone is registered for a proxy vote, which is where someone else votes on their behalf, then their proxy will need to provide their own ID, not the elector's.

More information at www.testvalley.gov.uk/voterID

Women of Note 4: Abisoye Ajayi-Akinfolarin



"We want girls to be creators of tech, not mere users. Watching them write code is beautiful. Many of them had never touched a computer before they got here. It's mind-blowing. The joy on their faces, that's more than money. I can't buy it."

Abisoye Ajayi-Akinfolarin

Young teacher Abisoye Ajayi-Akinfolarin was named the most inspirational woman in the world in BBC's 2018 list. She has changed the face of communities in Nigeria. Founding NGO, GirlsCoding she has taught young women coding, design and web development - vital to the future endeavours of the women in her community.

On the lighter side of farming life...

Did you hear about the magic tractor?
It went down the lane and then turned into a field!

Why do cows have hoofs?
They lactose!

What did the mummy cow say to the baby cow?
'It's pasture bedtime!'

Where do sick horses go?
The horsepital!

Why did the lamb call the police?
He'd been fleeced.

What's the name for a donkey with three legs?
A wonk-ey.

Ryan Bundy



Answers to Shakespeare Quiz on p12

1. A Midsummer Night's Dream
2. The Comedy of Errors
3. Macbeth
4. 154
5. First Folio
6. Hamlet
7. The Plague
8. Pompey
9. Troilus and Cressida
10. Denmark
11. The Merry Wives of Windsor and Henry IV, Parts 1 & 2
12. Macbeth

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Potting Shed Cuttings for March

'Yellow Book' gardens open this month -

Bere Mill and Beechenwood House, Hampshire;
Manor of Dean and Down Place, Sussex;
Timber Hill and Albury Park, Surrey;
Stubbings House, Berkshire;
Fonthill House and Corsham Court, Wiltshire;
The Old Vicarage, Dorset;

General Maintenance and Preparation

This is a busy time in the garden year; with new, tender growth emerging, the hunt for slugs becomes vital and every gardener has their own, favoured method of dealing with these pests. Mulch and feed flower borders and mulch around roses, fruit trees and shrubs with some well-rotted compost.

Clean greenhouses, cold frames and patios and check tools are clean and sharp.

Lawn mowers should be cleaned and checked; it may be time for blades to be sharpened.

Perennials and climbing plants will begin to grow rapidly now, so put in place any supports they will need later in the year; it's far easier for them to grow through supports than to try to push delicate shoots through without damaging the plant.

The Flower Garden

This month is the 'crossover' month, when winter flowering shrubs can be pruned back and fading spring bulbs can be dead-headed or divided, to make way for emerging early summer perennials. Roses can still be pruned, as can summer flowering clematis, winter flowering heathers and rhododendrons needing revitalising.

Cut away old leaves from hellebores.

If you have kept fuchsias safe over the winter months, prune them back to a couple of buds; this will ensure they grow into bushy plants.

Dahlia tubers, lilies and other summer-flowering bulbs can be planted out this month.

Perennials and shrubs grown in containers will benefit from some new compost; scrape off a few inches from the top and add new compost.

Plug-plants will be arriving in March; don't leave them to deteriorate, but plant up in fresh potting compost, water and keep them in a light, frost-free spot.

The Vegetable Garden

First early potatoes chitted earlier should be planted later this month, either in the ground or in containers. If the weather is poor in early March, cover their planting space with fleece or black plastic to warm the soil and keep it dry.

Plant out Jerusalem artichokes, asparagus crowns on prepared soil ridges and, as you do, check around your plot for any potato shoots from tubers left in the ground from last year and dig these out as they may carry diseases.



Plant out lettuces, beetroot and peas and, if you prefer to sow direct into the soil, try turnips, leeks, spinach and carrots outside.

Aubergines, chillies, sweet peppers, beetroots, broad beans, celeriac, summer cauliflowers, celery, mizuna, mustard and radishes can all be started off under glass, as can tomatoes which will be grown under glass. If your tomatoes will be grown outdoors, wait until April before you sow them. Harvest your last few leeks and parsnips to clear up space and, provided they are disease free, compost any brassica remains.

If you haven't done so already, bean trenches, about 1½ feet (45cm) deep can be filled over the next few weeks with layers of vegetable matter, homemade compost and soil to provide a healthy base for plants.

The Fruit Garden

Rhubarb should be weeded and mulched, along with your other fruit bushes.

Tie in blackberry and loganberry shoots before buds have made too much growth; there is still time to prune gooseberry and red and white currant bushes to two or three buds and to take out 25% of the oldest blackcurrant stems. As usual, any weak, diseased or congested stems on all plants should be cut out.

Prune back vines to two strong shoots on the main stem and train these along wires in opposite directions.

Put cloches over strawberry plants to encourage early flowering and fruiting.

The Lawn

As grass starts to grow at around 7°C, you may have already mown lawns for the first time this year; if you haven't, make sure mower blades are raised quite high.

This is an ideal time to use 'weed and feed' preparations.

Ensure the ground is ready for sowing grass seed in April; rake out moss and debris and improve aeration by forking about 4-6"/10-15cm deep into the ground at regular intervals.

Tidy ragged edges and dig out perennial weeds such as dandelions, thistles, docks and plantains by hand, making sure you remove the tap roots.

Micki Nadal

. . . and after all that work, a Spanish proverb reminds us to sit and enjoy our gardens - 'How beautiful it is to do nothing, and then rest afterward'.



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The logo for G&S Lark Tree Services is circular. The text 'G&S LARK TREE SERVICES' is arched across the top. In the center is a detailed illustration of a large, leafy tree. Below the tree, there are smaller illustrations of various plants, leaves, and a butterfly. The text 'Tree Care ~ Logs ~ Hedge cutting' is written below the tree. At the bottom, the website 'www.larktreeservices.co.uk' is arched across the circle.

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The logo for Classic Car Story is circular. It features a steering wheel in the center. The words 'CLASSIC' and 'CAR' are written along the top inner edge of the circle, and 'STORY' is written along the bottom inner edge.

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The logo for Nigel Eversfield Morgan features a heraldic crest at the top, depicting a griffin or dragon. Below the crest, the name 'NIGEL EVERSFIELD MORGAN' is written in a bold, serif font. Underneath that, 'CHAUFFEUR DRIVEN CLASSIC CARS' is written in a smaller, all-caps font.A detailed black and white illustration of a classic open-top car, likely a Morgan, shown from a side profile.

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Stockbridge Primary and Pre-School News

Getting reading going

I promised an article written by the children about getting out of the learning 'pit' last time I wrote and their words are below. They have written with good articulation about their learning challenges and successes and these have been very real as we've got our teeth stuck into learning in 2023.

In addition to our work on learning behaviour, reading has been a real focus for our children in lower school this term and developing a fluency and an interesting reading 'tone' has been a critical shift in our teaching of reading. Children now have two weekly reading books; one to learn to read with and one to read for pleasure – the latter is usually much harder than they can access themselves and may be a non-fiction book or a graphic novel or challenging chapter book that they share with an adult.

"The learning pit helps you to build your confidence in learning. It also makes you feel supported; when you reach the learning pit, you have to try really hard to climb up the effort mountain. This takes all of our school values but especially it needs us to be resourceful, resilient and sometimes collaborative. If we're resourceful, we might look back at old learning or use things around the classroom to help us, like displays with examples or resources so we can do it with 'real things'. We have a toolbox for maths that we keep examples of methods in and a potions corner for all our spelling rules so we have lots to help us. When you get out of the learning pit, you should feel proud and know that you should never give up, no matter how hard learning from your mistakes is. If you're on the way out of the pit, you just have to push yourself a little harder and get out of your comfort zone – it's actually a great place to be!"

Hermione and Harrison, Year 6.

Sims-Bishop's research from 1990 suggested that 'books should act as windows, mirrors and sliding doors'; taking the reader to different places and reflecting themselves in some texts. We want children to be great readers; to devour books, love literature and value how 'lost' you can get in a book but this all starts with early reading and finding something you're interested in.

Our team of 8 librarians from upper school have been taking their duties incredibly seriously and have opened up the library each lunchtime so that children can spend more time browsing and becoming 'lost' in books and they are constantly busy. We increase the capacity in our library by partnering with Hampshire's School Library Service

who delivered recently over 250 new books on loan for a few months – the excitement was palpable!

We'll celebrate World Book Day in March with the rest of the country and have a real celebration of reading with a 'Readathon' to see how many words we can read in a day. We're thinking it'll be in the thousands for all children! I wonder how many words you read in a day?

*Emma Jefferies
Headteacher*

Sometimes an irreverent chuckle conveys a truth:

IF GOD SHOULD GO ON STRIKE

Walt Huntley

How good it is that God above has never gone on strike.

Because he was not treated fair in things he didn't like,

If only once he'd given up and said, "That's it, I'm through!"

"I've had enough of those on earth, so this is what I'll do."

I'll give my orders to the sun - cut off the heat supply!"

"And to the moon - give no more light, and run the oceans dry."

"Then just to make things really tough and put the pressure on,

Turn off the vital oxygen till every breath is gone!"

You know He would be justified, if fairness was the game,

For no one has been more abused or met with more disdain

Than God, and yet He carries on, supplying you and me

With all the favours of His grace, and everything for free.

Men say they want a better deal, and so on strike they go,

But what a deal we've given God to whom all things we owe.

We don't care whom we hurt to gain the things we like;

But what a mess we'd all be in, if God should go on strike.

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**Lindy Lou's
Kitchen Recipes
& Crafty Corner**



Spring is edging its way closer and Easter will be here before we know it. So, this month I thought we deserved a lovely indulgent but light pudding. It's easy to make and delicious served just by itself or with a lovely dollop of ice cream.

Brioche Bread and Butter Pudding

Serves 8

You will need a 28cm-wide-based round ovenproof dish (I used a 10in., approx. 27cm, wide casserole/sauté pan) and also a roasting tin large enough to place your round dish inside.

Ingredients

1 x 300g Brioche loaf, cut into approx. 1.5cm thick slices

50g butter, soft or melted plus a little extra for greasing the bowl

100g sultanas

3 Tbsp Demerara sugar

For the custard

3 eggs

75g caster sugar

150ml double cream

600ml full-fat milk

1 tsp vanilla extract

1 small lemon, finely-grated zest

Method

Brush or spread the soft butter on to both sides of the brioche slices. Arrange the slices in a spiral in the dish and scatter the sultanas over the top.

To make the custard, place all the listed ingredients into a large bowl and whisk together by hand until well mixed.

Pour the custard over the brioche in the dish and gently press the exposed bread crusts into the liquid so they soak it up.

Sprinkle over the Demerara sugar and leave to stand for 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 180°C/160°C Fan or Gas 4.

Grease the dish rim above the custard with a little butter to stop it sticking.

Half fill the roasting tin with boiling water and then place the ovenproof dish in the water. Place the roasting tin and contents into the oven and bake for about 40 minutes until golden on top and puffed up. (The water stops the custard from burning).

Once removed from the oven, the pudding might shrink down a little, but this definitely does not affect the taste. Serve warm. Especially delicious with a little vanilla sugar sprinkled on the top!

Linda Hotchen



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World Day of Prayer

2.00pm on 3 March 2023

at St Peter and Holy Cross Church,
Wherwell

The Service will be part of a huge wave of prayer which circles the earth for a least 38 hours. This year's service has been planned by the women of Taiwan.

The theme:

I have heard about your Faith

We learn more about Taiwan, sing hymns and pray according to the theme.

Services take place in churches across the world. This service is organised by representatives from the churches of Chilbolton, Wherwell, Leckford, Longstock and Stockbridge (St Peters and St Thomas More.)

We end with tea and cake.

World Day of Prayer in Wherwell Church

The World Day of Prayer is a women-led global ecumenical movement. The annual service is prepared by women in different nations, in 2023 by the Christian women of Taiwan. It is being held on Friday March 3rd at 2pm and our service this year, which lasts not more than an hour, will be in the Church of St Peter & Holy Cross in Wherwell (see left for more details). This is a good opportunity to see this interesting church which has a long history stretching back to Saxon times. Everyone is invited, including men, and there will be tea and cakes at the back of the church afterwards.

Taiwan is a country that has, for many years, been caught in a struggle between the 'superpowers' and has been internationally isolated for years. China continues to claim Taiwan as its sovereign territory even though a large majority of Taiwanese reject reunification with China. The risk of conflict in their country is now at its highest level for a very long time. So the people of Taiwan are very much in need of our prayers at this time.

Janet Williams

The poster (left), the work of the young Taiwanese artist Hui-Wen Hsaio, uses several motifs highlighting features of Taiwan to express how the Christian faith brings peace and a new vision to the country.

The women in the painting are sitting by a stream, praying silently and looking up into the dark. Despite the uncertainty of the path ahead, they know that the salvation of Christ has come.

Two endangered species are featured: the Mikado pheasant, which is endemic to mountainous regions of Taiwan and is regarded as one of Taiwan's national birds. and the Black-faced Spoonbill, which migrates thousands of miles every year to spend the winter in Taiwan. Their distinctiveness represents confidence and perseverance in times of difficulty.

The green grass and Phalaenopsis (Butterfly) orchids stand out against the dark background. They are the pride of Taiwan, which has a worldwide reputation as the 'Kingdom of Orchids.' In recent decades, Taiwanese orchid's exports have increased, and Butterfly orchids are favourites internationally. This beautiful island is known by its rich natural resources. Green grass represents the Taiwanese as simple, confident, strong and under God's care.



World Day of Prayer I have heard about your faith

3 March 2023 - Taiwan



Church News

St Peter's and Old St Peter's Stockbridge



The days are getting longer and, in spite of some cold spells, we can see early signs of Spring. The churchyard of Old St Peter's is full of snowdrops with early daffodils raising their heads above the grass and the birds are beginning to sing again.

During the early part of February, we were back into Ordinary Time which covers the period from Epiphany and Candlemas (when the crib was taken down) until Ash Wednesday, which this year fell on the 22nd February, and which marked the first day of Lent.

Lent is the Church's time for repentance and preparation for the events which unfold over the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord six weeks later.

Forty days symbolises the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness being tested by Satan. The custom in the Anglican Church is to count forty days from Ash Wednesday until the end of Holy Week, not including the Sundays.

Ash Wednesday is a Principal Holy Day in the Church of England calendar. Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence and being marked in ash with the sign of the cross dates back to the Middle Ages. This year, the Ashing Service for Stockbridge was held in Old St Peter's at 10am. The ashes were prepared by burning some of the palm crosses which were given to all participants at the Palm Sunday service last year. So we are now in the period of Lent until Easter which falls on Sunday 9th April.

Our Rector Phill conducted a service at Basingstoke Crematorium on 21st February for John Gale. John had been a member of our congregation for many years and acted as Sidesman until he was well into his 90's. He will be much missed and our thoughts and prayers are with Karen and his family.

Teas in the Church : there will be tea and cakes in St Peter's on Sunday March 5th at 3pm for anyone who lives alone. It is a good opportunity for people to get together in an informal setting. Many thanks to Angela McMeekin who organises this monthly gathering with her many helpers.

Janet Williams

Lent Lunches

These will take place as follows:

Friday 10 March : The Old Rectory, Church Lane, Houghton, SO20 6LJ. Host: Iona Priestly

Friday 17 March : Highfield House, Horsebridge Road, Broughton, SO20 8BD
Host : Georgie Bateman

Friday 24 March : Guildway Bungalow, Leckford
Host : Dawn Williams

Friday 31 March: St Peter's Church, Stockbridge
Host : Maddie Hedley

The plan is for people to meet at 12noon when we will have a Lent-themed reading, then a short discussion. Soup and rolls will be available at 12.30pm so we can eat and chat. We will finish between 1.30 and 2.00pm.

Prayer for Lent

Lord, we thank you for the time of Lent;
A time to reflect, to pray and to come closer to you.

How do we have a time of fasting?
No alcohol or chocolate;
No films or TV?

Or should we have a target – Lent reflections
each day
Doing a good deed each week?

Jesus in the wilderness had time alone – and
many temptations,
He prayed and was guided to his destiny.

Death on the cross for our redemption.

So as we pray and reflect this Lent, we thank
you,
Knowing that the glory of Easter and the
Resurrection
is our hope for the future.

Amen.

Hampshire Downs RC Parish St Thomas More

Services are held on Sundays
at 9.00am

Church News

St Mary's Longstock



Candlemas, the end of the Christmas Season, was celebrated at the Benefice Service on 29 January at St Mary Broughton with a full church, a lovely service and lots of candles. The actual date for Candlemas was 2 February and the cribs have been put away for another year.

Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, was celebrated with an 'Ashing Service' at St Mary, Longstock at 7.30pm. It is a very good way to start Lent.

During Lent, there are two series of events to mark Lent. The first is a **Lent Bible Study** over 5 weeks and in three venues, one of which will be in Longstock at the home of John and Sheelagh Rennie, Fulwood House, Longstock, SO20 6DW

Week 1 : March 2nd at 10.30am

The Cross 'anticipated' Genesis 22:1 - 19

Abraham's only son, Isaac, is at the centre of God's demand for obedience from Abraham. Miraculously a substitute is provided, pointing to Jesus' sacrifice on Calvary.

Week 2 : week beginning 6th March

The Cross 'experienced' Mark 14:1 - 15:47

The Suffering Servant - why was it so important to have Jesus as a suffering servant; wasn't it enough that He was God's Son? Although He was rejected as a son, He remained an exemplary disciple.

Week 3 : week beginning 13th March

The Cross 'explained' 1 Corinthians 1:18 - 2:5

Why was the cross described as a folly? (22-25). What will make us wise?

The reality of the Cross was that it manifested the power and wisdom of God (v24). The Cross has a huge impact but it creates division, unmasks folly and encourages humility.

Week 4 : Wednesday 22nd March

David Williams, Bishop of Basingstoke, will speak in St Peters Stockbridge on Wednesday 22nd March at 6pm. **'Why is the Cross so central to our Christian faith?'**

Week 5 : week beginning 27th March

The Cross 'applied' Hebrews 10:1 - 18.

What does the Cross mean to us in 2023? The Cross provides an effective sacrifice. Jesus' death surpasses all the Old Testament sacrifices (9:22). Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross reflected his obedience (5-9); was effective because it established a new

understanding; creates a holy people and is effective once and for all, never to be repeated.

This course is also offered in Stockbridge and Broughton.

The second Lent event is a series of **Lent Lunches**. See page 29 for details.

Mothering Sunday this year is 19 March, with a service at 9.30am at St Mary's Church. There will be a group of us making the posies for the service at The Old Vicarage, courtesy of Sophie Hill at 4.00pm on Saturday 18 March. If you would like to join us or make a contribution of flowers from your garden, please telephone Maddie on 810284 or Sophie on 810864.

In terms of a church 'fabric' update, nearly all the repairs identified in the quinquennial inspection have been done. We are able to reclaim the VAT on some repairs.

Services for March at St Mary, Longstock

5 March	9.30am	All Age
12 March	9.30am	Parish Eucharist
19 March	9.30am	Mothering Sunday Service
26 March	No Service	

Dates for your diary:

Sat 1st April

Church/Churchyard Spring Clean at St Mary 10.00am - 12 noon. Refreshments provided. Some equipment is provided but long-handled dusters, lightweight vacuums will be welcome, as are secateurs, garden bags and rakes.

2nd April

Joint Palm Sunday Service at 11.00am at St Peter, Stockbridge

7th April Good Friday.

The Good Friday walk, hopefully along the River Test. I have asked for permission and hope this will be given. Starting at 10.30am from the Lych Gate, St Mary. A chance to walk and talk, listen to readings, with a summary at the end of the walk.

9 April 9.30am. Celebrating Easter with Rev'd John Rennie.

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

Maddie Hedley

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

Church News

From the Area Dean

The Season of Lent covers all of March this year (it started on Ash Wednesday, 22nd February) and Easter Day is 9th April.

Lent is a time for reflection and spiritual renewal in preparation for Good Friday and Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday. Lent lasts 40 days, a significant number in the Bible:

- In Genesis, rain fell for 40 days and nights in the great flood
- The Israelites spent 40 years in the wilderness before entering the promised land
- Moses fasted for 40 days before receiving the Ten Commandments
- Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness before starting his ministry

In February, I attended the General Synod of the Church of England in London – you may have seen the media coverage of the debates!

Many of the debates centred on the outcomes of 'Living in Love and Faith' (a 5-year project for the Church to think about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage).

The end result was to welcome proposals which would enable same-sex couples to come to church after a civil marriage or civil partnership to give thanks, dedicate their relationship to God and receive God's blessing.

The Cost of Living Crisis was also discussed and decisions made as to how people could be helped.

Your Area Dean, James

Revd James Pitkin - romseyareadean@gmail.com

The Column for February

Baptisms

26 February at 2.00pm. William Alexander Admi was baptised at St Mary's Church, Longstock.

Weddings

There were no weddings this month

Funerals

The funeral of John Gale, previously of St Peter's congregation and Sidesman, was held on 21 February at Basingstoke Crematorium.

March Services for

Stockbridge, Longstock and Leckford

3rd March (Friday)

14.00 **World Day of Prayer Service** at Church of St Peter & Holy Cross, Wherwell (see also p28)

5th March (Lent 2)

08.00 **Leckford** Holy Communion BCP

09.30 **Longstock** All Age Worship

11.00 **Stockbridge** Parish Eucharist

12th March (Lent 3)

08.00 **Old St Peter** Holy Communion

09.30 **Longstock** Parish Eucharist

11.00 **Stockbridge** All Age Service

19th March (Mothering Sunday)

09.30 **Longstock** Morning Worship

11.00 **Stockbridge** Parish Eucharist

18.00 **Leckford** Evensong

22nd March (Wednesday)

10.00 **Old St Peter** Holy Communion

26th March (Lent 5)

11.00 **Stockbridge** Morning Worship

Roland Antony Hales 'Tony'

10 June 1936 - 19 November 2022

Tony's funeral took place at St Peter's Church, Stockbridge on 15th December 2022.

We have especial reason to remember Tony with great admiration and affection as he was editor-in-chief of this magazine for many years, transforming it from its photocopied and stapled format to its current, much more professional appearance.



Tony, together with his wife Wendy, have been deeply involved in many aspects of village life, especially the church, where they both sang in the choir. Tony was a man of many enthusiasms with a great readiness to embrace the new, and will have helped many of our readers get to grips with their iPads and laptops from the IT help desk at the Community market, which he introduced, with the help of David Parkinson.

Thank you, Tony, for everything.

Editors

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