



The Parish Magazine for

£1

**STOCKBRIDGE
LONGSTOCK
& LECKFORD**

December 2022 & January 2023



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

Rector: The Rev'd Philip Bowden

Phone no. 01264 810810

rector@midtest.org.uk

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

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

Please contact our Rector (see details above)

This Magazine: 11 issues a year. Price: £10 paid in advance, or £1 per copy

Editors: Frances Candler 811776 Jennifer Kidd 811179 Thea Taylor 07730 964481

Distribution: Sylvia Shepard 810603 **Advertisements:** advertstockmag@gmail.com

February copy deadline: **15 January 2022** **email:** editorsstockmag@gmail.com

St Peter's Stockbridge	St Mary's Longstock	St Nicholas' Leckford
<i>Churchwarden</i>	<i>Churchwarden</i>	<i>Churchwarden</i>
David Williams 811072	Madeleine Hedley 810284	Dawn Williams 810724
<i>Hon Secretary</i>	<i>Hon Secretary</i>	<i>Hon Secretary</i>
Micki Nadal 810567	Richard Robinson 810388	Micki Nadal 810567
<i>Hon Treasurer</i>	<i>Hon Treasurer</i>	<i>Hon Treasurer</i>
Barbara North 810732	Madeleine Hedley 810284	David Barnes 810516

Beavers

Frances Waghorn 01962 776048

Bell ringers (Longstock)

Chris Reynell 810569

Bell ringers (Stockbridge)

Micki Nadal 810567

Brownies (meet in Chilbolton)

Julie Shone 01962 761269

Church Mouse Books

Micki Nadal 810567

Cub Scouts

Mo Collins 01256 895534

HCC County Councillor

Cllr David Drew 357024
mob 07738 289902

Kent Hill Scout Hall

Leigh Dance 811074

Leckford Parish Council

Dawn Williams 810724

Longstock Garden Club

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

Longstock Parish Council

Chair: Sophie Walters 07740 443460

Clerk: Mark Flewitt 810752

Longstock Village Hall

Selina Musters 810459

Longstock & Leckford WI

Sue Hill 811779

Neighbour Care

0845 0943713
Calls cost 7p/min +network charge.

Organist and Choir Mistress

Dawn Williams 810724

Pastoral Visitors

Vacancy

RBL (Houghton branch)

David Williams (Chair) 811072

New Secretary to be appointed

Angela McMeekin: Poppies 810236

Scouts

Mark Lovell 07786 435847

Scout Group Explorers

Andrea Zanchi 07747 720735

Louise Henderson 07436 899054

St Thomas More Church

Father Mark Hogan 01962 852804

Stockbridge Church Flowers Sec

Angela McMeekin 810236

Stockbridge Community Cinema

Paul Kidd 811179

Stockbridge Community Market

Carol Preston 07925 287870

Stockbridge Court Leet

Guy Boney (Lord of the Manor) 810614

Diana Tym (Bailiff) 810363

Stockbridge Dramatic Society

Mark Frank 810562

Stockbridge Football Club

Bob Powell (Chair) 07802 524433

Rob Blandford (Hon Sec) 07799 289756

Email: stockbridgefc@hotmail.com

Stockbridge Music

Karen Malim 07964 194530

Stockbridge Parish Council

Chair: Alex Lawrence

Clerk: Belinda Baker 07770 406607

clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org

Stockbridge Pharmacy 810624

Stockbridge Police Station

(Non emergencies) 101

Stockbridge Primary /Pre School

Emma Jefferies (Head) 810550

Stockbridge Rec Ground

Dave Webb (Chair) 810819

Paul Barker(Sec) 01794 389131

Stockbridge Surgery

810524

Out of hours urgent treatment /advice

Hants Doctors On Call freephone 111

Stockbridge Town Hall

Kim Candler (Chair) 811776

On-line bookings

www.stockbridgetownhall.co.uk

or phone 513299

Test Valley School

Ms Caroline Lowing (Head) 810555

Trout 'n About

Richard Gueterbock 01264 810966

TVBC Councillor

Cllr Tony Ward 01794 389649

Unity Transport (Dial-a-Ride shopping bus) 356808



From the Rector

The onset of December, of course, means one thing in the life of a parish church, and that is the onset of Christmas preparations. Just as in domestic life, there is much to prepare for the celebrations later in the month, so in the life of the Church there is also much to do.

In practical terms, this can mean lots of cleaning and decorating in order to ensure that the church building is looking its best but also in planning the many, many events that will take place in the coming month in our churches. In particular, after having to cancel many Christmas celebrations in the last two years because of the pandemic, we all hope that this year we will be able to have a full sweep of Christmas celebrations.

Having to wait and having to prepare is very much the spirit of the Advent Season and, while there is a practical outworking of this, it is also important that we engage with a process of spiritual preparation and patience. At Christmas time, we celebrate the concept of God entering into our world which brings us face to face with Him. In doing so, we also turn our attention to our own lives that He comes to share in and, of course, our own failings that He came to redeem.

Although the Christmas story tells the way in which God came to us in great humility, do not allow that, for you, to overshadow the reality that, by His incarnation, God enters into our world. Perhaps something for us to ponder this Advent season is what sort of world will He find, and what is our role in making it the way that it is?

The Rev'd Philip Bowden

Contents

Christmas at Winchester Cathedral	11	Restoration of Stockbridge Town Hall	17
Christmas Fun	12	Ring for the Coronation	9
Church Pages	28,29,30	RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 2023	21
Church Services	31	Ryan Bundy looks back Over the Hedge	11
Editorial	3	Sharing your dinner with the birds	21
From the Area Dean	30	Stockbridge Christmas	6,7
From the Rector	3	Stockbridge Community Market	13
Gibbon's Years - Book Review	25	Stockbridge Football Club	14
Houses for Ukraine Update	19	Stockbridge Music	7
Notes from a Bookseller	27	Stockbridge Parish Council News	25
Poppy Appeal	19	Stockbridge Practice News	15
Potting Shed Cuttings for December and January	23	Stockbridge Primary and Pre-School	9
Prayer for December	31	Subscriptions to the Magazine	6
Recipe: Cheese and Caraway Shortbread Biscuits	15	The Column	31

Copy for Magazine

Copy date for the February Magazine:

15 January 2022

Please send emails to:

editorsstockmag@gmail.com

or phone Frances on 01264 811776

Jennifer on 01264 811179 or Thea on 07730 964481

Cover Photo: Robin, by Ryan Bundy

*It's that time of year again.
Time to laugh and groan along to our footers!
Enjoy!*

From the Editorial Team

Another year of uncertainty draws to a close. We are being changed by events: anxious about the war in Ukraine, dismayed about economic instability and its impacts, concerned for the wellbeing of our planet, but more mindful of what is precious in life.

These thoughts of the bigger picture come together as we celebrate the coming festivities. Personal and family circumstances are unique; the circle of life with births, marriages and deaths brings both joys and sorrows. For some, this Christmas may be their first opportunity to mark such occasions, or get together with family and friends, since the first frightening days of the pandemic. We now look ahead, count our blessings and hope for greater calm and peace both at home and abroad.

The pages of this magazine chronicle the events and preoccupations of the passing years in our three parishes. We take this opportunity to thank our loyal contributors, delivery team, proof-readers and the many others on whom the magazine depends. They volunteer their time, thought and hard work with great generosity, patience and good humour and we value them hugely. The magazine returns in February giving everyone some well-deserved respite.

And, of course, we thank you, our readers, for your steadfast support and wish everyone a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Frances Candler, Jennifer Kidd and Thea Taylor

Wherwell History Group

Friday 20 January 2023
at 8.00pm



The Crop Circle Mystery

An illustrated talk by Andy Thomas
A Zoom Presentation

All WHG talks by Zoom are free to members and £5 participation by non-members.

Please book in advance by checking our website at <https://www.wherwellhistory.com>



The Royal British Legion Houghton and District Branch

Contact David Williams (Chairman)
01264 811072

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



Stockbridge Community Cinema



ELVIS (12A)

Wednesday 7 December

4.00pm and 7.30pm (2hrs 39min)

Elvis follows the story of infamous rock n roll star Elvis Presley seen through the eyes of his controversial manager Colonel Tom Parker. The film explores Elvis Presley's highs and lows and the many challenges and controversies he was involved in throughout his career.

THE QUIET GIRL (12A)

Friday 13 January

7.30pm (1hr 34min)

A quiet, neglected girl is sent away from her dysfunctional family to live with foster parents for the summer. She blossoms in their care, but in this house where there are meant to be no secrets, she discovers one.

Annual Report 2022 & drinks follow 9.15pm

WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING (15)

Wednesday 18 January

4.30pm and 7.30pm (2hrs 5min)

Based on the bestselling novel, this is the story of Kia, who raised herself in the marshes of the Deep South, and becomes a suspect in the murder of a man with whom she was once involved.

Tickets £6.00 (£5.50 + £0.50 booking fee)

available online via our website

stockbridgecinema.org.uk or via the

Ticketsource telephone booking service

0333 666 3366 (additional £1.80 fee per booking)



Test Villages U3A

Meetings are held at
Chilbolton Village Hall

Thursday 8 December at
2.00pm

AGM, followed by Christmas Party and Quiz

Thursday 12 January at 2.00pm

The Body through the Porthole

Steve Herra, retired QE2 Purser, presents a brilliant whodunnit based on a true story

New members very welcome

Find out more about the National Organisation at u3a.org.uk and our Test Villages Group at u3asite.org.uk/test-villages/home

Stockbridge Town Hall Events



Weekly

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

Date

Dec 1	Trout N About
Dec 2	Sand & Ashes
Dec 2	Sara Organics - Natural products
Dec 3	Antique Fair
Dec 3	Stockbridge Football Club
Dec 4	Antique Fair
Dec 5-7	Capital Cashmere
Dec 7	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Dec 8	Stockbridge Parish Council
Dec 9	Maudlifestyle
Dec 10-11	South Central Makers
Dec 12-14	Cotton House Interiors
Dec 14	Stockbridge Music Society
Dec 16	Infinito
Dec 17-18	Antiques & Curios
Dec 17-18	Hawkmoor Books
Dec 21-22	CopperStuff
Jan 7	Antique Fair
Jan 8	Fun Run
Jan 8	Hants Assoc of Cricket Officials
Jan 13	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Jan 15-18	Wild Bazaar
Jan 18	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Jan 19	Stockbridge Parish Council
Jan 20	Stock. & Long. Ukraine Support
Jan 24	Longstock & Leckford WI
Jan 28-29	Hawkmoor Books
Jan 28-29	Antiques & Curios



Houghton WI

Monday 12 December at
Houghton Village Hall

Christmas Open Meeting My life in Magic

Mark Shortland
11.00am, includes buffet lunch

Monday 16 January at 10am
Life and Other Problems
Judy Theobald

Visitors welcome
Further information from
Jane Anderton 01264 810928

Stockbridge Community Market

Thursday mornings
9.30 - 11.45am

in Stockbridge Town Hall

Last day 15 Dec - restarting 2 Feb

Selling the very best local and home-made produce
Pies, cakes, breads, soups, eggs and vegetables.
Handmade crafts, toys, books, plants & bric-a-brac.

Please come along and browse



Longstock Garden Club

*Meetings are held at
Longstock Village Hall*

Tuesday December 13th at 7.00 pm

Flowers of Western China

Carol Watson

*Guests are welcome at this Christmas
meeting, only £3 including mince pies!*

Tuesday January 10th at 7.00 pm

**Members evening:
a look back on your 2022 highlights**

*For details go to
www.longstockgardenclub.com*



LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD WI

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

December - Member's Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 24th January
Speaker to be confirmed

Guests always welcome

Sunday 8th January

35th George Skeates Fun Cross Country Charity Event

in aid of Odstock Spinal Unit and the
Southampton Cardiac Unit.

Contact: Jeremy Crossman on 01794 500600
or email jebcrossman@gmail.com



Subscriptions

If you have enjoyed reading this magazine and would like to receive it regularly **for only £10 you can receive all next year's copies delivered to your door!**

New Subscribers

Please phone David Barnes on 810516, or email David on barnsiesdandj@yahoo.co.uk for details of how to make payment. Alternatively drop an envelope through David's door at Touchwood, High Street, Stockbridge, making sure to include your name and address, plus a cheque for £10 made payable to the Benefice Printing Account.

Existing Subscribers

If you already receive copies regularly, your deliverer is able to collect your subscription as usual.

Alternatively, we would be very grateful if you would pay online. We thank those people who already do. Please pay £10.00 to:
Benefice Printing Account.
Bank details: 30-90-21 03510427.
Please use the reference to indicate your address if possible or part of it.

Stockbridge Christmas Lights Switch-On

Saturday 3rd December

Shops and Businesses Open All Day
Primary School selling Christmas Trees
outside St Peter's

Carol singers and brass band in the High Street

5.30pm Carol singing for all outside the church
6.00pm Grand Switch-On by Lawrie McMenemy
followed by the Treasure Hunt Prize-Giving
and mulled wine, mince pies and more carols
inside the church

Carols at the Peat Spade

Thursday 8th December

6.15pm



Everyone welcome for mulled wine, mince pies and lots of singing - get in the festive spirit and help raise a few pennies for St Mary's.

Winchester City Festival Choir
Centenary Concert 1923-2023

The Creation

Joseph Haydn
O Lord, Our Lord
Oliver Tarney
World Premiere

Paul du Plessis-Smith
Conductor

Alice Wratten - Soprano
Toshi Ogita - Tenor
Jack Comerford - Bass

Winchester City Festival Orchestra
James Toll - Leader

Saturday 28 January 2023, 7.30pm

Harvey Hall - St Swithun's School Performing Arts Centre
Alresford Road, Winchester, SO21 1HA

Tickets £19.50

Available from Winchester Theatre Royal Box Office: 01962 840 440
www.theatreroyalwinchester.co.uk/whats-on/centenaryconcert
(see 'also selling' tab)

Registered charity no 264859

Christmas Oratorio

Bach Christmas Oratorio, Part Five
Saint-Saens Oratorio de Noël

Andover Choral Society
Westminster Chamber Orchestra

St Mary's Church, Andover
Saturday 3 December, 7.30pm

Tickets £15, available from choir members
and from The Lights box office on 01264 368368

www.andoverchoralsociety.org.uk



Registered Charity No 1154663



WESTMINSTER
CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

'Tis the Season to be Jolly

We hope the spirit of Christmas is descending upon you all and that you are ready to enjoy the Stockbridge Christmas event on Saturday 3rd December.

We are delighted to announce that the lights will be switched on by Lawrie McMenemy, MBE. The Guinness Book of Records rates him as one of the twenty most successful managers in post-war English football and he may be best known to you as manager of Southampton when they won the FA Cup in 1976. He will be aided at the Switch On by Reece Daly, captain of Stockbridge Robins, and by Lifetime President of Stockbridge Robins, Dave Webb.

The Switch On will take place outside St Peter's Church at 6pm and will be followed by the Treasure Hunt prize-giving, and mulled wine and mince pies in the church. But I've raced to the end of the day and there is lots to enjoy first.

Many of our shops and businesses are extending an extra warm welcome to those who pop in to visit, Stockbridge Primary School will be selling Christmas trees, there will be carol singers and a brass band in the High Street, and everyone is invited to join in the carol singing outside St Peter's at 5.30pm.

We asked for feedback on our efforts and the most common comment was that you appreciated the sparkle at what can be a gloomy time of year and so it is good news that more residents and businesses have decided to participate this year and you will see some additional trees and lighting.

All of the entertainment is free and this is only possible by the kindness and generosity of those who supply power for the lights and donations that allow us to replace and upgrade equipment as needed and cover additional costs. Specifically, we would like to recognise the following who have contributed to date:

Residents of Stockbridge
Robjents
St Peter's Church
Stockbridge Business Association
Stockbridge Cinema
Stockbridge Parish Council
Stockbridge Town Hall
The Hub
The Little Whisky Shop
The White Hart
Test Valley Borough Council



Without their support we would be unable to light the village and provide a day of entertainment which we hope will be enjoyed by residents and visitors of all ages.

Stockbridge Christmas Committee



Stockbridge Music

'Christmastide' Harp recital by Harriet Adie

The perfect way to start your family's Christmas



Wednesday 14th December 2022

7.30pm

At Stockbridge Town Hall

Tickets from www.stockbridgemusic.uk

Adults £15, children £7.50

For her Christmastide recital Harriet has chosen carols she loves, with a timbre ideally suited to the sultry sounds of the harp. Compositional influences range from Vaughan Williams through to the golden age of Hollywood!

About Harriet

Harriet is a founding member of the internationally-recognised ensemble *4 Girls, 4 Harps* whose music has been broadcast widely on Classic FM and all the BBC radio stations.

She is in demand internationally as an arranger and composer for harp students all over the world, some of her works being performed by ensembles such as the National Youth Harp Orchestra and the Royal Academy of Music Harp Ensemble.

Her London recitals include venues such as St Martin-in-the-Fields and she recently won the London Harp Competition performing with the Philharmonic Orchestra in the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Stockbridge Music is delighted to have persuaded Harriet to come to Stockbridge as part of her forthcoming Christmas tour. She will be performing in our wonderfully-renovated Town Hall with its perfect Chamber Music Room ideally suited for recitals such as this Christmas recital.

Good Meat
Means
Good Health



JOHN ROBINSON
High Class Family Butcher

**HIGH STREET
STOCKBRIDGE**

Tues, Weds 7.30am - 4.00pm
Thurs, Fri 7.30am - 5.00pm
Sat 7.30am - 4.00pm
Closed for lunch 1.00-2.00pm

Full selection of prime quality meat,
seasonal game, sausage, faggots made on
the premises, bacon cured on site.
Displayed cooked meats/salmon
for collection. Free local delivery on
Friday and Saturdays.

Telephone: **01264 810609**
Email: jrbutchers@btconnect.com

XL Cars

Incorporating Airport
Chauffeur Services

Airports, Business, Long Distance

Stress-free road travel in air-conditioned-vehicles
Smart and friendly drivers. Punctuality guaranteed

Luxury Jaguar XJL saloon and similar prestigious cars
All major credit cards incl American Express accepted

Visit our website for full details of all services
www.xlcars.co.uk email info@xlcars.co.uk

Telephone 01962 76 10 10

Sorry we are not a 24/7 local taxi service

[fix my garage door.co.uk](http://fixmygaragedoor.co.uk)



*The Repair
Specialists*

Repairs
Locks
Automatic Operators
New Doors
No repair - No charge



01264 337711 / 07780 566033

Does it Worry You that...?

**Your Loved Ones May Only
Inherit PART of Everything You
have Worked for all Your Life**

*The Impact of Care Fees, Tax,
Legal Fees etc. could*

**Substantially Reduce Your Loved
Ones' Final Inheritance**

With the "Right" Protective Will AND
good Lifetime Planning, you can
help ensure as Much as Possible Goes to
Your Loved Ones

Make your Will now from £89*

*standard basic Will

PLUS we will show you how you can plan to
Secure YOUR family's future inheritance



Call us for more information or
to arrange a FREE Home Visit



Secure Inheritance
Legal Services Ltd
Will, Trusts, Lifetime Planning
National experts with friendly local service
CHOICE - PROTECTION - CONTROL

Call Edward Moodie
07734 058 768
edward.moodie@secureinheritance.co.uk



NW Autos

**London Hill Farm
Stockbridge SO20 6EN**

Servicing and repairs to most makes and
models of cars and light commercials.
MOTs arranged and all MOT repairs undertaken.

Local collection and delivery arranged
All work carried out to a high standard
and at a competitive rate

**Please call NEIL on 01264 810449
or mobile 07789 075956**

We Clean Ovens
so you don't have to

oven*u*
oven valeting service

Let Greg - your locally based oven
cleaning specialist - clean your
appliances back to their best with
glass gleaming, shelves sparkling and
an immaculate interior



*All models perfectly cleaned
Range and AGA specialist
Quality results every time
Local, national, affordable*

01264 563464 | oven.co.uk/oven_cleaning/andover



Call now to book your oven cleaning appointment!



Stockbridge Primary and Pre-School News

A 'family' of children

As I write, we are staring down the end of November and starting to think about Christmas. The advent calendars are ordered, the candles are in for the wreath to use in collective worship and talk of Santa is just about being held at bay! In school, we have established traditions that some younger readers who have been in our school with me in the last 11 years will hopefully remember fondly. Everything we do at Christmas is about bringing people together; the nativity service in St Peter's Church, which is always packed to the rafters, is a really special time for those with young children and our Upper School children follow this with a carol service bringing all of their parents and grandparents together. We've missed this for the last 3 Christmases because of COVID so this year will be particularly poignant. We go to the pantomime – this year we're off on an adventure to Newbury's Watermill theatre for a very special kind of performance in a unique setting – brilliant for getting the awe and wonder in. In addition, we enjoy Christmas lunch with the whole school, carols around the tree and decorating the school - all important milestones in the countdown to Christmas.

You may remember being in a 'house' team in school – certainly at secondary school, this is commonplace. Here at Stockbridge, children are grouped into 'families'; 4 separate groups of mixed ages across the school, each with about 36 children. Within their groups, children are 'buddied' older with younger so that they always have a friend to play with. Far from being the 'house' or 'family' that is only rolled out on sports day, we live and breathe these groupings. Families sit together at lunch, each child with their buddy. Older children help carry trays, serve drinks and cut up food, if needed. Younger ones have an older buddy to play with or seek out at playtime and lunchtime and we even walk to church with our buddy too. This system is a great way of fostering care and love for other people instead of always thinking about ourselves; making the shift from an egocentric way of looking at the world to a collaborative one (and this is one of our school values!). Christmas is a time when this system comes into its own and we do lots of activities in the wider school in our family groups.

We will return to school in January ready to do battle with the school development plan for the spring term. This year, we are focusing on just three priorities:

- 1) Ensuring our core skills of phonics/spelling, handwriting, times tables and mental arithmetic are strong in all our learners
- 2) Promoting multiculturalism and ensuring we represent our diverse world in the texts and experiences we offer through our curriculum
- 3) Developing a greater sense of intrinsic motivation for all learners. We have made a big change in our behaviour policy approach, and we want to ensure this has time to become embedded and that we critically analyse the impact on learning and general behaviours.

The behaviour policy has been a big shift for us away from punitive consequences and based more on a relational approach – something we pride ourselves on in our school. Children have been learning about the effort and skills needed to get out of any learning pit – our next magazine contribution will be written by the children all about this.

Enjoy the festive season and getting together with loved ones. We will be!

Emma Jefferies, Headteacher



RING FOR THE CORONATION

In the British Isles we have around 6,000 peals of bells; this

means there are almost 38,000 bells which can be rung. With only around 30,000 bell ringers, we will be hard pushed to ensure all the bells across our country can ring out for the coronation of King Charles III. For the death and funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, we bell ringers hopped from tower to tower, to ensure as many peals of bells as possible were tolled or rung at some stage. Our Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) has put out an appeal to recruit more ringers, so that all (or as many as possible) of our church bells around the country can ring out for this rare and important event.

Following the pandemic, the number of ringing teachers was greatly reduced around the country for various reasons. Our own Winchester and Portsmouth Guild was no different and this has made regular training sessions difficult. We are now putting in place district 'hubs' of learning, with experienced teachers offering regular and intense sessions for bell handling.

With our splendid computer simulator for silent ringing, Stockbridge is likely to be one of these hubs and our benefice alone has peals of bells in Stockbridge, Longstock, Leckford, Houghton, Broughton and Mottisfont, with small bands of dedicated ringers who multi-task across the churches. Across the Guild there are churches with no regular ringers at all.

If you would like to be part of this amazing opportunity and learn to ring for the coronation and beyond, please watch out for more information being released locally. You can phone me on 07563753079 or email me at emnad@btinternet.com if you would like to be kept informed on progress for this training plan and are interested in joining it.

Micki Nadal

Tower Captain Stockbridge and Kings Somborne

THE
Genesis Design
STUDIO

CHARTERED ARCHITECTS

Bespoke designs for individual homes



MEAD MILL, 77 MILL LANE, ROMSEY
HAMPSHIRE. SO51 8EQ

TEL - 01794 519333

EMAIL - m.lampard@thegenesisdesignstudio.com
www.thegenesisdesignstudio.com



**EXPRESS
PROPERTY SERVICES**

Tel/Fax: 01962-776888 Mobile: 07802 496424



Consider it Done

**Your complete
Maintenance Company 24hrs**

All Plumbing, Heating, Dripping Taps,
Overflows, Electrical, Roofing
Painting, Decorating

Est 25 Years

Tel/Fax 01962 776888

Mobile 07802 496424

Email expresslamb@btconnect.com

Mill Cottage, Locks Lane, Winchester SO21 2LU

CREATING SPACE THE EASY WAY!



**Experts in loft
ladders & loft
hatches, boarding,
lighting & insulation**

HUGE BENEFITS

- . De-clutter your home
- . Create up to a third more space
- . Gain safe & easy loft access
- . No mess, no fuss, no subcontractors

Call now to book a FREE survey & quotation

01256 688648

WWW.ACCESS4LOFTS.CO.UK

Bespoke Garden Rooms

Built to suit your home office needs
Fully insulated, contemporary designs



Complete Carpentry Services

With over 30 years experience
All work undertaken with pride

Contact us to discuss your requirements

Email: mandy@completecarpentryservices.uk

Phone: 07979 802443

Ryan Bundy looks back Over the Hedge

It's been a strange sort of year...

Harvest started and very quickly finished due to the very hot weather.

This picture shows a combine that was working near Stockbridge at the start of harvest. Who would have thought that most of the combining would have been completed by the end of August?



Maize-cutting season started but, sadly, due to the lack of rain the crops were at best poor which will be a real worry for farmers of livestock during the winter.



This was probably one of the best crops of maize I saw being cut this year. I have seen and cut maize that stood so high that you had a job to see through the windscreen of the forage harvester.

All fingers were crossed when drilling started ready for next year's crops as the ground was very dry but, as things turned out, luckily the rain did come so the crops for next year had a good start.

September is my favourite time of the year - still warm and light and the start of ploughing matches and dealer demonstrations.

I just love this picture, taken at a ploughing match when a group of gentlemen found the ideal spot to stop and have a cup of tea and a chat.



For me, here's one of the best pictures of the year.



This dog was with his owner at one of several ploughing matches that I managed to go to. He is more than happy to sit on the tractor and just ride up and down the field. You have to look twice just to make sure that you are not seeing things -

yes, that is a dog on that tractor. It's an image that sticks with you and one that gives you that little feeling of fun and happiness when you think about it.

Christmas at Winchester Cathedral

By the time you read this, the Christmas Market in the Inner Close of the Cathedral will be in full swing. The wooden chalets are now open, selling unusual and traditional gifts. The market does not



close until 22nd December so there's plenty of time to browse, buy your Christmas shopping, indulge in a glass of mulled wine or a bag of hot chestnuts and, of course, go into the Cathedral to see the colour-changing Light of Hope suspended above the Nave.

And there are lots of Christmas services between Advent and Christmas with Christmas Market carols on 4th and 11th December at 3.30pm, community carol services on 20th and 22nd December at 6.30pm, Big Nativity services for all the family where you (or your children/grandchildren) can dress up as your favourite Christmas character, carols and blessing of the crib on Christmas Eve at 5.30pm, as well as all the traditional services over Christmas. Look on the website for full details.

Most of all enjoy the Christmas spirit in and around our own very special Cathedral. Happy Christmas!

Jean Boney

Myddelton & Major

**WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU
TO OUR NEW OFFICE IN THE HEART OF
STOCKBRIDGE**

**Contact us to discuss a valuation and
tailored marketing strategy to suit you.**

DavidSmith@myddeltonmajor.co.uk
AlexisKirchell@myddeltonmajor.co.uk

The Old Police House, High Street, Stockbridge, SO20 6HE

01264 810400

Specialising in property in the Test Valley



CHRISTMAS ANAGRAMS

Unscramble these anagrams to find words that have associations with Christmas. The number of letters in each word in the answer is shown in brackets.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. CONGRESS LIAR (5,7) | 11. SMART HERETICS (9,4) |
| 2. VICARS THEMES (9,3) | 12. SLASH IN ACTION (5,8) |
| 3. HONESTY WARMS FONT (6,3,7) | 13. ENJOY MAD SHARP (4,3,6) |
| 4. HIS WARMEST ITCH (5, 9) | 14. UNREADY CABS (6,5) |
| 5. KNIFE SCANNER (12) | 15. TINY VITAL PAY (8,4) |
| 6. DRASTIC CHARMS (9,4) | 16. IN THE GLINTS (6,5) |
| 7. SCENT THUS (9) | 17. YETI DUEL (8) |
| 8. CLAD RAVE TANNED (6,8) | 18. COORDINATES (11) |
| 9. OFF THE SANE PEST (5,2,7) | 19. TOSSING EAGERNESS (7,9) |
| 10. IS A TIN POET (10) | 20. CLEANING SKEWS (4,9) |

Answers on page 23

What's the most popular Christmas wine?

But I don't like Brussels sprouts!

Just for fun and to get you thinking...

- Which of the following is hay, straw or silage?
A Grass stored in airtight conditions for winter feed.
B Naturally dried grass, baled and fed to livestock.
C Dried stalks of grain used as fodder & bedding.
- In fertiliser, what does N P K stand for?
- Which breed of cow is the biggest producer of milk in the UK?
- What name is used to describe a chicken that is bred entirely for its meat?

5. In farming, what is the name of the process where there is a loss of water-soluble plant nutrients from the soil?

6. Name these manufacturers' logos -



Answers on p23

Ryan Bundy

Test Valley School PTA invite you to our

Christmas Jayre

Saturday 3rd December 11am - 2pm

Enter... Christmas cake making contest and kids arts and crafts. email us for info to enter.

Stalls! Decorations Cards Gifts for all Jewellery and many more

Cafe: Cakes, coffee, mulled wine and more

Bespoke gifts, design your own and take away

Tombola! Win some top quality wine

Grand Raffle! Prizes include, helicopter ride, cash, roast for two

free parking

For further information email testvalleypta@gmail.com

Made with PosterMyWall.com

*What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar?
He got 25 days!*

*How did Mary and Joseph know Jesus' weight when he was born?
They had a weigh in the manger!*

*What is the best Christmas present in the world?
A broken drum, you just can't beat it!*

*What did the stamp say to the Christmas card?
Stick with me and we'll go places!*



**Why not try the
LECKFORD POSTAL
QUIZ?
and win £100**

Ten rounds of 12 questions, some straightforward, others challenging!!

Get your booklet of questions and answer sheets for £10 from:

Dawn Williams 01264 810724
or David Barnes 01264 819516
Touchwood, High St, Stockbridge

**CLOSING DATE:
Monday January 23rd**

This is a fund-raising event
for St Nicholas Church
Leckford



NATIVITY WORDSEARCH

Fill in the grid with things associated with the nativity story. One row and one column are already filled in plus a few other letters. If you need help with the words the full list is on p30



Stockbridge Community Market



We would like to thank all those who support the market so faithfully. We have had a tricky time balancing the books since Covid and

wondered seriously if we could continue at times. We will update you all after November 20th when we meet to make important decisions about the future of the Market.

We would like to thank Jean Munford, our wonderful, faithful baker of many years for all her hard work turning out large volumes of sweet and savoury baking. She is hanging up her oven gloves and retiring from the Market at the end of December and will be much missed by all, not least her regular customers.

We have been fortunate to have had several new Marketeers join us over the last couple of months, extending our repertoire and adding to our much-needed bakers. We welcome Sharon, who makes wonderful hand-made soaps and candles (great for presents!); Mo, who has an award-winning line of preserves and also bakes; Katie, who makes wonderful fabric crafts including re-usable fabric Christmas crackers and a plethora of present ideas. Sue and David run a very comprehensive craft stall including fabric gifts and hand-made wooden items including hand turned goods. Lastly, we welcome Debbie, who bakes and can do gluten-free and other dietary requirements. We are so grateful for new blood and hope that this may tide us over a difficult patch.

The Market will close on Thursday December 15th for our well-earned break until the first Thursday in February 2023!

We hope to have our wonderful carol singers to round off the Market year and I'm sure a few mince pies will be floating around too. Wishing you all peace and warmth and we look forward to seeing you all at the Market in the Town Hall on Thursdays 9.30 – 11.30am.

Carol Preston



Why did no one bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay?

Because they were two deer!

Stockbridge Football Club



As a recent local resident I feel honoured to have been welcomed onto the committee of Stockbridge Football Club.

Now having joined my fellow club custodians, the overriding hope is that our wonderful historic club can become a greater part of community life. As many of you reading will already know, The Robins first started playing in 1894 and have been an important part of Stockbridge Town's community ever since. Many of the amazing selfless people associated with the club today are following in the footsteps of their families in having played or volunteered for the club for more than the past 120 years.

I have also learned from talking to the committee that many businesses in the area have been fantastic supporters of our club over the years and I'm certain we can revive that connection too.

These are incredibly exciting times for The Robins as we currently sit on top of the Hampshire Premier League. Our first team's fantastic form coupled with renewed support from this community means we have a real chance of Stockbridge FC, our local team, being promoted into the Wessex League. That would be something to truly celebrate in these tough times. But of course, without your vital support that dream will be much harder to make a reality this season.




The club will be posting news and upcoming matches on social media and in the local magazines and keep an eye on our notice board on the High Street too. I know the committee looks forward to welcoming many of you in person to the Clubhouse, down at the Recreation Ground (entrance next to Rawlings Opticians on Stockbridge High Street) as we take this incredible sporting journey together. The more the merrier! Do please seek me out, I'm the very tall man with the spiked quiff and the silver rings and, if Stockbridge wins, and you've cheered loudly, well, chances are I might even buy you a drink!

I would love us to build on that incredible legacy and encourage our local community to revive their connection to the club through renewed support.

C'mon you Robins!


Bob Powell
Committee member Stockbridge Football Club



Stop Press

We are delighted to hear that our correspondent Bob Powell has just been elected Chairman of Stockbridge Football Club. Bob replaces outgoing Chairman and club stalwart Trevor Dance.

Trevor has been tirelessly supporting the Club through a tough period off the pitch.



Flu and COVID vaccination

Our team gave almost 2,500 covid and flu vaccines during October. As we have limited supplies of vaccine, particularly the under 65's flu, we will send out a message after 21 November to advise whether we are having more clinics. If you are aged over 65 years, please book to have your flu vaccination.

If you are booked for either your covid or flu vaccination (or both) and cannot make the appointment or have already been vaccinated, please take the time to cancel your appointment so another patient can be booked in.

New telephone system

Thank you for your patience whilst we installed a new telephone system. We are happy to receive any feedback. This can be given in person or by using the feedback form on our website; stockbridgesurgery.co.uk

NHS Health Checks

These checks are for patients aged between 40-74 years who do not already have a long-term medical condition (e.g. diabetes, high blood pressure, heart problems). If you would like to book a check, please contact the surgery. The check involves having a blood test, blood pressure check, being weighed and answering questions about your general health. Further information is available online at: www.nhs.uk/conditions/nhs-health-check/

Travelling abroad?

Just a reminder that we do need at least 8 weeks' notice if you would like to receive travel vaccinations at the surgery. Please complete a travel health form (available on our website) and email it back to us. A nurse will review your form and we will contact you regarding necessary vaccinations and to agree appointment dates. If you are travelling sooner than 8 weeks, please book at a private travel clinic.

Staff news

We are pleased to let you know that Dr Hannah Pike now has twin baby boys. Mother and babies are doing well.

Christmas and New Year closures

Stockbridge GP Practice will be closed from Friday 23 December, 6.30pm (Stockbridge) and 6pm (Broughton) and will reopen on Wednesday 28 December at 8.30am.

At New Year, we will be closed on Monday 3 January. If you are unwell on a bank holiday or the surgery is shut, please call 111. Over the festive period, please ensure you request medication one week before you need to collect it from us, bearing in mind the days we are closed. If you will run out on Monday 26 December, you will need to collect from us on Friday 23 December, so please request by Friday 16 December.

Ann Spooner

This year, of all years, it feels like we all need to think more about our friends and family. I think there is no better way to make them feel special than by giving homemade goodies. It's a way of giving a little of yourself. This biscuit recipe is both simple and quick to make but, placed in an old clean jar and edged with ribbon, it makes a lovely gift. Great for children to try.

It does require a food mixer or processor, but they are absolutely delicious!

Cheese and caraway shortbread biscuits

Makes 50-60

You will need a baking sheet and greaseproof paper

Ingredients

4oz (120g) Manchego cheese - see tips below

4oz (120g) butter - grated

4oz (120g) plain flour

1 tsp hot mustard powder

½ tsp salt

½ tsp fine white pepper

1 tbsp lightly roasted caraway seeds

1 beaten egg for glazing

Method

Preheat the oven to 375°F (190°C). It's best to use the non-fan setting if you have one.

Place all the ingredients except the egg into a food processor and blitz it for about a minute until it's all combined into a ball.

Divide the mixture into two and roll into two long sausages. The best way to do this is to place the mixture on to greaseproof paper and roll it within the paper to stop it sticking to you and the work surface!

Slice the shortbread into thin discs and place on a baking sheet covered with more greaseproof.

Brush well with the beaten egg.

Bake for 10-12 minutes until golden and crispy. The biscuits might be frayed at the edges, but they should be crumbly in the centre.

Allow to cool slightly and either place in the jar or, if you can't resist it, just eat them!

Tips

You can use any strong cheese such as cheddar or gruyere but not Brie or softer cheeses. Also consider other herbs such as rosemary or thyme in order to make a selection box.

Happy Christmas, Happy Cooking and thank you for reading!

Linda Hotchen



ROSEBOURNE

A FRESH APPROACH

Local Produce Garden Nursery Restaurant

SHOP, EAT & RELAX

Rosebourne showcases the best locally sourced produce within the restaurant and food hall as well as a wide range of plants, garden products and unique gifts for the home.

Amesbury Road, Weyhill, SP11 8ED

www.rosebourne.co.uk

hair by

Louise

MOBILE HAIRDRESSER

Previous experience working in top West End hair salon as well as top Winchester salons

Tel 01264 712037 mob: 07788 248378



RESTORATION SERVICE

FURNITURE | ANTIQUES | OBJET D'ART

By experienced craftsman in Barton Stacey

Repairs Polishing Upholstery
Marquetry Floors Banisters
Leather Tops Projects

Phone Tim Williams 07565 591481

Email: timwilliamsrestorations@gmail.com

STOCKBRIDGE CHIROPODY

FIONA ROBINSON
DipodM MSRch Bsc(Hons)

Health Professions Council
Registered
Chiropodist/Podiatrist

Home Visits and
Clinic Appointments
available

01264 810739

STOCKBRIDGE CHIROPODY



STOCKBRIDGE OSTEOPATHIC PRACTICE

Osteopathy and Cranial Osteopathy

Emma Wightman, registered osteopath and antenatal teacher. A gentle, hands on approach for newborns through to adulthood and in pregnancy.

Also

Massage Therapy

Pilates, 1 to 1 and small group

Homeopathy

Naturopathy

Online Bookings available for
Osteopathy and Massage via the website

Tel: 01264 810028

www.the-SOP.com reception@the-SOP.com

STOCKBRIDGE OSTEOPATHIC PRACTICE - HIGH STREET, STOCKBRIDGE, SO20 6HF

Restoration of Stockbridge Town Hall - Part 2

We asked Hugh Saxton to recall the Town Hall restoration project when he was Chairman of the Town Hall Committee. He continues from last month with an account of how the necessary funds were raised.

When our architect (Linda Brown RIBA) drew up the specification for the rebuilding in the space between the hall and Little Wyke it was clear we would need well over £300,000 - a daunting sum.

Apart from our funds from running the hall we had, thanks to George McMeekin, undertakings totalling £37,250 from Hampshire County Council, Test Valley Borough Council and Stockbridge Parish Council. That was all there was. Fortunately, we soon learned of two possible sources of larger sums. These need a little explanation:

SEEDA : The South East England Development Agency was a Government-funded body with a responsibility for promoting economic development in the South East. A sub-group, the Market Towns Initiative, aimed to help communities such as ours and was represented by Anne Harrison of Hampshire Council who was Market Towns Manager. After we had applied, SEEDA offered £130,000 to various projects in Stockbridge of which £80,000 was for the Town Hall.

VEOLIA : In 1996, the Government introduced a Landfill Tax. This aimed to deter the use of landfill by waste disposal companies. However, the companies could reduce their tax liability by making payments to the Landfill Communities Fund. This was a system for providing donations to community or environmental projects in the vicinity of a landfill site. The idea was to offset any harmful effects from having a landfill site in your area. Veolia, a major waste disposal company, had such a scheme and we were within the required distance of a site. Because we were improving a public amenity our project qualified. So we applied and were allocated £89,796.

At this stage, we felt able to make a local appeal which, with Gift Aid enhancement, raised about £29,000. As our own funds were in the region of £90,000, we now had a total of nearly £330,000. This was close to our architect's estimate and we therefore asked for tenders.

With much more to be done, we continued to appeal to local organisations and raise funds in other ways. By late 2009, we were gratified to have secured these new, local, sources:

The Houghton Fishing Club	12,000
Film Shows (approx.)	2,000
Ian Weatherhead (donated picture)	1,750
Melville Charitable Trust (staged over 5 yrs)	1,250
Leckford Estate (Water Gardens opening)	1,800
Peter Barker-Mill Charity	1,000
Stockbridge Country Market (approx.)	800
Waitrose (local outlets - approx.)	500
The Court Leet of Stockbridge	300
Hawk Engineering & Fabrication Ltd	300
Total	£21,700

It goes without saying that we continued to approach charities and, over time, gained further funding. By this stage the 'rolling snowball effect' in fund-raising was helping. In other words, when people can see your success, they may be more inclined to support you.

One donation which made a huge difference was from a Stockbridge resident, Margaret Humber, now, sadly, deceased. She gave the money to open the blocked-up windows. And one substantial later donation was almost £60,000 from Viridor, another waste disposal company. But undoubtedly the turning point was the SEEDA grant. Not only was it substantial in itself but it gave us credibility with Veolia and other donors.

The Town Hall Team

The Town Hall Committee changed over time but in the earlier days it was:

Hugh Saxton (Chairman), Geoff Cox (Treasurer), Mandy Henley (Bookings Coordinator), Barry Mitchell (Maintenance Coordinator), David Baseley, Joyce Compton, Richard Gueterbock, Jean Knight and Roger Tym.

Later, Robin Colenso joined as Treasurer, Mark Frank to advise on a booking system and Kim Candler to replace Richard Gueterbock, Joyce Compton and Jean Knight.

Maddie Hedley and Mike Liberson were also on the committee for a time.

Everyone contributed in some way to the fundraising and others in the community joined at times. For example, Michael Woodhall, then our County Councillor, joined Richard Gueterbock, David Baseley and Hugh Saxton in a team which drove to Bexhill to make the presentation to Veolia.

Special mention must be made of Anne Harrison of Hampshire County Council who helped immeasurably, guiding us in the application to the Market Towns Initiative and later in finding money to pay for the plate glass windows.

Hugh Saxton

The 'before'...

And for the 'after', next time Hugh will tell the story of the renovation work itself ... and the problems encountered!



RICHARD
EST STEEL 1860
 & PARTNERS

**The Family Owned
 FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

'Serving Hampshire since 1860'

▪ **Iain Steel** ▪ **Richard Steel BEM** ▪
 Alderman House, 12-14 City Road
WINCHESTER
(01962) 862333 (24hrs)

- **Personal 24 Hour Service** ▪
- **Bespoke Funeral Plans** ▪

www.winchesterfunerals.co.uk

160 years of Family Service

Hm&G

— GROUNDS & GARDEN —

Working with

**GARRISON
 GARDENERS**

**All aspects of garden
 and groundwork undertaken...**

- Grass Cutting • Regular Maintenance
- One-off Seasonal Tidy-ups
- Landscaping • Hedge & Tree Care
- Fence Erecting/Repairs
- Pressure Washing • Weed Control

Fully insured, Safecontractor registered and upper tier waste carrier.

Contact the team on: **01722 346 949**

Text on: **07881 378 600**

email: info@hmandg.co.uk

www.hmandg.co.uk



**Shane Ling
 Garden Maintenance**

For all your gardening needs

Local and reliable

- Grass cutting
- Weeding
- Hedge cutting
- Spraying
- Fencing
- Garden clearance
- River banks
- And much much more

Call today for a free quote

07557 405110

66 Pound Road
 Over Wallop
 Stockbridge
 SO20 8JU

Worthy Heating & Plumbing Services Ltd

- **Free Boiler Estimates**
- **Power Flushing**
- **Gas / Oil / LPG**
- **Boiler Servicing / Installations / Repairs**
- **Hot water Cylinders**
- **Central Heating Systems**
- **Plumbing work undertaken**
- **Fourth Family Business**

Tel: 01962 776321

Email: enquiries@worthyheatingservices.co.uk





Chilbolton Mother named on The Independent's 'Happy List' for her work helping Ukrainians

If you are a regular reader of this magazine, you will already know about S & L (Stockbridge & Longstock) Homes for Ukraine. We are an informal group of local residents who, over the last six months, have successfully worked with Ukrainians to integrate them locally, not just in Stockbridge & Longstock but also in Broughton, Clatford, Grateley and, more recently, we have a new host in Crawley.

The group, including hosts, guests and helpers, meets every so often to exchange ideas, stories and generally support each other. Friday 21st October was one such evening at the Town Hall when we were pleased to welcome many new attendees to hear our speakers, Harriet Asher and Rosie Wilcock.

Harriet, a young mum of three from Chilbolton, was recently named as one of 50 people on the Independent newspaper's 'Happy List' for her work helping refugees get out of Ukraine. Harriet was an early member to our group and in the first few days of the Russian invasion, desperate to help, she travelled to the Polish border.



An emotional Harriet told us how, in her words, she met "many normal people doing wonderful things." Not her plan, and unbeknown to her husband, she found herself with a Serbian journalist crossing the border into Ukraine. Mainstream charities such as the Red Cross were nowhere to be seen (that still being the case) and, with the real concern over people-trafficking, Harriet quickly identified a need for safe travel and accommodation.

With each coach costing up to £8,000, she set up a *Go Fund* page and raised over £39,000. Receiving thousands of messages for help from traumatised families, Harriet organises evacuations, safe houses and safe passage for those wanting to leave all parts of Ukraine to safety. Harriet planned to return to Ukraine in November to join a transport and take with her donated boxes for orphans aged between 6 months and 14 years. Each box contained a pair of pyjamas, warm socks, gloves and hat and "a teddy bear."

If you would like to donate to Harriet's cause, you can do so via www.gofundme.com/f/help-harriet-pay-for-ukrainian-flights-to-london

Our second speaker, Rosie Wilcock, from Weyhill, is a host herself and is part of an organisation called Sunflower Sisters which, like Harriet, organises aid

to Ukraine and helps evacuate those fleeing the war. Rosie also worked for a period of time with TVBC as a Refugee Caseworker.



With many Ukrainians reaching the six-month point of the Scheme, Rosie discussed the support available for refugee housing. Thankfully most hosts have agreed to extend their hosting to 12 months but, after that, there is a pending homelessness issue. With social housing in high demand and low supply in the Test Valley, Ukrainian guests will, at the 12 month point, have to join a waiting list just like anyone else. Ukrainian guests in the Test Valley have limited options available for future housing, which include re-matching to a host if available and private rental. Both options require effort and support from the local community. A working group to try and recruit new hosts and future landlords has been formed. It aims to support TVBC in their statutory role to prevent homelessness. Anybody interested in hosting or renting to a Ukrainian Family are encouraged to get in touch at hutestvalley@gmail.com.

For more details of our group go to <https://sites.google.com/view/slhuk/home>

Amanda Lambert



Poppy Appeal

This year's Poppy Appeal went very well and we only had one bad weather day.

However, thanks to all the residents of Providence Court and Garden Inn, we were able to have a Poppy Stall at weekends under cover. This was much appreciated by our slightly older team members who were sheltered from the weather and could sit down!

Obviously we don't have the final total yet but it will be at least £5,000 when all the money has been counted. I am very grateful to Andrea Zanchi who has taken over the financial side of the Appeal. Thank you all for your wonderful support with helping with poppies and for your generous donations.

Angela McMeekin



ARBOR-CALL TREE SURGEONS

- ✔ All Aspects of Tree Maintenance
- ✔ Hedge Cutting
- ✔ Stump Removal
- ✔ Tree Surveys & Reports
- ✔ Planning Advice & Applications
- ✔ Log Supply & Delivery
- ✔ Fully qualified & insured

01264 303303

enquiries@arborcall.co.uk
www.arborcall.co.uk



FEATHERSTONE'S ENGLISH FLOWER CO.

A sustainable flower farm in
Nether Wallop.

Full floristry services: Weddings,
events, funeral flowers, gift
bouquets,
Onsite: workshops, pick your own
and much more.

Find out more and for online
ordering:
www.featherstoneflowers.co.uk
or call: 07769 331535

WINCHESTER AUTO BARN & DRIVERS' CLUB

*Competitive rates, quality
workmanship and fast turnarounds.*

SERVICING
MOT'S
DIAGNOSTICS
BRAKES
GENERAL REPAIRS
AIR CONDITIONING
CLUTCH & CAMBELT REPLACEMENTS
MINOR BODY WORK REPAIRS

For all makes & models, old & new



Winchester Auto Barn
Sutton Scotney, Winchester, SO21 3NS
Tel. 01962 677776
www.winchesterautobarn.com

TAYLOR & KERBY ANTIQUÉ CLOCK REPAIRS



www.taylorandkerby.co.uk
Unit 5, The Fairground Craft Centre, Weyhill,
HANTS, SP11 0QN
01264 772230



RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 2023

Save the Date
27-29 January 2023
(and don't forget to register in December)

If you were one of the 700,000 people who took part in the RSPB birdwatch in January 2022, you will be interested to know that the top 10 garden bird sightings were:

House Sparrow, Blue Tit, Starling, Woodpigeon, Blackbird, Robin, Goldfinch, Great Tit, Magpie, Chaffinch.

Watching and counting the birds in your garden or local outdoor space for an hour sounds like a perfect activity for a dreary January day - so why not get the family involved and take part in 2023? The RSPB is inviting registrations by mid-December for January's Birdwatch which takes place over the 27 - 29 January.

All the information you need to begin your count is on the RSPB web site so go to rspb.org.uk/birdwatch to find it. They will provide help if you think your identification skills might be challenged and will offer tips on encouraging birds into your garden. A bird-feeder might even be the perfect Christmas present for someone who wants to get started. If you see very few birds or none at all, the RSPB would still like to know.

Happy birdwatching!

Sharing your dinner with the birds



At this time of year, put out food and water on a regular basis. In severe weather, feed twice daily if you can - in the morning and in the early afternoon. Birds require high-energy (high-fat) foods during the cold winter to maintain fat reserves to survive the frosty nights.

Use only good-quality food and scraps (suggestions below). Always adjust the quantity given to the demand and never allow uneaten food to accumulate around the feeders. Once you establish a feeding routine, try not to change it as the birds will become used to it and time their visits to your garden accordingly.

Good hygiene is vital in all seasons, or feeding may do more harm than good. Cleaning feeders, bird tables and bird baths to keep the birds that use them fit, healthy and disease free is very important and needs to be carried out regularly.

Many kitchen scraps and Christmas leftovers make ideal snacks for birds visiting your garden and can help them get the food they need to survive. Here's a quick guide to what you can put out:

Fat - fat from cuts of meat (only from unsalted varieties) can be put out in large pieces, from which birds such as tits can remove morsels. Make sure they are well anchored to prevent large birds flying away with the whole piece. Cooked turkey fat from roasting tins is NOT suitable for birds.

Roast potatoes - cold and opened up, these will be eaten by most garden birds.

Vegetables - cold Brussels sprouts, parsnips or carrots will be eaten by starlings and other birds. Don't put out more than will be eaten in one day otherwise you run the risk of attracting rats.

Fruit - excess or bruised apples, pears and other fruit are very popular with all thrushes, tits and starlings. Cut them up and leave them on the bird table or on the ground.

Pastry - cooked or uncooked is excellent, especially if made with real fats.

Cheese - Hard bits of cheese are a favourite with robins, dunnocks, blackbirds and song thrushes. It will also help wrens if placed under hedgerows and other areas in your garden where you have noticed them feeding. Avoid very strong or blue cheeses.

Dried fruits - raisins, sultanas and currants are particularly enjoyed by blackbirds, song thrushes and robins.


Biscuits and cake - Stale cake and broken pieces of biscuits from the bottom of the tin are high in fat and ideal for birds in the winter.

Ryan Bundy



Oil painting classes
Mixed media classes
+ 1 day workshops

Starts January 2023 at Stockbridge Town Hall
All levels are welcome. Why not buy a friend a Christmas gift voucher?
Contact **Su Joy** for info: su29joy@gmail.com



A gentle and effective way of relieving many painful conditions and improving mobility. For back, neck and shoulder pain, joint stiffness, muscular aches and tension headaches.

The Stockbridge Osteopathic Practice
Lisa Morley DC, MMCA,
GCC Registered Chiropractor
To book a consultation and treatment
call **01264 810028**
or online www.stockbridgeosteopathicpractice.com

Whatever you want to store...



Whatever your needs, long or short term

...for whatever reason - house sale and purchase not coinciding, travelling, bereavement, house building work, decorating or even 'de-cluttering' to sell your house more quickly - we offer a friendly, flexible and secure facility.

Barn-Store is a rurally-based, family run business 2 minutes from Stockbridge. We offer all the features associated with the national chains, from high tech security to hassle-free 24/7 access.

For more information, contact us:

www.barn-store.co.uk
01264 316166



Access Care

Private Live-in Carers

We provide peace of mind for the whole family by arranging the finest carers to live with your parents in their own home.

Carers can be booked on a short or long-term basis.

01264 319 399

LOCAL AGENCY - SINCE 1994
WWW.ACCESS-CARE.CO.UK
HELLO@ACCESS-CARE.CO.UK

THE HUB

Hairdressing in Stockbridge
We care about hair

Hair is the primary adornment of a person, an expression of their personality, style and feelings.



LA BIOSTHETIQUE[®]
PARIS

PREMIER HAIR SALON

Tel 01264 810139 www.thehubstockbridge.co.uk
Old London Road Stockbridge SO20 6EJ

Tom Howells

Fencing & Landscapes



Digger Hire with Operator
Patios, Paving & Driveways
Tree Surgery & Hedge Cutting
Artificial Lawns, Turfing, Tree & Hedge Planting
All Types of Fencing
Domestic / Commercial / Equestrian

Mobile: 07825616420 Telephone: 01264 781242
Email: tomhowells3@googlemail.com

Free Advice & Estimates • NO V.A.T • Fully Insured • Experienced & Qualified
National Diploma in Horticulture & Landscaping • Registered Waste Carrier

"Your local Solicitors"

32 High St, Andover
SP10 1NT

Barker Son & Isherwood LLP



www.bsandi.co.uk

Wills / Probate / Trust & Tax Advice / Powers of Attorney / Elderly Care Advice

Conveyancing – Sales & Purchases

Divorce / Separation / Children Matters / Financial Settlements

Employment Law / Settlement Agreements

Contract Litigation

Will & Property Disputes

Care Fee Advice

Personal Injury

Business & Commercial Matters

Road Traffic Offences

Debt Recovery

www.bsandi.co.uk
Email: info@bsandi.co.uk




Find us on Facebook



CALL US NOW ON
01264 353411

Potting Shed Cuttings for December and January

Gardening Events

Forget-Me-Nots dementia-friendly gardening - Mayfield Nursery, Southampton

Glimmering Gardens - Chawton House, Chawton

Christmas Workhop - Sir Harold Hillier Gardens

To help you in your search for the ideal Christmas present for a gardening friend or something for your own green-fingered list for Santa, I have been scouring the gardening websites for the more unusual and strange objects considered 'a must' for the keen gardener.

Intrigued by a post for the *Bee Drinking Glass Ball*, I delved further, to discover not some strange killer, intent on ridding the world of bees, but coloured glass globes with indentations shallow enough to catch rain water for thirsty bees, without drowning them. Silly me, I thought they managed quite well with rain drops caught in leaves.

Magic Manure Brew Bags seemed a much more down-to-earth option, although worm manure home-brew didn't seem to offer the same allure as hops. But these brew bags use worm manure to make rich, organic plant fertiliser, not a strange new flavour beer. I wonder how many worms were at work for this particular offering.

An absolute 'must' for the female gardener is a personalised female garden gnome. Simply send a selection of head shots, hair and eye colour and you could have your own lookalike gnome for your patio, with an option for tattoos if you want them.

I must admit the *Boozy Gardener's Kit* tempted me more but, as you have to grow the plants first to use in your cocktails, I'm not sure I'd have the patience to wait for that first magic cocktail mix.

Or there's the *Grow Your Own Weird Vegetable Patch Kit*, with seeds of strange-looking vegetables. The jury's still out on that one; and if actually growing vegetables seems too much like hard work, why not go for the *Wooden Grow Your Own Garden Set*? As the name suggests, it's made entirely from wood and can be enjoyed in the comfort of your own home - no need to step outside or do a stroke of work!

Terracotta Flowerpot Men, personalised with your and your partner's names brought back happy childhood memories of Bill, Ben and Little Weed (an incomprehensible reference for those under a certain age...) but I think happy memories is how they should remain.

As I searched for something at least useful, I came across teaspoons shaped like little spades and shovels, presumably to remind you of your garden chores even while you're having your well-earned tea break.



An apparently effective and sweet-smelling alternative to more traditional fertilisers for outdoor and indoor plants is dried alpaca poo; it comes in a brown paper bag and looks rather like coffee beans. I will quickly pass by a description of the plant markers which are in the form of naked ramblers. Some things are best ignored.

Finally, the *Unkillable Plant Kit* seemed to offer hope to the would-be gardener on the point of giving up. The kit contained a variety of lithops seeds, together with everything to get them started for an indoor plant display. Since lithops are also known as 'living stones', you could, in fact, just put together a small collection of pebbles, and as the warning with this 'unkillable plant kit' advised that the seeds might die before or after germination, that could be a good idea.

Happy Christmas!

Micki Nadal

Answers to Christmas Anagrams p 12

1. Carol Singers
2. Christmas Eve
3. Frosty the snowman
4. White Christmas
5. Frankincense
6. Christmas card
7. Chestnuts
8. Advent calendar
9. Feast of Stephen
10. Poinsettia
11. Christmas tree
12. Saint Nicholas
13. Mary and Joseph
14. Brandy sauce
15. Nativity play
16. Silent night
17. Yuletide
18. Decorations
19. Seasons greetings
20. King Wenceslas

Answers to Quiz p12

1. A Silage B Hay C Straw
2. Nitrogen, Phosphate, Potash.
3. Holstein.
4. A Broiler.
5. Leaching.
6. Top Row: Kubota, Massey Ferguson, Case IH
Bottom Row: Claas, Fendt

FOR SALE - proceeds to charity

Flymo Garden Vac 2700W turbo leafblower

Flymo MiniTrim Auto strimmer

£25 each, donation to charity.

Mrs. Anna Stone. 01264 810523.



CARPETCLEANMAN

GRIME TO CLEAN WITH OUR MACHINE

CarpetCleanMan® for all your Carpet and Upholstery cleaning requirements. We provide the following services:

- Carpet, Rug & Upholstery cleaning
- Stain Removal
- Sanitising and deodorising
- Stainguard Protection

We can inspect your carpets and upholstery and advise on the most effective methods to restore them using Woolsafe® approved products and training and give you a no obligation quote to carry out the work.

Get that hygienic fresh feeling again.

Call your local **CarpetCleanMan®** on **01962 435036** or email **admin@carpetcleanman.co.uk**



Classic Car Storage in Andover

**SECURE
DE-HUMIDIFIED
INSURED**

01264 369773
bill@classiccarstory.co.uk
classiccarstory.co.uk



Tree Care ~ Logs ~ Hedge cutting

www.larktreeservices.co.uk

Phone: **01980 670 226** **01264 874 464**
or **07850 849 960**

email: **graemelark@outlook.com**

FOOTCARE BY LOUISE

Louise Salter Dip FH MCFHP MAFMP. Qualified, Insured & DBS Checked.



Mobile Foot Health Practice covering Andover and surrounding areas. I provide tailored treatment and advice to suit individual needs in the comfort of your own home. I offer routing nail maintenance, treatments and advice for corns, calluses and heel fissures, ingrown toenails, fungal infections, verrucae and diabetic foot care.

**Contact: 07368 591040 or
footcarebylouise@outlook.com**

Good Lady Cleaner Available



I will clean your home or office from top to bottom. Very good references 25 years' experience. Trustworthy and reliable. **Covering all villages.** Used to all pets.
Contact me for a quote

**Phone Lynn 01264 366037
or Mobile 07843 112269**



Stockbridge Parish Council News

Pavement and Gully Clearance

Stockbridge Parish Council has been working with TVBC to regularise the cleaning of the pavements and the gullies. A pavement sweeper aims to visit Stockbridge fortnightly on a Wednesday and the gully machine will visit on a Monday. They will aim to do both sides of the road on the same day. If cars are in the way, the gully cleaner will move round them but this is obviously not ideal. It would be helpful if residents with off street parking could remember to park off the High street on Sunday night.

Leaf Clearance

TVBC's annual leaf clearance started on Monday 24 October and will take around eight weeks to complete. TVBC are targeting areas that regularly accumulate a lot of leaves but they are responding to ad-hoc requests to clear debris. If you wish to report an area to be cleared or would like more information, please contact Pete Legg, Environmental Services Manager on 8136 or email plegg@testvalley.gov.uk

Sustainable Warmth Scheme

TVBC residents can now get help with their rising energy bills by applying for a grant of up to £25,000 for sustainable home improvements. The new Sustainable Warmth scheme funded by the Government is managed by City Energy working in partnership with TVBC. Grants ranging from £5,000 to £25,000 (depending on various factors) will cover up to 100% of the costs for various energy-saving improvements such as installing insulation, heating system upgrades, energy efficient hot water solutions, solar panels and energy efficient lighting (among other improvements). The funding is targeted at residents who are most likely to be impacted by the high cost of rising bills. Residents can find further information and check if they are eligible at www.hampshire-applications.co.uk/, or telephone City Energy on 02921 680951 and press one for scheme applications. City Energy is the supply partner and will manage the process.

Consultations

Both TVBC and HCC are currently undertaking public consultations. TVBC is consulting on its Draft Statement of Community Involvement in Planning (SCI) 2022, and on its updated draft Infrastructure and Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Both consultations close on Friday 16 December. HCC is consulting on its minerals and waste plan. There will be public exhibitions taking place at various venues across Hampshire until mid-December. The consultation closes at 5pm on Tuesday 31 January 2023. Further information and links to the consultation documents can be found on the Stockbridge Parish Council's website: <http://www.stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk/>

Road Works

There will be programmed overnight road closures to enable surface carriageway repairs:

A30 London Road Stockbridge (from Winton Hill to Stockbridge Road) starting 5 December

A3057 Romsey Road Wherwell (from Winchester Road to near Fullerton Road) starting 8th December.

The works at each location will take up to 3 nights to complete and to undertake them safely, a road closure will be in place from approximately 20:00 - 06:00 hours each day. The road will be open outside of these hours. More information is available on Stockbridge Parish Council website

The next meetings of Stockbridge Parish Council will be on 8th December 2022 and 19th January 2023.

Belinda Baker, Clerk to Parish Council

clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk



Gibbon's Years by Jock Macdonald

The title of this book is intriguing, but I am going to leave it at that and hasten the reader to obtain a copy as, on the back cover, all is explained!

Jock Macdonald has provided us with a book that is both readable and thought-provoking. It covers his early life in India, growing up in Scotland in the 50s, and following schooling at Glenalmond College, his progress to Oxford where he read PPE. He then embarked on a career in teaching, from which he retired after 37 years at Winchester as Deputy Master. Interestingly, he taught our current Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, on whom he has a bit to say. Running parallel with his teaching life in Winchester is his lifelong interest in classical history, literature, archaeology and astrology.

He weaves an interesting and amusing course through the book, including tales of the purchase of two stone-built cottages in Umbria and of holiday times spent in them and of quirky happenings - all of which is treated with warmth and humour. He describes his time scraping carefully away on excavations in the late Roman cemetery at Lankhills, Winchester and, finally, one should not forget Jock's great interest in astrology and he discusses the casting of people's fortunes! Latterly, he has been very involved with the effects of climate change and the environment.

What makes this book more than a friendly memoir is the intent behind it. Jock is a serious and committed environmentalist and fully realises that here we all are, in the second decade of the 21st century, staring potential disaster in the face. He is aware that it is difficult for the individual to make an impression on a global scale but nevertheless urges us all to speak out loudly. He is certainly playing his part through this autobiography.

Reviewed by Peter Hughes

Art & Antiques
Valuations

Bellmans
FINE ART AUCTIONEERS



Contact Julian Dineen for a free valuation on any art or antiques you are considering selling at auction.

bellmans.co.uk

julian@bellmans.co.uk
01962 861789
07854 577109



Winchester GP

High Quality

Prompt

Private Care

Same day appointments | Home visits

Wellness Screening | Menopause Specialist

24 hour online booking | Extended hours reception

Easy access and free on-site parking

Free to register, use alongside your NHS GP

01962 776010
WinchesterGP.com

Winchester
Chandler's Ford



NIGEL EVERSFIELD MORGAN

CHAUFFEUR DRIVEN CLASSIC CARS



The White House, Sutton Scotney,
Winchester, SO21 3JW
01962 760254
nigel@eversfield-morgan.co.uk
www.eversfield-morgan.co.uk

Merritt 

Tree Specialists Ltd

Est. 1997
Celebrating 25 years

Professional tree surgery in accordance with BS:3998

Free Quotations

Insured up to £10 million



Tel: 01962 861597 Email: info@merritt-treespecialists.co.uk
www.merritt-treespecialists.co.uk



www.WINLOCKS.com

David Small

Winchester's Mobile Locksmith

Locks Fitted ■ Locks Changed
Locks Opened

Phone 01962 849426 Mobile 07944 355000
Email info@winlocks.com

MLA trained & certified ■ CRB checked ■ Insured



Notes from a Bookseller

Highlights for the Holidays



There never seem to be enough hours in the day to keep up with all the reading we'd like to do but, between us at The Bookmark, Elaine, Nick, Suzannah and Julia, we manage to cover quite a lot! We also enjoy hearing recommendations from customers and of course we do our best to keep up with all the latest news in publishing.

This year has been a great one for new titles and we have some favourites we'd love to recommend for your Christmas gift ideas. Alongside these are others hot off the press, as yet to be 'tested' by us but which come with great accolades, stunning reviews and much anticipation.



New fiction titles from great modern British authors include *Lessons* by Ian McEwan, *Shrines of Gaiety* by Kate Atkinson, and *The Romantic* by William Boyd.

For those interested in current affairs, politics and real lives, you need look no further than *The Climate Book*, a collection of essays from global experts in the fields of

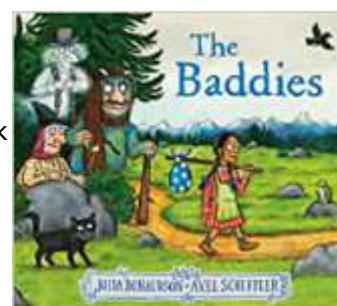
science, mathematics, philosophy, history and many other disciplines, curated by Greta Thunberg.

Also new on the shelves is Ben MacIntyre's most recent, assured and gripping book *Colditz*, a vivid account of both the inmates and jailers of the infamous prison, and the second part of the indomitable nonagenarian Lady Anne Glenconner's autobiography, *Whatever Next?*

There are also, as ever, a wonderful selection of children's books. New titles from favourite authors include *Which Way to Anywhere* by Cressida Cowell

(*How to Train Your Dragon*, *Wizards of Once*), *Flying Scotsman and the Best Birthday Ever*, a new picture book from Michael Morpurgo,

and not one, but two, new titles from Julia Donaldson's unending imagination: *The Baddies* and *What the*



Ladybird Heard at Christmas. A new re-telling of a Hans Christian Anderson classic, *The Little Match Girl Strikes Back* is by popular award-winning children's author Emma Carroll, distinctively illustrated by Lauren Child (*Charlie and Lola*).

Perennial Christmas children's favourites include *Christmasaurus* by Tom Fletcher which now has a new follow-up, *The Christmasaurus and the Naughty List*; *The Snowman* by Raymond Briggs (also available as a re-telling by Michael Morpurgo and a version from the much-loved film) as well as Susan Cooper's classic *The Dark is Rising* which is particularly magical to read in real time, beginning on the winter solstice just before Christmas.

We hope you'll enjoy these titles over the holidays and in the new year. As ever, THE BOOKMARK wishes to thank you for your wonderful support and patronage throughout 2022!

Elaine, Julia, Suzannah and Nick



Holiday Hours

1st - 24th December

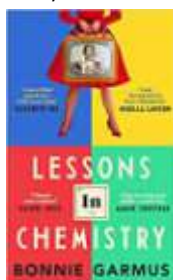
10am - 5pm, including Sunday and Monday

Closed from 25th December to 16th January 2023



Let's start with *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida* by Shehan Karunatilaka, this year's Booker Prize winner. A fast-paced witty satire, this whodunnit with a generous dose of magical realism, explores the carnage of Sri Lanka's civil wars. Equally assured and powerful is Bonnie Garmus's first novel, *Lessons in Chemistry*. It is a highly enjoyable, funny

and deeply-moving story that finds the reader rooting for the heroine in her battle for equality in the early 1960's workplace. The plot is broad and quirky, the characters rounded and recognisable, and the book gives us one of the most lovable dogs in literary history!



We also recommend Alan Garner's latest novel, *The Treacle Walker*. It is possible to read this in one sitting, although the atmosphere lingers long after and the impulse to re-read it straight away is strong. Garner is best known for his children's books, rich in fantasy and folklore – probably the most famous being *The Owl Service*. This latest, which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize, is suitable for adults and confident young readers alike.

Local author Barney Norris published his latest novel *Undercurrent* this year. An introspective and thoughtful tale it explores how family stories shape us and how we navigate loss. This novel, like his previous work, is a favourite with us at The Bookmark!



Another of our recommendations, this one with a musical bent, is the autobiography *Surrender* by Bono of the mega-band U2. Illustrated with photographs and drawings by Bono, it is a book pulsing with energy and very entertaining. And Bob Dylan's *The Philosophy of Modern Song* traces the origins and interpretations of many popular tunes.

Church News



St Mary's Longstock

On Saturday 12 November, an excellent crew assembled at the

church to tackle the mountains of leaves and to give the church a thorough clean – dealing with the cobwebs, tidying and cleaning the vestry – and what a job that was! Thanks Beth. The woodwork was polished and the floors cleaned. Outside the churchyard looked wonderful. Boo worked wonders on the plot next to the porch, weeding, pruning and preparing the plants for winter.



Chris worked wonders up in the Bell Tower, cleaning all the birds' attempts at nest building. Clearing the leaves was a mammoth task and thankfully most of the leaves have gone. A few more to come down, but hopefully we can meet again in the beginning December and deal with those. Sadly, four of the helpers had to leave before the photo, so thanks to Alison, Nick, Lisa and Michael, who all worked very hard.

Don't worry if you are sorry you could not help this time – the call will go out again for another clean up in December, when all the leaves have fallen! Probably the 3 December. Look out for the email!



On Remembrance Sunday, we had a Parish Communion Service in the Church, followed by An Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial at 10.50am, with a 2-minutes silence at 11.00am. As ever, around 80 villagers were at the Act of Remembrance. Three Apache Helicopters flew over during the 2-minute silence.

The Peat Spade generously provided coffee and cake after the service. A large group stayed at the Peat Spade for a curry lunch – which was delicious.

Good progress is being made with repairs to the windows. Salisbury Cathedral Glass have started the work, taking one window away. When ready, this will be fitted and the rest of the repairs done in situ.

December will be a very busy month – on 8 December, there will be Carols in the Peat Spade starting at 6.15pm. Donations in aid of St Mary's. Thanks to Lois for organising this again.

We are delighted to be invited back to Charity Farm for The Christmas Story in the Barn, Saturday 10 December. A simple retelling of the nativity story, with plenty of carols, all in the atmospheric setting of the Barn, which will be decorated. Thanks to Paul, Loz and Arthur Hardy for the invitation. The event will start at 3.00pm and will be followed by refreshments, mulled wine for adults, drinks for the young people, festive nibbles and mince pies.

18 December the traditional Crib Service will take place at St Mary, starting at 9.30am. The church, which will have been bare during the weeks of Advent, will be decorated ready for Christmas, with the tree and crib in place. During the service, all the 'residents' of the crib will be brought up, one or two during each carol. This service is a good start to Christmas.

On Christmas Day, the service will start at 10.00am. This will be our usual pattern of All Age Worship with the opportunity for Communion at the end of the service. We hope many will stay right to the end.

Longstock Lunches will take place on Thursdays 29 December and 26 January 2023 at 12.30pm in Longstock Village Hall.

The Plough Service alternates between Longstock and Leckford, and 2023 is the turn for Leckford to have this service. Details will be sent round in January.

On 29 January, we will have a Benefice Service at 10am at St Mary, Broughton. A good time to meet and chat to people from all the parishes in the Benefice.

We are still hoping that a volunteer to work with the PCC will come forward – this for helping us gain bronze, silver and gold awards for being an 'eco church'. The list of things we need to do include:

Include care of creation in the pew sheet prayer topics

Care for environment in preaching

Guest speakers to speak on environmental issues

Creation-care in bible study

Look into energy efficiency of church building and heating system

Consider solar panels in the valley gutter

No-mow May to encourage wild flowers

Arrange an annual "green-fair" event

Direct church-giving (ie PCC giving to charity) to environmental charities

Congregation Christmas card scheme

Find someone to run a Fairtrade stall (could be benefice-wide initiative)

Offer members of the congregation an environmental lifestyle audit.

Maddie Hedley

tel: 810284 or email mjh723@btinternet.com

Church News

St Peter's and Old St Peter's Stockbridge



In early November, we celebrated All Souls Day with a service in St Peter's Church. Our Team Minister, Sue Kipling, led a moving service remembering those of our loved ones who have died in the last year or even those whom we remember from many years ago. She and our Church Warden, David Williams, read out all the names provided by parishioners to be especially remembered and the congregation lit candles during the service.

On Armistice Day, the Rector led a short service at our beautiful Lutyens War Memorial.

At the 11th hour of the 11th month, a two-minute silence commemorated the dead. In attendance and laying a wreath were the children and staff from the Primary School.



Our Rector Phill led the Remembrance Sunday service two days later in St Peter's Church. It was attended by hundreds with standing room only after all the pews and seats were filled. As well as our local congregation and many visitors, were dozens of children from both Stockbridge Primary and Secondary Schools, of whom a selected number did beautiful readings. There were also large numbers of the Scout Group and Brownies who carried their banners up to the altar and then subsequently down the High Street to the War Memorial. During the service, David Williams read out the Stockbridge Roll of Honour, giving additional details about the place and date of death of each person. John Gale said the Exhortation and James Leslie read the Kohima Epitaph. Thirty uniformed servicemen and women attended from the Army Air Corps and they led the procession down the High Street after the service to the War Memorial. Police officers, led by our own Sergeant Jeremy Bouhay, carried out traffic control for the



event, ensuring quiet for both the procession to the War Memorial and the service there, including the two-minute silence, and the wreath-laying. The cornet player, Richard King, played the Last Post and the Reveille at both events.

We pay tribute in this way to all those who lost their lives in serving their country during two world wars. We also recognise the massive contribution of the Royal British Legion whose work to support veterans and their families continues unabated. Under the strong leadership of Angela McMeekin, dozens of residents gave their time during early November to sell poppies and raise money for the cause. They were recognised and thanked during the Poppy Lunch which Angela organised, as always, at the Army Air Corps Museum on Remembrance Sunday.

Many thanks are due, not only to the poppy sellers, but also to the many people, including Pauline Webster and Bruce and Catherine Williams, who helped the Church Warden organise the event, and to the dedicated Church members who prepared our two churches for Remembrance. The Scouts had made two very impressive First World War soldiers out of bubblewrap who stood on guard at the entrance to St Peter's. St Peter's was immaculately cleaned and decorated with poppy displays for the occasion. Old St Peter's also had lovely displays of greenery and poppies for their service, and as a background for anyone who dropped in to pray or to find silence for remembering. Everyone who contributes to these support tasks throughout the year is highly valued and appreciated.

The gravity and horrors of the First World War were recorded by poets and writers. Our local cinema showed the film, *Benediction*, which brings one of our best known war poets Siegfried Sassoon's life to the screen. He was born into the Jewish faith but converted to Roman Catholicism after the First World War. Here are haunting words from his poem, "The Death Bed": "But death replied: 'I chose him'. So he went, and there was silence in the summer night".
continued overleaf.

Church News

St Peter's and Old St Peter's Stockbridge continued



Remembrance over, the following week took us to the last Sunday in the liturgical year. The choir joined the festival of Christ the King. The significance of this festival was explained by Henri Nouwen in his "Sabbatical Journey" where he points out that "Christ is presented to us as the mocked King on the Cross as well as the King of the Universe... and all through the year we have to stay close to the humiliation as well as to the victory of Christ, because we are called to live both in our daily lives". This was followed by Advent Sunday on the 27th November and the joyful period of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ.

The day after Remembrance Sunday, the Foord family sadly held the funeral of the remarkable Frances Foord who died in October. On behalf of St Peter's, condolences were offered to the Foords who have lost two of their family in close succession.

Looking ahead

December 3rd will see the Christmas lights turned on in the evening of the "Christmas at Stockbridge" day. After the lights are lit, there will be drinks in the Church and the choir will sing some carols.

There will be teas in the Church on December 4th for those who live alone.

The Carol Service in St Peter's will be at 6pm on 16th December, joined by the congregation from the Roman Catholic Church. For the children, there is the Christmas Story at 6pm on Christmas Eve, followed at 11.30pm by Midnight Mass.

Happy Christmas everyone.

Janet Williams

NATIVITY WORDSEARCH (from p13)

These are the missing words to fit in:

Mary, Joseph, stable, manger, angels, star, inn, gold, frankincense, myrrh, shepherds, cattle, donkey, Bethlehem, inn

St Nicholas' Leckford



LECKFORD QUIZ NIGHT

Many thanks from Leckford PCC to all who turned out on a cold, dark evening for the return of the famous (or infamous) Leckford Quiz Night. Great hilarity and general misbehaviour kept in check by our firm Quiz Mistress Dawn; a delicious fish and chip supper followed by Dawn's wonderful trifles, wine, a raffle and a great set of questions both fun and testing. The preponderance of ecclesiastical members/relatives of the winning team made us wonder if they had a little help from on high!

Stop Press - the quiz raised an amazing £600!

Please join us for the magical candlelit carol service at 6pm on the 18th December, or for the 9am Eucharist on Christmas Day.

Copies of the fiendish postal quiz for all the family to do over the holidays - winning prize of £100 - are available from Dawn Williams and David Barnes (details on p13).

Micki Nadal

From the Area Dean



Following a series of difficult Christmases, I am hoping that 2022 offers a chance to welcome people back to services and events that haven't been possible recently. The services and events will be specific to your community and will, no doubt, be built on years of local tradition.

With the World Cup final taking place on the last Sunday before Christmas and the change in traditions of families since the pandemic, having a more 'normal' Christmas will still mean we do some things differently. This year the Church is having a focus on *The Great Invitation* - encouraging everyone to share the joy of gathering together to celebrate the birth of Jesus with their family, friends and neighbours - especially after two years where this has been impossible for many. Please take the opportunity to meet with family, friends and your community by going to Church this Christmas.

Your Area Dean, James

Rev'd James Pitkin
romseyareadean@gmail.com

Church News

The Column for November

Baptisms

There were no baptisms this month

Weddings

There were no weddings this month

Funerals

14 November. The funeral for Frances Foord took place at 1.00pm at St Peter's Church, Stockbridge.

22 November. The funeral for Teresa Curtis took place at 1.00pm at St Peter's Church, Stockbridge.

Prayer for December

It's the new church year – Advent welcomed on 27 November;

bare churches, or simple greenery;
a time of preparation and quiet contemplation;
has the year gone well – have we worked for justice and for the protection of creation?
Can we do better next year?

For now, we welcome the Christ Child,
Emmanuel, God with us.

Born simply, in a manger, kept safe and warm.
Look, here come the shepherds - and then the magi.

We join with them our songs of welcome and wonder.

Thank you, Lord, that Mary and Joseph said 'yes' and accepted your gracious invitation.

In the new year, may we also say 'yes' to your invitation to come closer, for welcoming the Holy Spirit and talking with you each day.

But while we remember with joy the Christmas Story, we do not forget those who cannot celebrate because:

There is war, mess, fear and rubble – God be with the frightened – give comfort and hope
There is no food or water.

The crops have failed – provide for the hungry
There are no homes – the refugees look for shelter and new possibilities – let them find welcome.

Lord, give us generous hearts so we can help the lost, hungry and frightened.

O come all ye faithful

Amen.

Hampshire Downs RC Parish St Thomas More

Services are held on Sundays at 9.00am

December and January Services for Stockbridge, Longstock and Leckford

4th December (Advent 2)

08.00 **Leckford** Holy Communion BCP

09.30 **Longstock** All Age Service

11.00 **Stockbridge** Parish Eucharist

10th December (Saturday)

15.00 **Longstock** Christmas Story in the Barn

11th December (Advent 3)

08.00 **Old St Peter** Holy Communion

09.30 **Longstock** Parish Eucharist

11.00 **Stockbridge** All Age Service

16th December (Friday)

18.00 **Stockbridge** Carol Service

18th December (Advent 4)

09.30 **Longstock** Crib Service

11.00 **Stockbridge** Parish Eucharist

18.00 **Leckford** Carol Service

21st December (Wednesday)

10.00 **Old St Peter** Holy Communion

24th December Christmas Eve

18.00 **Stockbridge** Christmas Story

23.30 **Stockbridge** Midnight Mass

25th December Christmas Day

09.00 **Leckford** BCP Communion

10.00 **Longstock** All Age Worship with Communion

1st January (Christmas 1)

08.00 **Leckford** Holy Communion BCP

09.30 **Longstock** All Age Service

11.00 **Stockbridge** Parish Eucharist

8th January Baptism of Christ

08.00 **Old St Peter** Holy Communion

09.30 **Longstock** Parish Eucharist

11.00 **Stockbridge** All Age Service

15th January (Epiphany 2)

09.30 **Longstock** Morning Worship

11.00 **Stockbridge** Parish Eucharist

18.00 **Leckford** Evensong

18th January (Wednesday)

10.00 **Old St Peter** Holy Communion

22nd January (Epiphany 3)

11.00 **Stockbridge** Morning Worship

29th January Candlemas

10.00 **St Mary, Broughton** United Benefice Eucharist



HOME CALL VETERINARY SERVICE

to STOCKBRIDGE and
surrounding villages

Dr Phil Taragel BVSc MRCVS DipConVetMed

Dr Amy Saunders BSc (Hons) MSc BVetMed MRCVS

07957 349985

admin@walkaboutvet.co.uk

www.walkaboutvet.co.uk

The Fix-it HANDYMAN

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Plumbing | Electrics | General Carpentry | Painting and Decorating
Garden Maintenance | Power Wash | Tiling | Flat Pack Assembly
TV Brackets | Curtains | Blinds | Mirrors ...and all your DIY requirements

*A fully insured, friendly & reliable service....
always happy to finish off those little jobs that no-one else wants!*

Call Glenn 07585 112523

Email glenncurtis@outlook.com

Chilbolton Chair Company

Makers & upholsterers of fine quality furniture



- Bespoke hand made furniture
- Complete re-upholstery of all furniture
- Supply of a wide range of fabrics
- Curtains, blinds, soft furnishings
- Stock items available for sale

Unit 12B, Stonefield Park, Chilbolton SO20 6BL

Tel: 01264 861117

email: info@chilboltonchaircompany.co.uk

Mobile: 07582 850810 or 07961 800601

www.chilboltonchaircompany.co.uk

Established
28 years

Suite Dreams

Master upholsterers, delivering exceptional
traditional and modern furniture

We offer a wide range of services, including:

- > Re-upholstery
- > Bespoke hand made furniture
- > Footstools, headboards and window seats
- > Extensive selection of superb fabrics
- > Free sample swatches available
- > Curtain making services
- > Re-covering
- > Repairs
- > Free estimates

To discover more, please contact us on:

Email: jacqui@jacquicowen.co.uk

Tel: 01264 810398

Mobile: 07768 743792

Incorporating our fabric showroom:

Larkwhistle Fabrics



Outdoors or indoors

Forest school - polytunnel - field -
mud kitchen - huge sandpit - inside
kitchen - school hall - canopy.
WHATEVER THE WEATHER,
WE'VE GOT IT ALL!



Flexible hours for 3-4yo

We offer up to 30hrs childcare per
week and you can use your tax-free
childcare claim with us. All payments
are online making it super easy!

Experienced staff

Early Years is our thing and we have a
number of highly qualified, very experi-
enced staff working with our children
all day, every day.



Come & see us!

We'd love to show you around and
talk to you about your child.

01264 810550

www.stockbridgeprimary.co.uk