

THE GAUNTLET



THE LOCAL MAGAZINE FOR THE SOMBORNES AND ASHLEY

JULY 2025



**PUBLISHED BY THE CHURCH IN THE SERVICE OF THE PARISH
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Useful names and numbers

Parish Church

Priest in charge:
Rev Tom Benson 01794 368335
tbenson09@aol.com

Licensed Lay Ministers:

Howard Rowe 01794 388400
Sabine Kirby 01794 765273

Wardens:

Joan Appleyard 01794 388224
joanappleyard@aol.co.uk
Janet Ingleson 01794 388618
janetoingleson@gmail.com

PCC Secretary:

David Pye 01794 388405

Treasurer & Gift Aid Sec:

Carol Kent 07919 825152
carolkent-treasure-kings-
somborne@outlook.com

Flowers: Pollyann Monk 01794 388482
pollyann@farming.co.uk

Methodist Church

Minister: Revd Peter Rayson 02381 780560
Stewards: Marilyn Bolton 01794 389356
Marion Downing 01794 388121

Roman Catholic Churches

Hampshire Downs parish 01962 852804
St Swithun Wells parish 02380 273882

Village Hall

Bookings: Sarah Pennington 01794 389354
(tel. after 7.30pm please) or email
bookings@ksvillagehall.uk

Epworth Hall

Bookings: Marion Downing 01794388121
marion.downing@yahoo.co.uk

Doctors

Stockbridge surgery 01264 810524
www.stockbridgesurgery.co.uk

Broughton surgery 01794 301210

Pharmacy

Stockbridge Pharmacy 01264 810624

Schools

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King's Somborne School 01794 388381
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Police

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Police non-emergency 101
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Police emergency 999

Parish Council

Graham Searle
clerk@kingssomborne-pc.gov.uk

Borough Councillors

Stewart MacDonald 07803 594872
Ian Jeffrey 01794 388872
Alison Johnston 01794 500610

County Councillor

David Drew 01264 357024

Member of Parliament

Caroline Nokes MP 020 7219 1468
caroline.nokes.mp@parliament.uk

Local Authority

Test Valley B C 01264 368000

Village Website

www.thesombornes.org.uk

The Gauntlet

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Please deliver articles for *The Gauntlet*
to thegauntletmag@hotmail.com

**Copy date is no later than 5.00pm on
the 15th of the month please.**

See our colour online edition
at the village website (see above)

Village Directory

Allotments

Contact: Susie Upfield 01794 388198

Badminton Club

Monday evenings in the Village Hall

Contact: Sue Jackson 07891930684

Bellringing

Every Monday 7.30pm - 9.00pm.

Contact: Clare Thomson 01794 388268

Catherine Edwards Trust

Provides grants to village students

Contact: David Bevan 07769 682696

Computer Café

First and third Tuesday every month
10.00am - 12.00 at the Village Hall.
Hands-on support and advice for all ages
and experience on using internet, email etc.

Contact: Ian Bradley 01794 388386

Cricket Club

Contact: Rachel King 07809 289861

Christians Together Home Group

Bible study group. Usually third Friday of
the month at 10.30am. All welcome.

Contact: Barbara Heffer 01794 389126

Community Responders

Contact: Sarah Seymour 0783 3300504

Dial-a-Ride

Trips to Romsey every Wednesday, for
senior citizens and disabled people, at
2.00pm. Fare £3.75.

Contact: 01264 356808

Drop In Coffee Morning

Coffee morning at the Epworth Hall.
Every Tuesday (except the second in the
month) at 10.30am.

Contact: Marion Downing 01794 388121

Epworth Lunch

Lunch for over 50s at the Epworth Hall.
On the second Tuesday in the month at
12.30pm.

Contact: Marilyn Bolton 01794 389356

Friends of King's Somborne Church

Contact: Sandie Pepperell 01794 388021

Football Club

Contact: Andy Gannaway 01794 388733

Footpath walk

Monthly walk on Parish footpaths on the
last Sunday of each month. Check the
Village Diary or village website for details.

Contact: Duncan Gould 01794 388049

Garden waste scheme

Garden waste will be collected in w/c 9th
and 23rd June 2025.

Household waste

Non-recyclable household waste (black
bins) will be collected in w/c 9th and 23rd
June 2025.

Recyclable household waste (brown bins)
will be collected in w/c 2nd, 16th and 30th
June 2025.

Julian Contemplative Prayer Group

Meetings for people from any
denomination who are seeking a place for
silent prayer and contemplation

Contact: Jane Duncan 01794 388059
janeduncan329@gmail.com

Messy Church

Meets 3rd Sunday of each month in term
time, 3.00pm - 5.00pm at the Methodist
Church.

Contacts: Sam Barnes 07742 077114
messychurch@gmail.com

Neighbourcare

Transport to essential appointments.

Contacts: Sue Jackson, Mary Bradley
07470022396

Parent, Baby & Toddler Group

Informal friendly get-together for babies,
pre-school children, parents and carers.
Every Wednesday 9.30am - 11.15am in the
Village Hall.

Contacts: Kate Johnson 07831 123893
ksparentandtoddlergroup@gmail.com

Village Directory (continued)

School Association (PTA)

Social and fund-raising events to benefit the school and its pupils.

Contact: Alex Hodge 07904 005570
kssa.contact@gmail.com

Scouts

Beavers Mondays 6.00-7.00pm in the Village Hall

Contact by email:
11thRomseyScouts@gmail.com

Services for the over 50's

Contacts: Sue Jackson 07891930684
suejackson884@icloud.com
Gill Butler 01794 388831
gill_butler@outlook.com

Short Mat Bowls Club

Meet alternate Tuesday afternoons in the Village Hall.

Chair: Julia Bowen 01794 389631
Julia.Bowen@landsker.net

Somborne Café

Every Tuesday 10.00am—1.00pm in the Village Hall

Contact: Alistair Dodds 07831727271
sombornecafe@gmail.com

Somborne Community Cinema

Second Thursday of each month

Contact: Roger Stephens 07483 211834
hello@sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk

Somborne & District Society

Meetings held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 8.00pm, usually in the Village Hall.

Contact: Linda Aucock 01794 388542

Somborne Garden Club

Meets as advertised for talks and visits, for all garden lovers.

Secretary: Nickey Buckley 01794 388694
nm.buckley@yahoo.co.uk

Somborne Needleworkers

Meet each Thursday at 2pm at the Parish Church.

Contact: Eileen Humphries 01794 388427

Somborne Players

Amateur Dramatics Society. For both children and adults.

Contact: Rebecca Rickard 07748 189864
rebeccarickard65@gmail.com

Sombornes Pre-School

Early Years education for children aged from 2 to school age.

Contact: Rebecca Lane 07530 893773

Somborne Sessions

Details: www.sombornesessions.co.uk

Contact: Trevor Ryan 01794 388743
info@sombornesessions.co.uk

Somborne Singers

Weekly meetings to sing ballads, songs from shows etc. every Tuesday at 7.45pm in the Parish Church.

Contact: Howard Rowe 01794 388400

Somborne Sisterhood W I

Meets on the first Friday of each month at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

Contact: Kathryn Lee
sombornesisterhood@gmail.com

Village Hall

Ian Newnham

Contact: chair@ksvillagehall.uk

Wednesday Wanderers

Walk on the third Wednesday morning of each month

Contact: Margaret Heffer 01794 389126
heffers@btinternet.com

Women's Fellowship

Meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2.30pm in the Epworth Hall.

Contacts: Marion Downing 01794 388121
Marilyn Bolton 01794 389356

Women's Institute

Meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Contact: Linda Aucock 01794 388542

Working Men's Club

Various entertainments.

Contacts: Trina Masham 07852 257596
Carol Black 07847 528661

Women's Fellowship

Air Ambulance Talk

At our May meeting we welcomed Ryland who came to tell us about the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance service for which he is a volunteer.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance started in 2007 although the first one, in Cornwall, began in 1982. On board there are always three people, the pilot, a doctor and a paramedic. In all, Hampshire has 22 doctors, 26 paramedics and 4 pilots. These doctors all work in Hampshire

can reach anywhere in Hampshire within 15 minutes and the IoW in 20 minutes.

As well as helicopters they also have four critical care cars

which carry the same kit. Incidents they may be called to are cardiac arrest, road traffic collisions, medical incidents and accidental injuries. They have a special training



room which can replicate a noisy disco or a busy motorway which are situations they may find themselves working in.



hospitals as their main employment.

The difference between an ordinary ambulance and an air ambulance is that an air ambulance has a doctor on board who can perform critical care immediately. They can anaesthetise, even amputate should it be necessary. They bring the emergency department to you. Since 2014 they have been carrying blood and plasma.

They are only called to life threatening situations and have to be in the air within 4-6 minutes. They

At the moment they are wanting to locate to Eastleigh and are trying to raise £3.6 million through their Operation Airbase Appeal to fund this. So far they have raised £2 million.

Since 2007 they have been on 13,932 missions!

I think we all agreed that we had learnt a lot from Ryland's visit and it was a very interesting afternoon.

Thank you to all who supported us.

Marion Downing

Sale for The Hampshire and IoW Air Ambulance

Following our talk at Women's Fellowship, we had a coffee and sale at the Epworth Hall, to raise money for IOWAA on Saturday 7th June. It wasn't the sunniest of days but that didn't dampen the spirits of all those kind and generous people who came and supported us. There was a lot of chat and laughter which created a warm and friendly atmosphere. We do not know the final amount that we raised (as this has to be counted by the IOWAA when they open the sealed bucket) but we believe it to be over **£1000**, including generous donations.

Thank you so much to all those who supported such a worthy cause!

Marilyn and Marion



The Needleworkers invite you for tea and
cakes in the Church

Thursday 10th July,

2-30 till 4-30



Come and view our recent work, and see plans for future
projects.

There will be a Raffle, in aid of funds. All are very welcome.
Eileen 388427, Marilyn 389356.

Pre-School Eco Garden Opening

Lots of fun was had at the grand opening of The Sombornes Pre-School eco garden! Thank you to all that attended the unveiling of our exciting new space. After months of planning and preparation, we were thrilled to be able to share it with the community.

Marie Stubbington, Community Engagement Officer, and Councillor Alison Johnston, both from Test Valley Borough Council, joined us in the celebration. Funding for the project was generously supplied by a grant through TVBC.

The sun was shining as Cllr Johnston cut the ribbon and all were invited to take a peek at what the children are growing and learning. From sunflowers to carrots, the children thoroughly enjoy taking care of their plants - and it really shows!

We also had a bake sale which raised



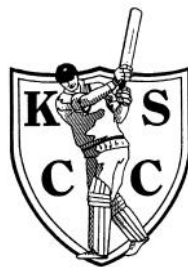
over an incredible £250. All proceeds will go directly back into the outdoor space, so thank you for your contributions.

We look forward to seeing the garden flourish, as well as our little gardeners!

Alissa Tassopoulos



KS Cricket Club



Summer evenings in the sun.....

The season is in full swing with both success and failure featuring in our weekly trials. It has to be said that we would do well to practice more pre pre-season, but despite great aims talked about on a cold winter night in the pub most players find themselves a little rusty come April. The joints are well limbered up, aches and pains re-niggled and fresh grass stains on those knees.

In a first this season, late April saw three teams limbering up to play (an error and double booking on the secretary's part...apologies all.) so a three way tournament was fashioned. The light just about held and Cryptorchids were happily enjoying a few drinks in the evening sun; but still managed to beat both Broughton and KSCC. I think that was the night I had to do some garden visiting as quite a few sixes were hit...thank you to the houses lining the rec for your understanding.

Some things haven't changed, faithful support from Robin and Chris K dog

walking spectators, crushing banter from the sidelines and a good old tonking by Leckford. Perhaps we were a little too gleeful in our rare victory last season...

You know where to find us; 6pm on the rec every Wednesday with few away matches so check the fixture list on the shed.

Join us for the finest entertainment King Somborne can offer, well if bikes aren't your thing anyway or perhaps combine the two!

Rachel

King's Somborne Secretary

(The picture below is not the village cricketers, but you get the idea)



Basingstoke Hospital Male Voice Choir Charity Concert

On a beautiful sunny afternoon in May, a throng of happy parishioners gathered together at the Church in King's Somborne in anticipation of hearing the uplifting voices of the Basingstoke Hospital Male Voice choir. Introduced and compered by the inimitable Bill Martin, they were not to be disappointed. How many of us knew that we had a budding opera singer in our midst? I'm sure that I wasn't alone in choking back the tears as Bill gave a pretty good impression of Pavarotti singing "Caruso"!

In a tribute to those who had given their lives for our freedom and in remembrance of the 80th anniversary of victory in Europe, we were treated to moving and, at times, foot tapping renditions of the era including, of course, Vera Lynn's "We'll meet again..." - Let's hope that we do indeed all meet again!

We were also treated to several delightful poetry readings, including a most emotive performance by Will Rowden of the much loved "If" by Rudyard Kipling and, on a more light hearted note, Mike Reynold's "Television" and "Dust if you Must"



delivered with aplomb by the irrepressible Sue Jackson.

These are a mere handful of names to spring to mind, as I would probably use up more than my allotted space were I to name everyone! Suffice it to say that all who participated put in heart and soul.

As if all this wasn't enough, yet again we were all in for even more treats! The Friends of the Church had most generously provided a delectable selection of home baked goodies, sandwiches and tea, coffee AND wine. All of which were very much appreciated and enjoyed.

All in all, this was a delightful way to have spent a Sunday afternoon. A collection plate was available at the exit and I am delighted to say that just over £600 was raised for the Basingstoke Cancer Unit and The Friends of the Church.

Our very grateful thanks go to all those involved in the organisation of this uplifting event and we very much look forward to many more life enhancing performances!



Jilly Wehbeh .

SOMBORNE COMMUNITY CINEMA

Thursday 10th July 2025



12A Mr Burton

🕒 2h:04

2024 Biography / Drama

The story of the wild schoolboy Rich Jenkins, son of a boozy miner and an English teacher who recognised his talent, Philip Burton. A moving, untold story of how Rich Jenkins became Richard Burton the biggest star Wales has ever produced.

Thursday 14th August 2025



15 Bridget Jones Mad About The Boy

🕒 2h:10

2025 Comedy / Romance

Grieving the loss of her husband and trying to navigate life as a single mother to their two children, Bridget finds herself drawn to a younger man, but also has a flirtation with her son's schoolteacher, while trying to find her way back into the dating world.

Tickets for films are just £6 each and are available from the Somborne Community Cinema web site at www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk or at the door on the night.



King's Somborne Village Hall



Doors open at 7.15pm and the films start at 8pm leaving plenty of time to get your drinks and snacks from the well-stocked bar.

King's Somborne Church of England Primary School

Join us as a Governor

Are you passionate about education and community? Do you have a heart for supporting children to flourish and grow in a nurturing, faith-based environment? We are looking for both **Co-opted Governors** and **Parent Governors** to join our governing board and help shape the future of our village school.

About us

King's Somborne is a welcoming and inclusive Church of England primary school at the heart of the local community. Rooted in Christian values, we are committed to providing a safe, inspiring, and high-quality education for all our pupils and promote the school's core values of Love, Joy, Hope and Trust. Our governing body plays a vital role in setting strategic direction, ensuring accountability, and supporting the headteacher and staff.

The role

As a governor, you don't need to have a background in education – we're looking for someone who:

- Brings enthusiasm, integrity, and a commitment to the community
 - Has experience or interest in areas such as, but not exclusive to finance, HR, law, safeguarding, or governance
 - Is willing to attend monthly meetings and occasional school visits and can work collaboratively with other governors and the school leadership.
- This is a voluntary role, but the rewards are significant: making a real difference in children's lives, gaining new skills, and being part of a supportive and friendly team.

Interested?

We'd love to hear from you. Whether you're a long-time local or newly settled in the area, your perspective matters.

For more information or an informal chat, please contact:

Tom Horrell – Chair of Governors

twhorrell85@hotmail.com

Somborne and District Society

Our May talk by Alan Jones was an entertaining adventure into the history of hypnosis and use of hypnotherapy in modern medicine. Borrowing audience members to help him, Alan demonstrated methods that could be used to confuse the subject's brain, giving the illusion of putting them into a trance. More extraordinary is how hypnosis can be used as an alternative to anaesthetic. A very interesting evening.

The society's AGM is on Wednesday the 23rd of July. As usual we will aim to keep the proceedings as short as possible.

We still have an extremely strong need for someone to take on the role of programme coordinator and another person to become our society secretary. Please come and talk to us about these roles to find out what's involved and without any obligation to commit. We can discuss and agree the scope of a role you are comfortable with, including the potential for a fixed term at the outset.

The society is a registered charity with a remit to foster interest in history, archaeology and cultural activities amongst others. The experience we offer to members is enhanced by several social events. These include the Summer Picnic, Christmas meal, June outing meal,



and drinks & nibbles at the AGM and our Christmas talk. The team that supports these events is shrinking so we also need at least one additional person to help plan and organise our social activities. Interested? We would love to hear from you.

As I'm sure you have heard by now, we have a new publication available. "The Old Vicarage – its clergy residents and their families" by Norman Denison. We will have copies for sale at the AGM. Pick up yours for just £5.

Our next talk will be immediately after the AGM. John Smith will be talking to us about the Early Dwellings in the Sombornes (working title). His talk will be based on archaeological evidence and building history.

John is an animated and engaging speaker so please come along!

Steve Silver-Warner (Chair)
somsoc@silver-warner.co.uk

Devolution

The new mayoral authority is expected to come into effect on the 1st of April 2028 (perhaps a suitable day to have chosen). The new authority will possibly have 5 administrative areas. The Mayor is to be elected in May 2026 and a shadow authority set up in 2027 prior to taking over in April 2028.

TVBC is hoping to be combined with New Forest, Winchester and East Hampshire with no changes to parish boundaries. There will be more consultation prior to the adoption of the final proposals.

Scout Hut

The local scout troop has now vacated the scout hut and the building has now reverted ownership to the PC. The facilities should be utilised for recreational purposes. The District Scouts have expressed an interest in continued use of the facilities

In order to determine the best use of the facilities and a secure financial footing it has been resolved to form a small working group of councillors to make recommendation to the PC

Affordable Housing

Your PC is fighting to increase affordable housing in the village. However, housing associations are selling off property they deem to be uneconomic to bring up to modern standard, and the Council is powerless to intervene.

Affordable housing on the old allotment site may now happen with the injection of some Schedule 106

finance from TVBC, and a housing association to manage them has now been found.

The problem is obviously starting to be recognised as Action Hampshire has received funding from Defra to bring together communities, local authorities and registered providers to deliver housing that meets local need.

Control of Dogs

We have had a complaint from a runner who has recently been nipped by a dog whilst running on the three fields. This is clearly unacceptable. Dogs will chase moving things so if you own such a dog can you please keep it under control in a manner that does not interfere with other users of the fields. By the same token please pick up after your dog. There are bins sited round the area and keep in mind that whilst you are on the phone or talking to your neighbour your hound could be leaving a deposit that nobody wants to step in. Please pick it up.

Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday the 14th of July at Epworth Hall. Parishioners are welcome to attend and bring to the attention of the council any matter of concern.

Graham Searle

Chair King's Somborne Parish
Council

Village Hall News



Colin Reeve, RIP

Colin Reeve, who passed away on the 10th May, was the man mainly responsible for the very successful Clay Pigeon shoots, held at the Acorn shoot on the Compton Manor Estate between 2009 and 2019.

Back then the Village Hall was in great need of refurbishment and needed to raise funds to start the necessary work. It was thanks to a casual conversation between one of the management team and Colin, in the Crown, about fund raising events that Colin suggested a Clay Pigeon shoot. He was a very experienced shot as well as an International Clay Pigeon shoot referee, so we were able to draw on his vast experience and organised eleven shoots raising £300,000 which was shared between the Village Hall and Cancer Research U.K. A phenomenal sum which is the main reason we have such a magnificent hall today. At his funeral it was referred to as the "Gold Plated Hall".

The hall and the village have a lot to be grateful for the short time he spent in the village!

Shortly after he retired from the Metropolitan Police as a Detective Chief Superintendent he and Maureen, his wife known to many in the village, moved to King's Somborne. He had many stories to tell

about his

life in the Met and perhaps the most infamous being that he was the most senior officer on the dreadful day that WPC Yvonne Fletcher was murdered.

Following his career in the Met he was appointed head of security at Christies Fine Art auctioneers and accompanied Lady Diana to New York while overseeing the sale of her dresses. One of his most treasured possessions is a letter from her thanking him for his efforts in assuring her safety during that time and she also signed an auction catalogue for him.

After the demise of the shoot, he found a new passion of Indoor Short Mat Bowls which he was still playing in the hall until Maureen and he downsized and moved to retirement accommodation. The Short Mat Bowls group continue to use the hall to this day.

It is people such as Colin which makes the Somborne's and surrounding villages such a wonderful community to live in. Rest in Peace Colin, we are most grateful that you passed through, and made such a commitment to, this community.

*Ian Newnham
Chairman, King's Somborne Village
Hall Committee.*

13th Birthday for Epworth Lunches



villagers who cook delicious lunches for us and of course to all the diners whose support and enthusiasm we really value.

During our 13th year your kindness and generosity has enabled us to raise £938 for our chosen local charities.

On Tuesday 10th of June the Epworth Lunches celebrated their 13th birthday with a meal of Quiche, new potatoes and vegetables followed by strawberries and cream. Gina Tubby very kindly made little celebration cakes iced with number 13 which we could enjoy with our coffee/tea at the end of the meal.

A brilliant amount!

Thank you!

Marilyn Bolton

So as not to disappoint our diners we ended with a game of Herd Mentality. Wow! That was fun!

Thank you to our amazing team of volunteers who keep the lunches going, to those kind



The King's Somborne Solo's group

formerly the David St John lunches

Whether through choice, change in circumstance, or simply by life's design, are you single and living in or around King's Somborne?

A warm welcome awaits you at the King's Somborne Solo's group.

We're a friendly group of people of all ages who happen to be single and enjoy a bit of company now and then. Each month, we meet for a relaxed lunch at the local pub, The Crown Inn, as well as getting a team or two together at the popular Pub Quiz and Curry night — both events are filled with laughter, good food, and a touch of healthy competition!

Throughout the year, we also organise a handful of other events which last year included an Afternoon Tea Party, BBQ, and a festive Christmas gathering to bring some extra sparkle to the season.

We also have a WhatsApp group where members share details of local activities, impromptu outings, and other social opportunities.

If you're looking for new connections, some light hearted socialising, and a supportive local network, why not join us. We'd love to meet you!

To join or for more details contact Sue Fundrey on 07720746516 or email sue.fundrey@btinternet.com

Advertising in *The Gauntlet*

Do you run a business in the area? Perhaps a small business; or a very small business. Would you like more customers?

Why not consider joining those who advertise in *The Gauntlet*?

We offer space in a variety of sizes, at reasonable cost:

1/6 page (60mm x 60mm) £65

1/3 page (130mm x 60mm or 60mm x 130mm) £98

1/2 page (130mm x 90mm) £123

Whole page (130mm x 190mm) £200

These prices are for your advertisement to appear in all 10 editions that we publish next, starting with our July edition.

Your advertisement will also be in our online edition—visit www.thesombornes.org.uk to see our latest edition.

The money we receive for the advertisements covers the cost of printing and delivery free of charge to every household in the village.

If you are interested, please contact our Advertising Manager, Sue Byram at subyram@aol.com or 07837 305 837.

Jane Austen's 'Emma' comes to Little Somborne

Travelling theatre company 'This Is My Theatre' will be bringing their witty, fast-paced and creative adaptation of Jane Austen's 'Emma' to Little Somborne on 5th August at 7pm, with an open-air production at All Saints church.

The troupe has already enchanted audiences at Little Somborne and Ashley this year, with a truly magical performance of 'The Tempest' and a rollicking 'The Three Musketeers', packed full of duels and derring-do.

Now it's time to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Austen's birth with a retelling of the tale of Emma Wodehouse: beautiful, rich and clever – but forever matchmaking, with mixed success and many laughs (and a few heartbreaks) along the way. Come and enjoy Emma's romantic adventures in the beautiful setting of All Saints' churchyard; let the sun go down as you sip your wine and share a picnic with friends, whilst enjoying the live music, blink-of-an-eye character changes and wit which are the hallmarks of a This Is My Theatre production.

Tickets are available on: <https://www.thisismytheatre.com/austen>





Ginger Biscuits

Makes 50-55 By popular demand!

225g (8oz) butter
200g (7oz) light brown sugar 1 large egg yolk
225g (8oz) self raising flour ½ tsp salt
1 tbs ground ginger 100g (4½oz) jumbo oats
4 crystalised stem gingers, cut into small pieces

In addition:

25 g (1 oz) jumbo oats
25g (1oz) demerara sugar
1 stem ginger, cut into small bits

1. Preheat oven to 180 deg C fan. Line 2 or more baking sheets.
2. Cream butter and sugar together, then add egg yolk. Add flour, salt and ground ginger to mixture. Add oats and stem ginger to the soft dough.
3. Take walnut size lumps and roll into balls and set aside.
4. Mix remaining oats, sugar and stem ginger pieces together and press dough balls into the this mixture, pressing down slightly with oaty side up onto baking sheets, leaving space around for spreading.
5. Bake for 10-12 minutes until golden. Leave on baking sheet for 5 minutes, before repeating the method.

Enjoy!

DO YOU LIKE TO WALK?

Every Monday at 9.15a.m. a group of us from the W.I. meet behind the Parish Church, beside the John O'Gaunt sign and walk together exploring the local countryside. We walk for a couple of hours with occasionally a stop for coffee on the way and very occasionally even cake and always a good chat.

If you would like to join us we would be delighted to see you.

Either come to the John O'Gaunt sign one Monday or phone me, Frances Shone, on 388626 for more information.



The Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul King's Somborne

Summer Marquee Markets

Come and Enjoy Saturday Mornings

August 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

10.00 – 12.30

In The Church Garden

Stalls Cakes Books Plants Produce

Tea Coffee Cakes

Weekly Raffle with Super prizes



Contact Linda Aucock on 388542 or Louise Causer 389364 if you would like to help

Somborne Sisterhood

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

A thoroughly fascinating evening with Tricia Silver-Warner, who gave us a potted history of King's Somborne. Even those of us who could almost be described as locals learnt something new. We looked at upside down graffiti in the church, ancient brass rubbings, heard about Cowdrove being used to avoid taxes, the construction of Cruck Cottage and much more.

For more information follow us on Instagram or contact sombornesisterhood@gmail.com



Tricia was so enthusiastic and knowledgeable and provided us all with a thirst for more history of our ancient village.

Our July meeting is on our new day of WEDNESDAY 2nd July at the EARLIER TIME of 7.30 in the Jubilee Room. Lesley Evans will be talking to us about the Samaritans. Guests welcome £7.



King's Somborne Women's Institute

On a beautiful sunny June evening, members of the WI met to hear a talk on the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) (now called Rural Women in Action) given by Maureen Levenson.

Maureen began by saying that rural women first got together in a loose association in the early 1900's; these grew when the WI was first founded in 1915, to give women the chance to form friendships for help and support. In 1929, 45 women from 20 countries met together to form the association – ACWW – officially in 1933 – it was born to assist rural women, and has kept to that. It's aims are to raise the standard of living for rural women through education and literacy, practical support in farming – the majority of the world's farmers are women – health, childcare and women's rights. It is, with 9 million members, the largest women's organisation in the world, operating in 75 countries with 412 societies. It has ties to the UN (recognised in 1996), UNESCO, UNICEF and UNIFEM, and is in touch with the government; it's HQ is near the Oval, in Foundry House, which houses many charities, including "Engineers



Without Borders!" Trustees decided on projects to support; they are monitored to ensure they do what they promise and improve the lives of women. According to Maureen, a project supporting one village can mean that is women encourage those in the next village to do the same – problems shared can be solved. The passion that Maureen feels for the ACWW shone through everything she said.

After the talk members made arrangements to visit Hinton Ampner's "Celebration of Flowers". Also arranged a team for the Group Quiz.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 9th July in the village hall. The speaker Rosemary Tiffen "The Law, London and Me". Visitors are always welcome and we make no charge.

Bridget Coleman

Somborne Speedwatch

If you would like to help slow down the traffic coming through the village, please

Contact Nicola Pye 01794 388 405 nicola@yewbank.net

Walk the Test Way

Step Into Nature and Make a Difference: Join Walk the Test Way 2025

On Sunday, 28th September 2025, lace up your walking boots and be part of something truly special—Walk the Test Way organised by the Rotary Club of Romsey Test, this annual event invites participants of all ages and abilities to walk the scenic Test Way in Hampshire, all while raising funds for their chosen charities.

Choose Your Challenge

Whether you're a seasoned hiker or a casual stroller, there's a distance to suit everyone:

25.5 miles from St Mary Bourne

16 miles from Wherwell

11 miles from Stockbridge

8 miles from Horsebridge

5 miles from Mottisfont

Participants will be transported by private coach from Romsey to their selected starting points. The journey concludes at Romsey's Memorial Park, where walkers are greeted with a warm welcome and a commemorative medal. The route is well-signposted and fully marshalled, ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for all. Dogs on short leads are also welcome to join the adventure.

Support Causes Close to Your Heart

Walk the Test Way isn't just about the walk it's about making a difference. Over the years, the event

has



raised over £1.2 million for various charities across the UK. In 2024 alone, £85,000 was distributed among 86 charities. Whether you're passionate about healthcare, education, or community services, this is your chance to support the causes that matter most to you.

Registration Details

Early bird registration is open until 31st July 2025: Adults: £13 Under 18s: £7 After this date, fees will increase to £16 for adults and £9 for under 18s. All participants are encouraged to raise a minimum of £50 in sponsorship.

Join the Community

Walk the Test Way is more than just a fundraising event; it's a celebration of community spirit, personal achievement, and the beauty of the Hampshire countryside. Whether you're walking solo, with family, or as part of a team, your steps will contribute to meaningful change.

Ready to Take the First Step?

For more information and to register, visit www.walkthetestway.org.uk.

Village diary for July 2025

Every Monday	6.00pm	Beavers
	7.30pm	Badminton
Every Tuesday	10.30am	Drop in coffee (except the second Tuesday)
	10.00am	Somborne Café
Every Wednesday	9.30am	Parent, Baby and Toddler Group
	2.00pm	Dial-a-ride
Every Thursday	2.00pm	Needleworkers

School holidays, Bank Holidays and other events may cause changes

1st	Computer cafe	10.00am	15th	Computer cafe	10.00am
2nd	WI Sisterhood	8.00pm	16th	Contemplative Prayer	7.30pm
7th	Parish Council	7.00pm	17th	Over 50s Minibus Trip to Boscombe	10.00am
8th	Short Mat Bowls	2.00pm	22nd	Short Mat Bowls	2.00pm
8th	Epworth Lunch	12.30pm	23rd	Women's Fellowship	2.30pm
9th	WI	7.30pm	27th	Footpath Walk see p35	2.00pm
10th	Community Cinema Mr Burton	7.15 for 8.00pm			

Theatres

Theatre Royal, Winchester

21 June – 13 July

Integr8 Dance Off 2025

4 July Hat Fair Community Celebration

10 July An Audience with John Sergeant

11 July The George Harrison Project

12 July A Night with Integr8 Dance

15 July Winnall Rock School Summer Show

16 July A Midsummer Night's Dream

17 July Some Like it Hot

18 July The Take That Experience

19 July The Dr. Hook Songbook

20 July One Night in Dublin

22 – 24 July Spot's Birthday Party

25 July Seriously Collins

26 July Dinosaur Adventure Live

28 July

The Big Royal Geeks & Nerds Quiz

29 July

Buddy Holly and the Cricketers

31 July – 2 August

Annie

Plaza Theatre, Romsey

4 – 5 July

Fifty Years of Wish you were Here

25 July

Romsey Comedy Club

26 July

Queen Tribute

Salisbury Playhouse

30 June – 5 July

Shrek The Musical

1 – 2 July

Stage 65: Summer 2025

8 July

An Audience with John Sergeant

9 July

Showstopper! The Improved Musical

10 July

Money for Nothing

Mayflower Theatre, Southampton

4 July

The Feeling

7 July

The Magic of Motown

9 – 12 July

By Royal Appointment

14 July

Big Girls don't Cry

15 July

Bringing the Outside in

Legend

16 July

Fastlove

17 July

Lost in Music

18 – 19 July

Cirque

19 – 20 July

A Night at the Movies

20 July

Queen Rock Symphonic

22 – 26 July

The Girl on the Train

23 July

I've lost my Bobble Hat

25 – 26 July

Bing's birthday

29 – 30 July

Dinosaur World Live

Chesil Treatre, Winchester

11 – 19 July

Shakespeare in Love

Janet Ingleson

What's on in July 2025

WINCHESTER SCIENCE CENTRE

Events – book online

19 July – 3 September

Summer Bubble Fun

5 July – 14 September

We are stars – film show

Solar System Adventure -live The Bubble Show –

science

13 July BSL Day

22 July Quiet Hours

23 July

After Dark – Starlight Cinema Shrek

25 July After Dark – the Planetarium Live

Birth and Boundaries

After Dark – Pink Floyd

26 July After Dark – Pink Floyd

After Dark – Led Zeppelin

30 July

After Dark Cinema – Flushed Away

MOTTISFONT ABBEY

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont

27 Feb – 2 Nov 2025

Three Victorian Travellers

2 June – 2 November

Women artists in the Derek Hill collection

2 June – 13 July

The Making of the Mottisfont Angel

3 June – 3 September

Guided walks along the River Test

19 July – 2 November

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang: Celebrating 60 years

WINCHESTER CITY MILL

01962 870057 Wednesday to Sundays from 10.00 – 5.00 pm, cafe 10.00 – 4.00pm, bookshop 10.00 – 5.00 pm

This a free entry site.

7 June – 26 July

Walk and Talk tour

ANDOVER MUSEUM

6 Church Close Andover SP10 1DP

Open 10.00 – 4.00 pm all year

Friday to Sunday and all Hants School Holidays. Wednesday Craft Club – school holidays

WILLIS MUSEUM and SAINSBURY GALLERY Market Place, Basingstoke

01256 465902 Free admission

Wednesday – Saturday 10.00 – 4.00

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

Winchester-cathedral.org.uk

February – October

250 years of Jane Austen

All year – Kings and Scribes exhibition

Lunchtime concerts most Tuesdays at 1.15 pm

Tea at Three monthly and Meet the Chaplain except Aug. & December 2.30 – 3.30 pm

11 July – 8 August

Jane Austen Tour & Afternoon Tea

26 July – 30 August

Jane Austen Tour & Tea

23 May – 19 October

Jane Austen Poetry Exhibition

5 July

London Concertante:

Bond by Candlelight

6 July – 16 November

Organ Festival

Janet Ingleson

District diary for July 2025

7 June – 28 September

Living Water Art Exhibition
Salisbury Cathedral

16 June – 21 July

Romsey Town Hall Community
Cinema
Bridget Jones Mad about the Boy
3.30 pm and 7.00 pm
Tickets online romseytc.org.uk or at
Romsey T C Office

12 June – 22 August

Stone carving courses
Salisbury Cathedral

1 July

Romsey Abbey 2025 Summer Piano
Festival. Andrew Garrido (piano)

4 & 5 July

Romsey War Memorial Archive
Romsey's War & 80th Anniversary
10.00 – 4.00 pm Free entry

6 July

Andover Vegan Market
10.00 – 3.00 pm Andover High Street

8 July

Romsey Abbey 2025 Summer Piano
Festival Joseph Tong (piano)

11 July

Romsey Abbey
Henk de Vries & Dutch Choral Singers

11 – 12 July

Hillier Gardens
Summer Soul Concert

12 & 26 July

Hawk Conservancy Summer evening
5.45 pm – 9.00 pm
Tickets: hawk-conservancy.org

12 July

Romsey Beggars Fair
Market Place 11.00 – 5.00pm

15 July

Romsey Abbey 2025 Summer Piano
Festival Ivan Hovorun (piano)

20 July

Andover Carnival 2025
12.00 noon – 9.00 pm
Andover High Street

22 July

Romsey Abbey 2025 Summer Piano
Festival Ashley Solano (piano)

26 July

Romsey Craft and Gift Market
Market Place 10.00 – 4.00 pm

26 July

Winchester Regency Fashion Show
Great Hall, Winchester 7.00 pm

29 July

Romsey abbey
David Warwick (organ)

Salisbury Market 8.00 am – 3.00 pm.
Market Place, Every Tuesday and Saturday

Romsey Town Hall & Community Café

1st and third Fridays of the month
10.00 – 1.00 pm

Andover Market in the High Street

2nd Sundays in month 10.00 -3.00 pm

Winchester Farmers Market

2nd and final Sundays of the month

Janet Ingleson

Do you live alone?

We all worry that someone who lives alone may have a crisis at home - a fall or a health crisis - and nobody knows or is able to help.

So if you live alone, perhaps you could think about things you can do to avoid this:

- ◆ Does someone check on you every day? It could be a phone call or just checking that you've opened your curtains.
- ◆ Give a neighbour or a friend who lives nearby a key for your house so they can let the emergency services have access.
- ◆ You might like to consider having a key safe fitted.
- ◆ Also make sure someone knows the phone number or email of a person you would like to be contacted in an emergency.
- ◆ Consider a personal alarm for ease of calling for help if you need it.
- ◆ Have the phone number of a neighbour or nearby friend so you can contact them in an emergency.
- ◆ If you have a mobile phone, keep it with you all the time.

There are times when we all need help!

A new look for *The Gauntlet*

Do you like our new colourful cover?

To keep it fresh, we need photos to fill the space in the middle of the front page. We have a few to choose from, but we would like to have more that reflect the village and surrounding area through the seasons. Can you help?

We need photos that have good clear detail. Photos that look clear on the screen may not look so good when printed. So, the photos should be at least 2Mb in size.

(That is: 1500 x 1500 pixels; for example, 50x50 cm (20x20 inches) at 72dpi, or 12x12 cm (5x5 inches) at 300dpi.)

If you have a photo or two that you think might do, please send them to thegauntletmag@hotmail.com. We can't guarantee to use them, but we would like to see them.

Services for the over 50s

Sue 07891930684 & Gill 388 831

Do contact us if you need any support or have anything that is worrying you.

Blue Badge applications, attendance allowance, pension credit, dementia support services etc



Epworth Lunches

Tuesday July 8th

12.30pm £7

Salmon

***New Potatoes ***

Coleslaw*Salad

Eton Mess

*** Coffee ***

Booking essential - Marilyn 389 356



Over 50s Minibus Trips

Booking essential

Phone Sue 07891930684

Thursday July 17th 2025

Boscombe

£10.00 Pick up 10.00am Home for 4.00pm

Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society
OPEN AUDITIONS



DYING FOR IT

By Moira Buffini, directed by Mark Frank

The story of Sernyon, a man down on his luck and out of options. When he decides to throw in the towel and kill himself, a deluge of sympathetic visitors descends upon him, determined to make him a martyr for their many causes. *Dying For It* is an outrageous and hilarious 20th century classic comedy.

Reading of the play - Friday 11th July at 7.30

Auditions - Sunday 13th July at 2.30 and Monday 14th July at 7.30

Stockbridge Town Hall

Rehearsals start w/b 8th September

Performance week w/b 24th November

Please contact stockbridgeamdrams@gmail.com
if you have any questions or visit our website for
more details www.stockbridgeamdrams.org.uk

SADS

Stockbridge Community Cinema

Friday 18 July

7.30 pm

The Seed of the Sacred Fig (15)

Shot entirely in secret, Mohammad Rasoulof's award-winning thriller, **THE SEED OF THE SACRED FIG**, centres on a family thrust into the public eye when Iman is appointed as an investigating judge in Tehran. As political unrest erupts in the streets, Iman realizes that his job is even more dangerous than expected, making him increasingly paranoid and distrustful, even of his own wife Najmeh and daughters Sana and Rezvan. Academy Award and BAFTA nominated for Best International Film 2025.



Wednesday 23 July

4.30pm and 7.30pm

Bridget Jones: Mad About The Boy (15)

Bridget Jones, now a widowed single mother, navigates the challenges of parenthood, work, and modern dating with the support of her friends, family, and former partner, Daniel Cleaver. As she re-enters the dating world, she finds herself pursued by a younger man while also forming an unexpected connection with her son's science teacher.



Information common to both films

Showing at Stockbridge Town Hall SO20 6HE. Tickets £6.00 on sale from

1 July via www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk or by telephone from TicketSource 0333 666 3366 (no additional charge). Please visit our website for full details of all films.

Rupal Kanani is our Physiotherapist.

She works at the Broughton Surgery on Wednesdays and Fridays. She offers assessment for muscle and joint problems, and you can book in with her online or by telephoning us.



Rupal cannot offer courses of physiotherapy, but you can refer yourself for physiotherapy. Referrals must be made online at:

<https://hiowhealthcare.nhs.uk/msk/referrals/Physiotherapy-form>

Staying hydrated

As it gets warmer, please ensure that you are drinking enough. Aim to drink 6 to 8 cups or glasses of fluid a day. Water, lower-fat milk and sugar-free drinks, including tea and coffee, all count.

If you are having a blood test it is particularly important to drink water before the test. Avoid tea, coffee, lemon-flavoured and carbonated waters. This will make it easier for us to take your blood.

Worried about your hearing?

You don't need to see the doctor to arrange a hearing test. Please ask a member of our reception team and we can send you a short form to complete either online or on paper. You can then send the form to the hospital, and they will be in touch to arrange an appointment.

Staff changes

Dr Elena King will be leaving the practice in July 2025. We wish her and her family well.



Tuesdays 10.00 – 13.00

Jubilee Room

Kings Somborne Village Hall

Free carton of drink for children in July and August



DO YOU LIKE TO WALK?

Every Monday at 9.15a.m. a group of us from the W.I. meet behind the Parish Church, beside the John O'Gaunt sign and walk together exploring the local countryside. We walk for a couple of hours with occasionally a stop for coffee on the way and very occasionally even cake and always a good chat.

If you would like to join us we would be delighted to see you.

Either come to the John O'Gaunt sign one Monday or phone me, Frances Shone, on 388626 for more information.

Spedan's Natural Trust

Open Day Saturday 19th July

10:00 - 15:00

Starting at the Leckford Village

Hall Postcode: SO20 6JG



Come and learn about biodiversity at Leckford with demonstrations and exhibits on Bird Ringing, Beetles & Bugs, Moths and Pollinators and enjoy a guided walk on the Leckford Estate.

This is an outdoor event and bring a packed lunch.

To book a FREE place email: spedantrust@gmail.com



Drop In



for a cuppa and a chat

in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere
at the Epworth Hall!

Every Tuesday
(apart from the second one in the month)
from 10.30am to 12 noon.

All proceeds go to charity.

Everyone is welcome!

ANDOVER CHAMBER CHOIR

SONGS AND SONNETS Music for a Summer's Evening

This summer, Andover Chamber Choir will perform a mixed programme of music that captures the spirit of summer and provides a delightful evening of entertainment.

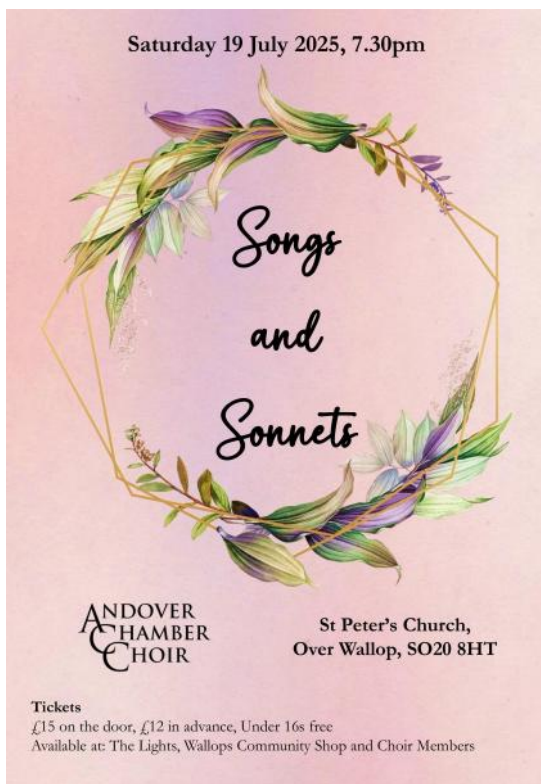
From jazz settings of Shakespeare to music from his time, and from the heady harmonies of Elgar and Ireland to classic British folksongs, the programme includes something for everyone. Of particular note, the programme will include two Hampshire folksongs collected and arranged by Gustav Holst. The musical pieces will be complemented by readings chosen by Prof. Michael Wheeler, chairman of the choir.

Interim Musical Director Amy Walters said, "After a packed programme of sacred pieces for the last few months, we are now enjoying a return to the secular and musical choices that include both the light-hearted and the dramatic. We are learning some new and some more familiar repertoire, and we can't wait to share it with our audience. Over Wallop - a quintessential English village - is an ideal location for this repertoire."

The concert takes place on Saturday 19 July at St Peter's Church, Over Wallop, SO20 8HT, beginning at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £15 on the door or £12 in advance from The Lights (in person, telephone or online), Wallops Community Shop and choir members.

Under 16s are admitted free of charge. Light refreshments are included in the ticket price.





1 - 5pm

Otterbourne Brass Band

Navy Larks - Sea Shanty Singers

BBQ Bar Teas

Dog Show

Tug o' War Golf pitch 'n putt

Coconut Shy

Tombola Bottle Stall

Books

Produce, Cakes and Jams

Children's Corner and Adventure Tunnel

Grand Draw

**Come along and help us raise funds for
St Mary's and our village playground.**

There's fun for everyone!



TEST VILLAGES U3A

Thursday 3rd July Chilbolton Village Hall 2pm

“The history and purpose of the National Garden Scheme”

Mark Porter’s passion for gardening started with growing vegetables on his allotment in the 1970s and grew as he created his own 2 acre garden and vineyard in the Itchen Valley. He opens his garden in late winter for the National Garden Scheme for which he is a Trustee as well as the Hampshire County Organiser. Mark’s significant contribution to the promotion of gardens was recognised with his appointment as a Royal Horticultural Society Vice President in 2023, he is also a RHS Show Garden judge. Mark will talk about the National Garden Scheme as well as highlighting gardens worth visiting in Hampshire.

Thursday 7th August Chilbolton Village Hall 2pm

Jeff Evans presents “The Questionable History of the TV Quiz Show”

One of television’s most successful creations is the quiz show – the programme where everyone can show how clever they are and possibly earn a small fortune in the process. But where did it all begin? Which shows have been the most successful? And who, along the way, have been the winners, losers and – perhaps most intriguingly – the cheaters?

This fully illustrated, entertaining talk covers the whole fascinating history of the TV quiz show from its earliest days in the 1930s to today. Presented by TV historian Jeff Evans, who also writes questions for TV quiz shows, including Mastermind.

Please join us at our meeting. New members most welcome.

Find out more about **Test Villages u3a** at: testvillages.u3asite.uk

July walk

7 1/4 miles (11.5 km) 3 hours

Sunday 27th July 2025

2:00pm

King’s

Somborne Village Hall

We leave the village along Winchester Road and up Red Hill before turning onto the path past Ashley New buildings. At the cross roads we take the path across the field past Ashley Manor Farm and the Roman Settlement and on to Gypsy Lane. We turn north along Gypsy Lane. At the end of Gypsy Lane we turn left along Chalk Vale for 250m and then turn right along Chalk Hill to pick up the footpath past the beef unit. We return to the Village Hall along Winchester Road.



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SADS

Messy Church



Messy Church—Summer Games

What a lot of fun, games, Bible stories, crafts and food we've had at the Methodist Chapel over the first months of the year! And on the third Sunday in June, we met for games and a picnic at the Rec. As usual, Sam led a breathtaking range of games and activities, some of which included a parachute, and our lively bunch of children and families responded admirably.

In July and August, we take a summer break. There will be a Messy Church stall at the Marquee Markets in the parish churchyard each Saturday in August from 10am. Hope to see you there!

The next time we meet at the Methodist Chapel will be Sunday 21st September. There'll be more stories, more crafts and more fun, and all families are welcome! See you then?

Howard

Church Book Stall

We are looking for a person to continue caring for the books donated to the church and arranging the book stalls at the Marquee Markets in August and at the Christmas Fayre which is held in November.

Also involved is storing the surplus books including those in the church porch and arranging sales of surplus books to internet book dealers in aid of church funds.

Anyone interested, please contact the churchwardens – Janet Ingleson or Joan Appleyard.

From The Parish Registers



May 30th Funeral Colin Reeve

Jun 2nd Funeral Doreen Rowels Chilbolton Church

June 6th Funeral Angela Gentry Chesil House Winchester

June 14 Baptism Oliver and James Monk

June 19 Funeral Bill Sutton

Parish Home Group

Weekly on Thursdays, 7.30 - 9.00pm during term time

Contact Howard Rowe for details

howard_rowe@btopenworld.com or 01794 388400

Julian Contemplative Prayer Meetings

These meetings are for those, from any faith or none, who are seeking the opportunity to practice silent prayer and contemplation in the companionship of others.

The meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm. The venue is 1 Highfield Cottages, off Strawberry Lane, Up Somborne.

If you would like to know more, please contact Jane Duncan on 01794 388059 or 07766 811 623.

All are very welcome.



Church services in July

Parish Church

**Sunday, 6th July—Third Sunday
after Trinity**
08.00 a.m. Holy Communion (1662)
10.00 a.m. Morning Worship

Readings:

David Evans: *Galatians 6.1-16*

Christine Ball: *Luke 10.1-11, 16.20*

**Sunday, 13th July—Fourth Sunday
after Trinity**
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

Readings:

Fi Chilton: *Colossians 1.1-14*

Linda Aucock: *Luke 10.25-37*

**Sunday, 20th July—Fifth Sunday
after Trinity**
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

Readings:

Louise Causer: *Colossians 1.15-28*

Sandie Pepperell: *Luke 10.38-42*

**Sunday, 27th July—Sixth Sunday after
Trinity**
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

Readings:

Antony Chilton: *Colossians 2.6-15*

Alwena Rowe: *Luke 11.1-13*

Methodist Church

Sunday July 6th
10.30am Mr Tom Belshaw

Sunday July 13th
10.30am Mr Graham Hepburn

Sunday July 20th
No morning service

Sunday July 27th
10.30am Rev Peter Rayson
Holy Communion

Roman Catholic Churches

St Thomas' Stockbridge

St Joseph's Romsey

St Andrew's N. Baddesley

Details of services at RC churches,
see:

www.hampshiredowns.org.uk and

www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

The Lay Minister has the last word

Dear friends,

Several months ago, I planted a batch of tomato seeds in small pots. At the beginning, nothing seemed to happen. Then, more than two weeks later, the tiniest of shoots emerged. Day by day, I've watched them grow by tiny amounts. As I write, they're still not much more than 6 inches high. I've watched them, watered them, transplanted them into larger pots, put stakes in for them, and yearned for their growth. Today, there is a flower on the first plant. It seems I just have to wait while they do what they do, and God does what he does. So slowly, it seems. Waiting. I'm not naturally very good at waiting. I wonder if you are like me in this?

In the natural world, there is a lot of waiting required. And also in the social world and the spiritual world. We must wait while friendships develop. Students must wait for exam results to be issued. I even have to wait to find out if my car passes its MOT test. In the Bible, Jesus's disciples were told to wait for the coming Holy Spirit. All development or growth takes time and requires waiting – even if you tick the next-day delivery box when you order something online!

You'll know that, as a parish, we are seeking the right person to become our new Associate Priest, to lead and serve us in our church and village. We plant, we advertise, we watch, we yearn, we pray. And we wait. Sometimes it feels like we're waiting for a person, but we're really waiting on God. We wait and we choose to trust. He is trustworthy.

And trusting God can, if we let it, lead to peace of mind and spirit. It enables us to see the bigger picture, and when we can't, to trust him anyway. To see beauty in growing things, first flowers on tomato plants. To give and receive love in the middle of hard things. To show courage to overcome pain. To worship. Trusting God helps us to truly live.

May God bless us all this Summer as we trust him.

Howard Rowe, Licensed Lay Minister



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