



The Parish Magazine for

£1

STOCKBRIDGE LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD

June 2023



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

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From the Clergy

May 2023 will be remembered for King Charles III's coronation. Most of us spent 6th May around a screen. Some went up to London to join the crowds - and got soaked. A select few had a place in the Abbey. King Charles had thought through how he wanted the ancient rite of his coronation to be to a modern world. A magnificent public service was developed for today.

But it wasn't all public spectacle. Part of the service was private, out of our sight, behind a screen when the King was anointed with oil, following one of the longest traditions in human history. Many ancient peoples anointed their kings. The sacred writings of three of the big faiths of the world - Judaism, Islam and Christianity - record the Prophet Samuel anointing Saul as the first King of Israel around 1000 BC. The act of anointing separates the anointed from the profane and symbolises the sanctity of the King who is to carry out his duties with sacramental grace and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. There is a special relationship between the sovereign and God, so his anointing is a sacred moment for the King, who was therefore hidden from view for that private act.

Our own relationship with God is unique and personal to each of us, developing and maturing throughout our lives, influenced by our questioning and our thinking, our interactions and life events. The pollsters tell us increasing numbers reject God altogether, although as people grow older they become increasingly more likely to admit to a belief in God – maybe as an insurance policy for eternal life! Most people show no outward sign of their relationship with the Divine; it is a private affair, just as King Charles' anointing was private.

The Church is a body of people made up of individuals, each with their own faith, but united in some common understandings. Just as the faith of each of us develops and matures, so the church has to work out how its ancient creeds are relevant to an ever-changing society. That is no private matter but a public one, with entrenched personal beliefs having to listen to opposing views. As we move forward to a new Carolean era, the Church's expression of shared faith will develop, as it has throughout time, in the same way as coronations have evolved, but still keep that personal private relationship between sovereign and God.

The Rev'd Sue Kipling

Associate Priest in the Mid-Test Benefice

suekipling@btinternet.com

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Cover Photo: Gareth Evans: Longstock Sunrise

*Few of us will climb mountains . . . but we can remain in awe of those who do.
This month's footers might help explain why they do it.*

From the Editorial Team

This month the magazine remains in an upbeat mood following the coronation of King Charles III. Our celebrations and responses feature throughout this issue, but we have also taken the opportunity to look back to a different event which was considered highly significant in 1953 at the time of the coronation of the young Queen Elizabeth II - the conquest of Mount Everest.

The news that Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay had reached the summit of the mountain on 29 May 1953 was relayed back to London to be announced on 2 June, the day of the Queen's coronation, to great excitement and national pride. The expedition was filmed in colour and much of the footage has been used in the documentary, 'Conquest of Everest', which will be shown by Stockbridge Cinema on Friday 2 June, 7.30pm at Stockbridge Town Hall, exactly 70 years after the news of the success of the expedition reached the UK. For more information about the history and the event, please see p12..

Our thoughts have consequently turned to the universal appeal of reaching a summit. Not all of us will climb mountains but even cresting a hill and seeing a new landscape spread out before us is enormously satisfying. Of course, if we've had to put in some physical effort, the satisfaction will perhaps be more deserved, but there is something uplifting about an open vista, however achieved.

We've used our footers and one or two small articles to explore the attractions of both the physical challenge of climbing a mountain, and the sense of spirituality and calm they can bring.

Frances Candler, Jennifer Kidd and Thea Taylor



**LONGSTOCK &
LECKFORD WI**

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

Tuesday 27 June
Fun Quiz
arranged by Dawn Williams

Guests always welcome
Please contact Sue Hill on 811779 for further details



**Stockbridge
Community
Cinema**



The Conquest of Everest **Friday 2 June**

Time 7.30 pm (1hr 18min)

An award winning 1953 documentary to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the first successful expedition to reach the summit of Mount Everest

Corsage

Friday 16 June

7.30 pm (1hr 54min)

Faced with a future of strict ceremonies and royal duties, Empress Elisabeth of Austria (Vicky Krieps) rebels against her public image and comes up with a plan to protect her legacy.

Empire of Light

Wednesday 21 June

Time 4.45 pm and 7.30 pm
(1hr 55min)

In the early 1980s, Hilary (Olivia Colman), a duty manager at the Empire Cinema on the south coast of England, is struggling with her mental health and is having an affair with her married boss Donald (Colin Firth). When Stephen (Michael Ward) starts working at the cinema, he and Hilary fall for each other, but as Hilary's health fluctuates, the constant racism Stephen suffers culminates in a violent assault.

Tickets £6.00 (£5.50 + £0.50 booking fee)
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stockbridgecinema.org.uk or via the
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The Royal British Legion
Houghton and District Branch

Contact David Williams (Chairman)
01264 811072

Social evenings are held on the first Thursday
of most months in the Grosvenor Hotel

Copy for Magazine

Copy date for the July Magazine:

15 June 2023

Please send emails to:

editorsstockmag@gmail.com

or phone Frances Candler on 01264 811776

Jennifer Kidd on 811179 or Thea Taylor on 811101

National Garden Scheme June Openings Locally



Thursday 8th and Sunday 10th June
Stockbridge Gardens

Sunday 18th June
Terstan, Longstock

Sunday 18th June
Longstock Park Water Garden

See page 17 for further details

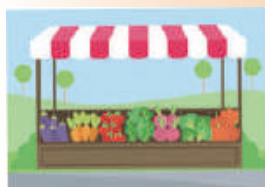
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Test Villages u3a

Thursday 1st June at 2pm
Chilbolton Village Hall

'2020: The year my wheelie bin went out
more than I did'

Jill Bentall retired in 2014 after two decades of service as a vicar in Andover and its surrounding villages. In this talk, Jill looks back at the Covid pandemic, recalling memories and knowledge gained, and how we use this to move forward. She shares amusing anecdotes as well as looking at the history of vaccination and earlier pandemics, including the Black Death.

Test Villages u3a meets on the first Thursday of every month in Chilbolton Village Hall. Doors open at 1.40pm, and the presentation is followed by refreshments.

Also this month:

Members Summer Party. Wednesday 21st June 6pm to 8pm in the grounds of Horsebridge Station. Information on how members can buy tickets can be found at u3asites.org.uk/test-villages

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



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

Saturday 15 July, 7.30pm
St Peters Church, Stockbridge

The Bohemia to Broadway Opera Quintet



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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	Stockbridge Community Market
Thurs am	Su Joy Art Class
Thurs pm	Joga
Fri am	Moo Music

This Month

Jun 1-2	Infinito
Jun 2	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Jun 3	Antique Fair
Jun 4	Jules At No.43
Jun 5-7	Wild Bazaar
Jun 6-9	Butterflies Home Care
Jun 6	Unity
Jun 11	Sara Organics
Jun 12-14	Cotton House Interiors
Jun 13	Community Energy South
Jun 14	Stone, Vine & Sun
Jun 15	Stockbridge Parish Council
Jun 16	Infinito
Jun 16	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Jun 17	South Central Makers
Jun 18-21	Wild Bazaar
Jun 21	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Jun 24-25	Hawkmoor Books
Jun 24-25	Antiques and Curios
Jun 26-28	Wild Bazaar
Jun 27	Longstock and Leckford WI
Jun 30	Infinito
Jun 30	Stockbridge and Longstock Ukraine Support Group

Wherwell History Group



Conducted Tour of Whitchurch

by John Mariner

8pm Friday June 30,
Wherwell Village Hall.

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

Longstock Garden Club



The Garden Club is for both experienced and inexperienced gardeners. At each meeting, there is a guest speaker, a chance to socialise with other gardeners over tea or coffee and topical advice from experienced members.

Our next meeting in Longstock Village Hall will be on October 10th when Lynda Warren will give a talk entitled:

A Spoonful of Herbs

www.longstockgardenclub.com

Peter Moore 07881573493



Houghton WI

19 June at 10.00am
at Houghton Village Hall

The Good, The Bad and the Downright Funny

Jackie Dimmock talks about 30 years as a
Hampshire Police Officer

Visitors welcome

Further information from
Jane Anderton 01264 810928



Walk the Test Way is back and it's our 20th Anniversary!

We are so excited to be organising this event again this year, which will take place on the 24th September 2023 so make sure you save the date!

Last year over 300 walkers raised just over £43,000 for 63 charities. Amazing!!

The Test Way is constantly rated one of the top 10 walks in this area and each year this event draws interest from many groups from families to schools, Scout packs to charities and businesses, all walking and raising funds for their chosen charity. Who will you choose?

So how do I sign up? Please visit:
www.walkthetestway.org.uk/register and check out our blog "How do I take part in the Walk the Test Way". All the information you need is there.

Registration opens on the 21st May 2023
See Special Earlybird Offer



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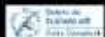
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Sacred Mountains



Mountains have always been regarded as a source of inspiration, solace and spirituality.

Seen as paradises - heavens on earth - the mystery and physical majesty of mountains befit holy places, significant for both the major religions of the world and local tribal or

cultural beliefs. Even back in ancient Greece, Mount Olympus was the fortress of Zeus, king of the gods who struck down enemies with bolts of lightning.

According to the book of Genesis, Noah's ark finally came to rest on the slopes of Mount Ararat, located in a mountainous region that covers modern-day Turkey and Iran. Moses received the Ten Commandments while communing with God on Mount Sinai in Egypt and Mount Tabor, in northern Israel, is believed to be the site of the Transfiguration of Jesus.

Orthodox Christian monks refer to the sacred peninsula of Mount Athos in Greece as the 'Garden of the Mother of God'.

The Islamic prophet, Mohammad, claimed he received many of the revelations in the Quran while in a cave on the slopes of the mountain Jabal al-Nour, near Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

Mount Kailash in Tibet is home to Hindu's Lord Shiva and is considered so holy by Tibetans that no one has ever been allowed to climb to its summit; seekers of enlightenment circle the mountain's base.

In the ancient practice of Shinto, Japan's Mount Fuji (above) is regarded as sacred, being the incarnation of the Earth spirit and home to Goddess Sengen Sema.

Mount Kenya is important to the local Kikuyu people, believed to be the realm of their god, Ngai. Traditionally, Kikuyu homes were built to face Kirinyaga, another name for the mountain, meaning 'place of light.'

The Maori believe themselves descended from ancestors who came to New Zealand in legendary canoes and went ashore to freeze into the mountains seen there today.

Others worship mountain spirits to ask for blessings, protection for the dead or for the boon of fertility. Rituals such as fire festivals, spiritual healings and other ceremonies are held atop mountain peaks.

Associations between people across the world and 'their' mountains are legion. The names given to so many of our mountains convey reverence and symbolism for the day-to-day and spiritual lives of the people who dwell within their aura. Our mountains are indeed wondrous and precious.

Thea Taylor

The swifts have arrived . . .



The swifts arrived early in Stockbridge this year, on 28th April, but as the weather has been cold they have not always been very visible or audible.

However, today, as I write (20th May) the sun is out, it is warm and the swifts are having a wonderful time. Wheeling, circling, soaring high and making that amazing screeching sound together. I recently spoke to a couple in the High Street who were admiring the swifts flying over. They lived in Sussex and they said that they had seen neither a swift nor a swallow this year so they were delighted to see ours.

As regards the Winchester Cathedral peregrines, sadly only one of the 4 eggs hatched. However, the one that did is growing by the day - it started off so tiny and now the mother, Winnie, cannot cover her offspring to keep it warm. Of course it doesn't have to compete with others for the food its parents bring in, so no wonder it is growing so fast. When I was outside the north side of the Cathedral recently, I could hear one of the adult peregrines calling - it's a very loud, raucous cry almost like a scream. How lucky we are to have such birdlife on our doorsteps.

Jean Boney

Gabe's, 'The News Depot', Stockbridge



Today, this shop trades as 'Robjents', the fly fishing and shooting shop.

The photo was taken in the year 1915, when according to the news sheets on display outside the shop, the lead article would have been the 1915 Mutiny of the 5th Light Infantry, which involved up to half of a regiment of 850 Indian Muslim sepoy against the British in Singapore during the First World War.

The outcome, after being quelled by British forces and Allied naval detachments, more than 205 sepoy were tried by court-martial, and 47 were publicly executed.

Geoff Merritt

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Stockbridge Music Review

Stockbridge Music once again struck musical gold on May 5th. The capacity audience was treated to an exquisite performance by countertenor, Alexander Chance, and lutenist, Toby Carr, of songs dating back to the flowering of the English Renaissance.

Timed to coincide with the release of their new album, *Drop not, mine eyes*, these talented and personable young artists presented a programme that encompassed the music of the 16th century 'English Orpheus' (John Dowland) through to that of the 'Orpheus Britannicus' (Henry Purcell) a hundred years later.



Alexander Chance and Toby Carr in rehearsal.

Chance's silky and resonant timbre beautifully matched Carr's sensitive and expressive accompaniment, and it was a joy to hear these songs performed exactly as they would have been all those centuries ago. One audience member admitted she had been sceptical about a whole evening of countertenor and lute but she was entirely won over by the duo, as indeed was the rest of the audience, whose rapturous applause at the end filled the church for several minutes.

Karen Malim

News from Test Valley BC



Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) is launching an exciting new programme to promote and develop community energy projects across the Test Valley as a way of helping its parishes and communities reach net zero. It is partnering with Community Energy South (CES) and local community energy group, Dragonfly Power, to deliver a two-year initiative funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund as part of a borough-wide programme to help communities and businesses to decarbonise.

Community energy is about people coming together to generate low-carbon heat and power and reduce energy use. It involves developing community-owned renewables - such as solar panels on the rooftops of community buildings - and supporting local households in reducing their energy use as a route to developing lower carbon communities.

In addition to supporting Dragonfly Power to develop a portfolio of community-owned solar projects across the Test Valley, CES will work with communities to develop a network of trained 'community energy champions' who will deliver energy support and advice to householders. These energy champions can set households on the pathway to reducing household energy costs and improving energy efficiency.

To kickstart the project, a launch event is being held at **Stockbridge Town Hall (Hurford Hall) on Tuesday 13 June at 6pm**, which is an opportunity to find out more about this exciting programme and how communities can get involved.

Further information at testvalley@communityenergysouth.org



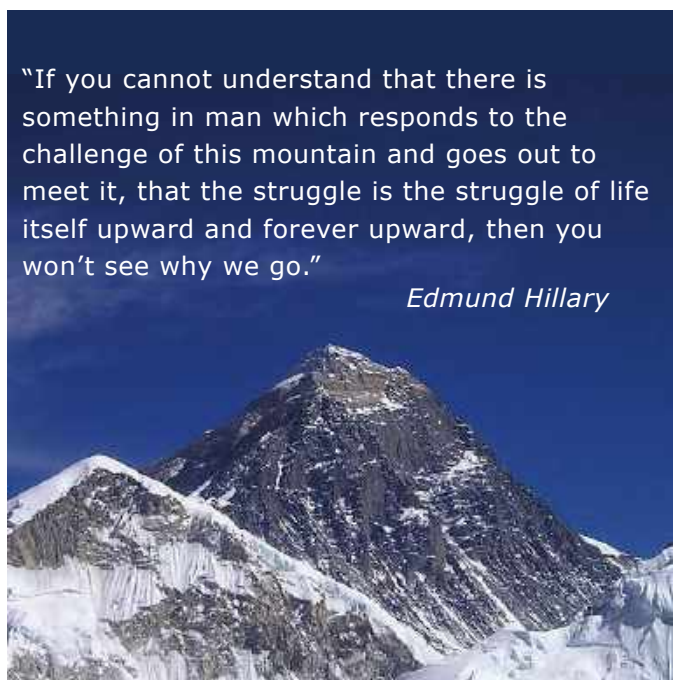
Stockbridge Primary and Pre-school

Bag2School Result

Stockbridge Primary and Preschool ran another Bag2School initiative recently. There was an excellent uptake from both the local community and the school families. We collected 581 kilos and made a fantastic £290.50 for the school! Over 50% of the collections this time will be going to Ukraine and a van load of our donations left for Ukraine that very same day. So, a HUGE thank you from all at Stockbridge School for supporting this very worthy cause, and for helping us raise money for the school. We are so grateful to be part of this generous and caring community.

Look out for the next Bag2School in the Autumn.

Thanks again,
Friends of Stockbridge School (FOSS)



"If you cannot understand that there is something in man which responds to the challenge of this mountain and goes out to meet it, that the struggle is the struggle of life itself upward and forever upward, then you won't see why we go."

Edmund Hillary

The Conquest of Everest



It is exactly 70 years since Mount Everest was conquered for the very first time. There had been several previously unsuccessful attempts to achieve this feat. In 1922, a British expedition, led by George Mallory, made the first serious attempt to reach the summit, but failed due to a combination of bad weather and difficult terrain. In 1924,



George Mallory

Mallory and his climbing partner Andrew Irvine made a bold attempt to reach the summit of Mount Everest without supplemental oxygen or the aid of Sherpa guides. The pair set out from their high-altitude camp on June 8, 1924, and were last seen by other members of the expedition team on June 9, as they made their way toward the summit.

Mallory and Irvine were never seen alive again. It is not known for certain what happened to them, but it is believed that they may have fallen to their deaths somewhere high on the mountain. The exact location of their remains was unknown for decades until an expedition in 1999 discovered Mallory's body on the mountain's north face.

Mallory's attempt on Everest was significant because it was one of the earliest and most daring attempts to climb the world's highest peak. It also became the subject of much speculation and myth, due to the mystery surrounding Mallory and Irvine's disappearance and the possibility that they may have successfully reached the summit before their deaths. Mallory's famous response to the question of why he wanted to climb Everest - 'Because it's there' - has become one of the most famous quotes in mountaineering history

The British were determined to bring every possible advantage to their spring 1953 offensive under the military-style leadership of Sir John Hunt (right). This included hiring Tenzing Norgay, who had helped a failed Swiss attempt the previous year, as their lead Sherpa. So what made this expedition different from the ones that went before? It was the result of several factors that came together in a unique way:



Experienced leadership: Sir John Hunt was an experienced mountaineer and had led successful expeditions to other peaks in the Himalayas. He assembled a team of experienced climbers and support staff, and carefully planned the expedition to minimise risks.

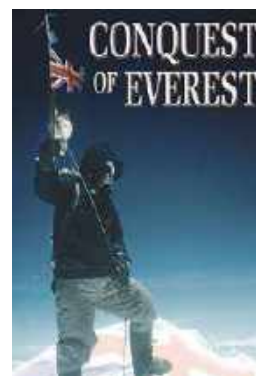
Improved equipment and supplies: The 1953 expedition had access to better equipment and supplies than previous expeditions. They used modern climbing gear, such as crampons and ice axes, and had oxygen tanks that allowed climbers to breathe in the thin air at high altitudes.

Favourable weather conditions: The 1953 expedition had unusually good weather conditions during their summit attempt. This allowed the climbers to reach the summit and descend safely without encountering the fierce storms that had plagued earlier expeditions.

Teamwork and perseverance: The climbers on the 1953 expedition worked together closely, supporting each other and sharing the workload. They also showed remarkable perseverance, continuing their ascent even when conditions were challenging.

Strategic use of local Sherpa guides: The expedition relied heavily on the expertise and support of local Sherpa guides, who are experienced in navigating the treacherous terrain of the Himalayas. The Sherpas helped to establish and maintain the high-altitude camps, and assisted the climbers in reaching the summit.

On 29 May the two selected climbers from the team, New Zealander Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, set off for the summit, reaching the highest point on Earth at 11:30am. On 2 June 1953, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was crowned. As throngs of people lined the procession route to Westminster Abbey in the rain, news rang out over a loudspeaker that the first ascent of Everest had finally been achieved on 29 May by two members of a British expedition team.



The whole expedition had been filmed in colour by Director George Lowe who personally shot much of the footage in the production which was subsequently released as a film called *Conquest of Everest*. The film was nominated for an Academy Award for best documentary. It is showing in Stockbridge Town Hall at

7.30pm on Friday 2 June - 70 years to the day that the news was received of the expedition's success. See page 4 for more details of this screening

Paul Kidd

Medical and Humanitarian Support for Ukraine

Gerald Dodson, from the Wykeham Gallery, writes:

I have joined a team crowdfunding to raise £50,000 to buy and fill at least four vehicles with medical and humanitarian aid driving to Lviv, Ukraine, in August. I am writing this article to urge you to support our venture.

Like many of us, I have been wondering how I can most effectively provide some small measure of support to the brave people of Ukraine fifteen months on from the full scale invasion. I have decided to join an existing team of like-minded individuals who have, to date, raised over £100,000. They have so far taken out two aid convoys to Ukraine including five pickups and an ambulance each full of medical and humanitarian aid.

The team includes organiser, Paul Parsons, Oleh Naida and his wife Uliana who are Ukrainian guests temporarily living in Towcester, Anthony White and Tisha Sykes. Oleh has accompanied each aid trip to Lviv and plays a vital role in liaising with Ukrainian authorities and our contacts once in Ukraine. Uliana establishes the priority needs of those we are supporting and acts as the buyer of aid. Anthony sources vehicles and Tisha, a solicitor, acts as treasurer.

Joining me driving the four vehicles out to Ukraine will be Charles Fitzroy, Charles Gosling, Alan Sinclair, Charles Smyth-Osbourne, Tim Sykes, Anthony White and Paul Parsons.



Arrival on the Polish-Ukraine border

Aid priorities change from month to month but in April the delivered aid included:

1. 3 generators and various forms of power packs;
2. 350 tourniquets;
3. 137 emergency stretchers;
4. 550 specialist blood-clotting products;
5. 300 bullet-wound chest seals;
6. more than 2,000 major trauma wound dressings;
7. 200 ration pack meals



Delivery of medical aid for men in and around Bakhmut / Avdiivka. The team with three combatants, all of whom had been injured but were returning to fight.

All personal travel costs, along with the cost of diesel for the vehicles, will be funded by those of us driving the vehicles so all of the money raised will be

used solely for the purchase of the four vehicles, here in the UK, along with the items that have been requested by our contacts in Ukraine. Once in Lviv, the vehicles and aid will be passed to our trusted volunteer network on the ground. The vehicles, which are to be used for the evacuation of wounded military personnel, will reach their final frontline and other destinations within days of our arrival in



Volunteers packing Individual First Aid Kits (IFAKs) for soldiers

Ukraine. If we are fortunate enough to be able to acquire more aid than can be taken out in this trip, we will follow it up with further trips. Our return to the UK will be by train to Krakow from where we fly home.

Should you wish to support us, to access the link to our JustGiving page please use the QR code at the bottom of the page or the email address immediately below:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ukraineaidriveaugust?utm_term=rMYgqX9YP

Should you choose to donate anonymously then please, nonetheless, think of e-mailing me to let me know that you have done so as I would like to be able to thank you and provide you with an update following the trip.

Please do let others who you think might like to support us know about our venture, and if you have already kindly donated, many thanks from all the team.

CAF - In the event that you would prefer to make a donation using a CAF cheque, please contact me for details.



One of the military cemeteries in Lviv. These are replicated in towns across the country. The graves are poignant reminders of the cost of the war.



Thank you for reading my article. I do hope you will be able to support us with a donation.

Gerald Dodson
The Wykeham Gallery
07720 844564

The photos accompanying this article were taken by Paul Parsons during the April aid delivery

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National Trust Update



Summer greetings to you all – the swifts are in, the cuckoos are calling and the Maytree is in blossom – truly, is there a better time of year to roam the English countryside? As I write this, mid May, I'm still waiting for the first Duke of Burgundy to pop out on the Down but everything is running late this year due to the cold, wet weather. However nature doesn't run 'early' or 'late' - she emerges as and when conditions allow so we must stop trying to put a time limit on her.

During my absence, our regional archaeologist and my colleague, Ryan, assessed the condition of our SAMs (Scheduled Ancient Monuments).

Stockbridge Down has a rich tapestry of archaeological features including Bronze Age burial mounds, earthworks, and the remains of an Iron Age hillfort. Fourteen of these features are classified as SAMs which are legally protected due to their historical importance. Some are suffering from vegetation increase, despite previous spraying and cutbacks, and from increased rabbit damage. NT does not currently condone any form of rabbit control and therefore other methods must be sought to try to reduce their impact on archaeology; in some cases, eviction and rabbit meshing installed across barrow entrances, although this is time-consuming and costly. In our case, we have been advised to try removing the hurdles around the worst-impacted barrows in order to allow scrub to be browsed by the livestock and thus deter rabbits from making their warrens under its cover. To this end, you will see some of the barrows without hurdles this summer. In the long run, all the hurdles might be removed but currently we look to remove those that are falling into poor condition as per the 'Heritage at Risk' register. Others remain stable and good, with no increase in rabbit activity.

Rabbits have certainly increased on the Down in the last year or more. On the one hand, we can berate them for eroding archaeology and fence lines; on the other, they are wildlife that assists the grazing of downland, alongside the cattle, keeping the sward height short in areas and allowing floristic diversity. The unpleasant myxomatosis will serve to cull their numbers at some point, as it always does when there is a population boom.

Another cause for concern has been an increase in metal detecting activity on Stockbridge Down with holes being dug and left open, turf being discarded nearby. The damage caused by this activity is significant; downland soils are particularly shallow and exposed, making them vulnerable to erosion. Many flowering species are rare and disturbing the seed bank can affect future growth and colonisation. The SAMs and the many non-designated archaeological sites across the landscape are equally vulnerable to damage from metal detecting.

We understand that metal detecting is a popular

hobby that can increase our understanding of the past and unearth finds for future generations to appreciate.

To make sure metal detecting is carried out in a safe and responsible way, we do not grant 'metal detecting licences'. We only allow metal detecting as part of a clearly-defined archaeological project supported by a Research Design that sets out, among other things, the aims of the work and arrangements for the recording, conservation and archiving of any finds. We apply these conditions to everyone, whether they're members of metal detecting clubs, amateur archaeologists, students, academics, professional archaeological companies or private individuals. We take this approach as we believe it's the best way to continue looking after the special places in our care.

It is illegal to use a metal-detector on Scheduled Monuments, without permission from Historic England and detecting is not permitted on some Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) without the permission of Natural England. Anyone searching on land without the landowner/occupier's permission is committing trespass and the removal of objects from land without permission is theft.

We know that most metal detectorists have a genuine interest in history and archaeology, and take care to report their finds, but we need to guard against finds being removed without proper recording or archaeological supervision. When finds are taken out of context, we lose a piece of the jigsaw, making it harder for us to care for our archaeology and tell the stories of our places.

Anyone seen metal detecting will be asked to leave the site and we'll take action to reclaim any finds made on National Trust land. Unauthorised metal detecting on Scheduled Monuments will be reported to the police.

If you witness anyone using a metal detector on our sites, please contact the Ranger team via the email or number below:

Tel 01794340757 mottisfont@nationaltrust.org.uk

Finally, several little birds told me of an exciting migrant seen on the marsh for several days back in April – a Black Crowned Night Heron! A species native to tropical and temperate areas of the world including the Mediterranean, an influx of these birds was seen in April, from Dorset up to St Kilda, likely due to the drought in Europe pushing them north to easier climates. Unfortunately, by the time I heard about it, the heron had gone but is one to watch for in the future as they have been known to breed in Dorset and may well be establishing a wider breeding range.

Meanwhile – happy midsummer!

Catherine Hadler, National Trust Lead Area Ranger

Out and About in Hampshire

Little Trip Out to Hythe

Hythe is an ancient settlement nestling between the New Forest and the west shore of Southampton Water. It is the perfect spot from which to watch the large cruise liners and container ships pass up the channel to the docks and shipping terminals of Southampton.



Hythe Pier Railway is the oldest pier railway in continuous use in the world. You can take a ride on the little electric train along Hythe's historic Pier, or catch the passenger ferry, which sails back and forth every half hour between Hythe and the city of Southampton.



The Hythe Ferry ('Hitheferye') first appears on maps dated 1575. The first mention of a proposed pier is in an 1844 Act of Parliament but it wasn't completed until January 1st 1881. The historic electric trains arrived in 1922 and have continued to operate ever since.



You can also take a leisurely stroll around Hythe's bustling Marina with its 'fishing village' style development or stroll round the village's Georgian High Street.

Ryan Bundy

A Visit to Terstan



Back in April, my wife Kelly, and I thought we would pop along to the Gardens Open Day at Terstan in Longstock, as we had noticed the signs for it on the Longstock crossroad the night before, and

also Penny Burnfield had posted an advert on my 'Stockbridge and anything local' Facebook group page. Penny and family have regular Open Days as part of the National Garden Scheme (NGS). Many local volunteers help with the Open Days too.

Although Kelly was working the day of the opening, she finished at 3.30pm and we had a good hour to look around the garden.

Kelly and I have been several times before to these Open Days when we can and there is always something different to see every time; it's always interesting to see the changes throughout the seasons. Gardens offer countless opportunities to get creative with our cameras and we try our best to get some nice pictures.

We started off with a nice cuppa and a slice of cake along with a chat with the family and some other friends. We could hear in the background the jazz being played by the two talented musicians who regularly play at the Terstan Open Days. We would have liked to have had more time to listen to them; we did on a previous visit and they really do play jazz music at its best.



We then set about on our amble of the garden, admiring the beautiful flower borders and shrubs which Penny and family work so hard at to keep it looking special. We took our time to try different angles and distances from which to take our photographs.

We had a very enjoyable time and once we got home, we sorted through our photos and posted our best ones to our Facebook pages. Some of those pictures can be seen here. I hope our photos give the garden the justice it deserves.

Thanks to Penny and family plus all the volunteers who put on the Open Day and, indeed, all the Open Days. Sandy Burnfield would be so proud of you keeping up what he started and for all the hard work you put in keeping the Garden maintained for everybody to enjoy. Details of Terstan's openings are included in the adjoining column.

Colin Stokes



Local National Garden Scheme - June Openings

Stockbridge Gardens

Thursday 8th and Sunday 11th June, 2pm - 5pm

Many of you will already know just four gardens will open this year in Stockbridge - we are sadly missing Herry Lawford and his enthusiastic local leadership and support for the NGS.



Little Wyke, next to the Town Hall, has a long mature town garden with mixed borders and fruit trees.

Trout Cottage is a small walled garden which will inspire those with small spaces and little time to achieve tranquillity and beauty. Its over 180 plants flower for almost ten months of the year.

The Old Rectory

has a partially walled garden with formal pond, fountain and planting near the house with a stream-side walk under trees, many climbing and shrub roses and a woodland area.



Shepherds House on Winton Hill is a country garden with herbaceous borders, a small kitchen garden and orchard, an informal pond and plenty of seating. The garden will also be hosting Julian and Louise Mitchell's magnificent plant stall.

Teas can be taken on St Peter's lawn so that the church will benefit from our visitors as well as the NGS - see page 30 for further details.

Admission: Adult - £10.00, Child - free.

Terstan, Longstock

Sunday 18th June, 2pm - 5pm



The garden at Terstan will be open this year on Sundays June 18th, July 23rd and September 10th from 2.00 to 5.00pm. Plants are for sale, there is delicious tea

and cake, live music, dogs are welcome and there is easy parking. Entrance is £5.00, children free - all profits are given to a range of Charities - please see the National Gardens Scheme website for details.

Groups of ten or more people are also welcome to visit by prior arrangement. Please contact Penny on paburnfield@gmail.com.

Longstock Park Water Garden,

Sunday 18th June, 1pm - 4pm

Famous water garden with extensive collection of aquatic and bog plants set in 7 acres of woodland with rhododendrons and azaleas. A walk through the park leads to National Collections of Buddleja and Clematis viticella; arboretum and herbaceous border at Longstock Park Nursery.



Refreshments at Longstock Park Farm Shop. Admission: Adult - £10.00, Child - £2.00

Thanks to the generosity of garden owners, volunteers and visitors the National Garden Scheme has donated over £67 million to nursing and health charities and in 2022 made an annual donation of £3.11 million. Our core beneficiaries include Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK and The Queen's Nursing Institute.

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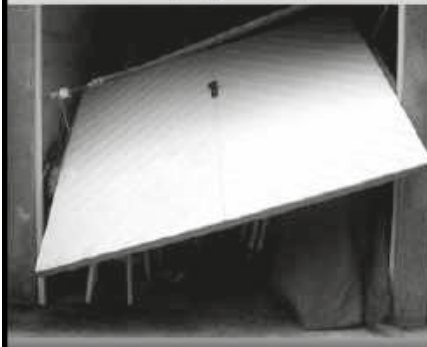
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Stockbridge Football Club News



I was standing in front of the club house last home match, with the Recreation Ground bathed in glorious early summer sun, in admiration at just how beautiful it all looks.

Honestly, sometimes it is worth taking a moment to count your blessings and our Recreation Ground truly is one. I can imagine that when Homer wrote about the Elysian Fields he was thinking of the Rec. Yes he was!

It goes without saying that the pitch and clubhouse don't look fantastic by chance. The superb condition of everything at the Rec is due to the very hard work and dedication that the Stockbridge FC committee and Recreation Ground Trust put in, year-round. We recognise the Mawson, Dance and Savage families this month with two plaques on the newly-named Mawson Stand and the Dance-Savage Clubhouse. As a club and community, we are indebted to the contribution those three families have made to Stockbridge FC and the Recreation Ground over many, many years. I'm not sure what we'd do without them. As the old blues saying goes 'You don't miss your water until your well runs dry'.

Off the pitch, unfortunately our manager, Fran Mathers, unexpectedly resigned. Fran believed he had taken the team as far as he could. Following that tough news, we have been incredibly fortunate that Rob Blandford has returned as manager, a rôle he previously held. We are delighted that Rob has chosen to lead the team and also that Jill Webb has happily agreed to become Club Secretary. We Robins stick together. With the improved weather and Rob's steadying hand, our results have been more positive of late. Sadly, we had already lost too much ground over the loss of matches in the winter, so promotion is out of reach for us this season.

So, the committee has taken some difficult decisions in preparation for next season. We will just have a First Team and no reserve team. Easier logistics and lesser impact to the pitch will all help, not to mention lower running costs. We are also looking for the First Team to have a weekly training slot on an all-weather pitch, to maintain momentum over winter.

As we start summer, we will use this time to rebuild for next season and return stronger and ready to accept the challenges of next. The Robin is a hardy breed and next season we aim to prove that.

The committee has also agreed to offer several sponsorship packages for next season, so if any

local business is interested in supporting The Robins, please get in touch with me directly and I will liaise.

The club is always happy to meet new friends so I look forward to welcoming you here soon. Even if you don't particularly like football, you can just stand at pitch side with a drink and admire this beautiful ground in this wonderful town; in that moment, I guarantee you'll know life is good. Of course it is - after all, this is sunny Stockbridge the home of the Robins! COYR!

*Bob Powell, Chair SFC
chair@stockbridgefc.com*



Text messages with links

If you have a mobile telephone number on your GP records, we may send you requests for information by text message. This may be to ask for your height and weight, smoking, blood pressure or medication/condition reviews.

The link will start with <https://patient accurx.com> and it is a secure way of transmitting data.

CHAT service

The Children's Home Acute Team or CHAT service is a small team of experienced nurses. If your child is very unwell, our team may refer you to the CHAT service which can provide home visits and telephone support to you. They can also arrange hospital admission if your child's condition worsens.

Appointments

For our April meeting, the Patient Participation Group asked for information on the number of appointments provided by the surgery in March 2023 compared with the previous year. We also provided a comparison with 2019, before the Covid pandemic:

Month/ year	Number of appointments at the surgery (face-to-face + telephone)
March 2019	3321 appointments
March 2022	4350 appointments
March 2023	4505 appointments

The number of patients registered at the surgery has only increased by 0.8% between 2019 and 2023. As a reminder, you can choose whether to have a face-to-face appointment or a telephone appointment. On some occasions, the GP will advise that you have to be seen face-to-face due to the need for examination.

Pharmacist appointments

Last month we welcomed Jane Birch-Tomlinson, Clinical Pharmacist to our team. She is qualified to prescribe and will be offering telephone appointments to patients regarding medication.

Ann Spooner



The Coronation Weekend

Saturday 6th May

The Coronation

The Coronation was shown on the Big Screen at Stockbridge Town Hall to a small but appreciative audience, enjoying coffee and cake and joining the nation in raising a glass to King Charles III and Queen Camilla.



Sunday 7th May
Coronation Big Lunch

In Stockbridge

What a lovely sun-kissed afternoon greeted over 170 local people to celebrate King Charles III being crowned the previous day. Organised by four Stockbridge residents, other volunteers delivered leaflets to every household, set up and decorated the many tables with union flag tablecloths and bunting on what was a rather sombre morning, but the sun came out in its glory in the early afternoon to make the whole day what can only be described as a perfect event. I'm sure new friends were made all round. I certainly did and it will be nice to say hello to those I didn't know before when I see them no doubt in the High Street.



I have been asked not to name the many volunteers for setting up and decorating the event as there were so many, but in addition to immense gratitude and thanks to all of them and the Town Crier, the organisers wish to thank The Trustees of the Stockbridge Recreation Ground Trust for its facilities, Stockbridge Football Club for all its help, Test Valley Borough Council for funding and the clerk of the Stockbridge Parish Council for facilitating this, the Town Hall and Church for the loan of tables and chairs, Hildon Water for supplying all the bottled water, the Co-Op for some food and drink and to those who provided the sound system and music.



I must conclude by saying that Sunday can only be described as a truly unforgettable and memorable day. Well done Stockbridge!

Stuart Mawson



In Longstock



Well, what a party that was! A huge team arrived to put up the tents on the recreation ground and the bunting was flying, all ready for Longstock's 87 children and their families.

We hope the children will remember the fun they had: games, races and tug-o-war, and a commemorative mug for every child. There were golden crowns to decorate and imaginatively crafted cakes and puddings to share, all with live music from Ruby and the Rattlers.

Then afterwards another good-hearted crowd rushed to get the tents down before the promised rain came, a trailer arrived to take it all home, the rubbish was collected – all as if by magic – what a wonderful group of people make up this village community.



Selina Musters

With Neighbours



Houghton Road neighbours were hosted by Geoff and Liz Cox



Incredibly, it is only 12 short weeks before, once again, Stockbridge hosts our local craft and food makers at the 16th Trout 'n About Festival, 10am-4pm on Sunday 6th August 2023.

This week, the TnA committee has been sifting through the hundreds of trader applications to ensure we'll have a fabulous array of local jewellers, potters, chutney makers and brewers, specially selected to make this TnA one of the best. Sadly, the stall application from Milton Keynes has been unsuccessful.

As a committee, we are also working hard towards a new focus for this year, the 'Festival Field' at the Recreation Ground, where much of the ready-to-eat food and ice cream will be situated. There will also be a stage with a variety of amazing local music acts, and interesting interviews in between, all there to entertain people of all ages throughout the festival day. Free deckchairs on the Festival Field will give our guests a well-earned sit down after checking out all the incredible stalls on the High Street. At last, somewhere to sit and enjoy a slice of pizza and glass of beer in the sunshine while tapping your feet to the summertime beat!

Of course, TnA would not be possible without the amazing support and goodwill of the residents, High Street businesses of Stockbridge and our key sponsors: TVBC, Myddelton & Major, The Co-op and the NFU, not to mention our steadfast army of event volunteers. The Trout 'n About committee would like to thank you all. By all working together we will have a fantastic TnA, a real celebration of living here in Stockbridge. And a successful TnA means we will be able to give much-needed financial support to our community causes once again.

Finally, if you would like to volunteer to help at the event, please get in touch, and if any reader knows how to guarantee sunshine on the day, don't hesitate to email us!

The Trout 'n About Committee
traders@tnastockbridge.co.uk

A tribute to our photographers

We are dependent on local people to provide us with photographs for the magazine, and we wanted to particularly thank those who record the special events which take place from time to time. Many thanks to Paul Kidd, Janet Williams, Thea Taylor and Nigel Rugman for the images on these pages, to Gareth Evans for our cover photo, and to the many others who supply photos to accompany the articles they write!

Editors

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Stockbridge Parish Council News

The community party in celebration of the King's Coronation in the Stockbridge Recreation Ground went off very successfully; even the weather played its part and cleared up for the event. The organisers would like to thank the following for the support that they received – Test Valley Borough Council, Hildon Water and the Co-op. Without this support it would be unlikely that the colourful and patriotic feel to the event would have been achieved.

The renovation of the Trout Pond has now been successfully completed. I hope you will agree that it has been much improved so as to protect this asset to the Stockbridge community for a number of years.

The round of elections for Parish and TVBC has now been completed. There was no call for election in Stockbridge and 4 Councillors retired leaving 6 to continue. This is quorate but there will be a call for co-option as per the Council's Co-Option Policy until the positions are filled. If you would like to put yourself forward for co-option please contact the Clerk (clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk). Derek Hallé was elected Chairman at the meeting on 18th May. The TVBC Councillors for Mid Test Ward have remained Conservative and changed slightly due to Tony Ward stepping down. Stockbridge PC will be looked after by Cllr Ian Jeffrey. The Council looks forward to working with him.

It is hoped that the transfer of the Lancaster House site to the Parish Council will be completed soon. The Council will be deciding how best to manage the site and how to ensure that it is made an asset to the community. Working Parties will be set up to manage the area and if you would like to be involved, please contact the Clerk.

Stockbridge PC has approached Hampshire CC to install a permanent safe crossing point between the Co-Op and the Greengrocer. Installing the crossing point will reduce the number of parking spaces that the planters take up but will ensure that less able residents can safely negotiate the parked cars to reach the island in the middle of the High Street.

Stockbridge PC was happy to take part in 'No Mow May' this year, allowing the few grassed areas and verges that the Council manages to grow naturally. HCC encourages 'No Mow May' in order to benefit wildlife and help tackle pollution. Verges may seem like small insignificant patches of greenery but they are often the only remaining semi-natural habitat in a farmed or urban landscape. Having no pesticides or fertilisers applied and not ploughed or re-seeded, makes them perfect havens for pollinating insects, butterflies and small mammals, and a feeding ground for birds. In fact, to protect and enhance Hampshire's wildlife, HCC has identified 223 Road Verges of Ecological Importance in the County which together make up 13 hectares of roadside verge habitat supporting a rich and varied

range of plants, many of which have vanished elsewhere. Careful planning of when to cut Hampshire's verges takes place every year.

HCC is asking residents to check if they need to re-register their library card. During the COVID pandemic, Hampshire Libraries automatically extended the re-registration period of all library accounts to maintain access to library services when libraries could not open. This year, on 1 June, Hampshire Libraries will revert to the usual process of requiring all users to re-register their account at least every three years. Once you re-register an expired account, you will be able to use the self-service machines to borrow items and access online and audio books using the digital library apps.

Stockbridge Parish Council will meet next at the Town Hall on the 15th June 2023.

Belinda Baker, Clerk to Stockbridge Parish Council



Rhubarb Charlotte

Rhubarb is one of my favourite vegetables; it is so versatile. I checked and, amazingly, it is a vegetable by definition. It makes great chutneys, desserts and has even become a very popular gin flavouring too. This recipe is timeless but could easily be forgotten. It's simple but delicious and one that should be in everyone's cooking vocabulary.

Serves 4-5

Ingredients

1lb/450g rhubarb sticks; washed, trimmed and cut into 1cm chunks
6oz/170g Demerara sugar
2oz/50g butter
Extra butter: approx. 1oz for greasing the dish and dotting on the top of the pudding
½ tsp ground cinnamon
4oz/115g fresh breadcrumbs; can be white or brown day-old or older bread, crusts removed.

Method

Preheat the oven to 180°C/160°C fan/gas mark 4. Mix the rhubarb with 2 oz of the sugar.

Place the remaining sugar in another bowl, mix in the breadcrumbs and cinnamon. Add the 2oz of butter and rub into the mixture.

Grease a 1½ pint ovenproof dish.

Evenly spread a quarter of the breadcrumb mixture into the bottom of the dish.

Add half of the rhubarb as the second layer.

Repeat the above two layers once more, then top with the remaining breadcrumb mixture and dot with knobs of butter.

Bake in the oven for 40-45 minutes or until the top is crisp and golden.

Lovely served with cream, ice cream, custard, crème fraiche - anything really!

Linda Hotchen

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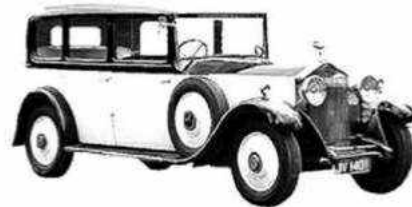
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Potting Shed Cuttings for June

'Yellow Book' gardens open this month -

With over 30 gardens open in Hampshire this month, I have included only those gardens new to the 'Yellow Book' lists:

Ladybower, Fleet; Mill House, Sherborne St John; Headley Village Gardens (12 Gardens) GU35 8PW;

Closer to home, why not visit Winchester College Gardens and St Cross Hospital Gardens?



As we count on June as the month when our borders are at their shining best, we are asking ourselves what this summer has in store for us. As I write this article in mid-May, cold north-easterly winds are still blasting across the garden and the promised warm, sunny periods are only appearing in late afternoon. My lawns are now growing like Topsy and need frequent cutting, if and when the grass has managed to dry out. By June, we will know just what plants we have lost this winter. Like many people, my ornamental grasses and penstemons have suffered and my olive tree seems to be balanced on a knife-edge between living and giving up. Container-grown clematis in exposed positions seem unlikely to recover. I have reluctantly decided I need to rethink large sections of borders, concentrating on those flowering plants which love chalk soil, possible periods of drought and tough, wet winters! Fortunately, I moved several well-loved perennials into containers last autumn, to give them some well-deserved TLC following last summer's drought and these are looking healthy and ready to replant into borders. Vegetable plants have taken a long time to grow and all have been started under glass and over heat. They are now thriving, but I have been taking it very slowly and steadily to harden them off in these tough, cold winds before planting them out this month.

General Maintenance and Preparation

Let's be optimistic about the summer and make sure shading is applied to greenhouses and doors opened to allow for good ventilation. Spray floors to increase humidity and provide good growing conditions. Mulch borders when they are already damp, to maintain moisture levels in the soil; don't do it when soil is dry. Lift any remaining spring bulbs if you need the space; dry bulbs and store them until autumn. If you have a greenhouse, move house plants to the emptied benches; they will benefit from some time in the (semi) fresh air and good light.

The Flower Garden

Tidy up early-flowering plants such as hellebores; their large, old, leathery leaves can be removed along with tired flowers. Collect seed or keep an eye open for newly-germinating plantlets over the coming month. Stake tall perennial plants as they

continue to grow vigorously and tie in climbers before they become a complete mess. If you find you have lost several perennials over the winter and have a spare corner in your garden, or room for a couple of seed trays, consider sowing some perennial seeds this month; they could save you money in the future if more plants are lost in the coming winter months. An alternative to replacing perennials this summer is to use annual bedding; the colours and varieties available now means you should be able to maintain your planting scheme with ease.

The Vegetable Garden

Celery, celeriac, runner and French beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, courgettes, marrows, squashes, winter brassicas and sweetcorn can all be planted outside this month. Sow salad crops regularly for a continuous supply and remember squashes can still be sown directly into the ground. In spite of cold, wet weather holding back planting this year, with luck there should be early peas and potatoes to harvest towards the end of the month, as well as onions sown last year.

The Fruit Garden

Blossom levels have been high this year, so we anticipate a large 'June drop' from apple and pear trees. Once this has taken place, reduce the number of remaining fruits to encourage larger-sized crops. Plums should also be thinned; branches can become overloaded and snap under the weight of a heavy crop. Pinch out the tips of vine shoots bearing fruit bunches and take out side shoots. Peg down strawberry runners to replace tired plants next year. These can be potted on when they have rooted.

The Lawn

If the current growth levels remain, regular mowing and edge trimming is essential. It is recommended that the lawn is mown in a different direction each time, to prevent the grass from growing in a certain direction, making cutting inefficient.

Finally, like all gardeners, I await the coming months in some trepidation, combined with the blind optimism which comes naturally to gardeners in this green and pleasant land!

Micki Nadal

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Ringling for the Coronation

6th, 7th & 8th May

The Coronation Weekend was a happy, slightly manic time for the local bell ringers, as we tried to 'Ring for the King' at as many of our nearby towers as possible.

Our ringing sessions started at 9am in Kings Somborne, from where we dashed to Stockbridge, to finish ringing by 10.30am so that we too could watch the service in the Abbey. We rang the *Coronation Peal* and also called changes to *Queens*; local learner, Benedict Whitehead, took part in the latter and rang beautifully – congratulations Benedict!



St Peter's Church, Stockbridge 8th May



St Peter's Church, Stockbridge 6th May

Ringling by the Longstock band took place in parallel in St Mary's, Longstock. Broughton and Crawley churches in the late afternoon ended our Coronation Day.

Sunday saw us ringing once again at Stockbridge for Sunday service, followed by a chance to peal the sweet-sounding bells in Leckford.



St Nicholas' Church, Leckford 7th May

On Monday morning, we were back in Stockbridge, where many of our wonderful improvers and learners, some of whom had worked so hard to learn to ring for this Coronation, had their chance to shine in the sun and ring for the newly-crowned King.

I was overwhelmed by the support and enthusiasm with which ringers from all our local towers were prepared to turn out at various times and places, to ring and to help less-experienced ringers. In our Winchester District of the Winchester & Portsmouth Guild of Church Bell Ringers, our ringers logged performances at practically every church with ringable bells - a magnificent undertaking repeated across Hampshire.

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Called Changes

Coronation called changes and changes to Queens and back.

- 1 Clare Thomson/ Micki Nadal (C)
- 2 Jill Fuller
- 3 Clare Thomson/Benedict Whitehead
- 4 Marion Daniell
- 5 John Chaplin
- 6 Derek Smith

Coronation called changes were preceded and followed by called changes to Queens and back, in which a 'Ring for the King' learner took part.

As a sequel to this, Sunday 14th May was 'Bell Sunday' and I would like to thank Maddie Hedley for organising and leading a wonderful, joyful service in St Peter's, Stockbridge to praise church bells.

Micki Nadal

Congratulations on a memorable achievement!

We would like to record, on behalf of the community, our many, many thanks to Micki for her longstanding commitment to nurturing her merry band of ringers and ensuring that our local church bells continue to ring out to delight us all.

Editors

The Anointing Screen



The Anointing by the Archbishop of Canterbury took place before the investiture and crowning of the King. It has historically been regarded as a moment between the Sovereign and God, with a screen canopy in place given the sanctity of the Anointing. The new screen was designed by Aidan Hart and made using both hand and digital embroidery.



The work was managed by the Royal School of Needlework at Hampton Court Palace.

The central design takes the form of a tree which includes 56 leaves representing the 56 members of the Commonwealth. The King's cypher is at the bottom of the tree, representing the Sovereign as servant of their people. The design was inspired by the stained glass sanctuary window in the Chapel Royal at St James's Palace.

The screen is three-sided, the open side facing the High Altar in Westminster Abbey. The two sides feature a much simpler design with maroon fabric and a gold, blue and red cross. Staff and students from the Royal School of Needlework and members of the

Worshipful Company of Broderers, Drapers and Weavers embroidered the individual leaves.



The tree's outline was created using digital machine embroidery. At the top of the screen is the sun, representing God, and birds including the dove of peace. The cloth is made from wool from Australia and New Zealand, woven and finished in UK mills.

Jill Goodwin

(Information from the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers and my thanks to Jane and Lisa Hunter.)

Beginning the Carolean Age



Old St Peter's Church was decorated to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. An image from the Bayeux Tapestry of William the Conqueror, William I, who was crowned in Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day in 1066, was placed by the flowers.

William I was the first king to be crowned in the abbey at a time when OSP Church was a thatched, and probably wooden, field chapel attached to the Head Minster at Kings Somborne. Stockbridge (Stocbyrig) was a borough held within the Somborn Hund. Originally introduced by the Saxons between 613 and 1017, a Hundred (Hund) had land that could sustain 100 households. When the old church was dismantled in 1865, a stone crucifix was found in a wall. The crucifix was dated to 1100 – 1150 which indicates a religious community in the borough at this time. The crucifix is on the reredos of the Lady Chapel in St Peter's Church. Stockbridge became an independent parish in 1842.

Jill Goodwin



St Mary's Longstock - STOP PRESS

The baptism of Clementine and Wilfred Foster on 21 May was a truly joyous occasion – the church filled with friends and family welcoming 2 children.

Both were really good, except one did not take well to the baptismal water – this came as something of a shock! The second baptism went without a murmur.

But all was well and the two children, helped by Godparents left the church with their baptismal candles lighting the way.



Maddie Hedley

Church News

St Mary's Longstock



The Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place on 25 April with not very many of the church electoral roll in attendance, but all the PCC were there.

The Annual Report was received and contents noted, as was the Ministry Report on the year gone by.

The result of the elections:

Churchwarden	Maddie Hedley
Churchwarden	vacant
PCC Members	Paul Hardy, Beth Oliver, Dane Oliver, Richard Robinson and Nick Sibley.

The accounts were approved and it was noted that our balances are healthy, especially for a church of our size.

Wine, fruit juice and nibbles were enjoyed at the end of the meeting.

The funeral for Margaret Taylor took place at 3pm on Friday 3 May, at St Mary's Church. Over 150 managed to squeeze into the church, such was Margaret's popularity; so many people whose lives she had touched with her care, love and service. The wake took place at Longstock Village Hall after the service, with the community providing the food for this - a splendid array of savoury finger food, sandwiches, nibbles and an amazing choice of cakes and scones. Margaret will be much missed.

St Mary's at Longstock hosted the Benefice Ascension Day service on 18 May at 7.30pm. The newly-elected PCCs were commissioned at this service, which was well attended. The rector provided the refreshments after the service.

I am sorry to report that Ada Rogers, a long-term member of the Longstock community and St Mary's Church, died on 19 April at the Countess of Brecknock Hospice. Her last few months were plagued with ill health, on top of the debilitating arthritis which Ada had suffered from since her thirties. She was indeed one of the most stoical persons I had the privilege of knowing. She always wanted to join in community events and never missed a fete or garden party. Ada was always a regular on the community bus and was a magazine deliverer until her last month. She would have loved the Magazine Celebration 'do' but sadly was in hospital. She also enjoyed a good 'gossip' and liked a good laugh.



Ada Rogers with Mary Saunders

Ada's funeral took place at St Mary's, Longstock on 24 May at 1.00pm. She was a real character who will be missed.

On 23 June at 6.00pm, all the many volunteers at the church will be invited to a 'thank you' evening in the church. Wine, beer and soft drinks will be served with a range of nibbles. Please watch out for your invitation.

There is to be a 'Tea Party' on 16 July from 3.00pm to 5.30pm, courtesy of Josie and John Eastwood. They have kindly agreed to open up their garden for this occasion. There will be an assortment of sandwiches and nibbles, cakes, tea and coffee. We will also have a raffle. A small entrance fee of £5.00 per person (£1.00 for children 14 and under) will be charged - all in aid of St Mary's Church. Please make a note of this date in your diary.

Services for June at St Mary, Longstock:

4 June	9.30am	All Age Worship
11 June	9.30am	Parish Eucharist
18 June	9.30am	Morning Worship
25 June	No Service	

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

Church News

St Peter's and Old St Peter's Stockbridge



Early May heralded the Coronation of King Charles III which, being held on a Saturday, enabled the nation to watch the whole event on television. The Archbishop of Canterbury conducted the long, beautiful service which led to the anointing of our new King. Few would have been unimpressed by the pageantry of the processions, the magnificence of Westminster Abbey and the sacred music, which the King himself had been involved in choosing. His decision to include many participators from different faiths reflected the inclusivity of the Church of England and the wider desire of the King to be a defender of all faiths. In Stockbridge, Micki and her team of bellringers participated in the 'Ring for the King', to celebrate the coronation. On Monday 8th, we heard the bells ringing again and this was part of the same initiative for new bellringers. Stockbridge is privileged to have such an active bell ringing community.

On Sunday 7th June, after the Eucharist in St Peter's, over 170 members of our Stockbridge community, including many families with children, joined in the Big Lunch, which had been superbly organised by Jean Boney and her very able team. Held on the forecourt of the football pitch pavilion in beautiful weather, the event was colourful and joyful. The children enjoyed playing on the football ground after lunch. Our thanks to all those who helped to make it such a happy event.

On 18th May, the Ascension Day Benefice service was held in St Mary's Church, Longstock. Ascension Day falls 40 days after Easter and commemorates the day that Christ rose to the Father's right hand. The evening service also included commissioning of newly-appointed members of PCC's, and thanking those members now resigning for their loyal service.

Pentecost followed ten days later on 28th May. This is the Christian Festival celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples and followers of Christ, who talked in tongues. Speaking in tongues is mentioned in the Bible in St Paul's Epistle to the Corinthians as 'a spiritual gift that a baptised person who has accepted Christ could receive from God and the Holy Spirit'. This Festival reminds us that there is an important connection between the gifts of peace and forgiveness and the influence of the Holy Spirit. We are called to follow God's reconciling presence in the world. It also represents

the very beginning of the Christian Church.

Looking ahead

The first Sunday in June is Trinity Sunday when Christians focus on the triune identity of God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This takes us into Ordinary Time in the liturgical year which lasts until Advent in November.

4th June: Teas in the Church at 3pm for those who live alone.

Thursday 8th June and Sunday 11th June:

Teas on the church lawn. This coincides with the National Gardens Scheme when several of our gardens will be open to the public.

Weekend of 24th and 25th June: Open Gardens and teas on the church lawn.

29th June: this day is our Patronal Festival, St Peter being our Patronal Saint. This annual commemoration is in honour of the martyrdom in Rome of the apostles Saint Peter and St Paul.

Coinciding with these two events, comes our Parish Gift Day. Remembering the commitment we have to supporting two churches in Stockbridge and the requirement to pay a substantial annual sum to the diocese, the PCC asks everyone to give as generously as they feel able.

Janet Williams

Open Gardens and Flower Festival 2023

I hope everyone now knows that this year's Open Gardens and Flower Festival dates are different from previous years. Open Gardens will be on the 24th and 25th June, the Flower Festival on the 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th August, and the NGS Open Gardens, when we have teas on the church lawn, will be on the 8th and 11th June. These events are the major fund raisers for our two churches.

I will be in touch with the usual flower team but we are always very happy to have new people join us – you don't have to be a Constance Spry, just have a love of flowers, a little imagination and a sense of humour. After a very successful debut last year, Alison Vialou-Clark will be organising the Open Gardens and is already contacting her team.

In these next few months, we will be doing seven afternoons of teas on the church lawns for these events. We would really welcome anyone who could help with the teas, putting up gazebos, chairs and tables, and sitting and welcoming duties in the church and gardens. Donations of cakes would be very welcome. However, if like me, your cake-making days are over, you could 'sponsor' a cake - £6 will pay for one of the homemade cakes we buy in. These events are always a great community time and we look forward to hearing from you or seeing you there. Please contact:

Angela McMeekin 810236 for Flower Festival and Teas: Alison Vialou-Clark 810351 for Open Gardens

Church News

From the Area Dean

If June is anything like May, it is going to be busy but with fewer Bank Holidays! June is the time for exams at schools and colleges – although our local schools have already completed their SATs. Please remember, and pray for, those working hard, whether it be for GCSEs, AS, A2 or University exams.

In May, we had the Coronation of King Charles III and many communities will have had street parties, church services, and other celebrations for the Coronation weekend. Being a community of God is also about being a community of love, belonging and togetherness. As we learn to see the nature of God in the face of others, our communities in turn reflect God's character to the world. So, in June, wherever you go – fêtes, BBQ's, picnics and church services – please do raise a glass, and a prayer, for our communities.

PRAYER:

Living God, you bring us together in community and teach us to love one another as you have loved us.

May we be beacons of your light in the communities in which we are set, that through truth, justice and action we may see your kingdom come upon earth, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Your Area Dean, James

Revd James Pitkin - romseyareadean@gmail.com

The Column for May

Baptisms

21 May. Clementine and Wilfred Foster were baptised at 2pm at St Mary's Church, Longstock.

Weddings

27 May. The marriage between James Parkinson and Ellie North took place at 1pm at St Peter's Church, Stockbridge.

Funerals

3 May. The funeral service for Margaret Anne Taylor took place at 3pm at St Mary's Church, Longstock, followed by burial at Longstock Cemetery.

24 May. The funeral service for Ada May Rogers took place at 1pm at St Mary's Church, Longstock. This was followed at 2.30pm by cremation at Charlton Park Crematorium.

Hampshire Downs RC Parish St Thomas More

Services are held on Sundays at 9.00am

June Services for Stockbridge, Longstock and Leckford

4th June (Trinity Sunday)

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

11th June (Trinity 1)

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

18th June (Trinity 2)

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

21st June (Wednesday)

10.00 **Old St Peter** Holy Communion

25th June

11.00 **Stockbridge** Morning Worship



Prayer for June

Lord, June has arrived so soon!
On reflection no sooner than usual,
it's just the older we get, the faster time goes.

We start this month on long evenings.
Sunshine, growing crops,
knowing we are filled with your spirit after
Pentecost.

Help us to live with love and hope,
despite the wars and tragedies which unfold.
Love for our neighbours and for ourselves
with generous hearts able to reach out to those
in need.
May the words from 1 Corinthians 13 stay in our
hearts
to guide and inspire us.
Love: It bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.

Amen



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