



The Parish Magazine for

£1

# STOCKBRIDGE LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD

May 2024



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

**Rector:** currently no incumbent

**All Services** during the interregnum covered by the Ministry Team

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

Please contact the Benefice Administrator, Lois Opperman  
Phone No: 07900 927913 or midtestbenefice@gmail.com

**This Magazine: 11 issues a year.**

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*Hon Secretary*

Micki Nadal 810567

*Hon Treasurer*

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## **St Mary's Longstock**

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*Hon Secretary*

Richard Robinson 810388

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## **St Nicholas' Leckford**

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Vacancy

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### **Beavers**

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### **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**

Vacancy

### **Longstock Garden Club**

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

### **Longstock Parish Council**

Chair: Selina Musters 810459  
Clerk: Gill Bulpitt 07763857512

### **Longstock Village Hall**

Selina Musters 810459

### **Longstock & Leckford WI**

Sue Hill 811779

### **Neighbour Care** 0845 0943713

*Calls cost 7p/min +network charge.*

### **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**

Paul Wing 07764 581601

### **Stockbridge Parish Council**

Chair: Derek Halle

Derek@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

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**

Mike Porter (Chair) 810595

Mob 07775 632632

Stuart Mawson(Sec) 07766 150055

### **Stockbridge Surgery** 810524

*Out of hours urgent treatment /advice*

*Hants Doctors On Call freephone 111*

### **Stockbridge Town Hall**

Kim Candler (Chair) 811776

*On-line bookings*

www.stockbridgetownhall.co.uk

or phone 513299

### **Test Valley School**

Ms Jo McKeown (Exec. Head) 810555

### **Trout 'n About**

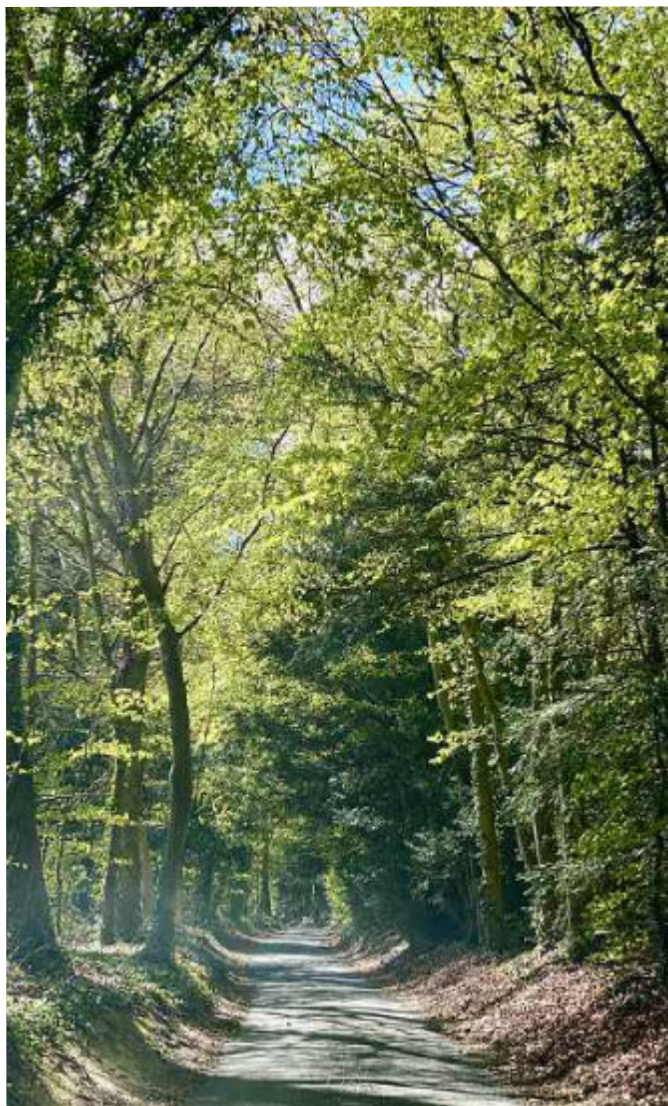
Bob Powell 01264 810966

### **TVBC Councillor**

Cllr Ian Jeffrey 01794 388872

### **Unity Transport (Dial-a-Ride**

**shopping bus)** 356808



## ***From the Editorial Team***

*We continue our reflections theme this month with an extract from 'A Circular Walk', a poem by Sarah Seymour, organist, choir-mistress, artist and poet. Sarah's poem (see p13) describes her responses to a walk many of us will recognise.*

*If her enthusiasm isn't enough to send you searching for your wellies, these are some of the proven benefits of taking a walk:*

- *walking reduces stress*
- *walking helps you concentrate*
- *walking encourages creativity*
- *walking helps to reduce depression*
- *walking helps prevent heart disease*

*So if you are a dog-walker discouraged by the weather, remember the above, and for those who don't have a pet to remind you to take some fresh air, do find a moment and give walking in the countryside a go. And if you do, take your camera and send us some photos of the beautiful places you see - we do appreciate contributions from our readers.*

*And lastly, our thanks to everyone who responded so positively to last month's call for subscriptions.*

*Frances Candler, Jennifer Kidd and Thea Taylor*

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*Cover Photo: A Walk in the Countryside, by Paul Kidd*

*Footers this month remind us of the simple pleasure of walking*

## Stockbridge Town Hall Events



### Weekly

Mon am	Pilates with Paula
Mon am	Pilates Unlimited with Clare
Mon pm	Sing for Fun
Mon pm	Sing Out Stockbridge
Tues am	Iyengar Yoga with Melissa
Weds am	Yoga with Dionne
Weds pm	Kathryn Campling Yoga
Thurs am	Stockbridge Community Market
Thurs am	Su Joy Art Class
Thurs pm	Jo Caley Joga
Fri am	Moo Music

### This Month

May 1	Wild Bazaar
May 2	TVBC Electoral Services
May 4	Antique Fair
May 5-8	Wild Bazaar
May 7	Stockbridge Drama Society
May 8	Wild Bazaar
May 10	Sophie Johnson Quiz Night
May 11	South Central Makers
May 11-13	Jules At No.43
May 14-15	Infinito
May 16	Stockbridge Parish Council
May 17	Stockbridge Music Society
May 18	Sara Allen Sale of Curios/Antiques
May 19	Charlotte Kantharia
May 21	Stockbridge Surgery
May 21-22	Infinito
May 22	Stockbridge Surgery
May 24	Stockbridge Community Cinema
May 25-26	Antiques and Curios
May 25-26	Hawkmoor Books
May 27-29	Wild Bazaar
May 28	Longstock and Leckford WI
May 29	Stockbridge Community Cinema



## Stockbridge Community Cinema



**Godland** (12A)  
**Friday 24 May**  
**7.30pm** (2hrs 22min)

At the end of the 19th century, a young Danish priest is sent to a remote part of Iceland. The deeper he travels into the Icelandic landscape, the more he loses a sense of his own reality, his mission and his sense of duty.

*[In Icelandic and Danish with subBtles]*

**Next Goal Wins** (12A)  
**Wednesday 29 May**  
**5.00pm and 7.30pm** (1hr 44min)

Based on a true story, this heartwarming, underdog comedy follows the American Samoa soccer team, infamous for their brutal 31-0 FIFA loss in 2001. With the World Cup qualifiers fast approaching, the team hires down-on-his-luck, maverick coach Thomas Rongen (Michael Fassbender), hoping he will turn the world's worst soccer team into winners.

**Tickets £6.00** (£5.50 + £0.50 booking fee) available online via our website [stockbridgecinema.org.uk](http://stockbridgecinema.org.uk) or via the Ticketsource telephone booking service **0333 666 3366** (no additional fee )

**Our full Summer Season programme is now available to view on our website**



## The Royal British Legion Houghton and District Branch

Contact David Williams (Chairman)  
01264 811072

Social evenings are held on the first Wednesday of most months in the Greyhound on the Test



## Houghton WI

**Monday 20th May at 10am**  
at Houghton Village Hall

## Annual General Meeting and Resolutions

Visitors welcome. Further information from Jane Anderton 01264 810928

## Copy for Magazine

Copy date for the June Magazine:  
**15 May 2024**

Please send emails to:

[editorsstockmag@gmail.com](mailto:editorsstockmag@gmail.com)

or phone Frances on 01264 811776

Jennifer on 811179 or Thea on 07730 964481



**St Peter's Church Stockbridge  
Flower Festival 2024**  
This Year's Theme:  
**HOBBIES AND HOLIDAYS**

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> & Monday 6<sup>th</sup>  
10am - 6pm  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>  
Noon - 6pm

Teas on the church lawn  
Saturday, Sunday and Monday from  
2 – 5pm





Patrons: Professor David Owen Norris MA (Oxon) FSA FRAM FRCCO

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 at 7.30pm  
St Peter's Church, Stockbridge



**The Craig Ogden Ensemble**  
A Baroque Journey towards the Goldberg Variations  
Tickets £20 (U18s £5)  
from [stockbridgemusic.uk](http://stockbridgemusic.uk) or on the door, if still available

**NEW!! Gourmet £35 two course  
Pre-Concert Supper at The Grosvenor Hotel**  
Book before 10 May direct with The Grosvenor

**LONGSTOCK &  
LECKFORD WI**

Tuesday 28<sup>rd</sup> May  
Stockbridge Town Hall 6.45pm for 7pm start.

**Annual General Meeting  
for Members only**

Please contact Sue Hill on 811779 for further details



**Stockbridge  
Community  
Market**

Every Thursday morning  
9.30 - 11.45am  
in Stockbridge Town Hall

Selling the very best local and home-made produce  
Pies, cakes, breads, soups, eggs and vegetables.  
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**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 10am - 4pm**  
St Paul's, Winchester

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40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON

[southernvoices.co.uk](http://southernvoices.co.uk)  
0133 666 3366  
booking fees apply

## Test Villages u3a

Thursday 9th May  
at 2pm in Chilbolton Village Hall

Steve Ingham presents

### 'Who needs a Camera in the Age of the Smart Phone?'

Steve is a keen amateur photographer who describes himself as a 'walking photographer' who particularly enjoys photographing landscapes, nature and people. In his talk, Steve will focus on the history of photography, when and how paintings became photographs and how cameras have developed technically and socially. With so many people nowadays carrying a powerful camera in their back pockets, where is photography today?

Doors open at 1.40pm for the presentation, followed by refreshments.

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

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

*u3a is a UK-wide network of groups that provides the opportunity to socialise and learn for fun.*

Find out more at [u3a.org.uk](http://u3a.org.uk)

or see the latest on

Test Villages group at

[u3asites.org.uk/test-villages](http://u3asites.org.uk/test-villages)



## Don't forget to Vote! Thursday 2 May

**Elections will be held for the  
Hampshire and Isle of Wight  
Police and Crime  
Commissioner**



More information can be found at [www.testvalley.gov.uk/aboutyourcouncil/localdemocracy/elections/pcc2024](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/aboutyourcouncil/localdemocracy/elections/pcc2024), including about registration and absent voting deadlines.

The candidates are:

BAINS, Prad (Liberal Democrats)

JERRARD, Don (The Justice & Anti-Corruption Party)

JONES, Donna (Conservative Candidate – More Police, Safer Streets)

WILLIAMS, Becky (Labour and Co-operative Party).

See their election statements at

<https://choosemyppc.org.uk/area/hampshire>

(Two of the candidates wish to abolish the role)

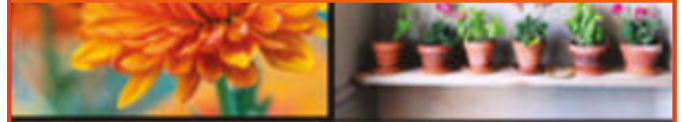
## Save the Date

### National Garden Scheme June Openings Locally



Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June  
Four Stockbridge Gardens

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June  
Terstan, Longstock



**STOCKBRIDGE OPEN GARDENS  
SAVE THE DATE  
29th and 30th JUNE**



## Wherwell History Group

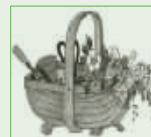
Friday 17th May  
8pm at Wherwell  
Village Hall



**Jake Simpkin  
presents**

### 'Monarchy - Why has Britain's survived?'

For further details, please check our website at  
<https://www.wherwellhistory.com>  
(£5 entry fee for non-members)



## Longstock Garden Club

Our talks in the Hall will resume  
on 8th Oct 2024  
when Rosemary Legrand will give a talk on the  
Spectacular South African Flora & Fauna

For information about the garden visits the club  
has organised for the summer please see  
[www.longstockgardenclub.com](http://www.longstockgardenclub.com)

Members, please don't forget to take photos for  
our December meeting.

For further information please contact  
Peter Moore on 07881573493

## Hampshire Medical Fund

The Hampshire Medical Fund is a local charity dedicated to fundraising to provide innovative medical equipment for all three hospitals within the Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust.

Through collaboration with the Hampshire community, we've been able to directly impact Andover War Memorial Hospital, the Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester, and Basingstoke & North Hampshire Hospital. By procuring cutting-edge medical equipment for these institutions, we're empowering our hospitals to maintain clinical excellence and stay at the forefront of healthcare innovation.

With NHS funding requirements continually escalating, our rôle as a charity is increasingly indispensable. By easing the financial burden on our hospitals, we ensure they can provide the highest quality care to every patient. From portable wheelchair scales for outpatients to advanced surgical equipment for specialised interventions, every contribution makes a tangible difference in improving patient outcomes.

Our investment in state-of-the-art equipment not only enhances patient care but also helps attract and retain top-tier healthcare professionals. By equipping our hospitals with the tools they need, we're creating an environment where consultants, doctors, nurses, and therapists can thrive, ensuring the Hampshire community receives the exceptional care it deserves.

You, too, can be part of this vital mission by supporting the Hampshire Medical Fund through donations, fundraising, event participation, sponsorship, or leaving a legacy. Together, we can continue to elevate healthcare standards and positively impact the lives of countless patients within our community.

*Katie Redmond*  
The Fundraising Team at  
[www.hampshiremedicalfund.org](http://www.hampshiremedicalfund.org)



**Armed Forces veteran friendly accredited GP practice**

We are pleased to have been awarded Veteran Accreditation Status. We record 'veteran' status or 'member of military family' on patient records. All our team have been provided with information on services that provide specific care to veterans.

### **Covid vaccination – Spring boosters**

We will be providing a covid booster to patients aged 75 or over and those who are immunosuppressed. The clinics are at Broughton Surgery at the end of April and one further clinic in May. We will have a very small clinic at Stockbridge for patients who live within a short distance of the surgery. We will be contacting housebound patients to arrange to vaccinate them at home.

### **Planning application**

We are applying to build a small extension to the Stockbridge Surgery to house our dispensary. This will help the dispensary team to work as efficiently as possible and reduce delays at our reception desk (as medication will be collected direct from the on-site dispensary). We will create an additional consulting room within the surgery as we sometimes do not have room for additional staff who want to see our patients.

### **Travel vaccinations**

This is a reminder that we require a minimum of 8 weeks for travel vaccinations, beginning from when we receive a completed travel health form – the form can be found on our website, [stockbridgesurgery.co.uk](http://stockbridgesurgery.co.uk).

*Ann Spooner*  
Practice Manager

### **A Defibrillator Near You!**

Defibrillators for public use are located at: -  
**Stockbridge Fire Station** (available 24 hrs)  
**Longstock Village Hall** (available 24 hrs)  
**Leckford Estate Office** (restricted hours).  
**Leckford Farm Shop** (restricted hours)

For further details, and for other UK locations, go to [www.defibfinder.uk](http://www.defibfinder.uk)

Instructions for use are given when the device is commandeered but for anyone who would like prior understanding of how to use one, see <https://www.aeddonate.org.uk/events/>



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## Why is climate change important to us?

Climate change is not only about problems in other countries, affecting other people. As readers of this in the Test Valley, climate change may be of concern to us because:

as gardeners and farmers, what we grow and how we look after our bit of land is already being impacted by more rain, higher temperatures and more extreme weather events

as consumers, we're seeing prices of products we enjoy such as coffee, chocolate and wine being pushed up as harvests are reduced and pests increase

as nature lovers, we're saddened by the reduction in the biodiversity around us. Just to give one example, house sparrows that were common when I was a child, are now on the UK red list for conservation

unusually high water levels are flooding rivers and causing sewage issues causing illness to some local residents as well as threats to nature

as holidaymakers going overseas, we may already have had to contend with extreme temperatures and threatening fires

as parents and grandparents, we worry about how much worse things will get for our children and grandchildren.

This video (and I highly recommend all readers to take a look) gives some youthful perspectives on why this is an important issue for the church to lead on  
<https://wearetearfund.org/burning-down-the-house/>

So we know it's an issue – but what can we do about it?

At St Mary's, we're looking at a number of actions to take over the coming months. I'll keep you posted and hopefully some of them will be things that inspire you.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the 'Church Count on Nature' events on Sunday June 9th (2-4pm) and Wednesday 12th (7-9pm), See last month's issue for full details.

*Lisa Trailor*

### A political PS.

As an election potentially gets closer, please take every opportunity to check with your candidates on what are their policies to combat climate change. As individuals and as a church, we can make an impact - but our politicians have the power to do a lot more – although maybe only if they hear from their voters that this issue is important to their voting decisions!



Here's an opportunity it's hard to resist: The Rotary Club of Andover is holding **CYCLE THRUXTON**.

### Ride around the Thruxtton Circuit on 16 June, Father's Day

There are three options :

1. You come along and cycle around the circuit in the morning, from 8.30am, get yourself sponsored, pay just £5 and all the money you raise goes to a charity of your choice. The other £5 goes to organising the event.

2. You get a team of 1 or more cyclists, you all get sponsored, pay us £5 for each cyclist and we send all the sponsorship to a charity of your choice. e.g. 10 riders sponsored at £100 each you make £1000 less £50 for team cycling. Total £950.

3. You come along with all the other families in the afternoon with Dad, since it is Father's Day, and cycle around the track. Cost just £10 per family. What a great way to have a family day with Dad and help charities as well.

PLEASE just pass the word and get as many families to come along and cycle and all the money we raise will be given to LOCAL Charities.

WE ALSO provide the sponsor forms and we can claim back 20% 'gift aid'.

Please contact: [Christopher.lynn36@gmail.com](mailto:Christopher.lynn36@gmail.com)  
or phone 01264 396511

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## Mylo Art



Mylo Art was founded by Kate Anniss in 2014 with the aim of bringing beautiful, decorative and authentic art to interiors. Mylo Art has long established connections to an extensive network of artists who work in many different styles and media. Mylo's HQ is at Meadow in the High Street. The first-

floor gallery forms part of the café and events space, and Mylo's curation of art hangs throughout.

### Summer Show 2024



Mylo is delighted to announce the return of its annual Summer Show – celebrating the talent of our stable of emerging and established artists. Showcasing creatives that we have worked with for ten years and introducing some exciting and dynamic new artists, the collection of over 100 paintings, collages, ceramics, original prints and drawings will be hung in the gallery room and throughout our beautiful home at Meadow.

*Preview Evening:* Thur 9th May, 18:00 – 22:00,  
*Show:* Friday 10th May – Friday 14th June



### Upcoming Events at Meadow

#### MAY

*Mylo Summer Show* 9 May -14 June  
*Interiors Collective Shopping Event* 15 -17 May

#### JUNE

*Daydress Pop Up* 5 - 8 June  
*Blockprinting with Molly Mahon* 6 June  
*Supper Club and Inspired Design with Gabby Deeming and Molly Mahon* 6th June  
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[www.meadowstockbridge.com](http://www.meadowstockbridge.com)

## TJ Brews at The Vine Yard

We are TJ Brews and our coffee venture began early in 2023 with the launch of our Signature Blend Cold Brew. TC and Johnsie (The T&J) had both been working in the coffee industry for many years and, sharing a passion for cold brew, felt it was the right time to join together and create TJ Brews.



As regular visitors to Stockbridge, the opportunity of moving our enterprise into the Vineyard was a no-brainer. We had already discussed how the Vineyard needed a café from where people could really appreciate the aesthetics and ambience of the location in all its glory. We embraced what we hoped would become one of the most incredible journeys of our lives. And, as Johnsie's allergies make it very difficult for her to find things that she can eat, we expanded our ideas into an allergen-friendly café. It is with pride that we can provide dairy-free and gluten-free options on our menu of bagels and bakes.

TJ Brews began over the bond of love and passion for good coffee, specifically cold brew, which has been introduced to the UK over the past few years and where demand continues to grow. Originating in Japan, it is growing in popularity in the UK probably because of the intensity of flavour, with fewer acids and less of the bitterness that you may be familiar with from an espresso-pulled method of iced coffee.

We have received the warmest welcome in Stockbridge, from fellow High Street workers, residents and surrounding communities. We have developed friendships with our customers, a favourite part of what we do, and we can't wait to welcome more people to our cosy little café in The Vineyard in the hope that they become part of the TJ family, enjoying speciality coffee served with peak versatility, accompanied by the target to be over 95% environmentally friendly. We are also keen to contribute to the preservation of the artisan culture we are so incredibly honoured to be a part of, and what we believe makes Stockbridge so special.

*Sarah Trebilcock*

## From Page to Screen

How many times have you heard people say, speaking about a film or TV show, 'It wasn't as good as the book'?

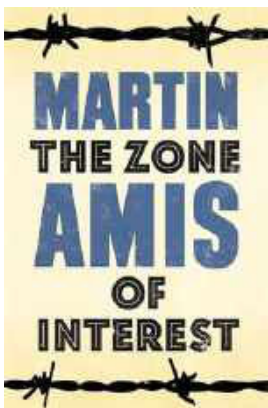
Is it because what they've seen on the screen doesn't fit with their imagination of what they'd read on the page....?

But there are many times where a screen adaptation can expand and enrich the enjoyment we get from a good story, well-told.

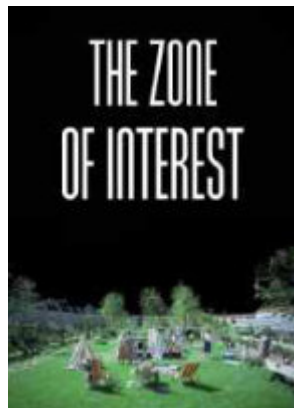
Books have been adapted for the screen since the early 20th century – almost as soon as movies themselves got started. The most adapted books of all time include A CHRISTMAS CAROL, PRIDE AND PREJUDICE, and ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Books clearly establish story structure, characters, and dialogue. They also allow the thoughts and feelings of those characters to be understood through their inner thoughts. But moving from page to screen means translating those inner thoughts into visuals, and actions.

A few recent examples: This year, the Oscar for the best screenplay adaptation went to AMERICAN FICTION, which was based on Percival Everett's novel, ERASURE. The Oscar for best international feature film went to ZONE OF INTEREST, based (very loosely) on the Martin Amis novel of the same name. The screenwriters managed to lift the characters, situations, story structure and dialogue off their pages – adding new material and omitting some of the original work – so that these intriguing books became outstanding films.



The book of the film



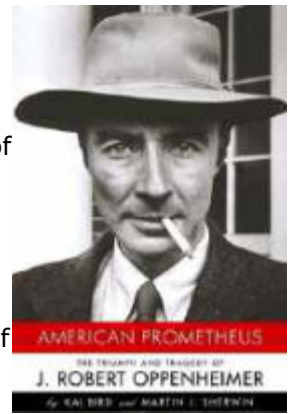
*(Film coming to Stockbridge Community Cinema in June)*

DUNE by Frank Herbert has been adapted for the screen three times! When everyone has their own idea of how the movie should look and feel, it's impossible to fulfil all those expectations!

Non-fiction formed the bases for the outstanding films OPPENHEIMER (AMERICAN PROMETHEUS) and KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON. Both of these books were published to much critical acclaim, but the work of the screenwriters turned them from books into movies in different ways.

In adapting AMERICAN PROMETHEUS, the screenwriter and director Christopher Nolan has said that he wanted to move away from a traditional

biography and make it more like 'a thriller, a heist film, a courtroom drama.' This he managed by carefully selecting the key moments of Oppenheimer's story as a man, as well as a scientist.



In the KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON, this true story is told from the point of view of the FBI investigator who pursued unexplained



deaths in an Osage Indian tribe. But as screenwriters worked on turning the book into a screenplay, they realised it was far more dramatic to tell the story from the Osage point of view, rather than the FBI investigator.

Interestingly, both books were outstanding and much-awarded works. Yet in spite of (or maybe because of) the significant changes made by the adaptors, the films were equally impressive. Fans of the films might well be interested in the original material – to see what has been included and what was left behind.

In TV, the situation is often different because the adaptor can carry a story over a number of episodes.

A good recent example of this is the TV adaptation of LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY. In the book, main character Elizabeth Zott has a friend who helps her cope with motherhood. In the TV series, this character was completely re-written from a 55-year-old white woman with an abusive husband, to a young black female lawyer who is fighting the city's efforts to wipe out their neighbourhood and build a freeway. It adds a whole other layer to Elizabeth's story.

In NORMAL PEOPLE, Sally Rooney wrote a powerful love story in a very compressed literary style. When the book was adapted for TV, the wonderful actors brought it to life not just through their words, but by their physical portrayals of the characters. Shooting the film on real locations in Ireland made the landscape of their predicament and their aspirations visually stunning. The adaptation really opened up both the inner and outer worlds of the main characters, creating a very compelling television treat.

For other fascination comparisons, try CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY, ELVIS AND ME, and DEATH ON THE NILE.

Enjoy!

*Elaine Sperber*

### A Circular Walk

I leave the house after a frustrating morning trying to capture the essence of daffodils. How exactly do I recreate those wrinkled sleeves and the glowing of their yellow? The variety of their trumpets; some long like an old-fashioned gramophone, others short like the trim crowns of a waterlily. And their long, straight stems, dark blue/green or pale, where the light catches them.

Heading out into the cold on my afternoon walk, I am trying to net some new ideas from the countryside. I notice my muse shuffle into the second person as if trying to create a bit of space from me, a new perspective.

Speaking your poetry is the best way to feel the rhythms in your head as you stamp stamp with your booted feet up the rugged path to the top of the hill.

Don't bat away the ideas that fly through your head like starlings on the air; swooping and diving all around you; unexpected. The excitement and energy of nature. This repetitive walk ironing out the wrinkles of your indoor mind.

Rastafarian sheep at the top of Cow Drove eye me speculatively. Some of them could do with a wash and a dowsing in Fairy liquid. Puddles of solder reflect the leaden sky and brown hedges, whose sharp edges have been recently shorn (unlike the sheep). They offer sparse comfort on this bleak afternoon. In contrast the welcome bleating of a ewe delights me. She is full of lamb and her motherly call brings thoughts of Easter chocolate and warmer days.

Crossing the flood plains a concert breaks out. Chook chook of pheasant, cawing of crows and the melodious rippling of the Test. A small group of swans rest with laconic elegance on the bank. Their Calgon white bodies repeated in the water. You always notice something different on a walk.

Today it's that the dogwood has been clipped of its yellow canes, leaving knobbly stumps like toffee apples standing in a line. I see two magpies. JOY. They make up for the dreary radio phone-ins about the migrant crisis and violence against helpless women that I listen to compulsively as if fearful of missing out on what is really happening beyond the four walls of my studio.

But now I am out in the real world it's actually rather lovely. Another puddle on the road shows beautiful black tree skeletons against a backdrop of silver. The soundscape has changed. Small brown birds flit quickly between trees, offering a graceful volley of notes. The last drifts of snowdrops are melting away and an army of daffodils is assembling, their golden swords ready to be drawn from green scabbards and frighten off the winter.

I pass a thundering mill rush. White foam glides across the surface of the swiftly moving river and concentric rings on its surface whisper the likelihood of a trout. I stop to ponder the frothy water under a bridge before entering a shady wood, where trees are cloaked and draped and muffled in ivy.

The road is starting to bend me back to my desk and the afternoon shift.

The hours waiting ahead remind me of a swimming pool. A bit of a shock at first but OK once you get used to it. I shake myself and look forward to the return of the jolly piglets that arrive each year in spring. Although their annual culling brings more sadness to this acre of land.

I notice a man and a woman next to a lorry parked in the lay-by. The bonnet is cocked. Broken down. Oh dear. Another death. And a murder of crows looks down on the three of us. They think it's dead funny. Oh joy. O thank you, magpies. The young man with the truck was Polish. And a woman stopped. And I stopped. And a van stopped. And a garage helped. And now his truck is back on the road. And with hilarious pathetic fallacy, I kid you not, a genuine glimmer of light appears in the sky.

After a morning listening to stories of women being attacked by men and people accusing each other of racism or taking advantage of our country, I have just experienced what life is really like in the leafy lanes of our country; where women are helping men, who are nice, and who are grateful, and come from a different country and barely speak English and everyone ends the situation with smiles and shakings of hands all round.

Two for joy. Thank you, magpies.

It's rare that you can go for a walk and not return feeling just a little bit better for it.



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# Rural Chemists and GP Surgeries

## Offering Medical Advice and Dispensing Prescriptions – What's the New Role for the Chemist?

The Government recently announced a 'new deal' for chemists called *Pharmacy First*, which encourages and permits chemists to give advice for, and treat, 7 common health conditions: sinusitis, sore throat, earache, infected insect bites, impetigo, shingles and uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women. In these circumstances, it is important that we, the public and patients, are aware of this new development as well as the facts behind the dispensing of prescriptions, the other work of chemists and the rôle of GP surgeries.

1) Chemists throughout the country have the sole legal right to dispense prescriptions for patients who live within a 1-mile radius of the pharmacy. In high density urban areas, this 1-mile radius can contain as many as, say, 10,000 people, equivalent to the total population served by many rural surgeries.

2) GP surgeries can dispense prescriptions for anyone living within the GP's area apart from those living within a mile of the chemist. Chemists, on the other hand, can dispense prescriptions for anyone wherever they live.

3) In a rural area, the 1-mile radius may contain open land with no-one living there. This restricts chemists' guaranteed income from dispensing because there are few people living there. Some years ago, dispensing income for rural pharmacies was estimated by the pharmacists' professional body to represent between 50% and, in extreme cases, over 90%, of gross annual turnover. Income from 'over the counter' sales i.e. non-prescription products make up the rest of their gross income.

4) As already stated, chemists have recently been offered a contract with the Department of Health to provide advice on and treat minor ailments. Most chemists, rural or urban, have been providing some medical advice such as the above for as long as they have existed and, over the Covid period, have been asked to provide vaccinations against Covid and flu for a small fee. Only qualified chemists can perform vaccinations. These are the only sources of income from Government that they receive apart from that from dispensing. There is no doubt that income from dispensing is vital to the survival of the rural chemist.

5) GP surgeries are private partnerships and derive their income from contracts negotiated by their professional representative body with the Department of Health. These contracts, based on formulae agreed between Government and the GPs' representatives are designed to provide sufficient incomes to attract doctors to set up and operate surgeries as private partnerships without any other source of income. Income from dispensing is additional to the contract income.

6) Chemists and GPs are paid the same for each dispensed prescription by the Department of Health.

7) Many rural chemists are housed in small village premises and this, together with their uncertain income stream, determines whether, and to what extent, they can offer for sale the range of non-medical goods such as sanitary products, skin care, perfumes, quality soaps etc.

8) Their shelves are usually packed with remedies for common ailments such as colds, cuts and bruises. Often hidden away are personal hygiene goods, essential for the wellbeing of the elderly and infirm. Chemists thus provide an important service to those who cannot drive to the nearest town to visit, say, a Boots or who are otherwise confined to their immediate locality. In addition, the rural chemist provides a vital service to the surrounding community, providing goods and services that are not available at the surgery. Both surgeries and chemists often deliver prescriptions to suitable locations such as local shops in outlying villages.

9) Like doctors, chemists are professionally qualified with five years' training before qualification. No prescriptions can be dispensed without the presence and attention of the qualified chemist, and only they can provide the advice now permitted and encouraged by the Department of Health.

10) The loss of a chemist's shop, or even some of the services that it used to provide, is a serious matter for the welfare of a local community, and especially for the elderly and infirm. Some local shops such as mini-supermarkets may sell a limited range of non-prescription medical products, but they cannot dispense prescriptions nor offer advice because of the absence of qualified chemists on the premises.

11) Both chemist and GP surgery are therefore necessary and valuable elements in a successful and supportive community. Both have to survive financially. But there needs to be fair play between them for services that can, and in some cases have to be, provided by both. GP surgeries are well funded by Government; chemists only to a very limited extent and they have to rely on other income sources for which there are no guarantees. Neither are ordinary commercial businesses which compete with each other on price and availability for the benefit of their customers. Doctors and chemists have legal and professional obligations which prescribe how they look after our welfare and, as such, both are vital community, not commercial, services.

12) We, the patients, have a choice as to where we have our prescriptions dispensed, and this article, hopefully, will have provided the information needed for us to make that choice in an informed manner.

Roger Tym

## THE RADIO OFFICER (Part 2)

Following on from his account last October of plying the Atlantic aboard the banana boat tss Camito, **Peter Hughes** relates more adventures on the High Seas.

### The first leg of a 9-month voyage around the world.



*mv Riseley (Photo - Ships Nostalgia)*

Sailing the seas and oceans of this planet is, for the most part, unexciting. For the sailor, life aboard ship was a discrete but regulated existence. The structure of command is in place from the top down. Everyone is trained and qualified in their disciplines and conscious of where they reside in the order of things. The Master of the ship – the Captain – is the ultimate boss and responsible for matters concerning the running of the ship, its crew and any passengers.

On this voyage, I am the Radio Officer on a different ship, a Newcastle tramp named *mv Riseley*. She is a year old and carrying a cargo of coal from Newport News, Virginia to the Yawata steel works in Japan. Having transited the Panama Canal, we are some several days later halfway across the Pacific. We are heading northwestwards at 12 knots towards Japan. The weather is balmy and the sea agreeable.

I am comfortable in the Radio Room, reading and listening, with one ear, to the medium-wave calling frequency. Quite suddenly and totally without warning, I hear the distress signal loud and clear – SOS SOS SOS. For some quite irrational reason, I never expected to hear SOS being transmitted for real. The sound of the distress signal coming from a ship in distress is dramatic. A wake-up call for me to jump into action – except this time the SOS call is coming from not a ship but an aircraft!

The international distress signal is shared by aircraft when flying over water. It is sent out in morse code and the three letters SOS are sent as one entity with no spacing. The sound is electrifying and somewhat musical. One could say it is redolent of the letter 'V' (for victory) used by the BBC to announce bulletins during WW2.

Hurriedly, but calmly, I have had time to copy down the details of the distress message including the speed, direction of travel and cause of the distress. Our ship, it turned out, was some 200 nautical miles from the scene of the distress and we would not be able to offer any immediate assistance.

Interestingly, the aircraft was a four-engine Pan Am Boeing Stratocruiser flying from Hawaii to Los Angeles with one engine out and another about to follow suit. Luckily, it worked out that the US Coast Guard in Hawaii were taking charge of the incident. They had a Coast Guard cutter standing by at the scene so it could monitor the aircraft's landing on water and, hopefully, pull everyone out of the sea.

Whilst I could not hear what was going on, I was able to get all the news the following day from another ship. It turned out that the Stratocruiser landed without disintegrating on impact. Everyone was saved which was nothing short of a miracle. I believe those saved numbered about 48 – bear in mind that the Stratocruiser was a former WW2 bomber and didn't have the carrying capacity of its successors i.e. the Boeing 707.

After all this excitement we resumed our slow journey to Japan.

The next 'incident', as it so happened, was the receipt of a weather forecast from the US military base on Guam. This informed us of a strengthening typhoon heading north over Guam and on towards us. The typhoon subsequently wrecked Guam and for 3 days thereafter we had no further weather forecasts. When these resumed, the tropical storm was getting closer. This presented our Captain with quite a dilemma. Put simply, on or about the latitude we were travelling, northbound typhoons had a 'habit' of 'recurring' i.e. they turned rapidly backwards towards the southeast, where they usually weakened and disintegrated. The question therefore was, do we continue towards Japan on our present course trusting the typhoon to pass us and continue northwards or do we dodge south and hope it didn't recurve? Accurate weather information was non-existent and a shortening time frame was making a decision almost impossible. In the end, we turned left and cut south and, a day later, ran slap bang into the recurring typhoon.



The skies began to darken. The wind started to increase. The sea was becoming angrier. Spume started to fly and the ship was battered down and anything that could move was securely tied or chained down. We entered the darkness of night not knowing what to expect.

To be honest, I was worried and anxious having never experienced a typhoon at sea. The sea was huge and building up but not yet at the size of the swell that greeted us next morning. The ship heaved, twisted, rolled and banged like a thing possessed. You had to cling on to something to remain where you were. If you had to change position, you risked being catapulted across space and banged about only to end up where you didn't want to be. It was awful, uncomfortable, painful and terrifying. I couldn't tune the transmitters as the air was solid spume to a height of around 80ft. I therefore decided to spend my time on the bridge with three others including the Captain.

Next morning, as the light of dawn emerged, the swell approaching us was unreal in its enormity; one after another, these mountainous things followed each other. One moment one was looking down into a valley that seemed bottomless whilst the opposite side of the swell towered above us. The ship careered down the slope of the passing swell burying bows deep, rising again only for the ship to struggle up the side of the next. I was acutely aware that a cargo of coal didn't float.

Within two hours after dawn, the wind started to abate and, with it, the sea calmed somewhat. It was now time to assess the damage to the ship. Deck railings along the starboard side were flattened. We had lost one of our two lifeboats and there was much damage of a less severe nature but nothing that was going to stop us getting to Japan.

We did – eventually - after what was a 41-day voyage from Newport News to Japan! We arrived, but not before running out of diesel fuel as we entered port. Fortunately, the harbour tugs swiftly got hold of us and took us to our assigned berth.

Thereafter, I seem to remember hurried preparations and a smarten-up for a riotous night ashore.

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Expect a visual treat, songs, laughs and colourful characters;

buffoonery, heroes, villains, jokes that wouldn't be out of place in a pantomime and an ending where all get their just rewards.

So far, so traditional, but this is a 'Willows' for our time, turning a few expectations on their heads as we look forward by looking back – after all, one of our key characters is a narcissist and a fantasist, attempting to bend the truth to suit his own agenda – desperately defending himself even as the law closes in on him...

Come and join us as we explore friendship, frolics and feuds.

### About Blue Apple

Over the last 18 years Blue Apple Theatre has become a nationally significant disability arts organisation, presenting high quality productions to the widest possible audiences – making work which is seen in person and online not only across the UK, but internationally.

Blue Apple provides a range of performance opportunities for our

participants, and also challenges perceptions - informing the wider public debate.

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## SOS - SAVE OUR STOCKBRIDGE

We write to echo and confirm what our National Trust Ranger, Catherine Hadler, wrote last month in the Parish Magazine. SOS attended the demonstration to which she referred, at Southern Water's Waste Water Treatment Works at Fullerton, to object to the amount of raw sewage that is regularly being pumped into the River Test. This photo shows us bearing the new SOS banner.



As most of you will know a carrier of the River Test flows along the Marsh Path (between Kudos and the Garden Inn) and into the Marsh Court River which flows all along the west side of the Common Marsh until it meets the Test. The carrier and river should be crystal clear and free of pollutants all the way along but they are not. Raw sewage is pumped into the river by Southern Water not only when they are permitted to do so when there is exceptionally heavy rain, but at many other times when to do so is against the law. The trouble is that they self-regulate their compliance so, perhaps unsurprisingly, we find them dumping sewage into one of the most renowned chalk stream rivers in the world, the River Test.

Since Catherine wrote her article, we now learn that Southern Water allowed 29,494 spillages (that means raw sewage) from their water pumping stations into rivers and seas in 2023, which is nearly twice the number of spills as there were in 2022. That, of course, includes sewage spills into the Marsh Court River in Stockbridge. SOS considers this is disgraceful.

For those of us who hold Stockbridge at heart it is also very worrying. You may have noticed the large pipe that crosses the Marsh from east to west and its outflow is straight into the Marsh Court River. It is from that pipe that raw sewage spills

frequently and not just at times of heavy rain. That is what Catherine was describing in last month's issue. It means that the 'beach' further south of the pipe is a real hazard to dogs and, of course, to humans. We are aware of a number of dogs that have been ill after they have gone into the Marsh Court River and, when children use the 'beach' in the summer, they may well be at risk. We feel it is vital that you are aware of this so you may warn family and friends and anyone else you might see on the Marsh.

The effect of this pollution on insect life and tiny invertebrates has been immense and, as the whole ecosystem depends on insects, the effect on trout, water voles, ducks, birds etc is very noticeable. And that is why we went to the demonstration.

The demonstration has raised awareness but it is important that everyone who loves Stockbridge, the Marsh Court River and the River Test, realises what is happening. The television, newspapers, and social media all recognise the damage that is being done. And so does our National Trust Ranger. But we feel everyone who lives in or visits Stockbridge should also be aware of what is happening so that you can add your voice to the objections, if you want to. To raise your voice against what Southern Water are doing you can email them on [customeraccounts@southernwater.co.uk](mailto:customeraccounts@southernwater.co.uk) or email us on [SOSStockbridge@outlook.com](mailto:SOSStockbridge@outlook.com) and we will forward your views.

*Jean Boney, Chair of SOS*

### John Robinson



It is with great sadness that we report the passing of John Robinson, who died peacefully at home on Saturday 6th April at the grand age of 92, joining Monica, his beloved wife of 69 years.

He will be remembered fondly by Stockbridge as the large, full of character

butcher, proprietor of the well-known High Street shop, and in later life for his masterful approach to driving his scooter through the village.

His funeral will be held at St Peter's Church in Stockbridge on Monday 29th April at 11.30am. All are welcome.

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## A Day at Longford Castle with Houghton WI

On March 13th, a group of 11 Houghton WI members and 12 friends and neighbours enjoyed a fascinating tour round Longford Castle, near Salisbury. A lot of us had never heard of this Castle (the seat of the Earls of Radnor) but our member, Sue Marshall, knew about it and organised the visit. The Castle isn't open very often and usually tour tickets can only be booked by members of the National Gallery – the Castle has an extensive collection of artworks, several of which are on loan to the NG. We were able to go as a 'local interest' group, as one of our members had actually lived on the estate as a child when her father worked on the farm there, and the father-in-law of another member had been a gamekeeper on the estate. We learnt a lot about the history of the Castle and the family from two excellent guides who had a wide knowledge of the artworks, china and furniture, which were all very impressive.



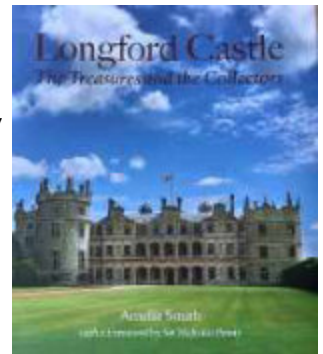
The Castle was originally built in Elizabethan times, partly funded by gold from one of the wrecked Spanish Armada ships, but reconstruction and restoration was done in the 1870's. An ancestor of the current owners (the Pleydell-Bouveries) bought the Castle in 1717 – family tradition says he happened to be riding by, fell in love with the Castle and was able to buy it then and there with the gold he happened to have in his saddlebags!

Over the centuries, successive generations of the family have built up a wonderful collection of paintings and furniture, with several works by Gainsborough, Reynolds, van Dyck and Rubens to be seen, as well as beautiful Chippendale pieces. One extraordinary item is the Steel Chair, made in 1574 for the Holy Roman Emperor, which has 130 intricate reliefs representing the history of the world's empires - a remarkable survival from such an early date. It had a chequered career before being bought by the second Earl in the late 18th

century. Word has it that Hitler heard about the chair and tried to buy it during WWII – naturally the 7th Earl didn't respond to the request!

We discovered that there was a link to the WI through Helen Matilda who was the Countess of Radnor at the turn of the 19th/20th century. She was an accomplished musician (there is a portrait of her playing the piano, wearing her tiara) and she conducted her own all-female string orchestra – reportedly she used to wear her tiara on the back of her head when conducting concerts, so the audience would get the benefit of it! Helen Matilda was a friend of Hubert Parry, who wrote the *Radnor Suite* for her orchestra, and Parry, of course, is the composer of the tune for *Jerusalem*.

Unfortunately, but understandably, it wasn't possible to take photos inside the Castle, but many of us bought postcards and books at the end of the tour to remind us of what we'd seen! You can learn more about the Castle on the estate's website, [www.longfordestates.co.uk](http://www.longfordestates.co.uk)



and on the National Gallery website. After the tour we spent some time exploring the gardens (though there was a chilly wind!) and then we set off to the



local pub, the 'Radnor Arms', for a ploughman's lunch, completing a most enjoyable morning.

Jane Anderton

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Let's Talk is a new community survey initiative from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary that aims to understand the needs of local communities and enables you to share any concerns with our police officers. The survey has been launched and is ongoing.



### What we want to know?

We want to know what it's like to live in your area - what are the issues you face and how can we work with others to make our communities safer and stronger.

### Why do we want to know this?

As part of our commitment to make Hampshire and the Isle of Wight safe for everyone we want to be sure that we're tackling the things that matter most to those we're keeping safe. You know your local area better than anyone.

Our Neighbourhood officers are fully aware of the impact local problems can cause. They are committed to listening to your concerns and to addressing the issues that will make a difference to your daily lives.

### Get involved

Let's Talk is primarily a doorstep chat between you and our officers. If one of our officers or PCSOs knocks at your door, please spare a few minutes to talk to them. You'll be asked some key questions which should take no more than ten minutes. However we know some of our communities would prefer to do the survey online by visiting <https://survey.hampshirealert.co.uk/> Our aim is to hear the views of as many households across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight as possible.

(You are, of course, under no obligation to take part in Let's Talk.)

### How does Let's Talk address issues in my area?

The information we gather from your participation in Let's Talk will help us improve the area where you live, identify vulnerabilities and help others.

This is an opportunity for you to make a difference in your own communities. Our officers will use the information collected through the survey to pinpoint exactly what and where the issues are - whether that be a street, a school, a shop, or a park - and address those issues along with the council and our other partner agencies.

### How can I keep updated with action taken via Let's Talk?

When you take part in the survey, you'll be asked if you'd like to become a member of 'Hampshire Alert and Isle of Wight Alert', our community messaging systems. Members of these systems will receive updates directly into their inbox from their neighbourhood policing team about the action taken based on the feedback we receive.



Asparagus season is well underway, the grocers are full of tender broccoli and Jersey Royals are just begging for butter! So it must be time for my favourite fishcake recipe. It's worth the effort to make your own cakes and actually takes little time. They go so well with all of the above or even just a lovely leafy salad.

## Salmon Fishcakes

### Ingredients

#### For the cakes

- 450g floury potatoes such as King Edwards or Maris Piper
- 350g Fresh salmon fillets (approximately 3)
- 2 tsp tomato ketchup
- 1 tsp English Mustard
- Zest of ½ lemon plus wedges to serve
- 1 heaped tbsp of chopped fresh parsley
- 1 heaped tbsp chopped dill

#### Place the following in separate bowls:

- 3 tbsp plain flour in one bowl
- 1 medium egg beaten in another bowl
- 100g dried breadcrumbs in the third bowl

#### To cook

- 4 tbsps sunflower oil

#### Method

Pre-heat the grill.

Place the potatoes in a pan of water and bring to the boil. Cook for 12-15 minutes until tender. Drain and leave them to steam dry, then mash.

While potatoes are boiling, season the salmon fillets and grill for 5-6 minutes until just cooked.

Cool salmon for a few minutes and then break into large flakes.

Mix the mashed potato with all the other ingredients for the cakes, then lightly mix in the salmon taking care not to break it up too much.

Shape into 4 large fish cakes.

Dip each cake into the flour, dusting off any excess, then the egg and finally coat with the breadcrumbs.

Heat the sunflower oil in a large pan. Fry the cakes over a medium-to-low heat for 3-4 minutes each side until they are deep golden and heated through.

All that's left is to serve them with the lovely steamed vegetables and/or the leafy salad

Delicious!

Linda Hotchen

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# Stockbridge Parish Council News

## High Street Planters

It has been necessary for the Council to renew the licence for the planters on the high street between the Co-op and the Greengrocer. This is because the installation of the new crossing cannot take place as fast as it was hoped. The Council would like to thank the Greengrocer and the Co-op for responding positively to the proposal and giving their consent. The crossing will benefit those who rely on walking aids or who are in wheelchairs because the crossing will stop cars parking in front of the island. The Council will need to find a new home for the planters, however, so, if anyone has a suggestion of where they may be used to the benefit to the community, please email the Clerk.

## Village Design Statement

Cllrs Nadal and Foord have been working on an improved version of the Village Design Statement. The Council was aware that this planning document had grown a little out-of-date since it had been completed in the 2000's. Both Councillors felt that the layout and the content of the document was of a high standard and therefore didn't need changing. However, some factual inaccuracies have come into being over time and these are going to be corrected. This approach means that the Council can avoid the expense of an expensive consultation exercise. The Council has used the document to inform the TVBC Local Plan that is being developed and consulted on by TVBC for publication next year.

## Rights of Way Volunteers

Hampshire Countryside Services do some great work around the county keeping our footpaths clear and repairing and improving them where they can. They are assisted by brilliant volunteers who give up their time to make improvements where HCC agrees it is safe for them to do so. Recently, the Romsey Ramblers helped replace stiles with access gates on footpaths around Michelmersh and Timsbury and, two years ago, volunteers undertook improvements to the marsh path from the High Street. The team is always looking for new volunteers to help out and for projects to consider. If you would like to become a volunteer for this work, please contact HCC Countryside services. You can report any issues with Rights of Way via the Hampshire County Council web reporting service: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

## Replanting Elm Trees

Communities across Hampshire are being invited to apply for funding to plant disease-resistant elm trees. The once-abundant species was decimated by disease in recent decades but new varieties are now taking root across the county. The initiative to support its comeback is possible thanks to a grant

from The Tree Council secured by Hampshire County Council's Forest Partnership. Enquiries are open now for the 2024/25 tree-planting season which starts from the autumn. Organisations such as town and parish councils, local groups and landowners can find out more information on the Hampshire Forest Partnership webpage - <https://www.hants.gov.uk/hampshireforestpartnership>

## Stockbridge Parish Council Annual Meeting

This is the annual meeting where, by law, the Council must elect (or re-elect) the Chair of the Council, and will take place on 16th May. Don't forget the earlier start time for Council meetings of 7:15pm but the meetings will as usual be held in the Town Hall.

*Belinda Baker*  
Clerk to Stockbridge Parish Council  
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# Potting Shed Cuttings for May

## New gardening books to try:

*The Garden Against Time: In Search of a Common Paradise* - Olivia Laing;

*One Garden Against the World: In Search of Hope in a Changing Climate* - Kate Bradbury;

*Understorey: A Year Among Weeds* - Anna Chapman Parker.



## Pruning

Forsythia, kerria japonica, and varieties of early flowering shrubs will have come to the end of their flowering period; prune back shoots which have carried flowers. Late frosts may have damaged the tips of evergreen shrubs; these can be tidied up and gently pruned. Clematis montana varieties will have finished flowering by now and can be pruned back to the required framework; pyracantha shoots, especially for those grown against walls, can also be cut back to the framework you need for their space. Spring-flowering ground-cover plants such as aubretia can be trimmed back to tidy plants and encourage fresh growth.

## Sowing

Continue sowing vegetable seeds; most can still be sown under glass to speed up germination but, if space is a problem, even sweetcorn, runner and French beans can be sown outside now as the risk of frost decreases. Plan ahead and sow seeds for flowering next spring in a quiet corner of the garden; these include winter-flowering pansies, wallflowers, forget-me-nots and Bellis perennis.

## Planting/Potting Up

Plant out marrows, courgettes and outdoor cucumbers and tomatoes when the risk of frost has gone. Winter vegetables, such as leeks, sprouts, cabbages and kale can also be moved into their final growing position. Empty containers; clean and fill with fresh compost and plant up summer bedding plants towards the end of May. If you have sufficient room to keep containers in a frost-free area, they can be planted earlier in the month. There is still time to divide spring-flowering perennials and replant; ensure the planting area is enriched with garden compost and the plants are fed. Gladioli, dahlias and more tender summer-flowering bulbs may be planted now.

## Miscellaneous Jobs

Climbing plants can soon get out of control at this time of year, so take a few minutes each day to check clematis, jasmine and honeysuckle and gently tie in shoots. Tall perennials will benefit from tying in or supporting as they grow, to prevent wind damage. Variegated shrubs will be growing vigorously; check new shoots and pinch out any which have reverted to their non-variegated parents. Continue mowing the lawn around once a week and apply a spring 'weed and

feed'. If you intend sowing a new lawn, make sure you sow it at the beginning of the month if possible. If May proves warm, keep the greenhouse doors and windows open during the day, but remember to close them at night. On particularly hot days, dampen the greenhouse floor to help reduce the temperature. Greenhouse crops should initially be kept a little short of water to encourage them to make deeper roots. Spraying them with water will encourage germination and is beneficial in ensuring the plants settle themselves in. Keep an eye on greenhouse tomatoes and pinch out side shoots – make sure you don't remove flowering trusses. Tie in the main stem of tomatoes grown as cordons; bush tomatoes can be tied to a shorter stake and side shoots allowed to grow and produce fruit.

*Micki Nadal*

## Stop Press – Peregrines

Almost when we had given up hope the latest female peregrine, Mel, has laid two eggs on the nest at Winchester Cathedral and is sitting on them. The Hampshire ornithologist thinks the eggs will hatch on 17/18 May.



So let us hope some chicks emerge in due course. It is such good news after our much-loved Winnie, who had produced so many fledged peregrines, died earlier this year.

*Jean Boney*

*(Photo credit : Steve Payce)*

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## Church News

### St Mary's Longstock

Having written about the Good Friday Walk and Easter, before the events happened, I am happy to confirm that both occasions were really good. This picture shows the band of walkers on Good Friday.



The reflections were from 'Stations of the Cross' with contributions from Stephen Cottrell, Paula Goodall and Philip North. The weather stayed fair, although it was muddy, and we ended the walk with coffee and hot cross buns in the Church.

The Easter Service went well – we incorporated into the service the sharing of bread, which we did in remembrance of Jesus. We celebrated the fact that Jesus is alive and with us now. At the end of the service, we had the Easter Egg hunt – the ratio of egg to child was high!



The Easter Garden was much admired, as were the floral decorations, so thanks to Boo, Alison, Chris, Sue, Carolyn and Charlotte for making the church so beautiful.

The church, as part of the work to gain the next step up from bronze, the 'Silver' Eco award, now has an owl box, plans for new benches, the start of a wild flower part and the beginnings of a compost area. Many thanks to Lisa Trailor who is now running this project. Please note, whenever possible, we use 'fair-trade' products for our tea and coffee.

On the 18 April, we held the Funeral Service for Iris Pitman. She was born in 1932, one of 11 children. She saw many changes during her time with us.

Iris was a truly lovely lady. Interested in what was going on around her, sociable, good cook, loyal member of the church and always kind. Iris was still on the church opening and closing rota during 2019. She is much missed. The service was a warm and friendly affair, presided over by Rev'd Dr John Rennie.

### May

This will be a busy month as the parishes of the Mid-Test work together to produce a 'Benefice Profile' to be approved by all parishes and then put forward for the Archdeacon's approval. This document will then be used for the recruitment process. It has to provide an honest description of the Benefice, showing where there are opportunities and challenges. We hope to advertise in June, with, subject to receiving applications, interviews in July. Please pray for this process.

9th May is Ascension Day with a service at 7.30pm at St Andrews Church, Mottisfont. At this service, the new PCCs will be commissioned and this year we are fortunate to have the Archdeacon, the venerable Jean Burgess, to lead the service. Longstock will not have elected their new PCC, so current PCC members, hoping to be re-elected, will attend.

Longstock APCM was planned for the 16th April 2024 but there were clashes of dates for key people so this has been deferred to Tuesday 14th May 7.00pm at St Mary's Church. Please do come to elect your churchwardens – we still have a vacancy – and the PCC members. There will be a short presentation on what we are doing for the next level – silver – for the Eco Award so this is a chance to come and ask questions. If anyone would like to stand for election as Church Warden or PCC member and has any questions, please contact me on 810284. You do need to be on the church electoral roll in order to stand for election. We will also be providing an update on the Vacancy and will answer any questions – if we can. A full church would be wonderful. The agenda and Annual Report will be distributed at the end of April

Pentecost comes on 19th May and, at the Morning Worship service at St Mary's, we will do our best to celebrate the church's birthday in style. Please put the date in your diary.

**Church Services at St Mary, Longstock for May**  
Please see Page 31.

If you have any questions on 'The News', please contact Maddie Hedley Churchwarden, Tel 810284, email [mjh723@btinternet](mailto:mjh723@btinternet).

For any queries during the interregnum, please contact Maddie as above or the Benefice Administrator, Lois Opperman at [midtestbenefice@gmail.com](mailto:midtestbenefice@gmail.com)

Maddie Hedley

# Church News

## From the Dean

### Change and Growth

Very soon, all of your local Churches will have had their Annual Meetings when churchwardens and members of the Parochial Church Council will have been elected. If you have been thinking about getting more involved in your local church this year, now is the time! There are bound to be new churchwardens this year.

I hope that you had a splendid Easter and even, perhaps, a Holiday. By the time you read this, the Schools will be back and, by the end of May, it will be Half Term. This year, the Church Festival of Pentecost falls on the 19th May. Pentecost (also called Whit Sunday, Whitsunday or Whitsun) is a Christian holiday which takes place on the 50th day (the seventh Sunday) after Easter Sunday. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the followers of Jesus while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:1–31). It is often known as the 'Birthday' of the Church and many churches will have a Party. In the Thorngate and Blackwater Benefice Churches we are all coming together in St Leonard's Church, Sherfield English for a service at 10.30am to be followed by a 'Bring Your Own' picnic. You are welcome to join in (or celebrate in your own Church).

*Your Rural Dean, James*

*Rev'd James Pitkin - jamespitkin@priest.com*

## From the Benefice

We are waiting and going through a time of change – as were the Disciples after Jesus' crucifixion.

On Easter morning, when Jesus appeared, first to Mary and the other women, then on the road to Emmaus, then to the disciples in the upper room – they were both joyful and afraid. No-one had ever risen from death before – Jesus was the first fruit of the New Kingdom. The same, yet very different. Able to appear at will – and disappear the same way. No wonder we have four different accounts, each writing down what it seemed to them.

Just when they thought they had Jesus back with them – then came the Ascension, seeing Jesus move into Heaven. More waiting, until the amazing coming of the Holy Spirit. No longer timid and frightened, but emboldened to speak out, to preach, to heal, to work together for the common good. And from those twelve men, 2000 years later, Christianity is throughout the world. For all nations.

We in this Benefice are in a time of transition. We had four years of relative stability, learning to be a united benefice, in our own parishes, yet interdependent. Ordained and lay working together for a common purpose. To share the gospel of Jesus and learning to live his way.

We are striving to show that in the Benefice Profile. It is almost finished and will be available for all the PCCs to review and hopefully to approve. The next formal stage will be to hold what is called a 'Section 11' meeting. This is when all the PCCs come together to approve the profile and to agree the people who will represent them during the recruitment process.

When this is done, we need the Archdeacon's approval. The Benefice Profile will then go on our web site and go for advertising – we expect in early June. Please will you pray that we receive a good response so we have a shortlist for interviewing, in late July.

If we are able to appoint a new Rector, that person will still not join us (due to notice periods) until probably November or December.

We will then be ready in the New Year to go forward together, renewing our vigour for sharing the Good News, using our past successes and learning new approaches.

Bishop Philip is encouraging us in our mission so we can be refreshed and renewed in our discipleship.

Amen

*Maddie Hedley*

## Church News

### St Peter's and Old St Peter's Stockbridge



This year we celebrated Easter Sunday on March 31st. It was a joyous service led by the Rev'd Dr John Rennie with a congregation of over 70. Under the leadership of our organist Sarah Seymour, the choir sang the Introit 'This Joyful Eastertide' and later Mozart's 'Ave Verum' as an anthem. We are very grateful to our wonderful flower team whose efforts for Easter brought the church so much colour following Lent. There were a few children in the congregation and they all received chocolate Easter eggs afterwards.

Easter eggs are a prominent feature in the Greek Orthodox Church (but without the chocolate). As described in the previous month on this page, the Orthodox Easter follows the Julian calendar so their Easter this year is not celebrated until May 5th.

But the children will be preparing their red eggs during the week that this issue is published. The colour red (achieved by boiling them in natural dye or onion skins) symbolises the blood of Christ. The eggs are hard boiled, the shell representing the sealed tomb. On Easter Sunday the eggs are cracked on each other, symbolising Christ's resurrection from the dead and the exit from the tomb. The tradition is for two people to crack their eggs together as they exchange the traditional Easter greeting 'Christos Anésti' (Christ is risen) followed by 'Alithós Anésti' (Indeed, He is risen). Instead of hot cross buns, the Greeks bake a sweet bread called *Tsoureki* at Easter, usually plaited in three strands, representing the Trinity.



Another musical first for our services in St Peter's was hearing Toshi during the Good Friday service (led by Sue Kipling) singing Bach's 'Komm Süßer Tod', accompanied by Sarah on the piano. Toshi has a rich tenor voice and we were all inspired by his interpretation. Toshi also participated in a concert for children in St Peter's on April 27th.

On April 24th, the Annual Parish Council Meeting (APCM) was held in St Peter's. It was chaired by PCC Member Robin Colenso. David Williams, the church warden, presented his update on the fabric

of both St Peter's and Old St Peter's. This year, since our previous rector's departure, the Benefice church wardens have also been responsible for looking after the rectory, dealing with the diocese and helping to coordinate the various maintenance and building works that needed to be completed. Elizabeth Miller, responsible for Safeguarding, gave her report, as did Jean Farnan, Treasurer, on Finance.

The process for appointing a new rector is underway and the relevant committees will be conducting interviews for a new incumbent during July.

Our condolences to the family of John Robinson who died recently. His memory will live on in Stockbridge's famous butcher's shop. The family have invited family and friends to join them at his funeral on 29th April at 11.30am to say goodbye.

#### Looking Ahead

No teas in the church on 5th May

**May 3rd to May 6th:** During the long weekend, the annual Flower Festival will fill our churches with beautiful displays of flowers and artefacts following the theme: Hobbies and Holidays. There will be teas on the church lawn on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

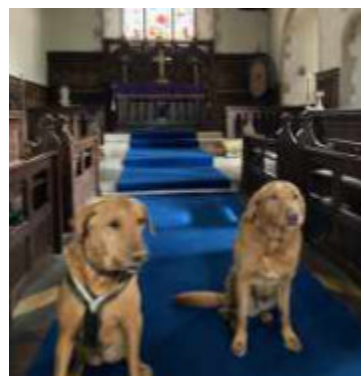
**Thursday May 9th:** Ascension Day. A Service at 7.30pm in St Andrews Church, Mottisfont.

**Sunday 19th May:** Pentecost. The Rev. Dr. John Rennie will lead the Eucharist Service that day.

**Saturday June 8th:** There will be a short service of Remembrance at the War Memorial to mark the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. Details to follow in the next issue.

Following the tragic death of Christine Leslie in March, the family held a private funeral in Old St Peter's on April 22nd. There will be a memorial service for Christine in St Peter's on Friday 14th June to which all her many friends and neighbours are invited.

*Janet Williams*



A new congregation at St Mary's, Longstock

## Church News

### St Nicholas' Leckford



We are delighted that Archdeacon Jean Burgess will be coming

to little St Nick's on **Sunday 19th May** to lead our beautiful sung Evensong service from 6 - 7pm. We do hope you can come and join us and make sure we present Archdeacon Jean with a full church – the bell ringers will welcome you to the church, Sarah Seymour will be leading us on the organ and we hope our talented local choir will be able to join us too. After the service, please stay for wine and nibbles – either in the newly refurbished village hall across the road or, if work has not been completed, in St Nick's itself. All who come to St Nick's agree it is a special place – whose records as a place of worship date back to around 947AD (or CE if you prefer!) – and it would be lovely to show her off at her best. For more details or any questions, please phone Micki Nadal on 07563753079

### Prayer for May

Spring is arriving – lambs are playing in the fields, cowslips and primroses vie with bluebells for colour.

The sun is warming up but the winds are still cold, we thank you Lord for all the varieties you send.

We have celebrated Easter with great joy and the shout 'Alleluia, He is risen'.

We are awaiting your Holy Spirit, which we anticipate at Pentecost.

Lord, we pray we can open our hearts to the Holy Spirit to fill us and guide us daily.

But not forgetting. In Ukraine, Gaza, Israel, Sudan and sadly many other places there is mourning, sorrow and fear as fighting continues.

We pray for the wars to stop.

We pray Lord, that all in these Benefice Communities will hear your call, feel the wind blowing and know your voice, and respond to your call to worship, adding our prayers to the thousands of voices who have gone before.

Bind us together Lord, in Love and faith.

Amen

### May Services for Stockbridge, Longstock and Leckford 5th May (Easter 6)

08.00 **Leckford** Holy Communion BCP

09.30 **Longstock** All Age Service

11.00 **Stockbridge** Parish Eucharist

### 9th May (Ascension Day) (Thursday)

19.30 **St Andrews Mottisfont** Ascension Day Service and PCC Commissioning

### 12th May (Easter 7)

08.00 **Old St Peter** Holy Communion

09.30 **Longstock** Parish Eucharist

11.00 **Stockbridge** All Age Service

### 19th May (Pentecost)

09.30 **Longstock** Morning Worship

11.00 **Stockbridge** Parish Eucharist

18.00 **Leckford** Evensong

### 22nd May (Wednesday)

10.00 **Old St Peter** Holy Communion

### 26th May (Trinity Sunday)

11.00 **Stockbridge** Morning Worship

### Hampshire Downs RC Parish St Thomas More

Services are held on Sundays at 9.00am

### The Column for April

#### Baptisms

There were no baptisms

#### Weddings

There were no weddings

#### Funerals

The funeral for Iris Pitman took place at 11.30am on Thursday 18 April at St Mary's Church, Longstock. The cremation followed the funeral service. The ashes will be interred on Thursday 25 April at Longstock Cemetery.

The Private Funeral for Christine Leslie took place on 22 April at Old St Peter's.

The funeral service for John Robinson took place at 11.30am on 29 April at St Peter's Church, Stockbridge.



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