

# THE GAUNTLET

THE LOCAL MAGAZINE FOR THE SOMBORNES AND ASHLEY

**MARCH 2026**



**PUBLISHED BY THE CHURCH IN THE SERVICE OF THE PARISH**

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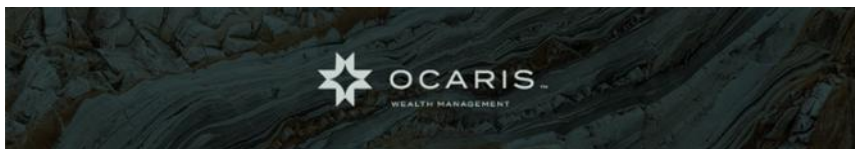
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## Useful names and numbers

### 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@afmonk.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](http://www.stockbridgesurgery.co.uk)

**Broughton surgery** 01794 301210

### Pharmacy

**Stockbridge Pharmacy** 01264 810624

### Schools

**Somborne Pre-School** 07530 893773  
**King's Somborne School** 01794 388381  
**Danebury School** 01264 810555

### Police

**Action Fraud** 0300 123 2040  
[www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

**Crimestoppers** 0800 555 111

**Police non-emergency** 101  
[www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk)

**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](mailto:caroline.nokes.mp@parliament.uk)

### Local Authority

Test Valley B C 01264 368000

### Village Website

[www.thesombornes.org.uk](http://www.thesombornes.org.uk)

### The Gauntlet

**Editors:** Sandie Pepperell 01794 388021  
Sue Jackson 07891 930684  
Gill Butler 01794 388831  
Julia Bowen 07765 106 854

**Advertising:** Sue Byram 07837 305837

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Please deliver articles for *The Gauntlet*  
to [thegauntletmag@hotmail.com](mailto:thegauntletmag@hotmail.com)

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:* Roger Stephens

### 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

### 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.

### Garden waste scheme

Garden waste will be collected w/c 1st and 15th Dec. 2025, 12th and 26th Jan. 2026

### Household waste

Non-recyclable household waste (black bins) will be collected w/c 2nd, 16th and 30th March. 2026

Recyclable household waste (brown bins) w/c 9th, and 23rd March. 2026

### 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.

*Contact:* Sue Jackson 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

### 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

## Village Directory (continued)

### 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](http://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 WI

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

**Contact:** Kathryn Lee  
sombornesisterhood@gmail.com

### Somborne Speedwatch

**Contact:** Nicola Pye 01794 388405  
nicola@yewbank.net

### 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

This month's cover photo is by Harvey Saunders

# Parish Council Notes February 2026

## **Southern Water**

You will have been inconvenienced, some much more than others, with the large number of tankers discharging foul water at a manhole on the A3057 outside Hayes Farm due to issues at Broughton. The PC were not notified or consulted about this or the withdrawal proposed of the tankers to Vicarage Lane as some residents were advised. We have notified Southern Water of the damage to the pavements and verges by them without response to date. All complaints should be made to Southern Water direct.

## **Hut**

The replacement windows to improve thermal efficiency have been carried out this month.

The stopcock has not been resolved but a temporary fix has now been achieved. The location of the external isolation valve remains a mystery further exploration having taken place. If anybody has definitive information as to the location of the Southern Water external isolating valve, please contact the clerk: it will be gratefully received.

The energy survey has been performed and the report is awaited.

A proposal from the cricket club to open up the hut to the cricket field and utilise it as a pavilion has been received and the PC has approved the idea in principal and resolved to explore the matter further with suitable technical assistance.

## **Parish Infrastructure**

It is planned to have a public meeting at the beginning of April where we can present the work done to date of potential projects and how as a Parish Council we envisage these can be moved forward with community assistance.

Following the analysis of the recent Community Asset Survey we have now registered the King's Somborne Community Group with the charity Plunkett so further guidance can be obtained into obtaining and running community assets. It is hoped that members of the community will step forward to join the group in order to investigate and run larger assets. Broughton appear to now be successfully running a shop and public house and are well on the way with community involvement with electricity supply. We are somewhat behind the curve and the PC cannot carry this out in isolation.

## **Traffic**

Hampshire highways have now provided a detailed breakdown of anticipated costs for the introduction of a 20mph speed limit for King's Somborne Centre. This will allow application for a grant from the Police & Crime Commissioner to cover at least a portion of the cost which would be to the PC account should we proceed.

## **John o'Gaunt Field**

Work has started to extend the surfaced footpath from The Gorrings round to the playing field thus making a circular walk and then

plant a further wild flower area. The work should be completed by the end of the month. This has been made possible through a grant from TVBC.

### **First Aid**

A free 1 ½ hour basis first aid and defibrillator course has been arranged with the Red Cross on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April further details will be published nearer the time.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 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

## **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!**

# King's Somborne Working Men's Club

## UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

**Saturday 28th Feb – Games Night from 7pm.**

Darts, skittles, pool and more. Fun for the whole family!

Members free and non-members £2.

**Monday Night Club** – every Monday night from 6pm

**Skittles** – every Monday from 8pm (club opens at 6pm)

**Bingo** – alternate Sundays from March 8th.

8pm start (club opens at 7pm).

Further events will be announced in the Gauntlet each month.

*The Friends of the Church of St Peter  
and St Paul, King's Somborne*

**The Annual General Meeting will  
be held on Monday 20th April 2026  
at 7.00pm for 7.30pm  
in the Parish Church  
King's Somborne**

**Followed by a short talk  
On the church bells by Micki Nadal**

**Do come along and support this worthwhile  
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enable the Church to be available for services,  
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**Come and learn of our fundraising events for  
the coming year**

# The Travelling Pantry



Every Wednesday morning from 10.00am to 11.30am, the Travelling Pantry, provided by Unity, bring a selection of fresh, tinned and packet staples, along with some household goods and toiletries for villagers to select.

The system is that for £5 you get 12 points; most items have a 'price' of one point, but some more expensive items are 2 points. Fruit and vegetables, for example, were 4 items for only one point, so it is all excellent value to help feed the family.

There are generally four volunteers who run the pantry. They are very friendly and customers enjoy meeting each other and the volunteers every week. In turn the volunteers really enjoy being with each other and getting to know the villagers who come regularly.

For the past 8 weeks, customers could select all the ingredients for a simple dish, - one pot recipe campaign, with a recipe provided. This is an excellent opportunity to create a meal using less energy with low cost ingredients and although this campaign has ended at the moment they are hoping it will be back for Easter.

Once a month the volunteers bring pet food, and there are second-hand books to borrow or swap free of charge.

There are also helpful leaflets about Cooking Smart—with ideas on energy saving, sustainability, one-pot cooking and prevention of food waste.



Unity provide help and guidance to reduce energy costs; especially for those who are struggling financially. They have supported with airfryers, white goods replacement, heat the home items - draught excluders, radiator reflectors and heat the person items - sherpa thermal blankets, hot water bottles, coats, hats and scarves.

As members of sustainable food places Unity are happy to help distribute excess fruit and veg from your garden or allotment, along with any excess food items you may have.

The Pantry is held outside the Village Hall, or if the weather is bad, in the Scout hut.

If you are needing support with any of the above, you can contact Unity on 03304 004 116, email - [info@unityonline.org.uk](mailto:info@unityonline.org.uk) or ask one of the pantry volunteers.

*Sue Jackson*

**'I am no bird; and no net ensnares me'**

***Jane Eyre* comes to Little Somborne,**

**Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March**

If you're looking for a story of triumph against the odds to herald the arrival of spring, there can't be many tales more inspiring than that of the orphan, Jane Eyre. Defiant in her search for freedom, belonging and love, she survives the brutality of Lowood School only to find herself at Thornfield Hall, where the enigmatic Mr. Rochester hides dark secrets behind its walls.

This Is My Theatre are bringing their new adaptation of Charlotte Brontë's timeless classic to **All Saints, Little Somborne**. We are promised a powerful drama of passion, mystery and resilience. Live folk music will be interwoven throughout the performance and, if past This Is My Theatre performances are anything to go by, the show will lift your spirits and stir your emotions.

Performances will be at **5pm and 7.30pm**, and doors will open 30 minutes before the start of each performance, so that you can enjoy the pre-show music to the full. Tickets are £12-16 (concessions available) from the This Is My Theatre website: <https://www.thisismytheatre.com/little-somborne-jane-eyre>

All Saints Church is an extraordinarily atmospheric space for a theatrical performance, steeped in over a thousand years of history and with a wonderful acoustic for music – but it is tiny and so tickets are very limited. Both shows are already selling well so don't delay too long if you wish you to be sure of a place. We hope to see you there!

*Annabel Hervey-Bathurst*



# Somborne and District Society



In January, Patricia Silver-Warner invited us to 'Come to Tea' in Jane Austen's Regency period. Teatime consisted of an evening of entertainment accompanied by refreshments, rather than the later Victorian afternoon tea, or today's early evening meal. At Jane Austen's level the event was also about showing off your status and validating your position in society. This could include the hostess showing untanned forearms, and hence the lack of outdoor manual labour. Patricia covered the conflict at the time over the use of ingredients such as sugar and coffee, which was produced by enslaved people in the Caribbean. Food samples were available to try, including Ratafia Cakes (see below), Rout Drop Cakes, Beetroot Pancakes, and Jane Austen's preferred type of Pound Cake.

If you would like to have a go at making Ratafia Cakes, here is the recipe from Martha Lloyd's Household Book, a handwritten book containing recipes and remedies compiled by Martha Lloyd, a family friend of the Austen's who lived with them both in Southampton and Chawton.

*"Take 8oz of apricot kernels, if they cannot be had bitter almonds will do as well. Blanch them and beat them very fine with a little orange flower water, mix them with the whites of three eggs well beaten and put to them 2lbs of single refined sugar finely beaten and sifted. Work all together and it will be like a paste, then lay it in little round bits on tin plates flour'd. Sit them in an oven which is not very hot and they will puff up and soon be baked."*

Our March talk is on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>, in the Village Hall, 7:30pm for an 8pm start. Jennifer Crowdy will delve into the life and legacy of Beatrice (Tilly) Shilling OBE, a pioneering British engineer from Waterlooville, Hampshire, whose inventive solutions during World War II not only altered the course of aviation history but also challenged the traditional roles of women in technology.

See you there!

*Steve Silver-Warner (Chair)*  
[somsoc@silver-warner.co.uk](mailto:somsoc@silver-warner.co.uk)

## 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](mailto:nicola@yewbank.net)

# Southern Water tanker operation

On Monday 26th January Southern Water installed traffic lights on the A3057 and after removing the manhole cover outside Hayes Farm started a road tanker operation. King's Somborne was being used as a place to dump surplus waste water being generated at Broughton.



Both Broughton and King's Somborne sewers feed into the King's Somborne water treatment works at Brook. King's Somborne has a pumping station by the village hall car park exit and Broughton has a pumping station at Roake Farm Road. The output of these combine at Horsebridge and then pass to the treatment works at Brook. Due to the large amount of ground water infiltration into the sewers at Broughton, the pumping station there was being overwhelmed so to avoid surplus discharge causing pollution to Wallop Brook and the river Test, it was necessary to remove the surplus by tanker.

This situation has happened for the last few winters, normally with tankers taking the surplus to Fullerton treatment works. Due to high rainfall Fullerton was put into "Storm condition" so could no longer take the tankers from Broughton. According to

the Southern Water Infiltration Plan for this area the alternative disposal site should be Slowhill Copse water treatment works in Marchwood but for logistical reasons this was not used.

So for two weeks, 24hrs a day, four to six tankers per hour transferred waste water into the Somborne sewage system, even though a flood alert had already been issued for the Somborne area. Remarkably for the first week the system coped quite well but by the middle of the second week the sewers were backing up in some of the houses on Romsey Road with problems flushing toilets. The local ground water level was also rising to a dangerous level

putting properties at risk of flooding. Southern Water was made aware of the problems but the transfer into the Romsey Road manhole continued. The tanker drivers and site supervisors carefully regulated the rate of discharge from the tankers to alleviate the problem.

On Monday 9th February transfer into the Romsey Road manhole was stopped as the system had become completely overloaded. An attempt was made to transfer directly into the KS pumping station but this was also abandoned. Now the tankers are gone: no more noise, flashing lights and disruption, just a trail of destruction with damaged kerbs and pavements, chewed up grass and a promise it will all be put right.

The tanker operation continues at Broughton with transfer to the Slowhill treatment works in Marchwood. Interestingly the local ground water

level monitored in a well close to the discharge manhole in Romsey Road dropped considerably as soon as the operation stopped, even though the levels of ground water and river measured by the environmental agency have continued to rise. After two weeks a total of over 20 million litres of surplus waste water has been transferred into King's Somborne. This pushed the system to the limit and

should be avoided in the future.

<https://sites.google.com/view/groundwatergraphs/home/groundwater-data/hampshire/kings-and-littlesomborne>

<https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/station/9228>

*Peter Brown*

## King's Somborne Cricket Club



### Will it ever stop raining?

Yes it might not look much now but that grassy field with a cricket square will soon emerge from the mizzle of winter (at least we hope so) for a glorious season of local cricket rivalry. Much planning and discussion is underway ahead of the playing year with the first game on home soil on the 29th April. Next up is the AGM 25th March where we will recruit, vote in the club officers and have a good old laugh about last year's events and hopes and dreams... the odd six... a wicket maiden... for the season to come. Full fixtures list will be found on the shed, or published in next month's edition of *The Gauntlet*.

It's been great to have new members join in recent years as well as new villagers showing an interest in the club. There's even been another club baby... we'll have to wait a bit before they're useful with the bat. It's with sadness though that I must announce an abdication and stepping back of our faithful president, Chris Kirby. His support, rain or shine, for the club, at least since I've been

involved and that's the last eight years, has been exemplary and we will miss you Chris. Hopefully you can still join us to see how we fair this year... and to help me pay attention to the score every now and again.

Who will step up I hear you ask, well our candidate will be voted in at the AGM...he's yet to say no so his nomination stands for now. For more details if you'd like to attend the AGM or find out more about the club, please contact me on the number below.

Watch this space for developments with some more weekend games, thanks to the parish council for hiring of The Hut and of course the odd match report from time to time....Happy new year!

*Rachel*

*KSCC secretary*

07809289861

[drrachelking2012@gmail.com](mailto:drrachelking2012@gmail.com)

# Somborne Sessions welcomes singer-songwriter Lucy May Walker



Lucy May Walker was discovered by Jeremy Vine in 2018 while she was busking in London. She went on to perform live on the presenter's BBC radio and Channel 5 television shows. Lucy May has since carved out an impressive career as a singer-songwriter. Her debut album 'Nothing Ever Stays the Same' features a number of standout tracks, including the heart-rending 'The Hardest Goodbye', which reached Number 1 in the I-Tunes Singer - Songwriter chart. Her latest single, 'I Moved to the Beach', released in Spring 2025, is a haunting and emotional telling of her life, from busker on the Tube to singer-songwriter based in Folkestone where, among other things, she hosts a monthly gig at the town's Music Workshop. She has supported the likes of Texas and Tony Hadley as well as selling out numerous

headline shows of her own. We are delighted to welcome Lucy May to Somborne Sessions in our very own Village Hall on Saturday 21 March 2026. Tickets are priced at £16 each via the Sessions website ([www.sombornesessions.co.uk](http://www.sombornesessions.co.uk)) (£18 on the day of performance, if available) and as usual doors open at 7.30 pm for 8 pm. Come prepared to be moved by an evening of songs full of wit, emotion and personality.



# Somborne Sisterhood become ‘Swifties’

For our February meeting, we were enthralled by an amazing talk given to us by Catherine Gale from Hampshire Swifts.

For starters, did you know that there are 92 species of swifts and they live on every continent except Antarctica! And, although they have many similarities to swallows and martins, they are not closely related and that their nearest relatives are humming birds?

Swifts pair for life and return to the same nest every year. Sometimes one of the pair returns and waits for a partner for weeks even though they may not have survived the journey. For many years swifts only nested naturally in trees and cliffs, and more recently in natural nest holes in buildings, but now we need to help them. They start making a nest a year before they first breed. When looking for a site, they will fly close to the eaves of houses.

Thousands of swift nest sites are lost due to demolition, roof repairs, renovations, extensions and installation of UPVC soffits / fascias.

These incredible birds spend most of their time in the air, where they sleep, mate and feed, only landing to nest! Their scientific name is ‘Apus’, which means ‘no feet’. They have tiny feet, very short legs and sharp claws all pointing forwards, allowing them to cling to vertical surfaces but they cannot perch!

Swifts migrate to take advantage of the seasonal abundance of arial insects, hence migration to Europe and Asia in

April / May before they return to Africa in late July / August as the abundance of insects passes. Migration is helped by the use of tail winds but prolonged wet weather and storms can be disastrous.

If you find a grounded swift, do NOT throw it in the air. Instead hold it up in the air, as high as possible, with the wind behind you. If it is not injured, it should fly. If it doesn’t, place it in a box in the dark and seek help. Offer some water on a wetted cotton bud, but avoid the nostrils. Do NOT feed. Contact the Wildlife hospital near Salisbury.

Swifts will use a nest box if the site is appropriate. They need a clear drop of 4.5 metres below the box and empty airspace in front (so away from trees). Swift boxes also benefit sparrows as they ‘Time share’ at different times of the year!

Catherine informed us that ‘Hampshire Swifts’ work with many developers and housebuilders providing swift bricks and advising on suitable locations for installation etc. But they can also advise homeowners on location of swift boxes on individual houses. Unfortunately, many developers, though often required to include swift boxes in their developments, do not always fulfil their obligations to do so. In Scotland, recently they made this a legal obligation.

For more information, or to purchase a box contact:  
[www.hampshireswifts.co.uk](http://www.hampshireswifts.co.uk)

*Rebecca Rickard*

.....back by popular demand

# 'The Geriactors'

Present

## 'A Comedy of Terrors'

Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup> 2026

6.30 for 7pm

**King's Somborne Village Hall**

Tickets available from:

Jonathan or Rebecca Rickard

[Rickardsathome@gmail.com](mailto:Rickardsathome@gmail.com) 01794 388680

or

**Kings Somborne Post Office**

Tickets: £25 each or tables (of 8) £200

To include 2 course Dinner

Pay Bar - Raffle

ALL PROFITS will go to Cancer Charities and Village organisations

# ‘Geriactors’ to return to Kings Somborne

The Geriactors have been a regular annual fixture in the village hall helping to raise thousands of pounds for charities over the years. 2026 will see them return with their new hilarious whodunnit ‘A comedy of Terrors’. Can you solve the mystery?

The event will be on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April in the village hall (see advert opposite) and will include a drinks reception, 2 course dinner, coffee and mints and a pay bar. All profits from this event will be divided between local cancer charities and various village organisations.

Events like this do take a lot of voluntary help to deliver. Thanks should be given to the previous team of Tony and Jo Brooke-Webb and John Davies amongst others who have

done a great job in raising money for charity over the years.

The responsibility for this event has now been handed over to a new team, so if you would like to help in any way or your village organisation needs some funds in return for some help do get in touch!

As in previous years, early booking is recommended as it has been popular in the past and spaces are limited.

So get a table of friends together who can help you solve the mystery or come as you are and we will allocate you to a table.

*Jonathan Rickard*

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

01794 388680

## Situation Vacant - Editor

Following the retirement of the Editor of the last 22 years, the remainder of the editorial team have remained in place and have acted as joint editors. They now realise that the additional responsibilities they now have are giving them too much to do.



What is needed is someone to volunteer to lead the team by coordinating the editing, overseeing the design of the magazine and joining in the rota of those editing and laying out the magazine; that is, a new Editor.

The new Editor needs to be familiar with Windows-based computing, but not necessarily an expert. Some experience of editing or publishing would be good but not essential.

If you think that you could fill this unpaid voluntary role, please contact any member of the team – their names and numbers are on page 1 of this magazine.

# What's on in March 2026

## Winchester Science Centre

**3 Mar *Night Sky Live:*** Family astro-adventure starting in the Planetarium followed by the South Downs

**Until 22 Mar *Van Gogh Alive:*** Where masterpieces come to life through light and sound.

**20 Mar *Home Educator Day:*** A "Blast Off" workshop designed specifically for home-educated children

## Museum of the Iron Age (Andover)

**Until 1 Mar *Doodle Room:*** A creative "Natural World" themed art and craft space for all ages to enjoy

## Winchester Cathedral

**9 Mar – 7 April *Sophie Hacker – A Winchester Retrospective:*** Art Exhibition

**18 March *Behind Locked Doors Tour:*** Exclusive behind the scenes tour with expert guides

**22–28 Mar *RAW Performance Week:*** Showcase of performance and art within the city

**27 Mar *Elgar's Dream of Gerontius:*** The Waynflete Singers and the English Chamber Orchestra

**From 28 Mar *Bunny Hop Trail:*** A family-friendly Easter trail around the cathedral grounds/city center

## The Gurkha Museum

**2 Mar–2 May *Forged in Steel:*** Exploring the skill, symbolism, and history of the iconic Gurkha blade

**5 Mar *World Book Day:*** A special event celebrating stories of Gurkha service and culture

**16 Mar *Volunteer Discovery Morning:*** A chance to meet the team and learn about getting involved

**27 Mar *Gurkha Curry Lunch:*** Traditional two-course Nepali lunch served in the McDonald Gallery

## Sir Harold Hillier Gardens

**8 Mar *Luxury Chocolate Making:*** A professional workshop for families to craft their own fine chocolates

**13 Mar *Forest Bathing:*** Relax, reflect and recharge

**15 Mar *Celebrate Mother's Day:*** In the Garden Restaurant & Tea Rooms

**28 Mar *Spring Seasonal Drawing:*** An art workshop to capture the garden's new buds and shoots

## Hawk Conservancy Trust

**15 Mar *Mother's Day Lunch:*** A celebratory meal at the Trust followed by the world-class flying displays

## Marwell Zoo

**Daily *Family Fun Days:*** Conservation-themed days out featuring animal talks and 140 acres of wildlife

**7 Mar *Safeguarding England's Rarest Lizard:*** Member event discovering the sand lizard project

## Winchester City Mill

**Daily *Milling Demonstrations:*** Experience the power of the River Itchen for making traditional flour

## Mottisfont

**1–15 Mar *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Trail:*** A family nature trail through the gardens

**21 Mar- 12 Apr *Easter Egg Hunt:*** A world of adventure on an Easter trail

*Karen Bolton*

# Theatres

## Theatre Royal Winchester

5-7 Mar **Macbeth**: A high-energy physical theatre production of Shakespeare's tragedy

8 Mar **Giselle (The Royal Ballet)**: A cinema screening of the hauntingly beautiful classic ballet

10-11 Mar **The Gregg School Musical**: Local students take to the stage

12 Mar **General Medical Emergency Ward 10**: Sharp, clinical comedy-drama set in the heart of the NHS

15 Mar **Thank You For The Music**: The ultimate tribute to ABBA

21 Mar **Winchester Comedy Festival: Spring Gala**: Top-tier stand-up comedy

24 Mar **You & Us**: An inclusive and contemporary dance performance

25 Mar **John Kearns: Tilting At Windmills**: Unique, absurdist stand-up

26 Mar **Cara Dillon: Coming Home**: Celebrated Irish folk singer

28 Mar **Moments**: A visual and physical theatre piece exploring the nature of time and memory

## Chesil Theatre, Winchester

27 Feb - 1 Mar **Take Ten - Angels**: An evening of ten original 10-minute plays  
(Note: The theatre is dark for the rest of March preparing for the April production of *Ladies in Lavender*).

## Plaza Theatre, Romsey

10-14 Mar **Into The Woods**: Fairy tale musical where stories intertwine with dark consequences.

20 Mar **Simon & Garfunkel Through the Years**: A world-class tribute

21 Mar **Purple Zeppelin**: A double tribute show celebrating the best of Deep Purple and Led Zeppelin.

## Salisbury Playhouse

13 Feb - 7 Mar **Rock & Roll Man**: The true story of Alan Freed, who coined the term "Rock & Roll."

5 Mar: **Daliso Chaponda: Topical**

**Storm**: Political and social satire

9-14 Mar **Murder at Midnight**: A gripping classic "whodunnit" thriller

19-21 Mar **The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)**: 37 plays in one hilarious night

24-28 Mar **The Beekeeper of Aleppo**: Powerful adaptation of the novel

## Mayflower Theatre, Southampton

1 Mar **Queen of the Night**: A tribute to the life and music of Whitney Houston

15 Mar **The Billy Joel Songbook**: Elio Pace and his band deliver an "uptown" tribute to the Piano Man

24-28 Mar **To Kill a Mockingbird**: Aaron Sorkin's acclaimed adaptation

31 Mar **Sounds of the 60s with Tony Blackburn**: The legendary DJ hosts a live celebration of the hits

## Kings Theatre, Portsmouth

2-7 Mar **2:22 - A Ghost Story**: The supernatural thriller that asks if you believe in the paranormal

10-14 Mar **Barnum - The Musical**: A spectacular, circus-infused musical f

15 Mar **The Spice Girls - The Theatre Show**: Nostalgic and high-energy tribute

19 Mar **Carmen**: A lavish production of Bizet's opera, with live orchestra.

20 Mar **UK Pink Floyd Experience**: A recreation of a Pink Floyd concert

## New Theatre Royal, Portsmouth

19 Mar **Macbeth**: A bold, reimagining of the play's descent into madness

22 Mar **Stars in Neverland**: A family-friendly theatrical adventure based on the world of Peter Pan

## The Lights, Andover

5 Mar **The Zoots: Sounds of the 60s**: A fast-paced musical journey through the hits

7 Mar **Rave On**: A thrilling tour through the rise of Rock and Roll

Karen Bolton

# Village diary for March 2026

Every Monday	6.00pm	Beavers
	7.30 pm	Badminton
Every Tuesday	10.30am	Drop in coffee (except the second Tuesday)
	10.00am	Somborne Cafe
	7.45pm	Somborne Singers
Every Wednesday	9.15am	WI Walking Group
	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.

<b>3rd</b>	Computer cafe	10.00am	<b>17th</b>	Computer cafe	10.00am
<b>3rd</b>	Pub quiz, The Crown		<b>24th</b>	Short Mat Bowls	2.00pm
<b>10th</b>	Short Mat Bowls	2.00pm	<b>18th</b>	Contemplative Prayer	7.30pm
<b>4th</b>	WI Sisterhood	8.00pm	<b>21st</b>	Soup & Sherry	12.30pm
<b>7th</b>	Soup & Sherry	12.30pm	<b>25th</b>	Somborne Society	7.30 for 8.00pm
<b>9th</b>	Parish Council	7.00pm	<b>26th</b>	Bike night	
<b>10th</b>	Epworth Lunch	12.30pm	<b>28th</b>	NT Live The Audience	2.15 for 3.00pm
<b>11th</b>	WI	7.30pm	<b>29th</b>	Footpath walk See page 19	2.00pm
<b>12th</b>	Community Cinema The Choral	7.15 for 8.00pm			

# District diary for March 2026

## Markets

See [hampshirefarmersmarkets.co.uk](http://hampshirefarmersmarkets.co.uk) for details of markets in *Romsey, Petersfield, Alton, Southsea, Fareham, Ringwood* through March

**07 Mar** *Lymington Charter Market*: (Trad'l market 90+ stalls 8am–4pm)

**07 Mar** *New Forest Marque Spring Market (Everton Nurseries)*:

**22 Mar** *Artisan Market at Hawk Conservancy Trust (Andover)*:

## North & Central Hampshire

**01 Mar** *Helios Installation at Winchester Cathedral*: Artist Luke Jerram's spectacular sun sculpture

**02 Mar** *The Science of Psychedelics (Winchester Science Centre)*: Expert-led talk on neurobiology

**15 Mar** *Spring Family Spotter (Hillier Gardens)*: Seasonal nature trail

**22 Mar** *Basingstoke Music and Arts Festival Gala (Queen Mary's College)*:

**31 Mar** *Treasured Collections at Hinton Ampner*: Exhibition of British-crafted historical pieces

## South & Coastal Hampshire

**03 Mar** *Portsmouth Ghost Tour (Spice Island Inn)*: 75-minute walk

**05 Mar** *Education Careers Fair (Portsmouth Guildhall)*: Networking/workshops for future educators

**07 Mar** *HIC Holi Hungama (Southampton)*: Vibrant Festival of Colours celebration

**08 Mar** *Embodied Knowledge Exhibition (God's House Tower)*: Contemporary art showcase

**12 Mar** *Professor Brian Cox (O2 Guildhall Southampton)*: Preview of the latest cosmic discoveries

**14 Mar** *A Night at the Opera (O2 Guildhall Southampton)*: Orchestral performance of classic arias

**21 Mar** *Day Fever (Southampton)*: Daytime clubbing event

## West Hampshire (New Forest)

**01 Mar** *Disney and Pixar 'Cars' at Beaulieu*: Interactive exhibition at the National Motor Museum

**06 Mar** *Historic New Forest Businesses (Heritage Centre, Lyndhurst)*: New exhibition opening

**07 Mar** *New Forest Hinton Admiral Hiking Trail*: Guided walking challenges across 10k, 15k, or 21k

**14 Mar** *Spring Farm Animals at Longdown Activity Farm*

**21 Mar** *Riverside Picnic at Buckler's Hard*: on the banks of Beaulieu River

**28 Mar** *Daffodil Meadow at Exbury Gardens*: the "River of Gold"

**31 Mar** *Spring Family Lino Printing (New Forest Heritage Centre)*: Creative workshop for all ages

## Active & Outdoor Hampshire

**01 Mar** *Go Ape Tree Top Adventure (Moors Valley)*: High-ropes /zip-wire

**07 Mar** *Bird Spotting at Titchfield Haven*: Wildlife watching

**10 Mar** *Flying Scotsman Experience (The Watercress Line)*

**15 Mar** *Spring Flower Walk (Various Locations)*

**20 Mar** *Seasonal Spotlight Tour: Camellias (Exbury Gardens)*:

**21 Mar** *Stansted House Trail Hike*: Organized walking challenge through the South Downs landscape

**28 Mar** *Tree Top Adventure (Southampton/Alice Holt)*: Outdoor climbing and forest obstacle courses  
**30 Mar** *Easter Trail on Hatch Grange (West End)*: Early start to the local community egg hunt trail

Karen Bolton

# **The Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP**

## **'A View from the Chair'**

**Stockbridge Town Hall Friday 27th March,  
6.40 pm to 8.30 pm.**

<https://buytickets.at/stockbridgeukraine/2024871>

In aid of StockbridgeUkraine, please join The Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP, Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons and Member of Parliament for Romsey and Southampton North, for an engaging and entertaining evening offering a unique behind-the-scenes insight into life at Westminster.

In "View from the Chair," Caroline reflects on her parliamentary journey both in and out of the Speaker's Chair – from representing the constituency to presiding over debates in the Commons, and the unexpected moments, personalities and pressures that come with one of the most distinctive roles in British public life.

Caroline will also share recent international experiences, including representing the Speaker of the House of Commons at the 4th Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform in Stockholm. This was an important opportunity to stand alongside parliamentary colleagues from across the world, reaffirming unwavering support for Ukraine and its sovereignty.

During the visit, Caroline also met with Ruslan Stefanchuk, Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada (the Ukrainian Parliament), to discuss ongoing cooperation between the UK and Ukrainian parliaments, underlining the strong parliamentary links between our two nations.

Doors open for drinks at 6.30 pm. Caroline will speak from 7 pm for approximately 30 minutes and take approximately 30 minutes of questions after. Finish time is approximate. All proceeds in aid of StockbridgeUkraine sending essential kit to the Ukrainian Frontline.

## TEST VILLAGES U3A

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm in Chilbolton Village Hall**

### **“My life in Quizzing”**

Kevin Ashman, winner of Mastermind and Brain of Britain and also known as the Grand Master of Eggheads, will be talking to TVU3A on Thursday 5th March about his life in quizzing.

**Thursday 9th April at 2pm in Chilbolton Village Hall**

### **“Not a drop to Drink? Hampshire water stress – Rivers, Reservoirs and You”**

a talk by Moya Grove.

Doors open at 1.40 pm for the presentation followed by refreshments

New members are very welcome to attend our meetings.

U3A is a UK-wide network of groups that provides the opportunity to socialise and learn for fun.

Find out more at: [u3a.org.uk](http://u3a.org.uk), or see the latest on our Test Villages group at: [testvillages.u3asite.uk](http://testvillages.u3asite.uk)

## **Footpath Walk 6 miles (9½ Km) 2½ hours** **Sunday 29 March 2:00 pm King’s Somborne Village Hall**

We leave the village along Winchester Road and take the path past the Beef Unit. We continue towards Up Somborne before turning left to take the steep path down to Little Somborne. At Little Somborne we head North to North Park Farm and the path back towards the village. We take the permissive footpath that avoids the A3057 and joins New Lane. Then it is down New Lane before returning to the Village Hall via footpath 14 and Muss Lane.



# SOMBORNE COMMUNITY CINEMA

PRESENTS



**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

at King's Somborne Village Hall

Doors open 2:15pm : Curtain up 3pm

Tickets £10 online at

[www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk](http://www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk)

or at the door on the day

Free Refreshments

Tea | Coffee | Biscuits

Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult

# SOMBORNE COMMUNITY CINEMA

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## Roofman

15



2h:6m

2025 Drama, Biography, Comedy

After escaping from prison, former soldier and professional thief Jeffrey Manchester finds a hideout inside a Toys "R" Us, surviving undetected for months while planning his next move. However, when Jeffrey falls for a divorced mother, his double life starts to unravel, setting off a compelling and suspenseful game of cat and mouse as his past closes in.

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026

## The Choral

15



1h:53m

2025 Drama, Music, History

Written by Alan Bennett. As war rages on the Western Front in 1916, the Choral Society in Ramsden, Yorkshire has lost most of its men to the army. The ambitious committee, determined to press ahead, decides to recruit local young men to swell their ranks. They must also engage a new chorus master, and despite their suspicions that he has something to hide, their best bet seems to be Dr. Henry Guthrie – driven, uncompromising, and recently returned from a career in Germany. As conscription papers start to arrive, the

whole community discovers that the best response to the chaos that is laying waste to their lives is to make music.

Tickets for films are just £6 each and are available from the Somborne Community Cinema web site at [www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk](http://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.

Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society Presents - A Murder Mystery

# The last day in the life of Lloyd Goddard

Lloyd Goddard is a successful businessman. One day, to the shock of everyone, he is found dead in his office, items strewn around that may or may not be clues to his killer. There are eight prime suspects. Come and join Chief Inspector Foot of the Yard (never known to give an inch) to see if you can work out who committed this dastardly crime.



Cabaret style tables of 6 / bring your own team or buy individual tickets for pot-luck team mates / provide your own picnic / wine for sale.

£10, Friday 10th & 11th April  
7pm for 8pm start  
Stockbridge Town Hall

Visit: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/sads>  
Or call 01264 513 676

**SADS**  
Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society

# King's Somborne Women's Institute



At the beginning of the meeting our Secretary, Linda, reminded us all of two forthcoming events - a visit on the following Monday to see the snowdrops and have tea at Longstock and the Bean Car Rally in April. It was noted that all those able to attend the New Year Lunch at the Crown had really enjoyed the occasion.

Sarah, our President, then introduced our speaker, John Hughes, whose subject for the evening was the Birds of Ascension Island. However, John's talk was far wider ranging than this title suggests. He set the scene describing the Island as a large barren volcanic mass with no natural water supply. It is located 8 degrees south of the Equator in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. It has no indigenous population and was discovered in 1501 by the Portuguese and was visited again two years later on Ascension Day, hence the name. Landing on the Island was very difficult as it has no natural harbour and the sea is often very rough.

Despite its inhospitable nature the Island has had a very important strategic role. The British occupied the island to prevent French from rescuing Napoleon from St Helena at the end of the Napoleonic Wars. During the Second World War it became the main air route from Britain to South Africa thus avoiding the Germans who were

occupying North Africa. More recently

it played an important role as a staging point during the Falklands conflict. It is still of strategic importance today and both the U.K. and the U.S.A share a base and a communication facility there.

The lack of an indigenous population and its isolated nature made the island a perfect location for birds to live and it became the home of large colonies of nesting seabirds. When bases were built and the island became populated, a small rocky outcrop called Boatswain Bird Island became the main nesting area for a variety of boobies, brown noddies and frigate birds. This island was ideal as it had steep sides and a flat top, perfect for nesting birds. Also, it was free of feral cats and rats which populated the main island. The cats have now been exterminated and some birds have started to nest again on the main islands. It is estimated that up to a million sea birds either live or come to breed on the island, some brought by the trade winds. The lack of a natural harbour and the constant rough seas has meant that the island is mainly free of tourists as cruise ships cannot easily land passengers. This has obviously contributed to the preservation of the large colonies of nesting sea birds. It has also meant it is an ideal breeding ground for sea turtles.

John illustrated his talk with amazing photographs both of the island and the lovely seabirds and his presentation was thoroughly enjoyed by us all.

*Eileen Reynolds*



# Creamy leek, cabbage and bacon savoury crumble

A good winter dish—serves 4

300g small potatoes or larger ones halved  
300g Savoy cabbage shredded, or spinach  
100g bacon lardons  
2 tbs olive oil  
400g trimmed leeks, sliced into rings  
½ tsp grated nutmeg  
40g plain flour  
900ml milk

## Crumble

120g plain or spelt flour  
80g porridge oats  
50g mixed seeds/nuts  
80g butter melted  
Handful of mixed herbs, finely chopped

- 1) Set oven at 190 deg. Boil potatoes in largish pan for 15 mins, adding cabbage for last 2 mins. Drain and allow to steam dry for 5 mins.
- 2) In large frying pan, dry fry lardons for 5 mins, stirring until pale and golden. Add the oil and leeks and fry, stirring for 5 mins more. Then add nutmeg and flour and stir. Cook for further 2 mins, then gradually add milk. Once you have a thin paste, pour in all the milk, bring to a simmer and cook 5-6 mins, stirring often, until sauce coats the back of a spoon. Season.
- 3) Crumble—put flour oats, seeds and herbs in a mixing bowl and season. Pour melted butter over and mix until combined.
- 4) Place potatoes and cabbage into 2 litre baking dish—pour over sauce and gently mix, then scatter crumble over the top. Bake for 30-35 mins until crisp on top and bubbling round the sides—then allow to stand for 10 mins before serving.

Enjoy!



# Services for the over 50s

Sue 07891 930 684 & Gill 01794 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 March 10th

12.30pm £7

\*Hunter's Stew\* \*Potatoes\*

\*Sweetcorn\* \*Peas\*

\*Trifle\*

\*Coffee \*

Booking essential - Marilyn 389 356



## Over 50s Minibus Trips

Booking essential

Phone Sue 07891930684

Thursday March 19th 2026

## Fareham

£10.00 Pick up 10.00am Home for 4.00pm

## Stockbridge Practice News – February 2026

### **Are you prescribed a ‘controlled’ medication?**

Controlled medications are regulated due to their potential for misuse, addiction and harm. There are specific rules around the storage and dispensing of these medications, which mean that when a patient or their representative comes to collect



it, we need two dispensers to sign it out. This will sometimes mean there is a short wait. We also need to see identification of the person collecting the medication. Controlled medication can be collected from the Stockbridge Surgery between 9am-12.45pm and 1.45-5pm, Monday-Friday.

### **Are you going to be abroad for more than 3 months?**

By law, the NHS ceases to have responsibility for the medical care of patients when they leave the UK. If you will be out of the country for less than 3 months, we can provide repeat medication. Please provide us with the dates you will be leaving and returning to the UK.

If you will be out of the country for more than 3 months, you will need to source your medication in the country you will be living in. GPs are not indemnified or insured to give medical advice or treatment while a patient is outside of the UK

### **Waiting Room space**

We have limited space, particularly in the Stockbridge waiting room. Ideally, we would suggest that no more than one person waits with and accompanies a patient to their appointment.

# Looking a bit fishy...

On the third Sunday afternoon in February, our Messy Church children and families were looking forward to another of our Bible stories with the theme of 'Facing New Challenges'. Today we heard the story of Jonah and the Whale (or a very Big Fish, at any rate!) Jonah was facing a very big challenge indeed! As well as the story,



there were crafts, fun, singing and food.

God had a task for the prophet Jonah – he was to go to the city of Nineveh and tell the people they had got to change their ways. But Jonah ran away from the Lord and boarded a ship headed far away. That night a storm rose, the ship was in peril. When Jonah told the crew of his bid to escape from the Lord, they threw him overboard and the storm ceased. Poor old Jonah faced a watery death, but God had other plans, and saved Jonah's life with the help of a huge fish which swallowed Jonah whole. After three days, the poor old fish had had enough of Jonah, and threw him up on the beach alive!

Jonah decided that he would go to Nineveh with God's message after all. When the city's people turned from their wickedness and repented, you might think Jonah would have been pleased, but he wasn't. So God had to show Jonah how much he cared for the city and its people.

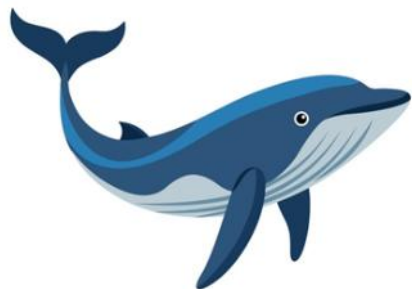


We played a 'hunt for Jonah' game, made big fish with bananas and chocolate bits, learned some whale-origami, experimented with some deep-sea weaving, and prepared a prayer-tree, while the catering team prepared fish finger sandwiches.

Then we watched a story video, sang 'My God is so big', and brought our prayers to God. After that we all gathered round the food table for...fish finger sandwiches, cakes and squash. We all love Messy Church teatimes!

Our next Messy Church will be on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March at the Methodist Chapel at 3pm. All families are welcome! See you then?

*Howard*



Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society  
**OPEN AUDITIONS**



## The Importance of Being Earnest

Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society is excited to announce open auditions for Oscar Wilde's classic. All are happily welcome.

Reading of the play: Thursday 5th March at 7pm  
Auditions: Sunday 8th March at 2pm & Tuesday 10th March at 7pm Stockbridge Town Hall

Performances: 2nd, 3rd & 4th July  
The Burrow, Longstock.

If you are interested in auditioning but can't make the above dates, please email [Stockbridgeamdrams@gmail.com](mailto:Stockbridgeamdrams@gmail.com) and we'll get back to you.

**SADS**  
Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society

Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society Presents

## Great Company

Come and enjoy an evening of playlets and stories written by SADS members

### Home Grown

Tuesday 3rd March 2026  
7.30pm, Stockbridge Town Hall

You don't have to be a member of SADS to come along, (but we'd love it if you'd join) We're always looking for new blood to act, direct and be part of the backstage team. No experience necessary!

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or find us on Facebook

**SADS**  
Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society

**Elgar: The Dream of Gerontius**  
Winchester Cathedral  
Friday March 27th 2026  
at 7.30 pm

Waynflete Singers  
Winchester Cathedral Chamber Choir  
English Chamber Orchestra

Mezzo-soprano: Dame Sarah Connolly  
Tenor: Andrew Kennedy  
Bass: Andrew Foster-Williams

Conductor: Andrew Lumsden  
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[www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/](http://www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/whats-on/)  
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# REMEMBERING A LOVED ONE – SPONSOR A LILY

Easter Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2026 will soon be with us. It is the day we remember our loved ones who are no longer with us. The Church will be decorated with lilies in remembrance of them and their names displayed in the church on a pillar, to be remembered in prayers. If you would like to sponsor a lily in memory of a loved one, please contact me.

**Sponsorship is £5.00 per Lily per person remembered.** Enclose the name or names of your loved ones you wish remembered and your name as the donor, in an envelope and drop through the **letter box in the Vestry Door inside the parish Church** or through my letter box—**Pollyann Monk, Rookley Farm, Up Somborne.**

If you do not wish names to be printed but still wish to contribute with a donation for silent remembrance, please state in your information that you do not wish to display their name(s) but still indicate who it is from.



Thank you  
**Pollyann Monk**  
01794 388482 or pollyann@afmonk.co.uk

## STOCKBRIDGE TOWN HALL

Thursday 26th March  
6:30 for 7pm.

### The East India Company:

'The Corporation that Changed the World'

by Professor John McAleer.

From modest origins as a small Elizabethan trading venture to a global empire which controlled Britain's trade with Asia for nearly 250 years. This illustrated talk will tell that story of wealth, power, and the pursuit of fortune.



Dr John McAleer is Associate Professor of History at the University of Southampton. He was formerly Curator of Imperial and Maritime History at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.

Admission: £20 to include a glass of wine.

To register for this event in advance, please pay:  
St Peter's Stockbridge PCC (ref 'Talk 26 March'),  
acc no 17804768, Code 30-98-90.

You can also send a cheque, payable to St Peter's Stockbridge PCC and ref Talk 26 March on the back, to John Oldfield, 3 Wheelers Yard, Oxford Road, Sutton Scotney, Winchester SO21 3QZ.

**All proceeds to St Peter's, Stockbridge**

## NOTA BENE SINGERS

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 5pm  
St Peter's Church, Stockbridge

"The light we cast"

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Directed by John Holloway



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## An invitation to Winter Warmer Soup & Sherry Lunch

7th and 21st March

Parish Church  
12.30pm-1.30pm



**A warming glass of sherry, a delicious  
bowl of soup, and plenty of good friendship awaits!**

### Church Merchandise

The Parish Church has a supply of tea towels showing scenes from the Village priced at £5 each and mugs illustrating the Church and School priced at £7.50.

A variety of cards are also available

The tea towels are always available at the Post Office and all items from Louise (389364) or Eileen (388107)



### DO YOU LIKE TO WALK?

Every Wednesday 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 Wednesday or phone me, Frances Shone, on 388626 for more information.

## Rev Dr Rosie Baker

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Rosie Baker on Sunday, 8th February. She was our minister at King's Somborne Methodist Church for many years and a great friend and supporter. Since her stroke two years ago life has not been easy for her and when we've visited, communication has been difficult.

May she now rest in peace.

Rosie's funeral is to be held at Test Valley Crematorium on Friday 6th March at 12 noon.

*Marion and Marilyn*

## World Day of Prayer Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026 2.30 p.m. in the Parish Church



This year it is the turn of the parish church to host the World Day of Prayer service. We do hope you will come and join us. This year it has been prepared by Christian women from Nigeria. The service will be followed by refreshments.

## 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.



## Parish Home Group

Weekly on Thursdays, 7.30 - 9.00pm during term time

Contact Howard Rowe for details

[howard\\_rowe@btopenworld.com](mailto:howard_rowe@btopenworld.com) or 01794 388400

# Church services in March 2026

## Parish Church

**Sunday, 1st March—Second Sunday of Lent**

**08.00 am Holy Communion (1662)**

**10.00 am Morning Worship**

*Readings:*

Louise Causer: *Romans 4.1-5, 13-17*

Guy Boney: *John 3.1-17*

**Friday, 6th March**

**2.30 pm World Day of Prayer in the Parish Church**

**Sunday, 8th March—Third Sunday of Lent**

**10.00 am Holy Communion**

*Readings:*

David Evans: *Romans 5.1-11*

Alwena Rowe: *John 4.5-42*

**Sunday, 15th March—Mothering Sunday**

**10.00 am Holy Communion**

*Readings:*

Sue Jackson: *Exodus 2.1-10*

Linda Aucock: *Luke 2.33-35 and John 19.25-27*

**Sunday, 22nd March—Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**10.00 am Holy Communion**

*Readings:*

Jane Vaux: *Ezekiel 37.1-14*

Alwena Rowe: *John 11.1-45*

**Sunday, 29th March—United Morning Worship**

**Meet at Methodist Chapel 9.40 am**

*Readings:*

David Pye: *Philippians 2.5-11*

Sandie Pepperell: *Matthew 21.1-11*

## Methodist Church

**March 1st 10.30 am**

Mr Graham Hepburn

**March 8th 10.30 am**

Mrs Su Parsons

**March 15th No morning service  
3.00 pm Messy Church**

**March 22nd 10.30 am**

Rev John Archer

**March 29th Palm Sunday  
United Service at Parish Church**

Meet at Methodist Church to walk to  
Parish Church 9.40 am

## 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](http://www.hampshiredowns.org.uk) and

[www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk](http://www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk)

# The Vicar's last Word

Dear friends,

Welcome to March everyone. March seems like a pivotal month. Winter is drawing to a close, the daffodils make their appearance the hedgerows start to wake up and the first day of Spring is on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

There is more good news in that the Rev Ann Deveraux has been appointed to the role of House for Duty Priest in King's Somborne and Ashley and will be licensed in St Peter and St Paul's on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July at 7.30pm. Ann is really looking forward to getting to know everyone and we hold her in our prayers.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of February, the season of Lent began with Ash Wednesday and so we travel along the well-trodden path, through Lent, through Holy Week to the joy of the risen Christ on Easter Sunday. For Christians this is the most profound time of year, a time of reflection, a time to think about where we have gone wrong and to commit to positive change.

For 2000 years we have done this and there is a sense of connection right back to those events in Jerusalem at the time when Christ walked the earth. We are also connected, I think, to all those people who have worshipped in our churches through past generations as well as those in the world today. I find a great comfort from that sense of continuity and remain very grateful for being a part of that.

However, much of the world does seem to be in turmoil, politically, socially, economically and environmentally to name just a few. We hear of conflicts around the world which can make us fearful and anxious not only for those directly affected but for ourselves as we worry for the future. But that does not mean that there is nothing that we can do though, we help where we can, be good to those that we meet and look for ways to serve the wider good.

To help me discern how to do this I often pray the Serenity prayer. I hope that it helps you too.

## *The Serenity Prayer*

God grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change;  
courage to change the things I can;  
and wisdom to know the difference.  
Amen.

God bless, *Tom*

Rev Tom Benson, Priest in charge

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## **The Somborne & District Society**

Talks on **Local History** and related subjects.

Visits to places of interest - Quarterly Newsletter

*Visitors always welcome!*

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4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month - 8.00pm, in King's Somborne Village Hall

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