

THE GAUNTLET

THE LOCAL MAGAZINE FOR THE SOMBORNES AND ASHLEY

OCTOBER 2026



PUBLISHED BY THE CHURCH IN THE SERVICE OF THE PARISH

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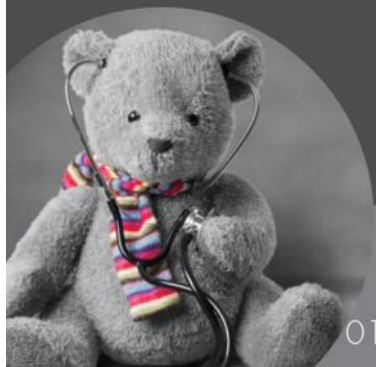
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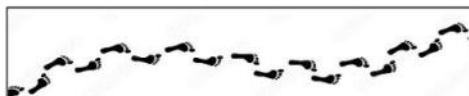
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Useful names and numbers

Parish Church

Associate Priest
Rev Ann Devereux 01794 368335
revadev316@gmail.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
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

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Police non-emergency 101
www.hampshire.police.uk

Police emergency 999

Parish Council

Jordan Matthews
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

Editors: Alex Preston 07775 335356
Sandie Pepperell 01794 388021
Sue Jackson 07891 930684
Gill Butler 01794 388831
Julia Bowen 07765 106 854

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Distribution: Carolyn Ryan 01794 388743

Please deliver articles for *The Gauntlet*
to **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 - 12.00noon at the Village Hall. Hands-on support and advice for all ages and experience on using internet, email etc.

Contact: Roger Stephens 07483 211834

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

Garden waste scheme

Garden waste will be collected in w/c 3rd 17th and 31st August 2026.

Household waste

Non-recyclable household waste (black bins) will be collected in w/c 5th October, 12th and 26th October. Recyclable household waste (brown bins) will be collected on 5th October and 19th October.

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 Wednesday of each month in term time, 3.30pm - 5.30pm at the Methodist Church.

Contact: Sam Barnes 07742 077114
sambarnesyouthworker@gmail.com

Neighbourcare

Transport to essential appointments.

Contacts: 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: kssa.contact@gmail.com

Scouts

Beavers Mondays 6.00pm

Contact: 11th Romsey Scouts @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 07765 106854
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 Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Contact: Kathryn Lee
sombornesisterhood@gmail.com

Somborne Solo's Group

Meet 3rd Wednesday of the month for lunch at a local pub. For people who are on their own.

Contact: Sue Fundrey 07720746516
sue.fundrey@btinternet.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: Rob Draper 07960 995 280
Heidi Barnes 07943 818 019

Marquee Markets 2026



We would like to say a big 'thank you' to all who helped or participated in the

Marquee Markets this year. Over £4,000 raised this year, despite the bad weather on the last Saturday. Well done to everyone involved.

Thank you to all the stall holders, providers of cakes, books, bric a brac, produce and raffle prizes and of course everyone who attended. We do hope you enjoyed yourselves. All the money raised goes towards the general running costs of the church.

Norman Denison and his wife Amy started the idea of Marquee Markets 17 years ago and what a tremendous success they have been over the years.

We hope to see you all again next year.

Linda Aucock and Louise Causer

Change!

Messy Church will now meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 3.30-5.30pm, rather than on Sundays, at the Epworth Hall.



Free fun, crafts, Bible stories and food for families. All are welcome!

Family Friday at St Peter and St Paul's Church, King's Somborne

We have started a new initiative at church this September – Family Friday, a relaxed and friendly gathering for families after school. We plan to meet every second Friday of the month.

Our first afternoon was full of energy, laughter and a little bit of mess! We made cress pots and thought about how we care for God's creation and for one another,

as we begin a new school year. There was energetic singing of "Our God is a Great Big God", complete with actions!

It is fair to say that the energy levels rose considerably as we sang and moved, discovering that worship doesn't always mean sitting quietly. And, of course, no Family Friday would be complete without cake! It was a lovely way to start the new school year together – making, singing, chatting and discovering that faith can be fun.



We look forward to seeing Family Friday grow as a welcoming place where families can enjoy friendship and think about how we can care for the wonderful world and the people around us.

Our next Family Friday is from **3.15pm to 4pm on Friday 9th October 2026**. Come and join us.

Ann Devereux

Remembrance 2026



In 2026 the Royal British Legion are remembering military and civilian service. Service, the act of defending and protecting the nation's democratic freedoms and way of life, is rarely without cost to those who serve. Physical, mental or emotional injury or trauma; the absence of time with loved ones; or the pressures that come from serving, highlight why the Remembrance of service is so important.

The Armed Forces continue to play a vital role in Britain today, at home and overseas, from peacekeeping and disaster relief, and we remember the contribution of those currently serving in the Armed Forces and especially those on NATO front lines in Europe.

The Legion holds a fund-raising drive each year in the weeks before Remembrance Sunday in November, during which artificial Remembrance poppy red poppies, meant to be worn on clothing, are offered to the public in return for a donation to the Legion.

The Poppy is the trademark of The Royal British Legion, RBL states "The red poppy is our registered mark and its only lawful use is to raise

funds for the Poppy Appeal". The paper poppies are manufactured at the Poppy Factory in Richmond.

The simple act of wearing a poppy sends a personal message of thanks and support for the Armed Forces community to see, and ask the public not to underestimate the impact that wearing a poppy has on those who serve, and their families.

In Somborne and District, the door to door Poppy sellers will be coming around from **Saturday 24th October until Wednesday 11th November**. There will also be a table for donations outside Cross Stores on the mornings of Saturday October 24th, 31st and November 7th, 10.00am until 1pm.

After many years some of our street collectors are retiring which we acknowledge with grateful thanks, so if you could possibly find your way of volunteering especially Winchester Road, I would love to hear from you.

Sandie Pepperell
RBL Co-
ordinatorppperell1@gmail.com
01794 388021

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

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** 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

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

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

‘Travelling to Japan without leaving the Village Hall’

Come and join us for an enjoyable talk with
wonderful coloured slides by
Sabrina Mercer and Peter Bacon
who know Japan well

**Sunday 18th October 2.30pm
in the Village Hall**

Retiring collection in aid of ‘The Friends’
Refreshments from Japan will be available afterwards

Everyone is welcome. Do come along and support this
worthwhile charity which helps keep the fabric of our Parish
Church in working order to be available for services, baptisms,
weddings and funerals right here in the centre of our village.

Photos for the cover

We now have the cover of *The Gauntlet* printed in colour by a commercial printer. To ensure that the printed pages are back in time to be collated with the rest of the magazine, I need to send them before the 15th. So, I can only consider photos for the cover if I receive them by the 12th. To make sure that they reach me without delay, please now send them directly to me at harvey.saunders1@btinternet.com

This month’s cover photo was supplied by—Harvey Saunders—thank you!

This month’s editor of *The Gauntlet* is Sandie Pepperell

Somborne Sessions

16th Season



Somborne Sessions began in November 2011 with Polly and the Billets Doux and a loan of £400 from the village hall. Since then they have run 77 sessions with 6 more coming this season, starting this month, bringing live professional music making to our village.

The idea sprang from members of Broadband, our very own village band, whose members went to a lot of music festivals and performances and had the brilliant thought that they could use their own lighting and sound equipment in the village hall for other bands.

The team hear bands at other venues, and if they appeal, hire them either through agencies or just by contact with band members. They welcome them to the village with cake and an evening meal and find them local accommodation if required. The bands are always thrilled with the welcome they get here, and the team find the visitors to be interesting people, passionate about their music.

Proceeds from the Sessions provide a valuable source of income for the village hall amounting to more than

£40,000 over the years...

not a bad return on a loan of £400!

Bands must be professional, not cover bands, and the team try to cover a broad spectrum of music making. Bands are expensive to hire, but the sessions have never made a loss, and the team keep a fund to cover that eventuality.

The most difficult evening was when there had been a leak in the roof, and as the team arrived in the afternoon, a kitchen cupboard and all its crockery came crashing to the floor! The clean-up and temporary repairs were only just finished before the show went on!

So come along and support the Sessions! Not many villages are so lucky as to have a dedicated team of volunteers to arrange live music regularly. You can buy a season ticket for £95 (no booking fee) from sombornesessionsmusic@gmail.com or subscribe to the mailing list to find out about upcoming gigs on sombornesessions.co.uk

Sue Jackson was talking to

Trevor and Carolyn Ryan

Did you know?

You can experience The Gauntlet in glorious Technicolour by visiting www.thesombornes.org.uk

Village Hall

Well, as we fast approach the last quarter of the year, with a sweltering summer behind us, the Village Hall Committee met to determine any price increases for the coming year. I am pleased to say that we will be holding the hire charges for 2027 at the same level as we have been charging this year. Hopefully this will allow everyone, especially the regular hirers, to plan their budgets for the coming year.

The hall continues to be used by a wide range of the different groups of the local community and we do try our

very best to ensure that your event goes off without any problems. If you feel you have a particular need, above and beyond the simple hire of one or more of the facilities, please get in touch with either me or one of the committee so that we can ensure your event runs smoothly. General contact details are on the website at <https://www.kingssombornevillagehall.co.uk/contact> and my email address for the hall is ian.newnham@ksvillagehall.uk

Ian Newnham

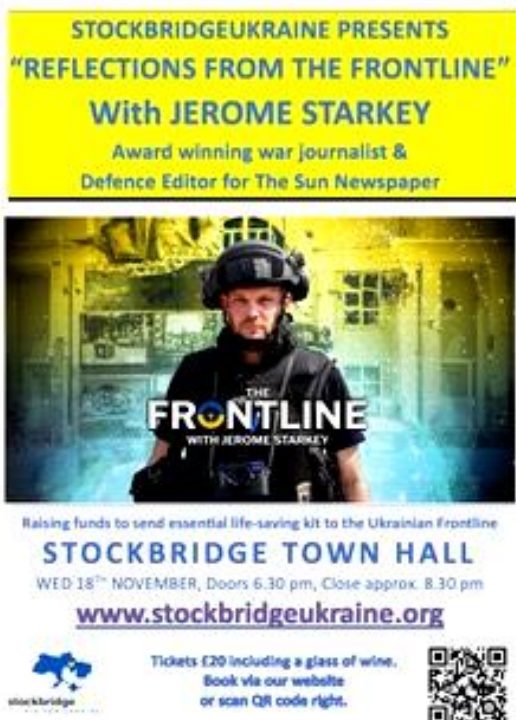
StockbridgeUkraine Team

Jerome Starkey, Defence Editor for the Sun Newspaper, award winning war correspondent and Presenter of the Sun's most followed Youtube Channel, will be live at **Stockbridge Town Hall on 18th November.**

And event link here:

<https://buytickets.at/stockbridgeukraine/2337305>

Amanda Lambert
StockbridgeUkraine Team



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Defence Editor for The Sun Newspaper

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WED 18TH NOVEMBER, Doors 6.30 pm, Close approx. 8.30 pm
www.stockbridgeukraine.org

Tickets £20 including a glass of wine.
Book via our website
or scan QR code right.

Somborne Sisterhood



Somborne Sisterhood masters Tai Chi!

Last month the Somborne Sisterhood was introduced to Tai Chi and Chi Kung by Malcolm. Tai Chi is a mind-body practice, which originated in China as a martial art, has value in treating or preventing many health problems. It uses slow, gentle, flowing movements and deep breathing. There are five main styles: chen (older,



dynamic), yang (slow and graceful), wu (learning frames (sun (agile footwork) and hao (internal focus).

Before we tried some moves, Malcolm spent some time telling us about the history and development of this martial art as well as the health benefits of this gentle form of exercise. He firmly believes that it can alleviate, not cure, the aches and pains of some conditions, improve breathing problems and generally improve an individual's wellbeing.

Malcolm then demonstrated a series of

moves which, to the uninitiated, looked very strange. I have to say that, at this point, I was very cynical. However, we were then taken through a routine with him. We focused on breathing and pushing away bad energy and bringing in the good; all to do with the yin and the yang. The yin symbolizes the moon, earth, passivity, cold and the feminine. The yang symbolizes the sun, heaven, activity,

warmth and the masculine. Neither force exists without the other. He explained that the focus on breathing can also take away the 'monkey chatter' that many of us have constantly going on in our minds. It worked for me!

Malcolm and his partner give many classes locally both

during the day and in the evenings in person as well as on zoom. They are as groups but can also be tailored to individual needs. For more information on these, go to their website.

www.taichi4healthandwellbeing.com

For our October meeting, something quite different. We will be taken through cartoon creations by Ceratopia.

Guests welcome £7

For more information, contact sombornesisterhood@gmail.com

SOMBORNE COMMUNITY CINEMA

Dead Man's Wire

Thursday 8th October 2026

2026 History, Crime, Drama: 1h:44m

A dramatic true story. In February 1977, disgruntled real-estate developer Tony Kirtsis takes mortgage broker Richard Hall hostage demanding an apology and cancellation of a debt. While tied up in his own apartment a tense 63-hour ordeal unfolds between the two as the authorities try to diffuse the standoff.



You, Me & Tuscany

Thursday 12th November 2026

2026 Romantic Comedy 1h:45m

Delightful romantic comedy set in the beautiful Tuscan countryside starring Halle Berry. When Anna (Berry) crashes at an empty Italian villa posing as the owner's fiancée she discovers an unexpected romance that could transform her life.



Tickets for films are just £6 + booking fee online 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 Women's Institute



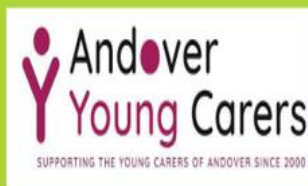
On Wednesday 9th September members enjoyed learning about the work of Andover Young Carers. Our speaker was Amanda Kelly, one of their Charity Executives.

Andover Young Carers has been raising awareness, providing support and advocating on behalf of the young carers of Andover and surrounding villages since 2000. A Young Carer is a child or young person under 18 who provides regular or on-going care and emotional support to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses substances.

Working with local schools and other agencies, they identify potential young carers, who may benefit from the weekly support groups held at their bungalow. They also support

structured groups in schools and run activities during the school holidays. The trusty group mini-bus is vital for transporting the children to and from the sessions.

Amanda described how they aim to provide a friendly, supportive environment where, as one young carer said, 'I get time to be myself'. They are a place where young carers can be young people and have time away from adult responsibilities.



Amanda finished with this message "being a young carer is not a choice – it's just what we do". It was a very thought provoking evening. More information on their website: Andover Young Carers.



Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 14th October**. This will be an Open meeting for ALL to enjoy – we will welcome Alan Gregory who will tell us about the work of the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission** in the Village Hall beginning at 7.30pm

Louise Causer

Stockbridge Practice News – August 2026

Good luck to all our patients starting school for the first time, or going to a new school, college or university this Autumn.

Just a reminder that if you're going to a boarding school, you will probably be registered with the GP at the school. If you're moving away for university, please remember to register with a local GP.



Meningitis B Vaccination

1 September 2007 and 31 August 2008 (school Year 13 age group in the academic year 2025 to 2026) and individuals turning 25 years of age on or after 21 July 2026 (born on or after 21 July 2001) and who are due to start undergraduate higher education for the first time in autumn 2026 are entitled to receive the Meningitis B vaccination. This is being given at local pharmacies. Please go to www.nhs.uk/book-menb to book an appointment.

Healthier Together

If you are a parent / guardian or regularly care for children or are pregnant, please consider using the Healthier Together website or app which offers information and advice on health conditions and how to get support.

Go to www.healthiertogether.nhs.uk

Pharmacy First

Just a reminder that many pharmacies, including our local Stockbridge Pharmacy, can now offer treatment for many minor conditions including shingles for anyone aged 18+, sinusitis for anyone aged 12+, sore throats for anyone aged 5+, impetigo and infected insect bites for anyone from the age of 1 year up, middle ear infections for children aged 1-17 years and uncomplicated urinary tract infections for women aged 16-64 years.

Badminton Free Taster



We have a few free places, so if you would like to try badminton this Autumn, come along for a free taster session. We play for fun and can lend you a racquet.

Please contact me and come and join us on a **Monday evening 7.30pm, Village Hall**

Sue Jackson 07891 930 684

Harvest Festival at All Saints Little Somborne



throated singing of harvest hymns, a delightful walk through the deer park to Somborne Park for a wonderful tea generously provided by Annabel and Freddie Hervey Bathurst where we could catch up with friends. Utterly delightful.

Sue Jackson

The theme of the service at Little Somborne on 20th September was 'Gratitude'.

Ann Devereux encouraged us to be grateful for all the food we receive, even if we buy it in aisle 8 in Sainsbury's.

And what a lot we had to be grateful for: a sparklingly beautiful afternoon, a beautifully decorated charming little church, a lovely service with full



KING'S SOMBORNE

WORKING MEN'S CLUB

REGULAR OPENING HOURS

MONDAY

6PM - 10PM

FRIDAY

6PM - 10PM

SATURDAY

6PM - 10PM

SUNDAY

6PM - 10PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY
★ 11TH OCTOBER ★



BINGO
FROM 8PM

CLUB OPEN
FROM 6PM

FRIDAY
★ 16TH OCTOBER ★



QUIZ FROM 8PM
ADULTS ONLY

CLUB OPEN
FROM 6PM

SUNDAY
★ 25TH OCTOBER ★



BINGO
FROM 8PM

CLUB OPEN
FROM 6PM

SATURDAY
★ 31ST OCTOBER ★



HALLOWEEN
DISCO
FROM 8PM

CLUB OPEN
FROM 6PM



★ **SKITTLES** ★
EVERY MONDAY FROM 8PM
CLUB OPEN FROM 6PM

★ *Everyone Welcome!* ★

Working Men's Club

A Huge Thank You to Sonya for Cropswap!

Over the past few weeks, we have been lucky enough to have our Cropswap taking place at the club, and we would like to say a huge thank you to Sonya for all her hard work in helping to organise and run it.

Cropswap has been a lovely way for members of our community to come together, share unwanted items and give things a new home. We have seen some fantastic items being brought along, and it has been wonderful to see everyone getting involved and supporting the idea.

A special thank you goes to Sonya for

putting in the time and effort to make the Cropswap happen and for helping create such a welcoming and enjoyable few weeks.

We would also like to thank everyone who came along, donated, swapped and supported the Cropswap. It has been lovely to see the community getting behind it.

We hope you have enjoyed it as much as we have, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for the next Cropswap!

Thank you, Sonya!

Heidi Barnes

Secretary

Looking for somewhere to host your own event?

King's Somborne Working Men's Club is available to hire for birthdays, family celebrations, anniversaries, meetings, fundraisers and more!

If you're looking for a friendly, welcoming venue for your next event, get in touch to find out more about availability and facilities.

Email us on: kswmcevents@yahoo.com

We'd love to welcome you to the club

Village diary for October 2026

Every Monday	6.00 pm	Beavers
	6.00 pm	Monday Club at the Club
	7.30 pm	Badminton (September to April)
	7.30 pm	Skittles
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

3rd	Harvest Supper	7.00pm	16th	Quiz at the Club	8.00pm
6th	Computer cafe	10.00am	20th	Computer cafe	10.00am
6th	Short Mat Bowls	2.00pm	20th	Short Mat Bowls	2.00pm
7th	WI Sisterhood	7.30pm	21st	Wednesday Wanderers	10.00am
8th	Community Cinema Dead Man's Wire	7.15pm for 8.00pm	21st	Somborne Solos	Lunch
9th	Family Friday at the Church	3.15pm	21st	Contemplative Prayer	7.30pm
10th	Somborne Sessions Rob Clamp & Trio	8.00pm	23rd	SGM at the Club	8.00pm
11th	Bingo at the Club	8.00pm	25th	Bingo at the Club	8.00pm
12th	Parish Council	7.00pm	28th	Women's Fellowship	2.30pm
13th	Epworth Lunch	12.30pm	28th	Somborne Society	7.30pm for 8.00pm
14th	WI	7.30pm	31st	Hallowe'en Disco At the Club	8.00pm
15th	Minibus to Dorchester	10.00am			

District diary for October 2026

Crosfield Hall, Romsey—3 Oct
Romsey Literary Day - “Detecting, Investigating, Creating” Mystery-themed talks and creative sessions.

Plaza Theatre, Romsey—2 Oct
Yourhythmics – Celebration of Annie Lennox and The Eurythmics with Stacy Green.

12-17 Oct Last Of The Red Hot Lovers – Hilarious 1960s play about one man’s attempt to take part in the sexual revolution.

23-24 Oct Fleetwood Mac Tribute – celebrating the classics

Mottisfont (near Romsey) - All Oct
The Art & Craft of Print Exhibition – Immersive printmaking exhibition featuring leading artis.

3 Oct Live clarinet music – From The Beetles to the musicals, enjoy some live music

Romsey Abbey—30 Oct Light in the Abbey - Family Halloween Event - Crafts, games, face-painting and the famous teddy zipline.

Romsey Farmers’ Market

4 Oct Monthly Market - Local produce and artisan stalls.

Winchester Royal Hotel

24-25 Oct Fawlty Towers Weekend - Immersive comedy dining with Basil, Sybil and Manuel.

Guildhall Winchester

8 Oct Michael Palin: In the Philippines LIVE TOUR – An evening that goes far beyond the television series.

15 Oct Between the Covers Live - Celebrating Agatha Christie - Theatre talk celebrating Christie’s legacy.

30 Oct The Best of Bubl  – Featuring Josh Hindle and his sensational live band.

The Arc, Winchester

29 Oct The Spooky Science Show! - Halloween-themed science fun for families.

The Watercress Line

29-31 Oct Halloween Witches of Watercress Woods - Immersive family steam-train Halloween adventure. **29-31 Oct** Halloween Horror Train (18+) - After-dark fright ride with live scares.

Winchester Farmers’ Market

11 Oct Monthly Market - Regional produce and craft stalls.

25 Oct Monthly Market - Second October market date.

Salisbury City Hall

1 Oct Jonathan Pie - The End of the World According to Jonathan Pie - Satirical political comedy.

2 Oct Tim Peake - Astronauts: The Quest to Explore Space - Talk from the British astronaut.

8 Oct Seth Lakeman - Freedom Fields 20th Anniversary Tour - Folk-rock performance.

10 Oct Justin Hayward - The Story in Your Eyes - Moody Blues frontman live in concert.

31 Oct Nightmare in Nashville - Indoor Rodeo Show - Country-themed Halloween rodeo spectacular.

Mayflower, Southampton

9 Oct Buffy Revamped – Spike brings to life all 144 episodes through his perspective.

21 Oct Rhys James Chop Logic – Rhys has made a discovery that could fix everything!

29 Oct Family Theatre Trail Autumn 2026 – Step into the spotlight and solve the mystery!

Karen Bolton

The Story of Halloween

Halloween today is full of pumpkins, costumes and excited children racing from door to door — but its story began long before trick-or-treating arrived in Britain. The celebration has travelled through centuries, changing shape as communities added their own traditions, crafts and seasonal fun.

Over 2,000 years ago, Celtic communities marked Samhain, the end of harvest and the start of winter. Families gathered around fires, shared food and told stories. It wasn't spooky — it was a moment to pause, reflect and enjoy the last warmth of autumn.

By the Middle Ages, children would go “souling,” visiting homes for small cakes in exchange for songs or prayers. In Scotland and northern England, “guising” began — children dressing up and performing a trick or rhyme for a treat. It was creative, playful and very familiar to modern families.

Britain originally carved turnips, but when settlers in America discovered pumpkins — bigger, brighter and easier to carve — the tradition transformed. By the 20th century, the glowing pumpkin face became the symbol of Halloween worldwide.

Today, Halloween is about fun, imagination and togetherness. Children carve pumpkins, explore woodland trails, make crafts in village halls and enjoy gentle spooky adventures.

It's a celebration of creativity,

community and the joy of autumn.

Pumpkin Picking & Carving

New Forest Pumpkin Patch — Throughout October Wheelbarrows, giant pumpkins, mini-mazes, photo spots and safe carving stations. Great for toddlers and primary-age children.

Sunnyfields Farm, Totton — Early–Late October Huge pumpkin displays, themed trails, carving barns and friendly staff who help little ones scoop out their pumpkins.

Pickwell Farm, Southampton — Mid–Late October Pick-your-own pumpkins with child-sized wheelbarrows, plus a sheltered carving area.

Longdown Activity Farm — Half-term week Pumpkin picking, carving tables, and gentle Halloween crafts alongside farm animals.

Outdoor Trails & Active Adventures

Hinton Ampner — 17 Oct–1 Nov Pumpkin displays and a gentle Halloween garden trail. Lots of running space, no scares.

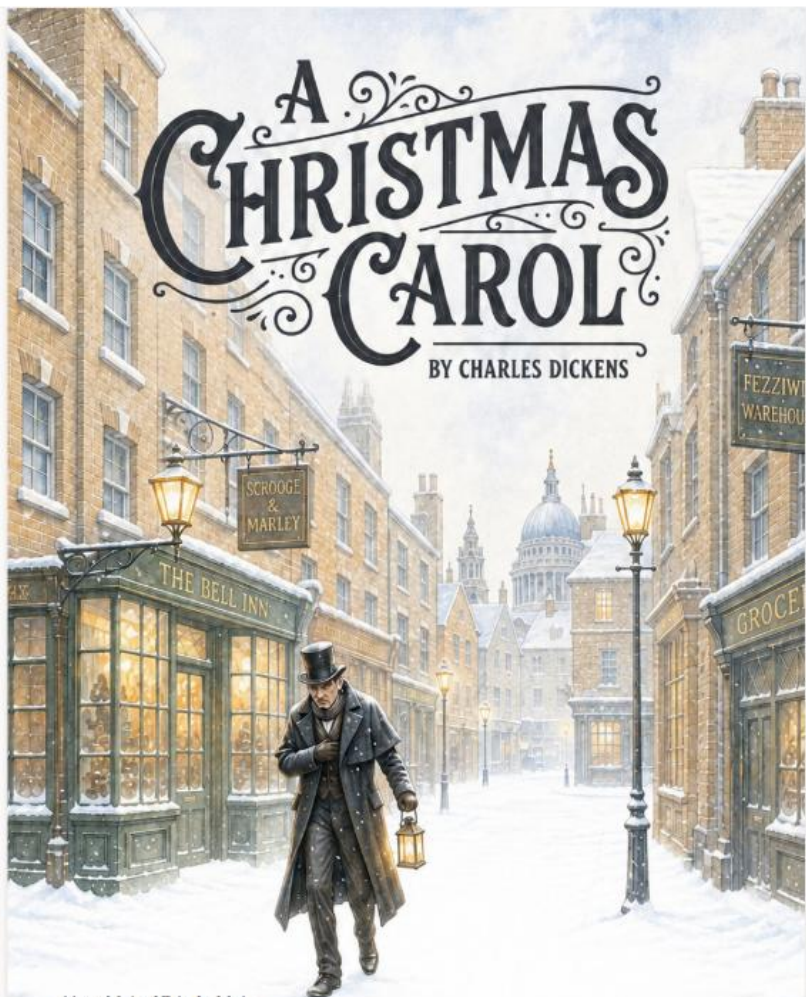
The Watercress Line — 29–31 Oct Witches of Watercress Woods — A magical steam-train ride with friendly witches, puzzles and outdoor woodland activities.

Mottisfont — Late October Autumn family trail with pumpkin-themed clues and plenty of space to explore.

Karen Bolton

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

BY CHARLES DICKENS



Nov 26th, 27th & 28th
Stockbridge Town Hall 7.30pm

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

SADS
Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society



DRIVING UKRAINE

You are invited to STOCKBRIDGE TOWN HALL (Hurford Hall)

ON OCTOBER 7TH AT 6PM

Tickets: £12 on the Door or <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/hazelduncaninukraine/2370326> (Click the link and see all the details)

Free Glass of wine. Soft drinks

ALL WELCOME

Personal presentation by Hazel with video and photos to tell of this most moving experience.

All proceeds to 'Driving Ukraine'

Play Reading Evenings

7pm-9.30pm, Meadow, Stockbridge

Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society is excited to return to Meadow for its Autumn season of Play Reading evenings. You may not want to act in front of an audience, but the idea of reading a play in a small group in beautiful surroundings may well appeal.



THE CHERRY ORCHARD
by Anton Chekov
28th October



SEPARATE TABLES
by Terence Rattigan
9th December

Places are limited so please email
stockbridgeamdrams@gmail.com to
secure your place.

SADS
Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society

Somborne and District Society



This year we held our annual picnic in the grounds of St Peter and St Paul's Church, King's Somborne, starting with fruit punch. There was a wide range of good food available and plenty of it! The society provided some food with many other dishes kindly donated by volunteers. Thank you to all that helped in some way, and I hope everyone enjoyed the picnic.



On Wednesday the 28th of October, 7:30pm for an 8pm start, Dr Johanna Strong talks to us about Mary I and

Prince Philip in the village hall. The last royal wedding to take place at Winchester Cathedral was that of Mary I and Prince Philip, the future Philip II of Spain.



The 25th of July 1554 was a momentous day for the couple, for their realms, and for their future legacy in England, but how is this reflected in Winchester today?

Join Dr Johanna Strong as she discusses the significance of this royal marriage to Winchester and to England and as she explores the ways in which this marriage is remembered, from Winchester College's celebrations at the time, to the elaborate décor now at the Westgate Museum, to the Cathedral's own remembrances of England's first crowned queen regnant.

Steve Silver-Warner (Chair)

Parish Council Notes September 2026

The Crown Inn

The Crown Inn is currently unoccupied. Discussions are ongoing between Punch Taverns and the former tenants regarding the future of the premises.

If you would like to get involved in discussions about the future of the village shop or pub, or if you have skills or experience that could benefit our community groups, please get in touch with Estelle Hutchinson at ehutchinson96@gmail.com.

All offers of help, ideas and involvement are very welcome.

Southern Water Update

Members of the Parish Council have met with representatives from Southern Water and Vortex, who will be carrying out essential sewer sealing works in King's Somborne.

A presentation evening for the community is planned for October. This will provide an opportunity for residents to hear more about the planned works and to raise any questions or concerns.

The works are expected to cause some inconvenience during the construction period. However, this is important work which should help reduce the need for tankering during wet weather and the winter months.

The Pavilion

The Parish Council has officially renamed the former Scout Hut, **The Pavilion**.

We are currently inviting tenders and seeking quotations for the installation of French doors on both sides of the building. This will help to improve the

facilities and make the space more suitable for community use.

If you would like to book The Pavilion for a birthday party, celebration or other event, please contact the Parish Clerk for further details.

20mph Zone

The Parish Council has approved the full 20mph zone scheme, marking an important step towards introducing lower speed limits within the central areas of the village.

Hampshire County Council will now progress the scheme and carry out the required formal consultation with the local community.

Cemetery Wall

The section of the cemetery wall running alongside the Church Lane footpath has been reported to be in a critical condition in places. Remedial works have therefore been approved and will be carried out before the winter months to prevent further deterioration and damage.

Successful Annual Audit

The Parish Council is pleased to report that the External Auditor has completed its review of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), with the Conclusion of Audit now issued.

The audit was successfully concluded with no further action required from the External Auditor at this stage. The Council has agreed to address the governance points raised as part of its ongoing commitment to good financial management.

Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting is on **Monday 12th October at the Epworth Hall at 7pm.**

Parishioners are welcome to attend and

bring to the attention of the council any matter of concern.

Jordan Matthews

Clerk to the King's Somborne

Parish Council

King's Somborne Football Club - New Season, New Committee



Last season ended on a very sad note for us. We lost our chairman of many years, John Harfield. John was a figurehead for our club who was always there for advice and to give encouragement. He came to matches whenever he could, home and away, always keen to learn about new players and welcome them.

But we move on. We're delighted to say that our new Chair will be John's grand-daughter, Jordan Matthews. Vice-Chair will be Phil Paddock; Phil has been our first team manager for many years, with success at league level and winning cups along the way.

Our new team manager will be Dan Watt, assisted by Dave Moore. Andy Gannaway continues as Secretary and Treasurer. Our new committee will be all of the above plus Alison Harfield, Bryony Watt, Heidi Barnes, Jack Barnes, Jordan Matthews and Josh Barnes.

We recently held a belated end of season presentation - Jordan Matthews, after a great season in which he scored 61 goals, won the Player's Player of the Year and Manager's Player of the Year awards. Dan Watt was presented with the Clubman of the Year award.

Jordan's goals were only one part of a strong team performance throughout last season, that saw us finish in second place in Division 2 of the Andover and District Sunday League, winning us promotion to Division 1 for this season.

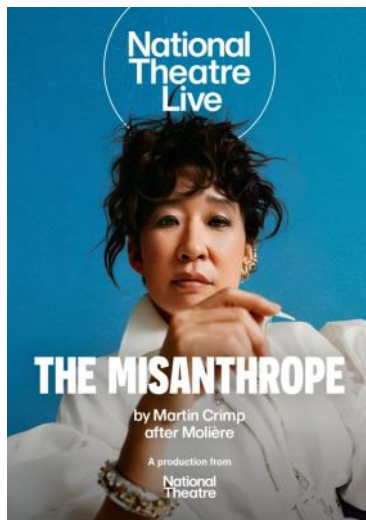
Home games are **10.30am on a Sunday morning**. We hope to serve teas and coffees for all games, all support is very welcome.

Andy Gannaway

Secretary

SOMBORNE COMMUNITY CINEMA

PRESENTS



Saturday 24th October 2026

at King's Somborne Village Hall

Doors open 6:45pm : Curtain up 7:30pm

Tickets £10 + booking fee online at

www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk

or at the door on the day

Bar and Refreshments will be available

Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult

Somborne Sessions



Rob Clamp and Trio open the New Season of Somborne Sessions

The new season of Somborne Sessions- top quality live music at value for money prices in our very own Village Hall- opens on Saturday 10th October 2026 with the Rob Clamp Trio.

Rob is an acclaimed musician, accompanied at the Sessions by his folk trio. Hailing from Southampton, he is a multi-instrumentalist and a vocalist whose style ranges through genres, from pop to folk and roots.

Having supported the likes of Richard Thompson and Frank Turner, Rob is now blazing a trail of his own. He has won the highly regarded 'Purbeck Rising' competition at the Purbeck Valley Folk Festival, as well as the Sofia International Singer- Songwriter Festival in Bulgaria.

Rob has featured on BBC Introducing, sold out numerous live shows across England and Germany and in 2024 released his debut album, 'Lost Soul', featuring his longstanding touring band 'The Ashmen'.

We can't wait to welcome Rob and Trio to King's Somborne Village Hall. Tickets are £17 in advance via www.sombornesessions.co.uk (£20 on the night, if still available).

PLUS- there's still time to grab a



season pass for entry to all six of this season's shows! A snip at £95, please email

sombornesessionsmusic@gmail.com

for further details. (Please note this is now the correct email, replacing the one appearing in September's Gauntlet. Somborne Sessions apologises sincerely for this earlier error!) Doors open on the night at the Village Hall at 7.30 for 8pm.

Peter Duncan



Somborne Players present...
Auditions for our 2027 Panto

**Wednesday 14 October 2026 - 7.30 pm
at the Pavillion (the old Scout hut)**

If you are unable to attend the auditions and would like to be involved let us know.



Panto dates – 19th – 20th February 2027

Our village panto is very much a team effort, and the auditions are not just for actors. So whether you would like to be in it or are more interested in sound, lighting, publicity, props, scenery painting, the list goes on, come along and find out more.

We welcome both adults and children who are interested in amateur dramatics to join in regular drama related events and activities, ranging from formal performances to friendly get-togethers. New and returning members are always welcome.

[For more information contact@somborneplayers.org.uk](mailto:contact@somborneplayers.org.uk)



**St Peter & St Paul Parish Church
King's Somborne**

CHRISTMAS FAIR

**On
Saturday 21st November 2026
at 2.00pm
in the Village Hall**

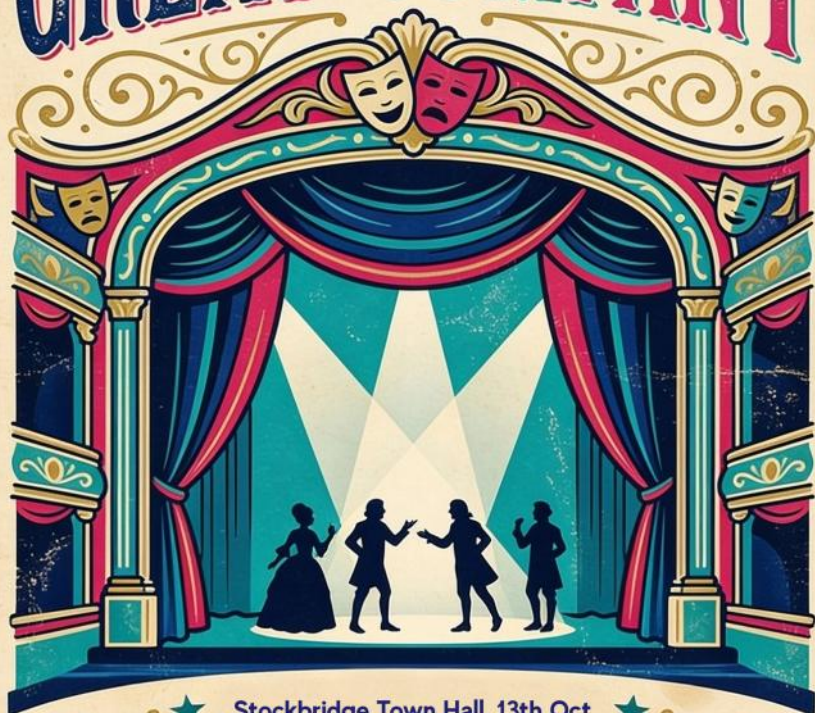
Come and enjoy the Festive Cheer!

**Grand Raffle
1st prize Christmas Hamper
2nd prize Christmas Turkey
3rd prize Bottle of Champagne
Christmas Cards**

Festive Gifts and Produce

Afternoon Tea and Cakes

GREAT COMPANY



★ Stockbridge Town Hall, 13th Oct ★

7.30pm

IT MAKES ME LAUGH - Part II

Play Extracts,
Sketches, Prose,
Poems & Workshops



Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society

Also Featuring
Tea, Biscuits and
the Pub Afterwards!

Monthly Gatherings ★ Join Us Free ★ Everyone Welcome

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 October 13th

12.30pm £7.00

Cottage Pie

Carrots* *Swede* *Peas

Lemon Sponge

***Coffee ***

Further details - Marilyn 389 356



Over 50s Minibus Trips

Booking essential

Phone Sue 07891930684



Thursday October 15th 2026

Dorchester

£10.00 Pick up 10.00am Home for 4.00pm

Damson Muffins—makes 12

320 gms damsons	275 gms plain flour
2 tsp bicarbonate of soda	2 tsp baking powder
200 gms castor sugar	2 eggs
100 ml sunflower oil	250 gms natural yoghurt

1. Heat oven 180 deg. (160 deg. fan).
2. Wash damsons, remove stones and cut roughly into ¼'s.
3. Sift flour, baking powder and bicarb into large mixing bowl and stir in sugar.
4. Whisk together eggs, oil and yoghurt into a jug. Stir the mixture into flour etc until just combined.
5. Add damsons and stir again.
6. Divide mixture between a greased 12 hole muffin tin, or large traybake tin (cook a little longer!).
7. Bake for about 15 minutes. Leave to cool. Serve while still warm.

You could substitute damson for equivalent quantity of blueberries—i.e. a few more!

Enjoy! *D*

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.



Tuesdays 10.00 – 13.00

Jubilee Room Village Hall

Sumptuous sausage rolls



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)

10.30am to 12 noon.



All proceeds go to charity.

Everyone is welcome!

TEST VILLAGES U3A

Thursday 1st Oct in Chilbolton Village Hall

Behind the Scenes at Hampshire Wardrobe" - a talk by Alex Walker PhD

Alex manages the Hampshire Wardrobe, a costume hire service on behalf of the Hampshire Cultural Trust. Her talk will be an exploration of the work they do as well as the role of a costume designer in creating character through costume. Doors open at 1.40 pm for the presentation followed by refreshments. New members are very welcome to attend our meetings.

Thursday 5th Nov in Chilbolton Village Hall

The A6 Murder – a talk by Paul Stickler

Paul is a retired detective who has written two books. He explores the detail behind some of the most fascinating cases in criminal history. He will tell us the story of the A6 murder that occurred in 1961.

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, or see the latest on our Test Villages group at: testvillages.u3asite.uk

Doors open at 1.40 pm for the presentation followed by refreshments

New members are very welcome to attend our meetings.

From The Parish Registers



6th September	Baptism	Odin Carter
13th September	Baptism	Freddie Locke

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 October

Parish Church

Sunday, 4th October—18th
Sunday after Trinity

08.00 a.m. Holy Communion
(1662)

10.00 a.m. Morning Worship
HARVEST FESTIVAL
(with communion)

Readings:

Tim Waters: *2 Corinthians 9.6-end*

Linda Aucock: *Luke 17.11-110*

Sunday, 11th October—19th
Sunday after Trinity

10.00am Holy Communion

Readings:

Jane Vaux: *Philippians 4.1-9*

Sandie Pepperell: *Luke 17.11-19*

Sunday, 18th October—20th
Sunday after Trinity

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

Readings: Sunda

Louise Causer: *2 Timothy 4.5-7*

Alwena Rowe: *Luke 10.1-9*

Sunday, 25th October—Last
Sunday after Trinity

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

Christine Ball: *1 Thessalonians 2.1-8*

Sandie Pepperell: *Matthew 22.34-end*

Methodist Church

Sunday 4th October

10.3am Rev Bob Kitching-Holy Communion

Sunday 11th October

10.30am Mr Andrew La Follette

Sunday 18th October

No Morning Service

Sunday 25th October

10.30am Joint Service at Wesley, Weeke

Messy Church—please
see page 4



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.u34k

The Associate Priest's Last Word

Dear Friends,

As I write, we are beginning to notice that gentle change in the air that tells us Autumn is on its way. The evenings are drawing in, the fields are changing colour, and summer is giving way to harvest.

This is a wonderful time of year here in the countryside. Farmers have prepared the ground, sown the seed and tended the crops. Yet so much has remained beyond their control: the intense sunshine and the growth itself.

Perhaps there is something comforting in that reminder that we are not expected to carry everything ourselves.

We can easily imagine that everything depends upon us - keeping things going, getting everything right and remembering all that needs doing. Yet we are part of something much bigger, invited not only to work but also to receive.

Our harvest celebrations give us a chance to pause and say thank you: for the food we have, for those who grow and produce it, for our beautiful countryside, and for neighbours, friends and all whose work often goes unseen. They also remind us to be mindful of those who do not have enough, and to respond with generosity and care.

As we settle into this new season, I hope we will notice some of the small gifts around us: a good conversation, a fresh morning, a familiar face in the village, a cup of coffee shared with a friend, or simply a moment of peace.

Church can be rather good at making space for these things - to stop, to pray, to give thanks and to remember that we belong to one another. St Peter and St Paul's Church is always open during the day for some quiet reflection.

I look forward to sharing our harvest celebrations with you, and to all the ordinary moments of village life that make up the weeks ahead.

“All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above.
Oh thank the Lord, yes thank the Lord
For all his love.”

With every blessing

Ann

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