



The Parish Magazine for

£1

STOCKBRIDGE LONGSTOCK & LECKFORD

September 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)

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Bell ringers (Stockbridge)	New Secretary to be appointed	clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org
Micki Nadal 810567	Angela McMeekin: Poppies 810236	Stockbridge Pharmacy 810624
Brownies (meet in Chilbolton)	Scouts	Stockbridge Police Station
Julie Shone 01962 761269	Mark Lovell 07786 435847	(Non emergencies) 101
Church Mouse Books	Scout Group Explorers	Stockbridge Primary /Pre School
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Cllr David Drew 357024	Stockbridge Church Flowers Sec	Stockbridge Surgery 810524
mob 07738 289902	Angela McMeekin 810236	<i>Out of hours urgent treatment /advice</i>
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Leckford Parish Council	Stockbridge Community Market	Kim Candler (Chair) 811776
<i>Position vacant</i>	Carol Preston 07925 287870	<i>On-line bookings</i>
Longstock Garden Club	Stockbridge Court Leet	www.stockbridgetownhall.co.uk
Peter Moore 07881 573493	Guy Boney (Lord of the Manor)	or phone 513299
peter.r.moore@gmail.com	810614	Test Valley School
Longstock Parish Council	Diana Tym (Bailiff) 810363	Ms Jo McKeown (Executive Head)
Chair: Selina Musters 810459	Stockbridge Dramatic Society	810555
Clerk: Gill Bulpitt 07763857512	Mark Frank 810562	Trout 'n About
Longstock Village Hall	Stockbridge Football Club	Bob Powell 01264 810966
Selina Musters 810459	Bob Powell (Chair) 07802 524433	TVBC Councillor
Longstock & Leckford WI	Rob Blandford (Hon Sec) 07799 289756	Cllr Tony Ward 01794 389649
Sue Hill 811779	Email: stockbridgefc@hotmail.com	Unity Transport (Dial-a-Ride shopping bus) 356808
Neighbour Care 0845 0943713	Stockbridge Music	
<i>Calls cost 7p/min +network charge.</i>	Karen Malim 07964 194530	

From the Clergy

Some folk can actually remember the 1966 World Cup. Pretty well everyone will have heard that we won! Even if it hasn't been at the top of our consciousness, we've been reminded of it, as we have been bombarded by every media source over the past few weeks as our country's progress in the Women's World Cup has been charted. And so we reached the final! Even the hierarchy of the church were encouraging us to watch, certainly to my consternation, as we clergy do put a bit of effort into planning worship for a Sunday and we rather hope folk will turn up. As it was, numbers in church on the day of the Final were much as normal for a Sunday in mid August here in MidTest Benefice.

So we had all the hype. If only we could win the cup! It would be so so good!

And then we didn't.

Winning and success are so important today. Exam results fill the news every August. We all, it seems, want to be first. And if not first, then above average.....above average? We can't all be above average. If we can't make it to the top segment, then we investigate the reasons for this failure? A bit of blame comes in and then there are the excuses that we would have made it but for this and that. This nowadays goes on throughout life.

While we feel the good scent of success is nice, that is not just what life is about. Success may give us more money, more security, more influential friends, but not being top of the pile also has its merits. It gives us a greater understanding of our fellow humans – and animals for that matter. Developing compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience can help us to live with ourselves as well as with others. These are the qualities that come from God who is the source of love. Yes, we can be successful, but if we don't feel we have met our targets and done as well as we or others think we should, we should value the qualities that hold us together and join us with the ultimate spiritual being which we call God. Life in God goes on forever. Maybe we should put some more time in practising for it now!

The Rev'd Sue Kipling

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Cover Photo: King Alfred bus at Trout 'n About 2023, by Paul Kidd

Carpe Diem -

Footers this month encourage us to seize the day, feel the pain and do it anyway. Good luck!

From the Editorial Team

We often find ourselves in a reflective mood as the summer draws to a close and the nights start to draw in. Signs of nature, the harvest and that distinctive smell of autumn mark the passing of time and the cycle of life. When we received the charming and thought-provoking piece entitled 'I'd Pick More Daisies' which we feature on p9, we were prompted to use its sentiments as a backdrop to reflections on opportunities seized and 'a life well lived'.

Not all of us can fulfil our dreams nor exceed the bounds of normal experience but everyone can find small opportunities for personal achievement and pleasure. As usual, our magazine abounds with accounts of such moments - from the simple delight of watching our visiting swifts to the thrill of an albatross in the awe-inspiring grandeur of the Antarctic; from the past endeavours of the aptly-named Endurance expedition to the equally-formative experience of a cub camp; from the domestic deliciousness of sharing a homecooked bread and butter pudding to a life-changing decision to emigrate to Australia; from the treasured friendship between neighbours to charitable support across the wider community and nations. This is the stuff of opportunities seized and spontaneity rewarded. That over-used exhortation 'carpe diem' should still be our mantra whilst always remembering not to take ourselves too seriously ... and picking more daisies along the way.

Frances Candler, Jennifer Kidd and Thea Taylor



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.
Handmade crafts, toys, books, plants & bric-a-brac.

Please come along and browse

Free Wi-Fi access



Stockbridge Community Cinema



CLOSE (12)
Friday 8 September
7.30pm (1hr 44min)

Thirteen-year-olds Leo and Remi are best friends, as close as brothers. However, as they start a new school year, the pressures of burgeoning adolescence challenge their bond with unexpected and far-reaching consequences. This powerful coming of age story offers a depiction of intimacy and masculinity that is sure to have an enduring impact.

ALLELUJAH (12)
Wednesday 13 September
5.00pm and 7.30pm (1hr 39min)

When the geriatric ward in a small Yorkshire hospital is threatened with closure, the hospital decides to fight back by galvanizing the local community: they invite a news crew to film their preparations for a concert in honour of the hospital's most distinguished nurse. What could possibly go wrong?

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)

Longstock Garden Club



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

Our next meeting in Longstock Village Hall is on October 10th when Lynda Warren will give a talk entitled **A Spoonful of Herbs**.

www.longstockgardenclub.com

Peter Moore 07881573493

Copy for Magazine

Copy date for the October Magazine:

15 September 2023

Please send emails to:

editorsstockmag@gmail.com

or phone Frances on 01264 811776

Jennifer on 01264 811179 or Thea on 07730 964481

Longstock Village Event

SUNDAY @ 4

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S EVENT

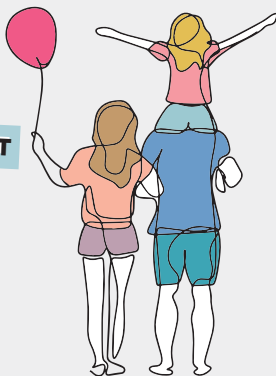
17TH SEPTEMBER 2023

LONGSTOCK VILLAGE HALL

SO20 6DL

4-5PM

- games
- songs
- Bible story
- refreshments & hot dogs



CONTACT
Rev John Rennie: johnrennie47@gmail.com
Paddy Melville: paddymelville@hotmail.com

Join us for a village event for children and families in **Longstock Village Hall** on **Sunday 17th September at 4pm.**

It's an opportunity for families across the local villages to come together.

Join us to sing, have fun, and listen to a Bible story.

There will be free refreshments and snacks.

Children must be accompanied.

Saturday
Sept 2nd

2.00
till
5.00



LONGSTOCK

Bar	Village Fête	Teas
Cakes	Fairground Organ	Jams
Books	Dogs must be on leads	Trout
Dog Show		Produce
Bottle Tombola		Kid's games
Ten Pin Bowling		Birds of Prey
Adventure Tunnel		Golf Challenge

Separate BBQ 6.30

Music by Nick Ferretti



In aid of St. Mary's Longstock & The Playground
Sponsors: Grosvenor Consultancy Myddelton & Major,
Haydown Kitchens, Walkabout Vet & Hildon Water

RIDE+STRIDES



In aid of Hampshire & the Islands
Historic Churches Trust

**Hampshire and the Isle of Wight
Ride+Stride, 9th Sept 2023**

The day is an exceptional opportunity to discover the rich heritage of our historic church buildings, see beautiful countryside, get some exercise travelling between the churches and have fun with friends and family. You are free to choose your own route and to visit as many of the churches as you wish, between 10am and 6pm. You may cycle, walk, run, ride or drive to raise money for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight's historic churches and chapels of all denominations. The money you raise from your sponsors will be divided between this Trust and the church or churches of your choice or donate all your sponsorship monies to the Trust.

Please take part if you can – contact your churchwarden for more information – details p2.

More information on website: *Taking Part – Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust* (hict.org.uk)

STOCKBRIDGE MUSIC

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

Friday 22nd September, 7.30pm
St Peter's Church, Stockbridge SO20 6HE

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Alternatively, tickets can be purchased from **Romsey Visitor Information Centre**
13 Church St, Romsey SO51 8BT

HARVEST SUPPER

HOG ROAST AND PUDDINGS

SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER

LONGSTOCK VILLAGE HALL

6.00PM

(Following Harvest Festival at St Mary's 5pm)



Adult £12.00. Children
14 and under free.

To book :
phone Maddie 810284
or email
mjh723@btinternet

The Longstock Rally (UTVVC)

Sat 9 & Sun 10 September 2023 9am-5pm

Lower Manor Dairy, Old Stockbridge
Road, Stockbridge SO20 6JP



Vintage, classic and
modern tractors, cars,
lorries, motorbikes,
stationary engines,
trade stalls, wood
working area, tractor
rides, fire engines

Beer tent, entertainment, hot food & much more

Come and join us for a weekend of vintage
working, bygone eras and historical interest

A great family fun day out
Lots to see and do for young and old
Admission £5.00

TROUT 'N ABOUT!



After some dismal weather, the sun came out to bless the Trout 'n About Food and Craft Festival in Stockbridge on 6 August. The High Street and the Recreation Ground were thronged with crowds from near and far, relishing the entertainment, the splendid variety of stalls selling all sorts of produce and crafted wares, delicious food cooked alfresco and the vibrancy of community spirit supporting local charitable causes. Recipients of surplus proceeds are nominated and then voted for by the event's volunteers. Donations will be presented at a special event in the Town Hall on Friday 17th November.



A wonderful time was had by all, thanks to the dedication and hard work of the organisers and volunteers.

Photos courtesy of Nigel Rugman, Paul Kidd and
Trout 'n About
More pictures at tnastockbridge.com



Stockbridge Town Hall Events



Weekly

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

This Month

Sep 2	Antique Fair
Sep 3	Jules At No.43
Sep 4-6	Wild Bazaar
Sep 7-8	Katy Botanicals
Sep 8	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Sep 9	South Central Makers
Sep 13	Stockbridge Community Cinema
Sep 15-16	Cocoon
Sep 22-24	Contemporary Craft Fair
Sep 25-27	Wild Bazaar
Sep 26	Longstock and Leckford WI
Sep 30-1	Hawkmoor Books
Sep 30-1	Antiques and Curios

Wherwell History Group



Friday 15 September
8pm at Chilbolton Village Hall

The History of 238 Squadron

Tom England

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



Houghton WI
18 September at 10am
Houghton Village Hall

Hants & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance

A representative will tell us about providing this service, with many interesting stories.

Visitors welcome. Further information from
Jane Anderton 01264 810928

Test Villages u3a

Thursday 7 September at 2pm

Chilbolton Village Hall

Phil Wilkinson presents

'Remembrance: The Commonwealth War Graves Commission'

Phil Wilkinson's 40 years in the Royal Air Force took him to many parts of the world including Berlin and Moscow. Invariably, his postings were in close proximity to a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery. The solemnity and peace of these sites are highlighted in this lecture about the Commission and its work. That work, started in 1914, continues today, commemorating the sacrifice of the 1.7 million Commonwealth service personnel who died in both World Wars.

The talk will be illustrated with images from all round the world, wherever a Commonwealth grave can be found – from Chilbolton to Vladivostok.

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

Doors open at 1.45pm for the presentation, followed by refreshments.

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



u3a provides the opportunity to socialise and learn for fun.

Find out more at u3asites.org.uk/test-villages



**LONGSTOCK &
LECKFORD WI**

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

Tuesday 26 September

The Good, the Bad and the Downright Funny

30 years as a police officer

Jackie Dimmock

Guests always welcome

Please contact Sue Hill on 811779 for further details



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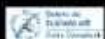
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I'D PICK MORE DAISIES

written by an 87-year-old American lady on Iona in 1989.

If I had my life to live over, I'd try to make more mistakes next time. I would relax. I would limber up. I would be sillier than I've been this trip. I know of very few things I would take seriously. I would be crazier. I would be less hygienic. I would take more chances. I would take more trips. I would climb more mountains, swim more rivers, and watch more sunsets. I would eat more ice-cream and less beans. I would have more actual troubles, and fewer imaginary ones.

You see, I am one of those people who live prophylactically, and sanely and sensibly, hour after hour, day after day. Oh, I have had my moments and, if I had it to do over again, I'd have more of them. In fact, I'd try to have nothing else: Just moments, one after another, instead of living so many years ahead each day.

I have been one of those people who never go anywhere without a thermometer, a hot water bottle, a gargle, a raincoat and a parachute. If I had to do it over again, I would go places and do things and travel lighter than I have. If I had my life to live over, I would start barefooted earlier in the spring and stay that way later in the fall. I would play hooky more. I wouldn't make such good grades, except by accident. I would ride on more merry-go-rounds: I'd pick more daisies.

This wise and poignant piece was sent to us by Ian Slight, who says 'I've had this sitting by my desk for probably 30 years, and I have tried to follow her wonderful words in my own life - am now a year older than she was when she wrote it.'

We agree with Ian that it is well worth sharing and have echoed its sentiments in our footers.

Editors



OIL PAINTING CLASSES

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+1 day workshops

Starting in September at Stockbridge Town Hall
All levels are welcome

Contact Su Joy for more information
su29joy@gmail.com



We are currently continuing our system of having a waiting list for patients who want to see a specific GP who doesn't currently have any available appointments.

We hope this is improving patient continuity and reducing calls into the surgery. We welcome any feedback on this new system.

Starting Boarding School or University?

If you are starting at boarding school or moving away for university, please ensure you register permanently with a GP who is local to you there. If you are unwell when you are living back at home, you can register as a temporary patient.

Schools or nurseries should ensure that prescribed medication is named but, if your child takes over-the-counter medication, this does not need to be prescribed.

GP Patient Survey 2023

Thank you to all patients who contributed to the national GP patient survey. We are pleased that the 2023 National GP Surgery has shown that 89% of patients report their overall experience at Stockbridge Practice is good. We have seen a reported increase in patients saying it is easy to get through on the telephones and that they find our website easy to use.

Social Prescriber

We have a Social Prescriber called Sarah Armstrong working at the Practice. She can help patients who have social issues which are impacting on their mental and/or physical health such as housing, finances, loneliness etc. Sarah accepts self-referrals.

Firearms Licences

Please remember to renew your firearms licence as soon as you get the reminder from the police. We are unable to do these urgently and would appreciate as much time as possible because the GP has to review the last 10 years of your medical records.

Out-of-stock items

We share the frustration of patients that there is an increasing number of medications we are unable to get hold of in a timely manner. We have tried to explain some of the reasons for this in the news section on our website. We are working to improve our communication with you regarding out-of-stock items and are sorry that sometimes we get this wrong.

*Ann Spooner
Practice Manager*

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Out and About with Ryan Bundy

Just sat in the garden ...

Every now and then you just want to sit down and relax. Leave the car parked in the drive and just put your feet up and enjoy a cold drink. This collection of photos was all taken in the garden at Leckford.



Butterfly on a flower
(Marbled White on a



A Jay in for a snack



A squirrel eating some
wheat that had grown in
the garden



A young blackbird
in for a bath



A small mouse having a
snack



A very busy robin
feeding its young



A Nuthatch in
for a snack



A woodpecker in for a
snack

Royal Mail's new River Wildlife stamp set



On 7th July the Royal Mail issued a set of 10 stamps celebrating the diversity of birds, mammals, insects and fish that inhabit the UK's rivers and streams. These feature beavers, Atlantic salmon, kingfisher, beautiful demoiselle, water vole, grey wagtail, common mayfly, otter, brown trout and dipper.

What is special about this splendid image of the Brown Trout is that it was taken by wildlife photographer Paul Colley in Stockbridge. A few years ago, David Barnes watched Paul taking photographs in the trout pond on the High Street, and got into conversation. David suggested Paul might have a look at the carrier which runs alongside his garden to see if that might also be a good spot for his photography. And so it proved. Paul has visited David and Jill's garden several times and it was there he took the photograph which is featured on one of the stamps (1st Class, of course) in the River Wildlife series.

The Royal Mail developed the series in collaboration with Professor Steve Ormerod from Cardiff University's Water Research Institute, who has said, 'Freshwater wildlife is under threat around the world from pollution and other pressures – so these stamps are a timely reminder of the special, highly-adapted and diverse array of animals that need our own streams and rivers to be in healthy condition.

The iconic species that feature on these stamps are under threat if we don't maintain our rivers. Our research aims to protect the rivers of the UK – and these much-loved British species – for the future.

This is such a wonderful way to celebrate the UK's rivers and to send a message - quite literally - of why they are important.'

David and Editors



Inspired by Antarctica - Sally Milligan

The impressions of Antarctica are indeed powerful but nature doesn't let you linger a moment. It seems to enhance, replace or change its colour. It is almost impossible to grab even fleetingly, which is what I was attempting; consequently the sketches are probably more genuine for that, time was not forgiving, the temperature not in the equation.

The Antarctic touches the soul and heightens the feelings; a spiritual landscape and eternity. You must gather the memories of that exceptional glory and hold them tight inside. Even now I can take myself back, feel the invigorating air, the smells of snow, sea and animal life. This virtually uninhabited, ice-covered landmass shelters a rich wildlife including around eight species of penguins; I think we saw them all. I have never felt so well and so connected in any other place.

It never seemed cold regardless of the minus temperature; the sun frequently shone, enhancing the sharpness of line and contrast of colour. I had planned my palette for oils and watercolours in advance, making every moment of painting swift and enjoyable. When I work in my studio on paintings from sketches, my senses and memories fly back still, but it is more of a challenge.



Thursday 17th November

At sea. Saw my first albatross, a Black-browed albatross. Spectacular. Largest bird on earth, flies up to 80mph and can spend 7hrs without flapping its wings.

There is a breeding colony on Saunders Island.

From my diary: 5am on deck.

Sun just rising the sky blue-black to shades of ochre. Purple hills in the distance. We are coming in to West Point Saunders island. Gentle rolling pewter sea, deep purple, viridian and burnt Sienna extraordinary colours. The sun hitting a far island illuminating it, like a diamond. Then blocks of yellow flowers came into view . . . gorse. The land getting closer. Suddenly a flock of penguins passed, en route to the beach. I was still in my pyjamas.



'I now belong to a higher cult of mortals for I have seen an Albatross' Robert Cushman Murphy



'Unfathomable nothingness' Monet

Thursday 21st November.

First iceberg, so excited . . . it was also the anniversary of the sinking of the Endeavour! We were en route to South Georgia.



The Ernest Shackleton Story

It was 7am on the freezing morning of May the 20th 1916 that Ernest Shackleton, Frank Worsley and Tom Crean heard a whistle. This was the first sound made by another human in over a month. They recognised it as the call for the first shift for the Stromness whaling station and knew they were close to help and safety.

The Endurance set off in 1914 with 27 men aboard to reach the South Pole, but the ship got stuck in pack ice in the Weddell sea and sank on the 21st of November 1915. Shackleton and his crew managed to get to Elephant island, a miracle in itself. From there, six of them left on the 24th April and, with no navigational aids except stars and sun, landed on the South Coast of South Georgia on the 10th May. On the 19th, the three fitter men began their trek across the islands' unexplored and largely unknown interior to get to the whaling station on the North coast.

They stumbled over the mountains for over 36 hours, cold, frostbitten, unwashed for months, their clothes in tatters, weary and emaciated.

They still had to contend with a sheer descent through deep snow and ice, then navigate a waterfall through torrents of icy water with a 30-foot drop. They made their way to the White House where Petter Sorlle, the manager lived. At first he didn't recognise them, but once they confirmed who they were, welcomed them and the rescue of the Expedition team began. All 27 survived.

The SAS over the years have not managed to follow their route with the same disadvantages, in less than four days.



Shackleton returned to South Georgia in 1921, but died of a heart attack on board his ship. He was buried in Grytviken cemetery. 72 years later, Frank Worsley's ashes were brought from South Africa to be buried beside his hero.

The wreck of The Endurance was discovered over a century later.



South Georgia

This is a quick sketch from the Zodiac and a small oil done on board. The white house on the far left, the waterfall hidden in the mist on the right.



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Potting Shed Cuttings for September

'Yellow Book' gardens open this month :

Woodpeckers Care Home, Brockenhurst;
15, Rothschild Close, Southampton; Falkners Cottage, Pewsey;
Bumpers, Hook; Blounce House, Hook;
Meon Orchard, Kingsmead.

General Maintenance

As the hours of daylight decrease and temperatures lower, now is the time to help crops ripen and continue growing; close cold frames and greenhouse windows and doors earlier to trap any heat which has built up during the day, and remove leaves covering crops and any glass shading to maximise the effect of sunlight. If your greenhouse is empty, make a start on cleaning and disinfecting it prior to the winter months. Pick, prepare and store as much of your fruit and vegetable crops as possible, using slightly damaged items first. To prevent containers from becoming waterlogged, lift them from the ground with bricks. If you have room, add additional water butts to collect water over the winter.

The Flower Garden

This is a month to try to extend the glories of your flower borders. Continue dead-heading perennials and annuals to encourage more flowers to appear and feed and water containers and baskets; annuals will carry on flowering until the first frosts. Prune climbing and rambling roses, if they are not repeat flowering varieties, as well as late-flowering shrubs. Later in the month, divide perennials and replant whilst the soil is still warm; add some good garden compost or feed to the new planting positions. If the weather remains dry, make sure rhododendrons and camellias are watered regularly to help buds for next year's flowers to develop well. Lift gladioli corms; dry and store for next year. House plants which have been kept outside over the summer should be brought indoors. Plant winter/spring bedding such as wallflowers, pansies and forget-me-nots and spring bulbs.

The Vegetable Garden

Runner and French beans will keep producing crops if you continue to feed and water regularly and pick crops frequently, to prevent them from setting seed. Once they have finished producing beans, cut to ground level. Check main crop potatoes for blight if the weather is damp and warm; cutting off the leaves and shoots a couple of weeks before you lift them may help avoid blight. Once lifted, allow the skins to dry out before storing them in paper or hessian sacks. Squashes and pumpkins should be raised from the ground to prevent them from rotting on damp ground; remove leaves around the crops to encourage ripening. As winter brassicas grow, arrange netting to prevent bird damage. Sow kale, pak choi and mizuna for winter leaves; towards the end of the month, sow broad beans and peas and plant onion and shallot sets.



The Fruit Garden

When checking fruit trees for ripe fruit, remove any diseased or rotting fruit; these can spread disease amongst the remainder of the crops. Finish cutting back summer raspberry shoots which have produced fruit this year and tie in new shoots loosely. Complete potting up any strawberry runners and remove straw or fruit collars.

The Lawn

Continue regular mowing, but start to raise the blades and aerate with a garden fork; rake off moss and thick grass thatch. This is an ideal month to create new lawns, either with seed or turf. To feed lawns, use a fertiliser which is high in potassium and low in nitrogen to avoid excessive leafy growth at the end of the season.

The Pond

Ponds should be covered with net if leaf fall nearby is a problem. Remove pond weeds; leave on the side of the pond for a few days to allow insects to escape back into the water.

Micki Nadal

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Lindy Lou's Kitchen Recipes & Crafty Corner



Rhubarb and Ginger Brioche Bread and Butter Pudding

A lovely twist on a very old favourite, so easy to make and very tasty. Rhubarb and ginger are a perfect match. It's lovely served with ice cream, custard or even clotted cream. Cold leftovers are almost as tasty too, or they can be frozen for the next luncheon event. The stem ginger comes in jars in a lovely syrup which is worth keeping too as it is lovely as a topping to ice cream or even as a dash added to a glass of Prosecco!

Ingredients – Serves 6

- 500g rhubarb
- 2 balls of stem ginger
- 75g caster sugar
- 2 tbsp stem ginger syrup
- 8 slices of Brioche loaf
- 300ml single cream
- 1 tbsp vanilla extract
- 50g caster sugar
- 3 Free range eggs
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon

Method

Wash the rhubarb and cut it into 2-3 cm lengths and place in a saucepan. Finely chop the stem ginger and add to the pan along with the caster sugar (75g) and stem ginger syrup. Simmer gently for 10-15 minutes until the fruit is soft. Allow to cool slightly.

Preheat the oven to 180°C.

Place half of the rhubarb and ginger mixture in the base of an oven-proof bowl. The bowl should be high-sided and can be round or rectangular, either is fine. A Pyrex dish is great.

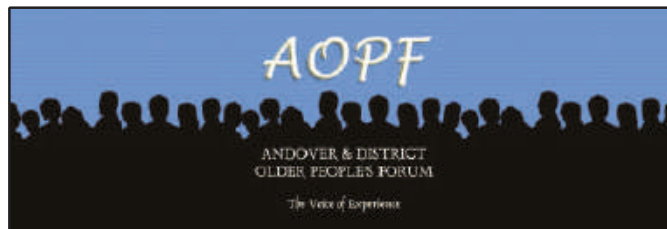
Take the Brioche slices and spread the remaining fruit over each of the slices and cut each slice into 4 triangles. Arrange the bread triangles (fruit side up) in an overlapping layer on top of the rhubarb.

Whisk together the cream, vanilla extract, caster sugar (50g) and eggs and pour over the dish, evenly covering all the bread slices. Sprinkle the top with cinnamon and cook in the oven for 30-40 minutes or until the custard has set and the top is golden brown.

Tip

Keep an eye on the pudding during cooking as you do not want the bread to burn. If it starts to brown very quickly, turn the oven down to 170°C and cook for a little longer instead.

Linda Hotchen



Did you know that, as well as the regular meetings every year, a special 'Full of Life' event is held to celebrate the International Day for Older People in October? This year is no exception and it is coming soon on 5th October 2023. Planning started in January and we are grateful to Test Valley Borough Council for a grant to help towards funding the Event. So, at long last, AOPF are proud to invite you to The Full of Life Information Day on Diabetes. Just see what the Forum has got lined up.

The event will be held at

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THURSDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2023

Doors open 1 pm – Event 1.30 to 4.30 pm

- Facts and support – Learn the facts and find out about the support available
- Meet and listen to the Experts - There will be medical input from the West Hampshire Community Diabetes Service and our local Primary Care Network plus an opportunity to put a few questions to this panel which will include a diabetic member of the Winchester -Eastleigh Diabetes UK Support Group.
- Keynote Speakers -Doctor H Price, Consultant Diabetologist & local GP
- Information Marketplace with display stalls – around 15 stallholders will be there
- Exercise to music sessions available
- Food taster sessions
- Raffle and refreshments

Do come and join us for an informative and fun day.

For more information about the Andover and District Older People's Forum contact:

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SOS SAVE OUR STOCKBRIDGE

SOS held its 5th Annual General Meeting in the Town Hall on Monday 31st July 2023. A good number of people attended and were greeted by some beautiful pictures of Stockbridge as they waited for the meeting to start. The Chair of SOS (Jean Boney) presented the annual report in which she informed those present that Roger Tym BEM, founder member of SOS, had resigned from the SOS committee during the course of the year but was willing to continue to help and advise SOS as a Consultant. The committee has always been very grateful to Roger, and the whole room thanked and applauded him, and a very dashing photo of Roger in a smart blazer and panama hat was put up on the screen much to Roger's embarrassment! All other members of the committee remain in place and were willing to continue to serve.

The Chair mentioned the desecration of the Test Way in Stockbridge during the bird nesting season by Hampshire Countryside Services while they were removing dead and dying ash trees. No advance notice had been given by the Countryside Service either to TVBC or to Stockbridge Parish Council. Once we became aware of what was going on, SOS joined others in writing to complain but were told that the removal was done in accordance with an ecologist's report which had been commissioned. At least some of the debris was subsequently removed and there has been some growth along the path since the work was done so that it is looking better. The Chair said that SOS try to protect the special character of Stockbridge and that we are particularly concerned if anyone wants to build outside the Settlement Boundary because, if allowed, it would cause a dangerous precedent for others to follow. SOS also urges the TVBC Planning Department to follow the Policy that applies to Stockbridge as it is in a Conservation Area, and seeks to protect our four SSSIs (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) – the River Test, the Common Marsh, Stockbridge Downs and Stockbridge Fen (the land behind the Recreation Ground which runs parallel to the A30 between the roundabouts).



The report then moved on to swifts which returned to Stockbridge at the end of April and gave us all the thrill of seeing them fly, wheel and screech over the High Street. The swifts particularly like nesting under the roof of a house by the roundabout at the top of the High Street and they have now used two of the swiftboxes installed 2 years ago. We are told that the rest of us must be patient. The swifts left Stockbridge in early August.

they have now used two of the swiftboxes installed 2 years ago. We are told that the rest of us must be patient. The swifts left Stockbridge in early August.

The Chair ended her report by thanking not only the committee but also those who had attended the meeting. There was a lively and very positive discussion of a number of issues raised by members of the audience. One suggested that SOS should write to the Countryside Services asking that some of the trees that we are told are being planted by the County Council across Hampshire should be placed along the Test Way. This has been done with, as yet, no reply.



Black-Crowned Night Heron

The Secretary and Treasurer (Chantal Halle) then gave a short report setting out the SOS accounts and the current balance. SOS runs on a shoestring and is grateful for all donations received. The Secretary then went on to discuss the idea that SOS should develop a database of all wildlife sightings of unusual interest in and around Stockbridge. Members of the committee have spotted a number of birds, flowers and insects over the last year, for example the Black-Crowned Night Heron, the Scarlet Tiger Moth and the Greater Butterfly Orchid, beautiful photos of which were shown on the screen. She asked the audience if they could let SOS know if they spotted anything rare, and even better if they could also send a photo. This was very well received by the audience. One attendee noted that certain common birds were absent this year from the Marsh Court River – for example the coot was hardly seen and the moorhen



Scarlet Tiger Moth

was no longer present in any numbers. It was agreed that a database would be kept by SOS to record rare species seen in and around Stockbridge but also to note any species that were now not seen or seen only rarely. SOS therefore invites readers of this magazine to let us know if they spy some wildlife that is unusual or, indeed, notice that something they would expect to see, has disappeared. Our email is SOSStockbridge@outlook.com. SOS looks forward to hearing from you.



Pyramid Orchids



Greater Butterfly Orchid

*Jean Boney,
Chair of SOS*

Pamela Campbell Marples

. . . advancing towards her Century!

On the day of sale of the iconic house 'Waterlow' in the High Street, Stockbridge, with its admired Albertine rose on the south facing front, Robin and I were visiting Waterlow's former owner Pamela Marples happily living, in her 97th year, at a Care Home near Liphook. Pamela loved her house and garden, one that she had created with John, her husband, and was the first in the village to be opened for the National Garden Scheme. Finally she decided it was time for a change. She is, of course, sad to leave Stockbridge and her friends but knows it is the right decision. Today we found her very content with the care she has, smiling, laughing, enjoying our company and demanding all the news!

Pamela Campbell Marples (née Florence) was born in 1926 in London of Scottish parents. She went to Haberdashers Aske's school and, during that time, at the outset of war, the school left London and spent a year in the country in Dorset. Her education was followed at Bedford School and then at Edinburgh University. She was undoubtedly an academic! She qualified as a Psychotherapist and, via a spell at the Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, moved to Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) in London in her role as a Child Psychotherapist. She loved it! With her fine brain, perceptive character and her pragmatism, she dealt with extremely ill children from all over the world and their parents, who were going through a traumatic time. She dealt with life and death situations in a hospital whose reputation was second to none and of which she was so proud. Many of those cases she told me about. I imagine she was an invaluable member of the team.

Pamela met John Marples skiing and never looked back! He wanted to marry her and eventually issued an ultimatum – it was her job at Great Ormond Street or him! Pamela was most reluctant to give up her job to which she was dedicated. However, they were married in Scotland (John Schlesinger the film director and close friend took the photos) and had two sons, Andrew and Paul. Pamela and John, after a short time in Nottingham, lived between Chelsea and Kent and the boys went to Tonbridge School. She is devoted to her sons, their wives, and immensely proud of her grandchildren.

Life in Chelsea was fun! The social life, the arts including opera at Covent Garden. Ringo Starr occasionally accompanied Pamela and John along with his wife Barbara, and he still phones her from his home in California! She was a sports enthusiast, loved horse racing with John, football (Chelsea) and skiing. It was at this time that, coincidentally, she and John befriended Frank Palamara, an American, since settled in Stockbridge, whom she has known for over 40 years.

John Hamilton Marples was a successful Chartered Surveyor in property in London with Conrad Ritblat.

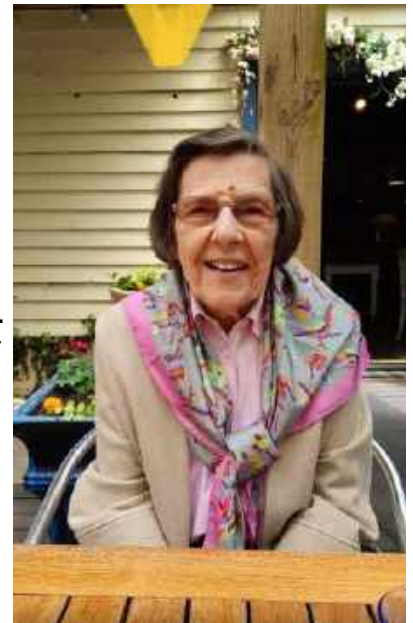
Later in life they moved to Ivy Cottage in Longstock before they bought Waterlow in Stockbridge in 2002. John died in January 2006 having been nursed by Pamela.

Pamela loved her garden and had exacting standards! The Albertine rose was pruned every year until recently by Peter Bramley, the head gardener at Longstock Gardens. She was a member of Longstock Garden Club, was a regular churchgoer and loved dogs including our elderly Labrador, Tolly who would sit at her feet while we talked. Phyl was her loyal housekeeper for 21 years.

It was during Covid that our neighbourliness became a close friendship. I saw her most days – it started with chats across the stream that separates the Old Rectory from Waterlow and developed, once it was allowed, into almost daily visits – perhaps just half an hour in the early evening when I would pop round, sometimes with a meal, and we would share thoughts, lives in London, the garden, friends and gossip! Robin was on hand for bits of maintenance and Janet Williams' medical expertise was often of vital help. I loved that time and we never ran out of things to talk about. Her perceptiveness about people never ceased to amaze me.

We miss her, as do many of her friends, but are happy for her that she is content with her life knowing and accepting that she is in the right place. A special person.

Chrissie Quayle



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Hand Stamps used at the Stockbridge Post Office



When using the Post Office in our local Co-op, have you ever wondered about its whereabouts previously?

For 16 years, as some of you may well know, I was the Stockbridge Postman, delivering the mail

throughout Stockbridge and the surrounding area.

In 2007 aged 65, I was forced to leave Royal Mail; this was four years before the default retirement age in the UK had been fully abolished. I then began to reflect where other Stockbridge Post Offices with their accompanying sorting offices may have been situated.

According to the 1891 Census, it was on the north side of the High Street opposite John Robinson's Butchers shop, where it remained until its closure in 1977. It was then moved to be incorporated in the 'Wavy Line Store' (the present day, 'Orvis' shop).

Before 1891, it was most probably based at the Stockbridge railway station.

Around 1868, all the mail in Stockbridge was being cancelled using the 'Stockbridge RSO' ('Railway Sub-Office') hand stamp, which meant that all incoming mail was delivered by a Travelling Post Office instead of through a 'Post town' (which was normally the site of the Head Post Office serving that particular area).

Mail delivered to 'RSO's' had either been cancelled at the point of posting, or on a Travelling post office, mail being sent from the 'RSO' received the local hand stamp.

On 28th June 1905, it was announced that the 'RSO' used on the hand stamps was to be abolished. From then on all Sub-Post Offices were considered to be of the same status, indicated by the letters 'SO', some Post Offices just deleted the 'R' from their hand stamps thus:

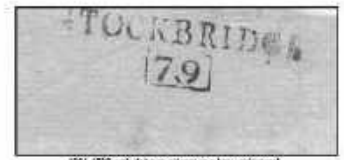
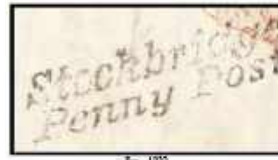


Showing the RSO on the cancellation



With the R removed

Examples of early Stockbridge postal cancellations



A bonus one:



Geoff Merritt

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Stockbridge Parish Council News

Stockbridge Parish Council met at the Town Hall in July. The Council unanimously agreed to co-opt Michaela Nadal onto the Council as a new Councillor for Stockbridge Parish Council. Cllr Nadal had been a Councillor for Stockbridge before but put herself forward to be co-opted because she felt she wanted to contribute further. She was welcomed to the Council.

Parking Survey

The Council has invited HCC to a meeting to discuss the results of the parking survey that took place on the High Street in June and to discuss a possible way forward.

Although HCC has responded positively to this proposal, disappointingly no date has yet been put forward. Caroline Nokes, MP for Stockbridge, has agreed to attend the meeting. The Council was made aware of recent press coverage in the Andover Advertiser that HCC responded to.

Village Design Statement

Cllr Nadal and Cllr Foord have agreed to look at updating the Stockbridge Village Design Statement.

The original statement was drawn up by members of the Stockbridge Community and the Parish Council in 2002 and the Council felt that it was appropriate for minor changes to be made. Test Valley Planning have confirmed that, if the changes are factual, then the amendments can be made without consultation, but this will not be the case if new guidelines are proposed. There would be costs attached to a consultation process.

Hampshire Perspectives

Hampshire Perspectives is the Hampshire County Council's online residents' forum which helps the Council stay in touch with residents' views.

The County Council recognises that it is important to do so and would like to encourage all Hampshire residents to sign up for the forum and so that residents can have their say on a range of topics – from climate change to the provision of local services – which will help HCC shape services and make decisions that meet the needs of the County's residents.

Go to <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/hampshire-perspectives>.

The surveys are usually sent out once a month and are all optional. Residents can pick the topics they feel most passionate about or complete them all – they only take five minutes!

Waste Prevention

In order to help reduce the amount of unwanted items going into landfill, HCC has made **funding awards** to 14 local initiatives through the

Authority's Waste Prevention Community Grants scheme – from repair services and community fridges to toy libraries and clothes swap services.

The funding will support **local groups** to set up innovative new projects, which are aimed at helping residents reduce household waste and save money. If you would like to get involved, learn new skills and help prevent waste in your local community, you could join a group of HCC's Waste Prevention Community Champions. This is a network of volunteers who help residents reduce their household waste and save money by passing on hints and tips within their local community.

Stockbridge Parish Council will meet next on 21st September 2023 but this time in the Scout Hut behind the Grosvenor. The Council agreed to move from the Town Hall for this meeting in order to enable a more substantial booking in the Town Hall to go ahead.

Belinda Baker

*Clerk to Stockbridge Parish Council
clerk@stockbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk*

LETTERS

Dear Editors,

Art Show 24/25 July in Stockbridge Town Hall

We wanted to let you know that our exhibition/sale for Ukrainian Refugees in the Town Hall was a great success.

We sold around 25 paintings and cards for c.£2000 and, with donations of £4,000, we raised around £6,000 after costs. This will be distributed to local Ukrainian Refugee charities and individuals.

I would like to thank everyone in the Stockbridge area who visited, donated, or bought.

With best wishes,
Hugh Dumas.



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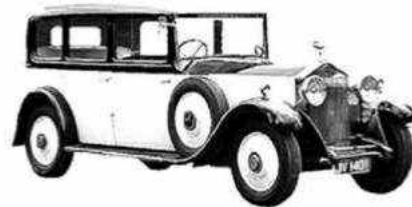
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Stan Goodwin: a £10 Migrant in 1911

Stan Goodwin's father, also named Stan Goodwin, travelled to Australia with his family in 1911. Each family paid £10 for the voyage; this was a subsidised fare combined with a land grant for migrants from the United Kingdom. The scheme was formalised as the £10 Pom scheme in 1945. During 1990, Stan's sister, Marcia, recorded their father's memories of those early days as an immigrant. I have paraphrased Stan Snr's memories.

Stan was born in Islington, London, on 19th December 1904. He couldn't remember anything about his life in England, except being taken to see the funeral procession of a royal person, (King Edward V11 who died in 1910). There were so many people there that Stan and his brother, Bert, couldn't see and his mother bought them periscopes. They were standing on Horse Guards Parade.

Life was very difficult for the family in England at that time; unemployment was high. Stan's mother was a wardress in Pentonville Prison and Stan's father worked at Covent Garden. Unskilled men were being replaced with machinery. Stan's father thought they should move to a new country and chose Australia. They sailed on the steamship 'Norseman'. The journey took seven weeks. Stan recalled the coal barges coming alongside at Cape Town and a long line of men coming on board with sacks of coal on their shoulders. They dumped the coal straight into the bunkers. The steamer also picked up provisions there. The ship never went into port, just stood offshore.

The Norseman tied up in Sydney at 11pm on 11th November 1911. Whilst disembarking Stan's brother, Bert, fell overboard and had to be fished out. He came to no harm but his sailor suit was very wet.

They were met by Julius and his wife Katie, who was Stan's mother's sister. They had lived in Sydney for about two years. They caught a tram in Sydney and travelled to a suburb called Peakhurst. They walked to Julius' house over tracks and rough land. There were no made-up roads. They stayed for a short while and then moved to Mortdale and lived in a barn. There was no bathroom and they used an old door for a table. The barn was in a cow field and Stan's mother was frightened of the cows as they crowded around her. Stan started school when they lived at Mortdale. Soon after this they moved to Carlton where there was no school so the brothers had to walk to a school in Kogarah. This was



where Stan was called a 'pommie' which made him cross. He walked home crying one morning and his mother walked him straight back to school. The family then moved to Kogarah. There was an open air picture show next door and Stan used to stand on the fence and watch the show.

Stan's parents decided that he should learn to play the violin so he had lessons for several years. His skills gave him a lifetime hobby, as Stan joined groups to play for dances and social occasions.



Stan recalled that there was a lot of fighting on the walk home from school and once jumped from a tree onto the local school tormentor; Stan had his revenge. Before school, Stan swept the footpath in front of the local shops and delivered parcels from the shops after school for pocket money.

Friday night was shopping night and a local band entertained the shoppers. Stan and his friends used to jump on the back of horse-drawn four-wheeled buggies travelling around the town. About this time, Stan's school year group was taught to swim. The swimming teacher would put a canvas sling around the boys' chests and dangled them from a walkway across the deep end of the baths. He gradually lowered the rope until the boy either learned to swim or had to be removed half drowned. One day, Stan's class was taken to the new Kogarah Cottage Hospital to slide up and down with their boots to sand the floor before a dance to celebrate the opening of the hospital.

In 1915, Stan's father bought his first house. The First World War had begun and the boys were expected to stand on the streets to welcome recruits who walked long distances to get to Sydney. These movements were known as the Cooee Marches. Stan had to join the Junior Cadets under the Defence Act from the age of nine. They were taught semaphore and drill. Stan's brother was a drummer in the cadet band which played to welcome men marching to Sydney to enlist. A recruitment officer used to stand on the street in Kogarah to encourage young men to join the army. Stan moved to the Senior Cadets when he went to secondary school and had to continue to attend meetings on Saturday mornings and summer camps even after he had started work.

Stan trained as a pattern maker and was a member of the local lifesaving club, which was established



on Ramsgate Beach in 1919. His memoirs reveal a stimulating and rewarding life in Sydney both in work and leisure. After retirement, Stan was a missionary in Papua New Guinea and in Australia's Northern Territory.

If ever asked, I think that he would confirm that his father made the right decision to emigrate in 1911.

Jill Goodwin

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Stockbridge Pack Summer Camp 2023



Stockbridge Cub Pack enjoyed their annual summer camp in Wherwell in the heart of Harewell Forest at the beginning of July. 40 boys and girls spent a wonderful weekend being transported from a green and leafy Hampshire to the heart of Africa (the theme for the camp this year).

The cubs were divided into the countries Mali, Cameroon, Ghana, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

On the first night we were joined by Rick from the Hampshire Bat Group who, with the aid of his trusty bat detectors, helped us identify at least 4 different types of bats flying above us.

On the Saturday, we made African masks, bead woggles and tried our hand at air rifle target shooting.

We cooked our own lunches over open fires.



In the afternoon, we made shelters and used radios and compass directions to help us track the big game that roam the forest. Hours of fun was had just playing in the woods.

The evening was spent around the camp fire eating cake and drinking hot chocolate with marshmallows.

After an early night to bed lulled to sleep by barking deer, we woke bright and early to our fried breakfasts.

We had a busy day ahead because we had visitors. Kwame, from Africa Activities, spent the day running workshops with us with us teaching us African Drumming, African story-telling and dancing and then Adinkra textile printing.



We enjoyed our time so much with Kwame that we put on a show for the parents at the end of the camp.



We are very grateful to Stockbridge Community Cinema who provided the funding for this workshop. It was a wonderful activity and one we could not have funded ourselves. We work very hard to keep the cost of summer camp down as much as possible to enable all children to attend. A treat such as Kwame's workshop drew the whole theme of the camp together for us with a lived experience. We wish to thank the Community Cinema team for their generosity.

Camp finished at 4pm on Sunday and the parents tell us that most of the cubs were asleep before their cars got out of the forest.

Our team of volunteer leaders from all over the UK dispersed back to their homes and the forest returned back to its normal quiet self for another year.



Another wonderful camp with memories made.

Mo Collins, Cub Scout Leader



Poem for the Harvest

Harvest is upon us once more.
 The poor farmers now have another chore.
 Early in the morning till late at night.
 Combines out in the fields will be the sight.
 Make hay while the sun shines is an old saying.
 Hay for livestock and horses to keep them from
 neighing.
 But if rain comes before the harvest is done.
 Then all the farmer can do is pray for the sun.
 Once harvest is done and the combines work is
 complete.
 Oh how those fields will look so neat.
 Next up for the farmer is to plough the fields
 Then sow more seed and look forward to next
 year's yields.

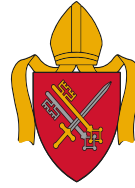
Colin Stokes



... and Ryan Bundy captures our own local farmers harvesting oilseed rape near Stockbridge, fortunately in the sunshine.



Church News



DIOCESE of
WINCHESTER

The first address
to Parishioners
from the Bishop
Designate.

Dear brothers and sisters,

It's a pleasure and privilege to send you these few words, now that it's known I'm to be your next Diocesan Bishop. What I want to do is to give you a flavour of what I pray for in all that lies ahead – and I do so by giving you the 'edited highlights' of what I said when I was interviewed to be your Bishop.

'And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.'
(1 Corinthians 13:13)

It is on these three, above all else – on faith, on hope and on love – that I want my ministry, and our life together in the Diocese of Winchester, to be based.

I want to lead us in a renewed dependency, trust and faith in our God. In line of sight above my desk I have a little piece of paper stuck on the wall that says this, 'Don't feel totally, personally, irrevocably responsible for everything. That's my job. Love, God.' I know that I cannot do my job – or at least not with any fruitfulness – unless I depend wholly on our God. And as for me so for us all. We must be people of faith, and trust, and prayer above all else.

And so to hope. I want to lead us onwards into a fresh delight, joy and hope in our identity as a Church. We should be – and we must be – a truly hopeful people, simply because Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. I delight and rejoice in the Church of God: I have an evangelical heart for the gospel and a Catholic heart for the Church, and I love to lead it onwards in hope.

And finally, of course, to love. Love must be the hallmark of all we do, for without it we are worth nothing. The task of the Church in every time and in every place is to give living expression to the love of God in Jesus Christ in that particular time and in that particular place. That is of course the calling of every Christian community, every parish church, but it is also the calling of a Diocese, and of a Diocesan Bishop in particular. And it's my great joy to be called to come and lead you in that great work of love.

Yours in Christ,

Philip Mounstephen
Bishop Designate of Winchester

Church News

St Peter's and Old St Peter's Stockbridge



On the first Sunday of the month of August, with Trout 'n About in full swing in the High Street, our Rector Phill pointed out in his sermon that the organisers had kindly chosen this date to transform the High Street of Stockbridge to mark the important date in the Church calendar - the Transfiguration of Christ! This event is a manifestation of God, where Jesus is transfigured and becomes radiant in glory upon a mountain. It is described in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. The word 'transfiguration' from its Latin roots signifies a change of form or appearance. It is understood to have been the revelation of the eternal glory of the second person of the Trinity, which was normally veiled during Christ's life on earth.



Churches are among the oldest buildings in Britain and it is the duty of PCC's to commission a diocese-approved architect to conduct a visual inspection of all churches every five years (known as Quinquennial Inspections) and make recommendations on their maintenance requirements. We are fortunate in Stockbridge to have two old churches: St Peter's dating from 1870 (which underwent its quinquennial review in August 2022) and Old St Peter's, which has just had its 5-year review. The original parish church for Stockbridge was founded in the 12th Century but it incorporated masonry from a much earlier Saxon chapel that was mentioned in the Domesday book. It has undergone changes since then but still retains some of the original features. The massive oak door, which now stands inside the church, dates back to the 14th century. The church architect will address a variety of issues, including the need for improved damp-proofing. Any recommendations will be implemented in due course.

The Benefice Service on the last Sunday in July took place in the beautiful 15th Century Church of St Andrew in Mottisfont. It was very well attended. The congregation sang heartily and then were rewarded afterwards with a delicious spread of cakes with coffee, generously provided by Dr Trish Armstrong and her colleagues in the church.

The Benefice Service on the last Sunday in July took place in the beautiful 15th Century Church of St Andrew in Mottisfont. It was very well attended. The congregation sang heartily and then were rewarded afterwards with a delicious spread of cakes with coffee, generously provided by Dr Trish Armstrong and her colleagues in the church.

Although August should be a quiet month with many people away on holiday, Stockbridge town has been busy with visitors from far and wide. The visiting book in St Peter's attracts many lovely comments and both churches are visited frequently. Our annual Flower Festival will take place close to the time the magazine goes to print, but it promises to be as beautiful and busy as ever. The theme for the flower displays is 'Anything Goes', so we will be looking at interesting and creative ideas set in plants. Tea and cakes will be served on the lawn during the four days of the festival (August 25th -28th). The PCC are, as always, incredibly grateful to all those who create the flower displays, to everyone who helps serve teas on the lawn, and to the volunteers who sit in the church throughout and take contributions from visitors. Once again, our grateful thanks to Angela McMeekin who organises everything so brilliantly.

The death of Barbara North was a shock to everyone in St Peter's and condolences have been given to the family, particularly to Briony, her daughter. For many years, Barbara was Treasurer to the PCC and only gave up the rôle last year. Her presence will be greatly missed throughout Stockbridge.

The funeral will take place at 11am on Thursday, September 14th in Holy Trinity Church, Wonston and afterwards at The Grosvenor Hotel, Stockbridge. (Numbers may have to be restricted, so if you wish to attend, please contact her daughter Briony White on brwhite333@gmail.com)

Looking ahead:

Sunday 3rd September: Tea and cake in St Peter's at 3pm for those who live alone

Saturday 9th September: Ride + Stride for the Hampshire and Islands Historic Churches Trust (HIHCT). There is a sponsored bike ride or walk between some or all of our Benefice churches. We encourage anyone who can walk or ride, to take part in this wonderful outdoor exercise. The money raised will help to repair churches and chapels throughout Hampshire and we receive 50% of the funds we raise for our own churches. You can go far (if you choose to visit all the churches by bike) or near if you are less mobile. This year we have some international participants with young walkers coming from Greece to join their grandmother (me) walking between the three churches of Stockbridge and Longstock. Information and sponsorship forms from David Williams, the Church Warden.

Sunday 1st October: Harvest Festival. On 1st October, St Peter's is celebrating Harvest Festival in the service at 11am followed by the Harvest Lunch. Please bring contributions of fruit, veg and other foodstuffs which will be donated to the Andover Food Bank.

Janet Williams

Church News

St Mary's Longstock



'Soup and Sandwiches' takes place on the last Thursday of the month – if anyone would like to help by making sandwiches or cakes, (ingredients supplied), please contact me (810284). If you would like to come and join us for good food and a chat, the next event is Thursday 28 September at 12.30pm in Longstock Village Hall. This is for anyone who would like company, make new friends, catch up on what is going on.

Many thanks to all who supported the Afternoon Tea event on 16 July. Due to all the help received and to those who came, we made just over £400 which goes towards our fundraising. I am pleased to say that the coat and plate which were left at Upper Manor Farm have been claimed

August was a quiet month, with the usual services taking place. On 6 August, our All-Age Worship was led by Rev'd Philip who stayed to chat after the service; on 13 August, Rev'd John Rennie presided over our Parish Communion and on 20 August, I led the Morning Worship, with Geoff Cox preaching.

We were all very sorry that Dawn Williams, our Parish Musician, was not able to be with us throughout August due to serious illness. She was moved to the Countess of Brecknock Hospice, where she died on Sunday 20 August. We are so grateful to Dawn for the music we enjoyed over many years. A brave and generous lady. More tributes next month.



Dawn and Mollie

A big thank you to Mark and Helen who have taken on playing at more services.

Bible Study

I am delighted to say that John and Sheelagh Rennie are again opening their home for Bible Study. You are warmly invited to join us for Bible Study starting on September 12th. Meetings will hopefully take place every two weeks during the autumn. We will look at the seven signs or miracles that are mentioned in John's gospel. Each story is

inspiring and will reveal to us something new about God's Son. We will drink coffee or tea, discuss the passage and have time to share issues for prayer.

Timing: Please gather between 10.30am and noon on alternate Tuesdays, starting 12 September.
Address: Fulwood House, Longstock. Phone 811174

Dates for your Diary

2 September : 2.00pm. Longstock Fete at Longstock Recreation Ground. A traditional village fête with birds of prey demonstration, an old-fashioned fair organ and lots more to see and do. The evening BBQ will take place at 6.00pm – music and good food.

9 September : Ride and Stride. We need volunteers to cycle or walk, finding sponsors to fund this activity. Proceeds split 50/50 with Hampshire and Island Historic Churches Trust and St Mary. You choose your own route. Please consider doing this, every little helps and walking in a group is more fun.....

If you can take part, phone or email Maddie for details. (Further details on p5)

10 September : St Mary's Longstock Patronal Eucharist. A time when we celebrate St Mary the Virgin and hear of her life. It would be lovely to have a full church for this event. Please come if you can.

17 September at 4.00pm. Look out for a new initiative – Rev'd John Rennie and Paddy Melville have arranged for a 'new style' worship for families and children, under the umbrella of St Mary PCC. 'Sunday at 4.00pm' at Longstock Village Hall. There will be songs, talk and prayer, followed by food and games. All welcome.

1 October at 5.00pm. Harvest Festival, at St Mary's, followed at 6.00pm with Harvest Supper. A hog roast has been booked – this was much enjoyed last year, so hope that we have as much fun and enjoyment this year.

Services for July at St Mary, Longstock - see p31

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

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

Maddie Hedley

Hampshire Downs RC Parish St Thomas More

Services are held on Sundays at 9.00am

Church News

St Nicholas' Leckford



Most of you will, by now, have heard the sad news about the death of Dawn Williams, Benefice organist, Church Warden of St Nicholas', Leckford and much loved 'Mum' of border collie Mollie, on 20th August, after a long and courageous battle against illness.

Leckford PCC members have therefore decided to cancel the Leckford Quiz this month; this fun event would simply not be the same without Dawn, our lovely quiz mistress, who kept us all in order. Rest in peace Dawn, we'll miss you so much.

Micki Nadal, for Leckford PCC

Prayer for September

Father, we pray for peace, especially in those countries when war is the reality; we pray for Ukraine, that the fighting can cease; for stability in Niger; for new hope for Sudan and Yemen.

Turn hatred into friendship, turn the desire for war into the desire for peaceful co-existence;

Amazing Grace is what you offer, help us to accept this gift and turn us into kind and loving people, walking in the way of Jesus; Forgive us when we make mistakes.

Inspire us to learn more about You, and to care for those around us and to care for your world; the wild fires across the world are a sign of the problems we face; guide us into the right actions we need to take.

The Trinity, a mystery, so help us understand and to know when we need the Father, when we should turn to Jesus and for the Holy Spirit to be in our hearts.

Hold us when we feel alone and afraid; help us to know that you are with us to give us courage and strength.

We pray our faith will strengthen with each day.

Amen

September Services for Stockbridge, Longstock and Leckford

3rd September (Trinity 13) (Proper 17)

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

10th September (Trinity 14) (Proper 18)

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

17th September (Trinity 15) (Proper 19)

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

20th September (John Patterson & Companions)

- 10.00 **Old St Peter** Holy Communion

24th September (Trinity 16) (Proper 20)

- 11.00 **Stockbridge** Morning Worship

The Column For August

Baptisms

20 August 2023 : the Baptism of Eleanor Elsie Johnson took place at 3.00pm at St Peter's Church, Stockbridge.

Weddings and Funerals

There were no weddings or funerals.

Rest In Peace:

Barbara North, who died in the first week of August.

Dawn Williams, who died on 20th August.

(We hope to carry tributes to these two stalwarts of the community in coming issues).

From the Area Dean

September marks the 'end of Summer' (although there may be some Summer Weather!). It is the time when people return to School, or start at a new School. Some others start at College, or University, or start a new job.

It may also be that you haven't been to Church in a while and are thinking of going back for the first time. We hope that, if you come to one of the services, you will be made welcome – we are all quite friendly!

Harvest Celebrations start soon – do look out for Harvest Services and Harvest Suppers.

Your Area Dean, James

Rev'd James Pitkin - romseyareadean@gmail.com



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