

The Parish Magazine for

£1

STOCKBRIDGE LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD

October 2022



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

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Please contact our Rector (see details above)

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From the Rector

Funerals

As we have watched the beautiful funeral service for Queen Elizabeth, those of us who represent the Church of England and our local churches would like you to be aware that C of E funeral services are available for everyone. Absolutely everyone, whatever their lives have brought to them. You don't have to be a Queen, neither do you have to be a churchgoer.

In the event of a bereavement, we will be there for you whether you seek a traditional service in one of our churches or a service at the crematorium, followed, if you wish, by a memorial service. If you would like a service at the graveside or even just prayers at the funeral directors' premises, all of those options are available and we will help you by carefully tailoring the words to your wishes.

It's not expensive to have a funeral or memorial service in church or to have a priest lead your service at the crematorium. But we aren't just there for a service or event - we're there for you during your period of mourning and afterwards too. Church is a community of support and hope. And if we don't know you, we will get to know you, listen to you and help you to say goodbye.

We understand that grief is a journey and hope that we can walk alongside you during your bereavement with prayer, conversation and special services to remember your loved one down the years.

The Rev'd Philip Bowden

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'A monarchy conducted with infinite wisdom and infinite benevolence is the most perfect of all possible governments' - *Ezra Stiles*. This month's footers recall some of the wise sayings of Queen Elizabeth II

From the Editorial Team

September has been a momentous month internationally, nationally and locally. It has seen the death of the longest serving monarch in British history, a queen who has earned the love and respect of her people through a life of service and duty, conducted with grace, charm, patience and sometimes gentle humour. The Queen has been steadfast through a time of enormous change and a reassurance to the many who have perhaps surprised themselves by their sense of loss.

Sadly, September has also brought a number of deaths locally. Each of those people will have lived rich lives within the community and we join family and friends in mourning their loss. On this level, we can relate to the death of the Queen as a member of a family rather than as a figurehead monarch. We honour the lives of *all* who contribute to the common good.

We now welcome a new King and a new Prime Minister. They, and all of us, face a time of global uncertainty, and political, economic and environmental challenge. Working together, remembering those virtues of service, duty and respect, and adding a little wisdom to the mix, we will pull through and look to the future with determination and optimism.

Frances Candler, Jennifer Kidd and Thea Taylor

Wherwell History Group



Friday 21 October
at 8.00pm

Roman Life around Wherwell

John Smith

Meetings are free for members, admission to non-members is £5. Please check our website at <https://www.wherwellhistory.com>

Copy for Magazine

Copy date for the November Magazine:

15 October 2022

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



THE MAGIC FLUTE (U)

Friday 14 October
7.30pm (2hrs 32min)

Prince Tamino promises the Queen of the Night that he will rescue her daughter Pamina from the enchanter Sarastro. He begins his quest, accompanied by the bird-catcher Papageno - but all is not as it seems...

David McVicar's classic production was recorded live at the Royal Opera House in 2017.

NB Ticket price for this event only £12.00 (including booking fee)

OPERATION MINCEMEAT (12A)

Wednesday 19 October
4.30pm and 7.30pm (2hrs 8min)

The remarkable true story of the elaborate plot cooked up by British intelligence in 1943 to fool Nazi Germany into thinking the allies planned to invade Greece and Sardinia, rather than their actual target, Sicily. Tickets £6.00 including £0.50 booking fee

Tickets 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



Test Villages U3A

Thursday 6 October
at 2.00pm

Chilbolton Village Hall

This month our speaker is

Chris Walker

who is a clarinet and saxophone player and will be talking about early American music . . . aided by his clarinet

For further information please see u3asites.org.uk/test-villages/home

To join Test Villages U3A please email tvu3amembership@gmail.com

Stockbridge Town Hall Events



Weekly

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

This Month

Oct 3-5	Jennifer Gay Alpaca
Oct 7-16	Hampshire Artists Co-operative
Oct 14	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Oct 17-19	Capital Cashmere
Oct 19	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Oct 20	U3A
Oct 20	Stockbridge Parish Council
Oct 21-22	Cocoon
Oct 21	S&L Ukraine Support
Oct 24-26	Wild Bazaar
Oct 25	Longstock & Leckford WI
Oct 28	South Central Makers
Oct 29-30	Antiques & Curios
Oct 29-30	Hawkmoor Books
Oct 31	Wild Bazaar



LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD WI

**Tuesday 25 October at 6.15pm
in Stockbridge Town Hall**

'Climate Change'

A talk by Richard Murphy

*Visitors very welcome but please phone
President Sue Hill on 811779
as numbers of guests may be limited.*

Ukraine and UK Support Save the Date - 21st October

There have been some important recent developments in Ukraine and UK support for Ukrainians. Stockbridge & Longstock Homes for Ukraine will be holding a public meeting on 21st of October at 6:30pm in the Town Hall to hear about these changes and discuss what they mean for Stockbridge.

Look out for flyers, posters and social media for more 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.



Houghton WI

Monday 17 October at 10am
Houghton Village Hall

Help for Heroes John Carpenter

Visitors welcome
Further information from
Jane Anderton 01264 810928



Longstock Garden Club

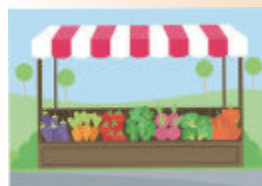
*The friendly garden club for the Test Valley area
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Philippa Bensley (ex Hilliers)

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Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society's

Curtain Calls...

Come and be entertained by readings and performances from plays, poems and novels - and often songs - around the theme of...

Gardens

Tuesday 4th October at 7.30pm
Stockbridge Town Hall

You don't have to be a member of SADS to come along, (but we'd love it if you'd join). We're 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

See Page 9 for further information

Big Band Buffet returns to Test Valley School



**Saturday 29 Oct
11.00am - 3.00pm
for residents over the age of 55**

Test Valley Borough Council's Big Band Buffet event will return once again with the chance to enjoy an afternoon full of live music, a great place to meet your friends and an opportunity to mingle with new people.

The event features the Clive Fortune Big Band who perform an enchanting repertoire of big band classics and jazz standards, with contemporary hits thrown into the mix. In addition, there will be a number of speakers from various organisations including the Police, Fire Service, Southern Electricity Networks and Southern Water. They will offer advice on staying safe and where to get help with utility bills in recognition of the cost of living increases this winter.

Community and Leisure portfolio holder, Councillor David Drew, said: "It is great that this fantastic event is back for 2022! It is a really enjoyable day that combines live musical entertainment with important community support and information sharing."

The Big Band Buffet is a free event but you will need to apply for a ticket which will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis. There will also be a free raffle with prizes including the chance to win a £30 voucher to spend on the High Street.

To book a place, or for more information, contact 01264 368840 or email: Community&Leisure@testvalley.gov.uk

Stock-U

Insert the numbers 1-9 in each row and column using each number only once.

5	8				7		4
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2	5	8					
9		4				7	6



Remembering Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

From the Diocese of Winchester

The whole nation has been saddened by the death of Her Majesty the Queen. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Royal Family as they mourn her death. Queen Elizabeth's unswerving faith and commitment to Christ were the foundation of her life and she was an example to us all. During her reign our nation experienced a period of unprecedented global change and development and through it all she served with grace and dignity. This nation has been blessed to have her as our Queen and, though we mourn alongside her family, we also rejoice in the hope of resurrection through the Lord she served. We give thanks also for the accession of her successor, King Charles.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Debbie, Bishop David, Richard Brand, Gary Philbrick, Colin Harbidge, Catherine Ogle, Mark Collinson, Philip Krinks

(An extract from the Diocesan letter of 8 September)

The Queen: Some Personal Recollections

Liz Cox has kindly sent her personal recollections of the Queen and the Royal family

My father was born in Cumberland Lodge which is part of the Windsor Estate as his father had been Head Stud Groom to Queen Victoria. My father went to the school in the park and alongside the school is the Chapel Royal. My sister and I were christened in the Chapel by a Bishop; I'm not sure which one it was but I think it was the Bishop of London.

The school flourished under the headmaster, Mr Hubert Tanner, and every year, during the summer, there was a service in the Chapel and all those with connections to the school over the years were duly invited. Quite often, members of the Royal Family including the Queen, the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret attended the service and the tea in the school grounds afterwards. On one such occasion, the Queen was walking around chatting with the crowd and was very close to where my sister and mother were standing. After Mr Tanner died, his widow was given a grace-and-favour cottage within the grounds of the Estate and on many occasions the Queen Mother would simply drop in to see Mrs Tanner and have a chat and a cup of tea.

I am not sure if this gathering still takes place as some of those involved with the old school have sadly passed on. It was always a lovely occasion.

Princess Elizabeth in Kenya

Harry Vialou Clark was a school boy in Kenya at the time of Princess Elizabeth's tour of Kenya with her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh.

Six months before their well-known stay at Tree Tops, the eleven-year-old Harry had visited the then innovatory eco-lodge. He remembers climbing the tree behind the hotel and collecting two leaves from the topmost branch, which he still has, safe in a photograph album alongside this photograph, taken in June 1951.



This photograph of Princess Elizabeth being driven through Nairobi was taken in February 1952.

Prayer for the Late Queen Elizabeth II

O Lord our Heavenly Father, Almighty and Everlasting God, by whom kings reign and princes decree justice: We remember before thee our late Sovereign Lady QUEEN ELIZABETH, in thankfulness for the blessings which thou hast bestowed upon us by her reign; for the example she set of unwearied devotion to duty; for her steadfast courage; and for the love and loyalty borne to her by a great family of peoples in all parts of the world. And we beseech thee to give us grace that, having these thy mercies in remembrance, we may with one heart and one mind set forward the welfare of this land, and hasten the coming of thy kingdom of peace and goodwill among men; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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I hope you all enjoyed the amazing Ukrainian recipes in the last issue!

With all the worries over the cost of living and energy, I have decided there is no better time to start promoting good healthy food easily cooked from basic ingredients. I also hope to develop some one-pot recipes for the coming months that are both warming but also energy efficient.

But for now, it's almost Hallowe'en so I thought we could do with a hearty soup as a post-"trick or treat" supper.

Moroccan Vegetable Soup

Serves 4

Ingredients

- 15ml / 1tbsp olive or sunflower oil
- 15g / ½ oz butter
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 225g / 8oz carrots, chopped
- 225g / 8oz parsnips, chopped
- 225g / 8oz pumpkin or squash, outer skin and seeds removed, chopped.
- Pinch of dried chilli flakes
- 1 litre / 1½ pints of vegetable stock (Marigold bouillon powder is very good)
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- Lemon juice to taste

For the garnish

- 7.5ml / 1½ tsp olive oil
- ½ garlic clove, finely chopped
- 45ml / 3tbsp fresh parsley and coriander mixed together
- A good pinch of paprika

Method

Heat the oil and butter in a large pan and fry the onion for about 3 minutes until softened, stirring occasionally. Add the carrots and the parsnips, stir well, cover and cook over a gentle heat for a further 5 minutes. Add the pumpkin and re-cover the pan, cooking for a further 5 minutes, then add the stock and seasoning and bring to the boil. Turn down the heat, cover and simmer for 35 – 40 minutes until the vegetables are tender.

Allow the soup to cool slightly then carefully pour into a food processor or use a hand processor to puree until smooth. If the soup is too thick at this point add a little more water. Pour it back into the pan and reheat gently.

To make the garnish, heat the oil in a small pan and fry the garlic and the herbs for 1-2 minutes, then add the paprika and stir well.

Check your soup for seasoning, adding any if appropriate. Add the lemon juice at this point, again to taste, and then pour into bowls and spoon a little of the garnish on top of each.

Serve it with chunks of warmed bread.

Tip

It is extremely hard to peel a squash or pumpkin using a potato peeler or similar. The simplest way to do this is to cut the whole pumpkin in half and then again into large wedges. Stand a wedge on its side and then, with a sharp knife, cut the skin away from top to bottom. This is also a good method for sweet potatoes.

Linda Hotchen

SADS Curtain Call Meetings Restarting

A unique feature of Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society is its monthly Curtain Call meetings. These happen once a month, usually the first Tuesday of the month from October through to April at 7:30pm in the Town Hall. Although the format varies, they typically comprise readings and songs by members of the society on a theme. Anyone is welcome, not just SADS members, and we only ask £1 to cover coffee costs.

We held Curtain Call meetings last year but deliberately kept them low-key because of Covid considerations. This year, we plan to return to normal and encourage anyone who is interested to come. The first meeting will be on Tuesday October 4th on the theme of 'Gardens' - something close to the heart of many Stockbridge residents.

The November Curtain Call will be on the 1st November. The first half will be a dramatised reading for 2 voices from *Ampersand*, a newly-published book in which poet, Lydia Fulleylove, responds in verse to extracts from her mother, Eve's, wartime diaries. Eve will be remembered by many as a Stockbridge resident and long-standing and very active member of SADS, both as a director and actress. Less well known is that, in her early twenties, she served in the WAAF monitoring incoming enemy aircraft and missiles from various locations on the south coast. The diary extracts are short, lyrical, touching and sometimes humorous commentaries on her experiences of that time. Lydia's poems, written in response, create a fascinating dialogue between past and present - a posthumous conversation between mother and daughter. The second half of the evening, 'Generations', follows on naturally from this with extracts from poetry, plays and prose which shed a light on family relationships in all their variety.

Mark Frank

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Stockbridge Primary and Pre-School News

We are only 9 days into our new term and things are already speeding along! After a long, hot summer, we welcome the return of routine and rigour but the last 2 weeks have been anything but normal for us. We have welcomed a full cohort of 20 children back into school in Year R, and Year 5 have already attended their 'residential' for this year at Calshot activity centre for 3 days. We have also made home visits for many of our new pre-schoolers, finished the refurbishment of our Early Years area, which is now drastically different and very exciting, and we're about to erect new sheds for storage (I seem to have lived and breathed 'shed talk' this summer!!).



Calshot activity centre is the third opportunity (of four) our children have to undertake a residential trip whilst in our school. Unlike many other schools, we begin our residential programme in Year 3 so that children have a gradual and smooth build-up of time away from home and opportunities to experience a range of different sports and activities that they might not otherwise have the chance to do.

Year 3's camp on our school field for one night. Stupidly a few years ago, we chose the longest day of the year – we haven't made that mistake since! They learn how to pitch tents, keep their kit safe and dry and keep a fire going all night. The obligatory campfire songs and marshmallow burning happen and then it's a quick teethbrush and bedtime. As part of our forest school curriculum, children each year from pre-school add at least 3 new campfire songs to their repertoire and these are detailed in our forest school planning. I wonder how many campfire songs you might remember from your youth?

Year 4s visit Tile Barn in the New Forest – 1 night away, as for the campout, but somewhere unfamiliar and this time in a dormitory to prepare them for Years 5 and 6 'residentials'. This is action-packed with a walk in the New Forest – last year we followed deer tracks and spotted all sorts of flora and fauna. We also climb, do problem solving



and low ropes as well as cooking our own supper and orienteering. By this point, children are usually 'chomping at the bit' to get to Calshot, especially if they have bigger brothers or sisters who have been before.

If you've never been, Calshot is a great centre with introductory versions of most activities so that

those who are less confident can build this confidence and those who may have tried, say skiing, can be equally challenged on the 'bigger' versions. Skiing, climbing, archery, kayaking, tunnelling and sailing are all on offer and children fall into bed late in the evening (we try for early but never quite manage it!). This year, children were really challenged by some of the activities and



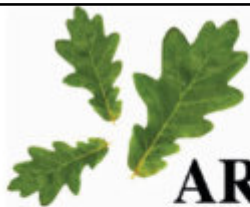
found new resilience and determination they didn't know they had. Overcoming fears, pushing boundaries, and finding out what makes each and every team member tick will stand them in great stead for this year's learning as they are now in the upper school.

Year 6 are off to Brecon for caving, canoeing, climbing a mountain, climbing in a quarry and waterfall walking; probably away in the week that this newsletter hits your doormats, and we have everything crossed for good weather although we've had rain, hail, snow and sunshine in the past – no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothes!!!

Oooh, it's good to be back!

Emma Jefferies
Headteacher





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Stockbridge Down and Marsh - National Trust Ranger's Report

It has been a very busy summer with lots of visitors enjoying the Down and the Marsh.

A really good summer for butterflies and butterfly enthusiasts over the summer, the Down offers habitat to 40 species of butterfly. Many visitors to the Down this summer have commented on the increased numbers of Common Blues. Other species spotted were Marbled Whites, Dark Green Fritillaries, Grizzled and Dingy Skippers and Small Copper.

On the morning of 12 August, six Silver-spotted Skippers were spotted at Stockbridge Down. One of the transects (Butterfly Counts) in August picked up 500+ Chalk Hill Blues.

We are currently working on our winter work programme that will include some scrub clearance on the Down. More detail later.

The slopes and hedgerows of Stockbridge Down are scattered with blossoming flowers in spring and summer. We carry out conservation grazing here using both commoner-owned cattle and our own flock of Wiltshire Horn sheep. Grazing helps prevent scrub and dominant grasses from taking over the chalk grassland areas. The result is a landscape rich in different plant species - a haven for butterflies like the Silver-spotted Skipper

Our sheep graze the western slopes, separated from the cattle by a strip of yew woodland. The sheep are looked after by our Rangers and a community of volunteer 'sheep lookers' - vital to our conservation grazing practices. These volunteers check the flock daily and report any issues such as injury or illness to the rangers.

Being part of the local community, they also help spread the word about why we graze, and act as ambassadors for the management of the site.



Stockbridge Down sees a high number of dog walkers, so our sheep lookers can help inform these visitors about our sheep grazing, to help avoid incidents.

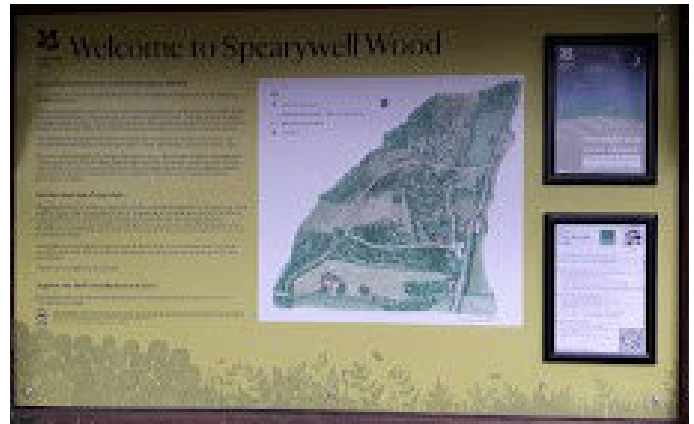


A couple of sheep recently have got small cuts and scratches from the brambles. Our fantastic sheep lookers phoned and emailed the Ranger team to inform

them. A ranger attends and uses purple disinfectant spray to clean the cuts and also to identify the sheep for all lookers.

Signage review

Jenny, our Visitor Experience Officer, is working with our Rangers to create and install consistent National Trust messages through signage at each of our sites. Below is the new signage Jenny had made for Spearywell Wood in Mottisfont. Jenny visited Rockford and Hightown in the New Forest, Stockbridge Down and Marsh, reviewing what is currently in place and what is required to deliver consistent branding for our visitors.



In the next couple of months, you will see new signage that will deliver clearer, more consistent information to visitors.

The small circular fences which surround thirteen 4,000-year-old tumuli (burial mounds), which are Scheduled Ancient Monuments dating from the Bronze Age, have been surveyed by a National Trust archaeologist. We will be meeting with the team later this month to discuss their findings and what works we may need to do in order to continue protecting these features.

We believe there has been an increase in metal detecting activity on the Down . . .

It is National Trust policy that no unauthorised metal detecting or drone-flying is carried out on any of our sites. If you do see this, please report it to National Trust Mottisfont - 01794340757

The Marsh provided a great picnic spot for visitors throughout the summer. On my visits there, I saw lots of happy dogs who welcomed the opportunity to cool down in the river using the two access points we have provided.

Engaging with the visitors on the Marsh, I was pleased to hear generally the amount of litter and dog poo bags seems to be reducing. Certainly, on every visit I make, and the litter pick I conduct, the amount to collect is minimal compared with our other sites.

Rick Coleman, Ranger
Richard.coleman@nationaltrust.org.uk

Herry Lawford

Hereward Michael Patrick Lawford – Herry to all who knew him – died on September 8th aged 77 following a long illness borne stoically and without complaint. Having arrived in Stockbridge only in 2012, he was sadly in our midst for all too short a time. Many with distinguished careers behind them arrive to spend happily the closing chapters of their lives here, with the first 65 years or so of their professional lives remaining obscure until much later. Herry Lawford, a leading name in the world of marine insurance, was a fine example of that breed.



Having graduated from university in 1967 with a law degree, he had a brief spell in the army (and in the SAS, no less), passing out as their best recruit in 1970. He then, perhaps wisely, abandoned his intention of becoming a barrister after a chance meeting with a partner in Thomas Miller & Son, a leading firm of mutual insurance managers, which he joined. He was made a partner in 1982 and was chairman and effective owner of Thomas Miller from 1998 to 2006. He found time to serve as a visiting professor at Shanghai Maritime University and, once back in the UK from the far east, became a member of the City Disputes Panel. When 2 years ago the over-optimistic pilot of an over-large cargo vessel contrived to get it jammed solid astride the Suez Canal, blocking all commercial traffic for some while, Herry spent much happy phone time advising (a) how to push it out of the way, and (b) advising as to issues of legal and maritime insurance liabilities flowing from the accident. He found himself truly back in his element, like an elderly warhorse scenting old battlefields.

Following retirement, other interests took over. He had a natural instinct for gardens and a considerable talent for garden design, as his re-creation of the garden at Old Swan House showed. He was an active member in and away from Stockbridge in the National Gardens Scheme, and did much to encourage their cause. But he had one talent above all others, that for cultivating and creating, not merely gardens, but lasting friendships. When in 2011 Sandy Lane died and Eve left Old Swan House, we found ourselves as close next-door occupiers of a building built as a coaching inn in the fifteenth century and remaining as a single unit until divided in 1850, but with the top floor still running the full width of both

houses. There was some anxiety as to who our future close neighbours might be.

Anxiety disappeared with Herry's arrival, and we became firm friends. At one of his early sessions in Winchester hospital, before visiting him I asked if he'd like anything in particular. Yes, he said, I'd love a Robinson's pork pie. I asked if it would be all right for me just to hand it over, and he replied, 'No of course not. You've got to get it past Matron. She's quite tough about that sort of thing. But the food's frightful.' Matron duly pointed out Herry's bed and fixed me with an unfriendly eye. She clearly knew I was up to no good. Fortunately, as I was wondering how to pass across the contraband pie, at that moment someone loudly dropped a bedpan and with Matron's attention distracted, I was able to slip the pie under his duvet cover. On a much later visit by Herry, he reported that both the matron and the diet had changed.

One is left reflecting that the poet who wrote, 'There's nothing worth the wear of winning but laughter and the love of friends' could have had Herry in mind. We shall all miss the fun of his friendship very much.

Guy Boney

Herry commissioned his bust (pictured left) from a local sculptor, Adam Roud. It was rough sculpted in clay, and cast in bronze at Sculpture Castings in Basingstoke using the 'lost wax' process. It was then 'chased' into its final form and polished. Herry was fascinated by the process and delighted with the finished result.

Editors: It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Herry Lawford. Herry was a great friend to us, as he was to so many, contributing articles and taking photographs of local events which he was always pleased to share with the magazine. He will be much missed.

Frances, Jennifer and Thea

Letters

Jim Gubb

I would like to thank all those very kind people who attended the funeral of my dear husband, Jim, on Thursday, 8th September and made the service in St Peter's Church so special. It was a desperately sad time for my family and for me but there was such a tangible feeling of love during the celebration! Many people have contacted me to say how moved they were by this beautiful occasion. I feel this happened because God used the day to draw us all together.

Thank you,
Sonia

Re-Painting the Town Hall

Most of you will have seen the scaffolding covering the Town Hall. The prime reason has been exterior repainting. It has been ten years since this was last done and the building's exterior was definitely in need of a bit of love and care. With the scaffolding up, a full inspection of the building was possible and, as expected, a number of other jobs emerged, notably on the roof, clock and copula.

The scaffolding was erected by Chapple Scaffolding from Amesbury. It proved to be a complex task since full access to the clock and copula was required. It took them a week to put up and accounts for almost half the cost of the painting contract.



The repainting has been done by Mark Ayers Decorating from Grateley. It's taken two of them, Mark and Matt, two weeks to finish the job and, by and large, we have been pretty lucky with the weather. The work included some replacing of rotten woodwork, re-pointing around some windows and a lot of general tidying up which has been tackled with considerable efficiency and goodwill. We have kept the same colour scheme - green metalwork and white woodwork - and it is once again looking very smart. The finale has been the re-gilding of the trout and weather vane. The trout is really quite large (35 inches from nose to tail) and heavy, though you wouldn't think so when viewing from the street. It took about £500 of gold leaf to finish the job. Much the same as last time!



The clock is a mix of old and new. The face, hands and some of the mechanism are old but it has been driven by a modern electric motor with electronic timing for some time now. Some may have noticed for the last year or so that, when the minute-hand was moving downwards (from XII to VI), it gained a couple of minutes, and then was accurate again going upwards (from VI to XII). This was diagnosed as being due to wear in the mechanism, with the weight of the minute-hand causing it to fall slightly forward during downward travel. With the scaffolding in place, it has been possible to remove the hands and sort out the mechanism, so all is now well. This work was done by Paul Kilburn from Smith of Derby. Paul knows our clock well as he has now serviced it for well over ten years.

The roof was last given a serious work-over ten years ago and its current state was therefore much more of an unknown. We were pleased to find that it was in pretty good condition. There were two main areas where work was needed. The ridge tiles on the southwest corner badly needed re-pointing. The mortar erosion that had taken place (tiles were re-bedded ten years ago) was a salutary reminder of the exposure of this corner of the Hall to the prevailing weather. There were also some slipped slates in this area. The other problem zone is the northeast section of the roof. The beams in this area have sagged, I imagine a couple of centuries ago, so that the roof is not flat but concave. The slates don't lie happily under these conditions and quite a few had worked loose. Repairs have been effected by Lesley Stevens of Roofing First who has done a very workmanlike job. We trust that the Town Hall is now good for another ten years of British weather.

Kim Candler



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Flu and COVID vaccinations

We are just seeking confirmation that we will be able to obtain sufficient supplies of the Covid vaccination for our planned clinics to go ahead:

- Saturday 1 October – over 75s will be prioritised
- Saturday 15 October
- Week beginning Monday 17 October – all week.

All clinics will be at our Broughton site.

We will be inviting patients who have a mobile telephone by text message. Please book your appointment online if possible. We will also be undertaking home visits for our housebound patients during the first week of October and will be in contact regarding days and times.

Starting at Boarding School or University this Autumn?

It is important that you register with a GP where you will be living for the majority of the time. During holiday time, you can still contact your registered GP where you attend school or university via the telephone or electronically. Prescriptions can be sent electronically to local pharmacies if required (from GP surgeries within England). Any referrals to hospital will need to be done by your permanent GP practice. If you have a new illness when you are back at home during the holidays, you can register with Stockbridge Practice as a temporary resident so we can provide urgent care for you.

Firearms applications

Please ensure you allow sufficient time when making firearms applications. For new applications, the GP has to check the whole of your medical record and, for renewals, the last 10 years of records must be checked. This is a time-consuming process and therefore we advise that we will take 4 weeks to process these applications.

Continuity

We know from the recent national GP survey that often patients are not able to see their preferred GP. If you have recently consulted a GP regarding an illness or symptoms, please ask to see or speak to this GP again. This may mean waiting a little longer. GP appointments can be booked online now. If you are only able to book a telephone appointment but wanted to be seen face-to-face, please telephone our reception team who can amend this for you.

Staff Changes

We are sorry to say that Amanda Ridgley, our Social Prescriber, will be leaving us. We welcome Dr Iain McCrone to the Practice from the start of September. He will be a long-term locum with us providing cover at least until the end of the year. We also have two new GP trainees with us; Dr Franco Cocca and Dr Emma Baskerville.

Ann Spooner

Due to the sad death of Her Majesty the Queen, Stockbridge Parish Council did not meet in September. The Council was due to meet on 15th, which was in the middle of the mourning period. Advice from Hampshire Association of Local Councils made it clear that a Council meeting could not be properly advertised and therefore not properly constituted if it took place within the period of public mourning. The Council also felt it was proper out of respect to the late Queen not to hold the meeting. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 20th October 2022.

The Lengthsman has been tasked with improving the benches down the High Street, which involves rubbing them down and re-varnishing them. It has often proved easier to do this away from the High Street so you may have noticed one or two of the benches disappearing. He has done an excellent job on the bench by the Fire Station.

The Council understands that disappointment has been expressed regarding the debris still evident from Storm Eunice at Winton Hill cemetery. The Council shares that view but was hoping to get the branches and debris removed at an inexpensive rate. Councillor Foord had put forward a proposal which would have been very helpful but unfortunately for various reasons it has not been possible for it to take place. The Council is therefore asking the Lengthsman to remove the debris and make safe the damaged branches. The problem should be sorted out very soon. It is also likely that the cemetery gates will be repaired locally. Fortunately, one of the finials of the cast iron gate, which had been knocked off by the falling trees, can be re-attached. The gates are an impressive entrance to the cemetery so it would be a shame if they were not complete.

Test Valley Borough Council has published its draft Statement of Community Involvement in Planning (SCI) 2022. The purpose of the SCI is to set out the consultation measures that TVBC will undertake when consulting on planning policy documents and publicising planning applications. The preparation of an SCI is a legal requirement and, once adopted, the Council needs to act consistent with its content. TVBC adopted its first SCI in August 2006. The Council has previously reviewed and updated the SCI on three occasions. As the current 2017 SCI will reach the five-year anniversary of its adoption at the end of 2022, a review has been undertaken and an updated draft SCI published for public consultation for an 8 week period from Friday 2 September – noon Friday 28 October 2022. Go to www.testvalley.gov.uk for more information.

*Belinda Baker
Clerk to the Parish Council*

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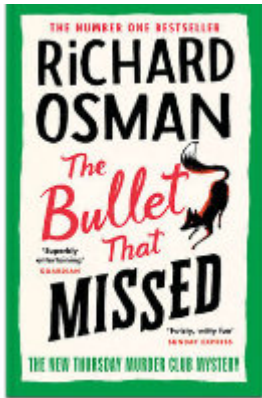




Notes from a Bookseller



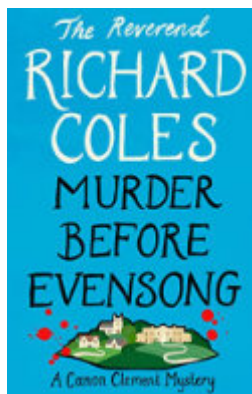
The turn of the season into autumn marks the perfect time to curl up with a good book and what better to accompany a warming cup of tea and a comfy chair than a bit of 'cosy crime'? This sub-genre gives us all that is good and popular from the authors on the Crime and Thrillers shelves but without the hardboiled violence!



If the definition of 'cosy crime' embraces the amateur sleuth, an environment that is easily recognisable to the reader - close-knit communities and humble domestic scenarios - then perhaps the recent arrivals of Richard Osman's hugely successful *The Thursday Murder Club* and *The Man Who Died Twice*, can be said to epitomise this world. Book

three in the series, *The Bullet That Missed*, has just been published and the much talked of film-deal with Steven Spielberg further excites Osman's many Thursday Murder Club fans.

While Osman's amateur sleuths are residents of a seemingly peaceful retirement village, The Reverend Richard Coles sets his first novel, *Murder Before Evensong*, in the apparently quiet, innocent world of a rural parish. Perhaps following in the footsteps of G.K. Chesterton's Father Brown short stories published in the early decades of the 20th century, Coles' murder mystery featuring Canon Daniel Clement, continues the tradition of 'man of the cloth' as amateur detective. This, the first in a series, will delight fans of Richard Coles, co-presenter of Radio 4's Saturday Live programme, former Church of England parish priest and author of non-fiction, including *The Madness of Grief*.



Robert Galbraith (aka J.K. Rowling) meanwhile, forges ahead with the highly anticipated publication of Book 6 in the 'Strike' series, *The Ink Black Heart*. Alongside the slightly quirky main story-line typical of these books is the continuation of the 'will-they-won't-they' simmering romance between Cormoran Strike and his assistant, Robin. Suspense of varying kinds make this a gripping and immersive page turner.

Anthony Horowitz writes crime thrillers as effectively for adults as he does for the younger reader. His witty, gripping whodunnits 'on steroids',

such as *A Line to Kill* and *The Word is Murder* for example, cleverly blend fiction with reality, placing himself as a side-kick to his detective Daniel Hawthorne. While he may not quite fit the definition of 'cosy', his handling of suspense and complex plotting is enthralling! On the children's bookshelves, his Alex Rider spy-thriller series, beginning with *Stormbreaker*, are popular with readers 10+ keen on action and adventure. For this age-group, M.G. Leonard & Sam Sedgman's *Adventures on Trains* series have fast-paced plots and are wildly funny and inventive, and according to Frank Cottrell-Boyce, are 'like Murder on the Orient Express but better.' And of course, speaking of train-set fiction - there's the world of intrigue brought to vivid life in Edward Marston's novels for adults too.

And this brings us neatly to the queen of cosy crime, Agatha Christie. If you have read all her classics but are hungry for more, a new biography of this classic author has now been published. Written by historian and television presenter Lucy Worsley, *Agatha Christie: A Very Elusive Woman* delves beneath the self-perpetuated veneer of a retiring Edwardian lady of leisure. Worsley explores the ambiguities of the woman and finds a surprising and very modern character, confirming Christie as one of cosy crime's biggest mysteries of all.



Elaine Sperber and Julia Brigdale
The Bookmark

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Escape from Ukraine



Last month I wrote about the story of Iryna, one of the Ukrainian guests in the village. In the same edition Christine Leslie introduced Rimma's beautician business. Since then, I have talked to Rimma, her son Mark, her parents Gheorghe and Lidia, and her sister Viktoria (and their dog Fiona) who are hosted by Caroline and James Dunlop. This is their, equally extraordinary, story.

Before the war, Viktoria and Rimma lived in Severodonetsk – a name all too familiar from the news. Life was settled. The city was under Ukrainian control and the frontline of the occupied territories was 70 kilometres away. Rimma ran a successful beauty salon. Gheorghe and Lidia had a smallholding in a village about 10 kilometres to the East. Mark was in the army and in the UK studying at Sandhurst.

On the morning of the invasion, they woke to the sound of bombing. Viktoria called Rimma to suggest they move West to Dnipro but Rimma thought it was just bombing and not a full-blown invasion. So, they decided to go and stay with their parents. Although it was closer to the Russian front line, a small village seemed safer than the city and their parents had a bomb shelter. This turned into a nightmare. The Russians soon occupied the village and effectively closed it down. They lived without gas, electricity, running water or anywhere to buy food. They slept on mattresses in the shelter three metres underground in the bitter cold of an Ukrainian winter, surviving on food that had been preserved from the summer and rainwater.

Rimma was able to talk to Mark in the UK for just a few minutes every two or three days. After a month they decided they had to leave. It was not possible to go back to Severodonetsk as the Ukrainian army had mined the route. So, they decided to go East, further into occupied territory, and then find a way to unoccupied Ukraine from there. Mark arranged with a friend who lived locally to travel with them to show them the way to a city in the East. So, one morning they abandoned their home and set off taking a few essentials and valuables and, of course, Fiona. They spent one night in the city, parted with the friend, and joined three buses to make a small convoy trying to get to Dnipro.

The drive lasted 10 hours. The roads were too dangerous, so they travelled on tracks through fields and forests. Rimma was the only driver and had to work hard to keep up with the buses which travelled at breakneck speed despite the lack of roads. They went through seven Russian checkpoints where they were thoroughly questioned and searched. Luckily, they had deleted the contents of their phones before setting off – the record of calls with Mark in the UK being a particular liability. Eventually they made it to Dnipro. Rimma was exhausted and unwell. So, they spent a few days recuperating in a hotel before

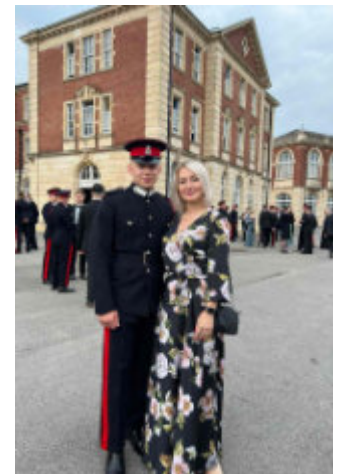
driving another 16 hours to Lviv where they were able to stay in the flat of a friend who had already left for Europe.

In Lviv their luck turned. Through a friend Mark was able to contact Charlie Hutchinson who lives in Winchester and Charlie put him in contact with Caroline and James who agreed to sponsor them. Between them, Caroline, James, Mark, Sally Milligan and Roger Tym got them visas and eventually they were able to come to Stockbridge – including Fiona. Mark recounts how emotional it was coming to Stockbridge for the first time on a sunny day in May to find them safe and well.

Happy reunions at Sandhurst.



Gheorghe, Mark and Lidia



Mark and Rimma

Stockbridge has suited them. They are used to village life and they are all working. The family asked me to stress how grateful they are to the many people in Stockbridge who have been so welcoming and provided so much support and particularly to Caroline and James and Sally Milligan. They still flinch whenever they hear a plane overhead and they know that, if the war is still going at the end of year, Mark will have to go back to Ukraine and fight. But, for now, they are safe. I asked them what is the biggest difference they noticed between Ukraine and the UK. They said that here everyone smiled at each other, even complete strangers. With luck, they will be able to smile as well now.

- Last month I used the wrong surname for Harriet Asher (I wrote Fisher). I feel particularly bad about this as she has made such a massive contribution to helping Ukrainian refugees and has been named by The Independent newspaper on their Happy List 2022 as one of their 50 most Inspiring Britons of 2022.

Mark Frank

*A public meeting is to be held on 21st October.
See notice on p5 for details.*

To find out more about the **Stockbridge & Longstock Homes for Ukraine Group**, please contact Mark Frank on 01264 810562

The Ill-fated HMS Gloucester



This picture depicts the wreck of *HMS Gloucester* off Yarmouth in May 1682. Since running aground on a sandbank, the wreck of the warship has lain half buried on the seabed. The disaster was described by Samuel Pepys who was aboard another vessel in the fleet. It was not until 2007 that the wreck was discovered by the Barnwell brothers who are printers and also licensed divers. They were inspired to search for wrecks after watching the lifting of the *Mary Rose* on television as children. The *Mary Rose* sank in battle in the Solent in 1545 and this new maritime discovery is perhaps the most important since the discovery of the *Mary Rose*.

The brothers started to search for the wreck after reading an article about it in 2003. They searched the area for four years and were beginning to give up. On the last dive of the day in 2007, one of the brothers spotted a huge cannon lying on the sand. They identified the cannon as being from the *Gloucester*. It was another 10 years before their discovery was made public and the exact location of the wreck is still protected.

HMS Gloucester was commissioned in 1652, built in Limehouse, London and launched in 1645. In 1682, she was selected to carry James, the Duke of York, later to become King James II, to Edinburgh to collect his pregnant wife and their household. James planned to bring them back to King Charles II's court in London in time, it was hoped, for the birth of a legitimate male heir. The elderly king was sick and James had been named as his heir. But James was a Catholic and was deeply unpopular in many quarters. The journey by ship was deemed to be more comfortable than the long trek by carriage over mostly unmade roads. The ship sailed from Portsmouth, with James and his entourage embarking off Margate, Kent, having travelled by yacht from London. There were about 330 people on board.



James had quarrelled with the pilot, James Ayres, the previous night over which course to take to avoid the treacherous Norfolk sandbanks. At 5.30am on 6th May, *HMS Gloucester* hit the sandbanks. She sank within an hour, killing roughly 150 to 200 passengers and crew. James barely survived, having delayed abandoning the ship until the last minute which cost the lives of many who, because of protocol, could not abandon the ship before him. He escaped into a small boat with John Churchill, later Duke of Marlborough. The pilot, James Ayres, survived but was arrested and found guilty of negligence. He was sentenced and taken to the Marshalsea prison. James fully endorsed the sentencing and denied all knowledge of any difference of opinion over the route to be taken across the sandbanks.

Shipwreck was common along the Norfolk coast but usually there was some evidence of the ship itself. On this occasion, the absence of wreckage and wide dispersal of corpses suggested that a large ship had gone down out to sea but, with no storm, there was no obvious reason for the disaster. The scavengers of the coastline, cockle pickers and samphire gatherers first spotted the invasion by the dead.

Samuel Pepys was invited to accompany James on the *Gloucester* but, for some fortuitous reason, chose instead to travel in the fleet on the much smaller *Katherine*, where he was offered a private cabin. He didn't witness the actual disaster as there was thick fog around his vessel. A friend of Pepys, ship's surgeon Sir Charles Scarborough, was one of those who had to swim for his life when the *Gloucester* went down. He was pulled from the water by the seamen of the *Katherine*. Pepys wrote 'we also had the good fortune to take up Sir Charles Scarborough, almost dead, and others spent with struggling in the water and cold.'

The artefacts rescued and conserved from the wreck include clothes and shoes, navigational and other professional naval equipment, personal possessions and many wine bottles. One of the bottles bears a glass seal with the crest of the Legge family, ancestors of George Washington. The discovery promises to change fundamentally our understanding of 17th Century social, maritime and political history. Perhaps one day *HMS Gloucester* will stand restored in her own exhibition hall at Yarmouth, emulating the *Mary Rose* Exhibition at Portsmouth.



Jill Goodwin

Ref : Nigel Pickford. *Samuel Pepys and the Strange Wrecking of the Gloucester*. The History Press 2021

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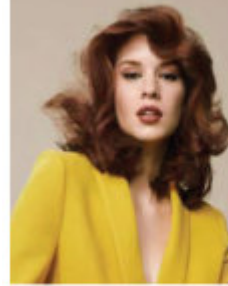
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A potted history and local business in the making (Part 1)

by *Stockbridge resident, Lauren Leigh*

Stockbridge Pottery is an artisan producer and locally-run small business that was started round the kitchen table at home in Stockbridge. We're purveyors of a classic spotty pot – something I've always had a penchant for, with one usually pride of place in any home we've lived in.

We'd not long moved to Stockbridge when we started up, having instantly fallen in love with the area. Our eldest had just started at pre-school and I'd been itching to return to work, but striking the elusive work-life balance is never easy with a family. I knew I wanted to work for myself, I just wasn't sure what in.

Homemaking is a big part of being a mum and I love classic, timeless pieces. I have a special appreciation of traditional European pottery, where a hand-thrown spotty pot can often be found. I wondered if I could maybe import them?

Such pieces, though, are typically vintage 1900s, made of earthenware and not in great condition. (Earthenware can be slightly porous if fired at a low temperature and liable to chip and crack, rendering the majority of these pieces today as purely decorative and only really suitable for putting dried flowers in.) Plus there was all the furore over Brexit and then the pandemic struck.

In researching the pottery, however, an antiques dealer contact in Hungary made a throwaway comment that such 'cheap and cheerful' pieces were 'likely thrown for the tourist trade'. While our investigating had drawn a blank, it had sparked an idea and forced us to consider making the pots ourselves.

I loved the thought of redesigning the pottery for the modern market and, unlike its original counterpart, producing it as a genuine quality souvenir for the many visitors who come to Stockbridge. The challenge then was, how do we make it when we're not potters ourselves?

Most manufactured pottery today, including Emma Bridgewater (also not a potter and who I once interviewed early on in my previous career as a journalist), is made in Stoke-on-Trent, the epicentre of the UK ceramics industry. Alternatively, ceramics are manufactured abroad because it's often far cheaper in volume, notably producers like China.

This was even true of T.G.Green's much-loved Cornish blue tableware when their Derbyshire factory sadly closed in June 2007. It's now owned by husband-and-wife duo Charles and Karina Rickards, who rescued the firm from administration in 2008, successfully rebranding it 'Cornishware' and bringing production back home to the UK and West Country.

I believed our own brand of Stockbridge-inspired pottery (spotted, like the trout) should be British made and my preference is handmade (and ultimately handmade in Stockbridge, its namesake). But finding someone who could help us proved far harder than we ever imagined.

We initially tried hand-throwing the pots in traditional (glazed) terracotta and while beautifully rustic and true to form this was simply not a viable business option. Not only was the unit price extremely high, everything hinged on the skill of the individual potter and the process was far too time-consuming and with too many variables that could go wrong.

We were feeling frustrated and concerned, especially as the pottery was being well received locally with steady local sales, local stockist interest and the support of the local community (such as Trout 'n' About and the Town Hall). Test Valley Borough Council had also got behind us, helping us with their Business Incentive Grant.

It was at this point we connected with a highly skilled ceramic design engineer called Huw, who at the time was an artist-in-residence, teaching out of the Nantgarw China Works Museum in South Wales, once famed for its porcelain. Huw was also an expert mould maker and extremely passionate about heritage craft. And this is where our story really gets interesting...

To be continued next issue.

See the pottery at stockbridgepottery.com



When actor Roger Moore's then-wife, Luisa Mattioli, asked the Queen why she always carried her handbag around Buckingham Palace. Her wry reply was: "This house is very big, you know."



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Potting Shed Cuttings for October



Gardening Events for October:

Design your own Garden - Denmans, Arundel;
Deadliest Plants & Bugs - RHS Wisley;
Nerine & Amaryllis - RHS Wisley;
Plants for Wildlife Exhibition - Bath

General Maintenance

Time spent now on starting to put the garden to bed will mean you don't need to face the really cold days of late winter, trying to catch up. Clear borders, cutting back perennials if you don't intend to leave seed heads for wildlife. Collect fallen leaves regularly, much less exhausting than clearing them in one enormous session. If you have the room, black bin liners or compost bags turned inside out can be filled with leaves and left to rot down in a corner for a couple of years; alternatively, if you haven't used a selective weed killer on lawns recently, leaves can be used as a border mulch. On a sunny day, empty the greenhouse and clean and disinfect. Old plant labels are useful for getting in between sheets of glass on aluminium greenhouses. Overwintering perennials can then be brought under glass along with winter salad vegetables.

The Flower Garden

Take time to prepare winter containers; small conifers, ivies, phormiums and heathers all make attractive groups. Check whether you need to use ericaceous compost as some of your plants may be acid-lovers. Tender perennials, tubers and bulbs should be lifted now, if you haven't yet done so. Pot up perennials and keep under glass for the winter; clean and dry thoroughly tubers and bulbs and store in a dark, cool, frost-free storage area. Protect bulbs from mice and other creatures, which will see them as a delicious winter snack. Sweet peas can be sown now, as can early hardy annuals, which can be sown where they are to grow; rose cuttings about 10"/25 cm long can be taken and planted in v-shaped trenches and cuttings taken earlier in the year, such as clematis, should be potted up whilst there is still some warmth.

The Fruit and Vegetable Garden

If some beds are not being used over the winter, either continue your winter digging programme or cover them with cardboard and 4"/5cm of manure and let the worms do the work for you. Cut down yellowed asparagus stalks and mulch the beds. Tomatoes will not ripen on the plants now so remove all fruits and either ripen them in a drawer alongside a banana or use them in one of the many recipes to be found online for green tomatoes. Pick and store any remaining pumpkins, squashes, carrots, beetroot and apples. Don't waste damaged apples but use immediately or save some for the birds. Start to harvest celeriac; this useful vegetable can be lifted throughout winter. Cabbages should be cut off clean, leaving the stalk intact. Cut an X into the top and wait for small, tasty, green leaves to appear for picking. Sow winter-hardy

salads, spring onions, broad beans, early carrots, asparagus, calabrese and cauliflowers. Plant garlics, onion sets, and spring cabbage. Cut back summer berry bushes and plant out new fruit trees, blackberries and rhubarb. If you have established rhubarb plants, now is the time to start tidying them up; clear away old leaves, then lift and divide old clumps. Compost the old, tired centre sections and replant the healthy edge sections into improved soil.

The Lawn

Last month we were convinced our lawns would never recover from the prolonged drought. Some healthy rainfall has seen blades of grass springing up all around, making up for lost time. Don't be tempted to cut lawns really low; instead, raise the blades to about 2"/5cm and allow your lawns to recover a little as well as protecting any leatherjackets and insects sheltering there.

Christmas is coming!

Pot up some lily-of-the-valley bulbs and grow them on for a fragrant, indoor Christmas display.

Micki Nadal

Goodbye Beccy and Thank You

Rebecca Soper started working in the greengrocers in Stockbridge 32 years ago. She bought the business 18 years ago and developed it into 'Beccy's Greengrocers', a central point in the community and essential provider for locals.

Beccy has steered the business and created a brand within the community based on excellent produce and fantastic customer service. I am confident that everyone in Stockbridge has met Beccy and supported her business over the past 18 years.



Her team, consisting of daughter Molly, Di and Mikaela, most notably supported the community during the pandemic when they organised fresh produce every week for Stockbridge and the local areas.

At the start of September 2022, Beccy sold the business. She will be enjoying a cruise with her husband, Andrew, to recharge her batteries, and then enjoying walking her dog, Lottie. Beccy will return to the greengrocers after her holiday in a part-time capacity but has said goodbye to the early starts!!

Lucy Shannon

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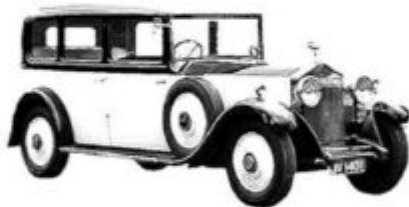
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Over the Hedge - Ploughing Match

October is the time of year when ploughing matches are in full swing. Sadly, the past 3 years have not been very good for the ploughing match season - one year it was far too wet and matches were cancelled, followed by Covid 19 when all the ploughing matches were cancelled through fear of infection. So everyone was looking forward to this year ... but the very hot and dry summer has meant that some matches have already been cancelled as the ground is just too hard to get the ploughs into it.

Hopefully, we will get that much-needed rain to soften the ground so we can go ploughing.

This picture shows the set-up of a ploughing match.



There are tents with food and drink, and a place to sit down. Some ploughing matches have become very big with other competitions taking place at the same time. Some also host county ploughing matches where the 'best of the best' will then move on to the next level and represent the county, if not the country. Ploughing can become a very serious activity and, from these beginnings, you can work your way up to the World Ploughing Championships.

So, what is a ploughing match?

It's an opportunity for like-minded people to get together and show off their ploughing skills. But I think it is so much more than that as it provides a chance for people to meet up and have a chat, perhaps a breakfast sandwich and a tea or coffee – an incredibly important time for everyone involved.

The serious side of a ploughing match is in the use of a tractor and plough or horse for the very keen. The ploughing judges are looking for many things that need to be 'spot on'. For example, the ploughing needs to be straight, it needs to be uniform in appearance and ploughed to a pre-match set depth; just three of a list of requirements to become a ploughing champion. Here, the ploughman is using a 3-furrow conventional plough. The tape measure is a very important part of match ploughing.



A team of 3 horses is being used in this picture. I think this is by far the hardest way of ploughing.

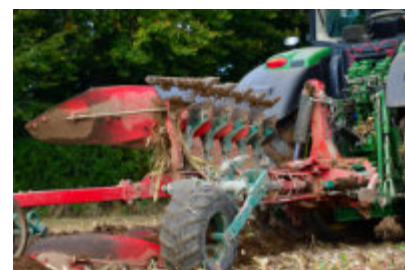
The picture below shows a steam plough rig.



Steam ploughing was a big jump from the horse and involved two traction engines, a plough rig and

a steel cable. One traction engine would be placed at each end of the field and they would pull the rig up and down the field by means of the steel cable.

This picture shows a 3-point linkage reversible plough. These are the sort of ploughs that you are more likely to see used in the fields around you.



Ploughmen in an area which had a few different farms would take pride in producing the best ploughing. They would often also take part in ploughing matches to see who would be judged best ploughman in that area.

Spare a thought for the ploughmen of yesterday's farming. They never had a cab fitted to their tractor so, if it rained, they got wet and, if dry and hot, they were hot and covered in dust. And yet they managed to set up their ploughs in such a way that the ploughing was as straight as it could be, just by using their skills and relying on their eyesight to produce perfect ploughing.

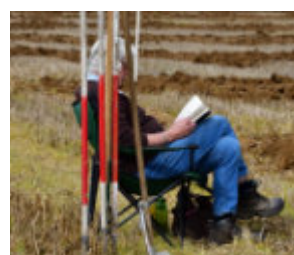


This picture shows the type of equipment used nowadays. The tractor operator would set up something they call an A-B line, set up their headland

management system, and then let the navigation systems do the rest. That's progress (or is it?).

Back to the match - a chance to have a chat, sit in the fresh country air, enjoy a little bit of luxury time and just chill out.

Ryan Bundy



Prayer for King Charles III

Everlasting God, we pray for our new King.
Bless his reign and the life of our nation.
Help us to work together
so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness
flourish among us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Harvest Supper

**6.00pm, 2 October 2022
at Longstock Village Hall**



A hog roast, with salad and pudding.

A first complimentary drink

£10 adults. Children 12 years and under £5.

Call 810284 or email
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Longstock Fête in Pictures

Locals had a chance for a leisurely catch-up with neighbours at the annual fête and evening barbecue, all much enjoyed, especially the idiosyncratic dog show!



It didn't matter a bit that the arena event didn't materialise, with delicious cakes to be eaten while listening to the brass band, or marmalade, produce, books and cakes to buy for later, a strenuous tug of war, and three barrels of beer to drain.



The evening's wonderful barbecue was much enlivened by Nick Ferretti serenading, leading to dancing as night fell.



Selina Musters

The splendid effort by so many people raised £5,750, which will pay for essential repairs to St Mary's Church, the playground, and the allotments' shed.



Photo credits to Nigel Rugman.

jennifergay and artisan route

ALPACA KNITWEAR

by Jennifer Gay

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Church News

St Mary's Longstock



As described in the previous column, the fête took place on Saturday 3 September. We were blessed with a fine day, the weather just perfect – not too hot or cold. Many came to enjoy the dog show, organised by Chris Reynell as usual. Prizes given to the best behaved, the less well behaved gave us laughs! The Amesbury Brass Band was an enjoyable accompaniment to the delicious teas and beer. The produce tent had many tempting cakes, bread and other produce. The veg boxes produced by the Allotments were most popular.

The barbecue in the evening was a great success – a selection of burgers and sausages, served with a delicious range of tasty salads. A guest from Africa came with John and Sheelagh Rennie.

The Rector and PCC are most grateful to be the recipient of generous funds from the fête. This will help pay for church repairs and maintenance being carried out over the coming months. It is the Parish Church and there for everyone.

Saturday 10 September – Ride and Stride – the time when the fit get fitter by riding or walking, with sponsorship to raise money for their church and the Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust. I walked a circular route from St Mary Longstock, to St Nicholas Leckford, then back down the Test Way to Old St Peter and St Peter's, Stockbridge. I am most grateful to have had the company of both Mary Coleman and Beth Oliver. I am also grateful to all those who sponsored me. Half the funds raised will come to St Mary, Longstock with the other half going to the HIHCT. I am hopeful the church will receive around £215. I did find a couple of days later that I had the biggest blister ever on my second toe!

Sunday 11 September – the Patronal Service for St Mary, Longstock. This went well and we were able to introduce our wish to become an 'Eco Church'. The application for the bronze award, the first level, is being prepared and we will work, hopefully, up to gold. One volunteer has already offered to help, which is wonderful. If anyone else would like to get involved, please contact Maddie 810284 or Philip 810810.



Most of us were shocked and surprised at the death of Queen Elizabeth II. The National Plan which was ready, 'Operation London Bridge', came

into action. The Union Flag was flown at half-mast and the official photo of the late Queen put in the church, with a candle burning alongside.

The Rector, Philip, quickly arranged for Commemoration Services to be held in each of the Parish Churches. The Service at Longstock was held on 14 September at 6.00pm. 48 villagers came to the Church to share in the service, which contained prayers and commendation for the late Queen Elizabeth II and for the new King, Charles III. This was the first time for many for singing 'God Save the King'.

On Sunday 2 October at 5.00pm we will have the Harvest Thanksgiving Service at St Mary's. The church will be decorated ready for the service with the usual array of flowers and vegetables. If anyone would like to come and help decorate on Saturday 1 October, please contact Boo Milne on 810604. We could do with a few more helpers. After the service, there will be a Harvest Supper in Longstock Village Hall. A first complimentary drink will be available on arrival with supper being served from 6.15pm. Thereafter you can buy wine or fruit juice from the Bar. We have the return of a Hog Roast supplied by Richard Woods. This will be served with potatoes and salad, with traditional puddings to follow – usually plenty of apple, or blackberry and apple crumbles. Vegetarian options available. The Hog Roast is being subsidised by two kind and anonymous donors, so the ticket price can be reduced to £10 for adults and £5 for children 12 years and under. We are hoping there will be singing accompanied by the accordion. A raffle will also be available. To book a place please phone Maddie 01264 810284 or email mjh723@btinternet.com All are very welcome.

St Mary's has now acquired a 'Card Reader' so those who travel without cash, but have their debit or credit card, can now make donations at services or pay for events such as the harvest supper, by card. I personally still like cash, but hope the new system works and meets everyone's preferred method of payment.

If you have any questions on 'the news' please contact Maddie on 01264 810284 or email mjh723@btinternet.com

Church Services at St Mary, Longstock for October 2022

2 October	5.00pm	Harvest Thanksgiving
9 October	9.30am	Parish Eucharist
16 October	9.30am	Morning Worship
23 October		No Service
30 October	10.00am	Benefice Eucharist at St Peter, Stockbridge

Church News

St Peter's and Old St Peter's Stockbridge



Last month was overshadowed by the news of the sudden death of Queen Elizabeth on September 8th. From small village churches to our largest Cathedrals, services were held to commemorate her life, bells were rung, and flags were flown at half-mast.

Queen Elizabeth, as well as being our nation's longest serving sovereign, was also Defender of the Faith and the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. She was a deeply-committed Christian and we know that her faith supported her dedication to duty and service all her life.

In anticipation of her death, The Church of England authorities issued clear instructions through the Rector to all parishes in our benefice which were followed to the letter by our PCC. A special memorial was created in St Peter's with Her Majesty's photograph and a candle and a printed prayer, where visitors to the church could light additional candles and pray. The flag was flown at half-mast, only to be raised again following the Proclamation of Accession of King Charles III, then lowered again the next day for the remainder of the mourning period. At very short notice, the Rector organised commemorative, civil services to be held at all our Benefice Churches. The service held in St Peter's was attended by nearly 100 people. After prayers, readings and a beautiful recording of William Byrd's 'O Lord, make thy servant, Elizabeth, our Queen', we sang the National Anthem to the new King.

Micki Nadal and her team of bell-ringers were particularly busy and we acknowledged how fortunate we were that the late Gerald Lambert had worked so hard to get the bells restored in 2016. All bells but the tenor (heaviest) were muffled by Derek Smith, with the half-muffled tenor tolling sonorously for an hour to mark Her Majesty's death. Then, following the Proclamation of Accession, the bells were rung 'open' and joyfully, reverting afterwards to their muffled state to mark the funeral of the late Queen. We are grateful to have such a dedicated team of bell-ringers in St Peter's.

On the 10th September, despite everything else that he had to do that weekend, Phill cycled the full circuit of all Benefice Churches in aid of Ride 'n Stride. St Peter's and Old St Peter's parishioners raised over £500 in sponsorship. The money, which will increase with Gift Aid, went to the Hampshire Islands & Historic Churches Trust who return half to our PCC for the benefit of both our Churches, and the rest is kept by the Trust to help maintain old churches. Phill thanked his supporters for sponsoring this worthy cause.

On September 18th, we celebrated Harvest Festival in St Peter's. This event in the Church Calendar is an opportunity to praise God for the abundance of the food we enjoy but also to raise awareness of the hunger that exists in many parts of the world. Our congregation brought gifts of the harvest to the altar - produce of rivers and cornfields, root crops, seeds, vegetables, fruits, grain and grapes. They also offered bags of purchased food, which were donated to the Andover Food Bank. This organisation, established in 2006, helps local people in crisis. They are part of a nationwide network of food banks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working throughout the country to combat poverty and hunger.

In these impending times of financial hardship for many, it is fitting that we remember a champion of the poor and destitute: St John Chrysostom who died on September 14th 407. His life is honoured in Orthodox, Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches. One of the early Church Fathers, he became the Archbishop of Constantinople and was a prolific author and preacher; a Divine Liturgy is attributed to him, still much used in Orthodox Churches. However, he was not always popular with the upper hierarchy of the Church because he spoke out against the abuse of wealth and personal property. He was dedicated to caring for the spiritual and temporal needs of the poor, and preached strongly in favour of almsgiving which he called 'the mother of love'. In the forthcoming months, in which some of our own people in local towns or villages may suffer hunger and cold due to the cost of living crisis, we can follow St John's example by remembering to keep supporting such enterprises as the Andover Food Bank or giving money to charities which support the poor.

Our sorrow at the loss of our Queen came at a time when several local families were also grieving the loss of loved ones. Prayers and condolences were offered to the families of Jim Gubb, Margaret Foord and Herry Lawford. In a short introduction to Holy Communion at Old St Peter's on September 11th, our Team Minister, The Rev'd Sue Kipling, paid tribute to Herry who worshipped there throughout his years in Stockbridge.

Church News

Looking Ahead

October 2nd at 3pm: Tea and cake in the Church.
All welcome.

November 1st: All Saints Day

We extend our warmest thanks and best wishes to the Rev Pete Steele and his wife Jean, who are moving away from the area soon. Pete has been part of our Team Ministry for several years now and we will all miss his wise words, his deep faith and his support for our congregation. May God bless them both in their future home in the New Forest and we hope to see them again from time to time.

Janet Williams

St Nicholas' Leckford



Harvest Festival

St Nicholas' Leckford traditional Harvest Festival Service will be on Sunday 16th October from 6-7pm.

Leckford Quiz Night – Friday 18th November

It's finally back post COVID – the well-loved, completely mad Leckford Quiz Night. Put the date in your diaries now – Friday 18th November from 6.30pm in Leckford Village Hall, with supper halfway through the evening. Space is limited, so tickets **must** be reserved. Call Dawn Williams on 01264 810724 to reserve yours.

Hampshire Downs RC Parish St Thomas More

Stockbridge Services - Sundays at 9.00am

Prayer for October

Lord, we pray for the people of this Benefice, that their memories of the late Queen Elizabeth will provide comfort and hope.

We pray for all grieving at this time, for the memories we have of those we have known and love still.

We pray that the love and respect shown to the Queen and new King and to all the Royal Family will encourage the world to live in peace.

We pray we can follow the example of her late Majesty's service and duty, and show this in all we do for others.

May the Lord Bless us and keep us, may the Lord cause His face to shine upon us and be gracious to us all. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

October Services for Stockbridge, Longstock and Leckford

2nd October (Trinity 16)

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

9th October (Trinity 17)

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

16th October (Trinity 18)

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

19th October (Henry Martyn)

10.00 **Old St Peter** Holy Communion

23rd October (Trinity Last)

11.00 **Stockbridge** Morning Worship

30th October (All Saints Sunday)

10.00 **Stockbridge** United Benefice Eucharist

The Column for September

Baptisms

25 September at 2.00pm. Gracie-Mae Compton was baptised in St Mary's Church, Longstock

Weddings

There were no weddings this month

Funerals

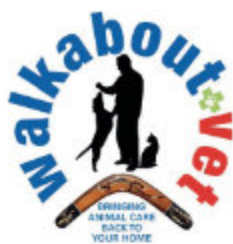
8 September. The funeral for James Gubb took place at 11.00am at St Peter's Church, Stockbridge. A moving service, conducted by his son, with all his family present.

14 September. The funeral for Margaret Foord took place at 11.00am at St Peter's Church, Stockbridge.

29 September. The funeral for Sylvia Ridley took place at 2.00pm at St Peter's Church, Stockbridge.

RIP David Lloyd Roberts of Stockbridge High Street who died on Wednesday 6 July 2022

RIP Bobbie Brewer of Church Road, Longstock. She died at home after a long illness on Sunday 4 September 2022.



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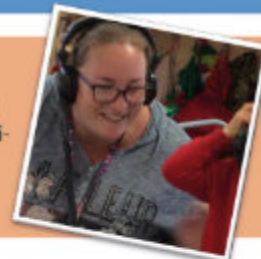


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