# THE GAUNTLET

**THE LOCAL MAGAZINE FOR THE SOMBORNES AND ASHLEY**

## NOVEMBER 2026



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

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gauntlet.advertising@gmail.com

# Useful names and numbers

## Parish Church

**Associate Priest**
Rev Ann Devereux 01794 328860
revadev316@gmail.com 07415 792824

**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

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**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

**Advertising:** Patsy Pritchard 07963 459686

**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 Epworth Hall.
***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:*** contact@kssa.org.uk

## Scouts
BeaversMondays 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:*** David Haydon 07854 405906
david@haydons.me.uk

### 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:*** Kathyrn 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

# Another great year for the Macmillan charity

King's Somborne you are amazing! We have had a great year raising money for Macmillan. It started in May with a Car Boot Sale, this was then followed by a Book Sale outside Cross Stores.

This year we tried a Jumble Trail around the village, which worked amazingly well and is definitely something to look out for next year if you would like to join in.

I would like to thank the barn for opening for tea and cake.

Finally, we had the Coffee morning: thank you also to the Working Men's Club for letting us use the Club.

We had a great raffle including tickets for the Army Flying Museum in Wallop, Mottisfont tickets, Raw Bean Coffee and a great meat raffle from Oliver's Battery butchers (thank you Jake), plus many, many more.

Our MP, Caroline Nokes, came to visit and she won 'Guess the name of the teddy' (Edward), along with other prizes.



I would like to thank everyone who helped and everyone that came to the events.

We have a final total of £2,626.00

Thank you.

*Janette Batchelor*






GRAND TOTAL: £2,626.00

# A thankful Harvest weekend

Our village came together in early October for a wonderful Harvest weekend, beginning with the annual Harvest Supper at the Village Hall and culminating in Sunday's Harvest Festival service at the Church.

The Harvest Supper, now a much-loved village tradition, brought together 78 guests for a delicious three-course meal. Months of planning and a tremendous team effort went into making the evening such a success. Special thanks go to Jude and the kitchen team, as well as the many volunteers who helped with everything from ticket sales and table hosting to serving food, running the raffle and tackling the washing up. The evening entertainment started with an introduction by Mike Reynolds and a prayer by our vicar, Rev. Ann Devereux. Guests then enjoyed a quiz and some nostalgic musical entertainment from Bill Martin before the evening ended with the raffle draw.





The following morning an excited bunch of more than 50 worshippers gathered for our Harvest Festival service in our beautifully decorated church. Ann led the service and spoke with warmth about sharing, generosity and thankfulness.

The Somborne Singers led the singing, and rendered stirringly John Rutter's setting of 'For the beauty of the Earth'.

The spectacular work of our village needleworkers was displayed and blessed (see page 6).

Many people brought gifts of food and provisions which, together with the morning's collection, has been sent to help the Winchester Beacon (previously known as the Night Shelter). Harvest gifts from the School celebration of Harvest in church nine days previously have been sent to the Beacon too.

The Winchester Beacon is open 365 days a year, and provides accommodation, food and vital support services to help break the cycle of homelessness and enable residents to rebuild their lives.

Thank you, God, for Harvest!

*Howard Rowe*

*Joan Appleyard*

*Janet Ingleson*

# Church Needlework Blessing




At the Harvest Festival service in the village, Anne Devereux blessed the recent needlework additions to the wonderful collection of kneelers and cushions that add to the beauty of our church.

A dedicated group of needleworkers gather in the church on Thursday afternoons and over the years since 1979 the range and variety of work has blossomed.

All the door curtains, the chasubles and altar cloths, as well as the kneelers and long commemorative cushions have been made with their skills in both design and embroidery.

There are themed cushions about various topics -John of Gaunt, Travel through the ages, The village tapestry, The Nativity and many others. The highlight is the door curtain to the right of the altar. This fine work needs to be seen at close quarters to appreciate the fine stitchwork.

Costs have risen dramatically over the years and funds are gathered through coffee mornings and afternoon teas as well as kind donations.

Visitors to the church have often come specifically to view the needlework. If you haven't seen them recently, the church is open every day and it is well worth a visit!

*Sue Jackson*

*was talking to*

*Eileen Humphries*

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

## Kindness is what love does

At our recent Family Friday, we explored kindness through Jesus' familiar parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37), discovering that kindness is about three simple things: **noticing, caring and doing**.

During our session, everyone was encouraged to think of one practical act of kindness they could offer during the coming week. It might be helping at home, saying thank you, visiting someone, caring for an animal or looking after God's creation. Each idea was written or drawn on a paper heart.

We also had fun making bird seed cake shapes so that we can help to feed the birds at this time of year.

There was lots of singing with actions, and plenty of cake too! Everyone is welcome. Our next Family Friday is on November 13th 3.15 - 4pm in the church.

See you there!`



**FAMILY FRIDAY**
13th November 2026



**COME & JOIN US IN CHURCH**
**@ 3.15pm – 4pm after school**
***Songs, stories, crafts,***
***refreshments and more…***

A NEW event for your diary every second Friday in the month
*See you there* ☺

# Ride and Stride 2026

Many thanks to all those who took part in and who sponsored the Ride and Stride on Saturday 12th September. We had 16 Ride and Stride visitors from this and other parishes to our church and the efforts of those who welcomed them is much appreciated.

Two of us visited churches on foot and we raised a total of £985 to help in maintaining local historic churches.

My own Ride and Stride journey involved a 12 mile walk to churches in Farley Chamberlayne, Braishfield, Michelmersh and Timsbury as well as the two churches here in Kings Somborne.

*Phil Carr*

# Somborne Players — AGM and update

The AGM was held on 30th September. Rebecca Rickard stepped down as Chair after three years and David Haydon was unanimously voted in. The rest of the committee stayed the same with Ellie Monger as Vice Chair, Melanie Haydon as Treasurer and Lesley Everard-Evans as membership secretary. Additionally on the committee are Vanessa McClenaghan, Peter Grace, Jon Crump, David Welton and Rebecca has agreed to remain. At the time of writing, we are hoping for confirmation of a younger member too.

After the meeting, pantomime scripts were discussed, a selection previously having been shared, and Sleeping Beauty was decided on.

Note the date: 19th & 20th February 2027.

If you are interested in being part of this, in any way (props, set making, painting and design, sound, lighting, front of house), please contact David on david@haydons.me.uk

# 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 15t**h**. 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 Gill Butler**

## St Peter and St Paul Parish Church
## King's Somborne



## All Souls

A service of thanksgiving and remembrance

3pm

Sunday 1st November 2026

All are welcome to come

There will be an opportunity

to light a candle in remembrance



## Annual Remembrance Services



This year the official **Remembrance Day Service** will be held on **Sunday 8th November**. There will be a short service at the Village War Memorial at **10.50am** followed by a United Service in the Parish Church. A collection on behalf of The Royal British Legion will be taken during the service at the War Memorial.

This year, as is the tradition, the School will join us at the Village War Memorial in a service of Remembrance for **Armistice Day on Wednesday 11th November at 10.55am.**

All are welcome to join us




KSSA

**Kings Somborne School Association**

Registered charity 1029282

kssa.org.uk

# Somborne Sisterhood
## discovers the cartoonist within

Members of Somborne Sisterhood enjoyed a fun and creative evening at their October meeting when they were treated to a workshop by cartoonist and illustrator Simon Chadwick.

Simon, who runs his own company, Ceratopia, is a self-taught artist with a passion for his work. His first children's book, published shortly after completing his A Levels, is still in print more than two decades later. Since then, he has illustrated almost 30 children's picture books, several of which he also wrote.

During the evening, Simon gave members an insight into how a cartoonist sees the world and demonstrated how simple lines and shapes can be brought together to create recognisable and engaging characters. Members were soon having a go themselves, building characters from circles, squares, ovals and triangles.



There were plenty of tips and interesting facts along the way. Members learned that eyes are generally positioned halfway down the face and that ears line up roughly with the top of the eyes. Simon also explained how exaggerating features can instantly give a cartoon character personality. Larger heads, bigger eyes or smaller noses can make a character appear particularly cute, while larger noses and ears can be used to suggest age, as these features continue to grow throughout our lives.

Members also learned that much of human communication comes through facial expressions and were shown how a few simple changes to a face can completely alter the character's expression. Simon even shared his techniques for drawing a variety of simple animals.

Originally working in coloured pencil, Simon now creates his illustrations digitally, but his enthusiasm for traditional drawing was infectious, and members thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to experiment with their own cartoon creations.

The Sisterhood's next meeting in November will have an international theme, with a quiz and members and guests invited to bring along food to share. Guests are very welcome, and the first meeting is free.

Looking ahead to Christmas, Somborne Sisterhood is also supporting homeless charity, Trinity. At their December meeting, members will be making and filling Christmas stockings for women in need. The Sisterhood is currently collecting items to put into the stockings, including socks, chocolates, books, torches, Costa or Greggs vouchers, toiletries, puzzle books, hats and gloves. Anyone who would like to support the appeal is invited to donate items. There is a Trinity collection point in the church.

*Sheila Nevines*
*Secretary*

# SOMBORNE COMMUNITY CINEMA

## You, Me & Tuscany (12)

### Thursday 12th November 2026

2026 Romantic Comedy 1h:45m




Sometimes the wrong place is right where you need to be! 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 that little lie becomes a big problem when his mother suddenly appears. Suddenly everything falls apart until she discovers unexpected romance that could transform her life.

---

## Power Ballad (15)

### Thursday 10th December 2026

2026 Drama, Music 1h:38m




When Rick (Paul Rudd), a past-his-prime wedding singer, meets fading boy-band star Danny (Nick Jonas) during a gig, the two bond over music and a late-night jam session. But when Danny turns one of Rick's songs into the hit that reignites his career, Rick sets out to reclaim the recognition he believes he deserves -- even if it means risking everything he cares about. POWER BALLAD is a feel-good story about music, self-respect, friendship, and the price of ambition.

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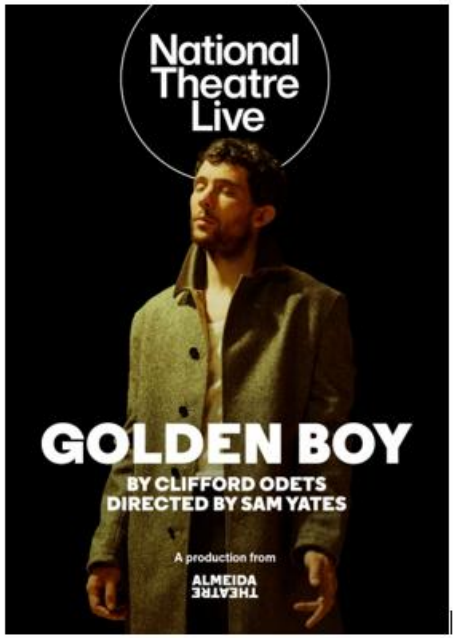
Tickets for films are just £6 + booking fee online at
www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk
or at the door on the night.

**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.

# SOMBORNE COMMUNITY CINEMA

## PRESENTS




## Sunday 22nd November 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

Test Valley Borough Council

King's Somborne Parish Council

# King's Somborne Women's Institute

Sarah opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, with a special welcome to our guests who had joined us for the evening. She introduced our speaker, Alan Gregory, whose topic was the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

During the early days of the First World War those killed in action were buried where they died in improvised graves and few records of the sites were kept. It became clear that because of the scale of casualties, repatriation was not possible and also the return of so many bodies would have had a very demoralising effect on those back home. Sir Fabian Ware, who was too old to serve but was working in the field for the Red Cross, realised that something had to be done.

With the support of the Prince of Wales, the Imperial War Graves Commission was founded by Royal Charter in 1917. The member states were the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, New Zealand , South Africa and India. The United Kingdom provided the bulk of the funding with India only providing one percent as most of their casualties were cremated. The core principle of the Commission was that all war dead should be treated equally and that grave stones should be uniform. When the name of the soldier was not known this was recorded.






Most of the sites were acquired in France and Belgium and key architects of the day like Sir Edwin Lutyens , who designed our own war memorial, were commissioned to design memorials where the names of the missing could be recorded, the most famous of these being the Menin Gate and the memorial at Tyne Cot.

Unfortunately many more sites on a world wide scale were needed after the Second World War for both those in the armed forces of all combatants but civilians too. Now the Commission is responsible for 1.7 million graves, two thousand five hundred cemeteries, twenty three thousand separate burial sites and two hundred memorials. All the cemeteries and memorials are beautifully maintained and the design of grave stones and planting reflects the different climatic conditions. Care is taken that the planting does not obscure the writing on the grave stones.

Alan was able to show us beautiful photographs to illustrate the planting

from roses and herbaceous plants here to succulents and other drought resistant plants in hotter and more arid regions. Every effort is made to make it easy for relations and descendants of the fallen to visit the sites.

Apart from general memorials some honour a particularly brave individual. Some of these honour women. Although nurses played a vital part in the First World War and certainly showed heroism, the role of women had changed by the time of the Second World War and many died in action. Alan drew our attention to examples of women who had shown remarkable bravery. One he identified as Nora who manned an anti-aircraft battery in Southampton and was the first girl to be killed at her Post in 1942.




Another was First Officer Rosamund Everard-Steencamp who died in 1946. Rosamund, a South African Aviator, was killed when the Spitfire she was flying from RAF Hamble to Shropshire crashed. Her memorial is in Maidenhead.

There are many local memorials, cemeteries and individual graves maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission., the memorial on Southsea Common, the cemeteries at Haslar and Netley probably being the best known. All rely to a large extent on volunteers to maintain them. The larger local cemeteries will provide guided tours during War Graves Week, which will be held next year from the 16th to the 24th May and would be a good time to visit.

Our next meeting will be held in the village hall at 7.30pm. on Wednesday, 11th November. The talk by Helen Carter is entitled "Japanese Embroidery and Kimonos".

All visitors are welcome and there is no charge.

*Eileen Reynolds*

## Calling all who enjoy singing!



The Somborne Singers sing for fun. In the weeks leading towards Christmas, we are learning some lovely Advent and Christmas carols, as well as songs from the musical 'Pharaoh to Freedom', which we hope to sing before next Easter. We meet on Tuesdays from 7.45-9.00pm in the parish church, and would welcome new people who enjoy singing. We welcome all voices but are especially keen for new tenors and basses. Why not try us on a Tuesday evening? For more inf, contact Howard Rowe on 01794 388400 or email howard_rowe@btopenworld.com

# 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**
★ 8TH NOVEMBER ★




BINGO
FROM 8PM

CLUB OPEN
FROM 6PM

**FRIDAY**
★ 20TH NOVEMBER ★




QUIZ FROM 8PM
ADULTS ONLY

CLUB OPEN
FROM 6PM

**SUNDAY**
★ 22ND NOVEMBER ★




BINGO
FROM 8PM

CLUB OPEN
FROM 6PM

**SATURDAY**
★ 28TH NOVEMBER ★



OPEN DARTS
COMPETITION

CLUB OPEN
FROM 10AM

SIGN ON BY 10:45AM



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

★ *Everyone Welcome!* ★

# Working Men's Club



## Christmas Fayre



Join us at

**King's Somborne Working Men's Club**

**Saturday 12th December, 12pm–4pm**

for our Christmas Fayre!

We'll have festive stalls, **Santa's Grotto, raffle and bottle tombola**.

**Donations of prizes for the raffle or bottle tombola would be greatly appreciated.**
**Donation deadline: 5th December.**

**Santa's Grotto:** If you'd like to book your child in, please contact **Heidi at kswmcsecretary@yahoo.co.uk**
**Booking deadline: 4th December.**

Come along and enjoy some festive fun with the community!



## 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!

# A fond farewell to 11th King's Somborne Scout Group

After more than 60 years of serving the young people of King's Somborne, it is with great sadness that we announce the closure of 11th King's Somborne Scout Group. Since its registration in 1963, the group has been a cherished part of village life, providing generations of children with opportunities for adventure, friendship, personal growth and unforgettable memories.

The Scout Group's story has always been one of community spirit. Built on the dedication of volunteer leaders and supported by local families, the group has been sustained by countless hours of fundraising, generosity and hard work from people across the village. Although the group is now coming to an end, we are determined that its legacy will continue. The group's final balance will be used to purchase equipment and resources that will benefit local groups and young people within King's Somborne, ensuring that the support shown by the community continues to make a positive difference for future generations.

For generations of young people, Scouting in King's Somborne has provided adventure, friendship and opportunities that have created memories lasting a lifetime. Many local residents will remember camping trips, hikes, campfires, badge presentations, village events and the friendships formed through their years in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Behind these experiences were dedicated leaders and volunteers who gave countless hours of their time to help young people develop confidence, resilience, teamwork and skills for life. The group has been part of Romsey District Scouts and has supported local young people for more than six decades.

The past few years have brought significant challenges for the group. The loss of the Scout Hut last year marked the end of an important chapter in our history. More than just a building, it had been our home since it was built in the 1970s. It was a place where generations of young people laughed, learned new skills, earned badges, planned adventures and formed lifelong friendships. While we were grateful to continue meeting in the Village Hall, it was never quite the same. The Scout Hut was at the heart of the group for decades, and its loss was deeply felt by Scouts, leaders, volunteers and former members alike.

Sadly, like many voluntary organisations, we have also seen a continued decline in both volunteer leaders and young people attending. Despite the dedication and determination of those involved, the difficult decision has now been made to close the group and bring this remarkable chapter of village life to an end.

**As part of this farewell, we have included photographs from the last Beavers meeting in King's Somborne, held in December last year, marking the end of an era for Scouting in the village.**



While the group may be closing, we are determined that its history will not be forgotten. To celebrate more than six decades of



Scouting in King's Somborne, we are planning to create a time capsule containing photographs, stories, memorabilia and memories from across the years. We also hope to plant a commemorative tree as a lasting tribute to the thousands of young people, leaders, volunteers and supporters who have been part of the group's story.



We would therefore love to hear from anyone who has memories to share. Whether you were a Beaver, Cub, Scout, leader, committee member, parent or supporter, your experiences form an important part of the history of Scouting in the village. Old photographs, camp programmes, badges, certificates and personal recollections will all help us preserve the story of a group that has meant so much to so many.



We will be holding a special evening where members of the community can bring along photographs, memorabilia and memories for inclusion in the time capsule. It will also provide an opportunity for former and current members to come together, reminisce, share stories and celebrate everything that the Scout Group has contributed to village life over the past 60 years. Further details will be announced in due course.

As we say goodbye to 11th King's Somborne Scout Group, we would like to thank every leader, volunteer, parent, supporter and young person who has been part of its journey. We would also like to thank the wider village community whose fundraising, donations and encouragement have supported the group throughout the years. Although the group is closing, its impact on our community will live on through the generations it has helped shape, the friendships it has fostered and the memories it leaves behind.

**If you have any photographs, stories, memorabilia or other items that you would be willing to share, please keep an eye out for further announcements. We hope as many people as possible will help us celebrate, remember and preserve the history of this much-loved village organisation for future generations.**

*Lisa Johnson*

## 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*

# Village diary for November 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** | Short Mat Bowls | 2.00pm |
| **3rd & 17th** | Computer cafe | 10.00am |
| **4th** | WI Sisterhood | 7.30pm |
| **7th** | **Scarecrow Trail** | **10.00am** |
| **8th** | **Remembrance** | **10.50am** |
| **8th** | **Bingo at the Club** | **8.00pm** |
| **9th** | Parish Council | 7.00pm |
| **10th** | Epworth Lunch | 12.30pm |
| **11th** | WI | 7.30pm |
| **12th** | Community Cinema You, Me & Tuscany | 7.15pm for 8.00pm |
| **13th** | **Family Friday at the Church** | **3.15pm** |
| **14th** | **Soup & Sherry** | **12.00pm** |
| **14th** | **Somborne Sessions** | **8.00pm** |
| **18th** | MessyChurch | 3.30pm |
| **18th** | Wednesday Wanderers | 10.00am |
| **18th** | Somborne Solos | Lunch |
| **18th** | Contemplative Prayer | 7.30pm |
| **19th** | Minibus to Wimborne | 10.00am |
| **20th** | **Quiz at the Club** | 8.00pm |
| **21st** | **Christmas Fair** | **2.00pm** |
| **22nd** | Community Cinema Golden Boy | 6.45pm for 7.30pm |
| **22nd** | **Bingo at the Club** | **8.00pm** |
| **25th** | Women's Fellowship | 2.30pm |
| **25th** | Somborne Society | 8.00pm |
| **27th** | **Wreath Making** | **7.30pm** |
| **28th** | **Soup & Sherry** | **12.00pm** |
| **28th** | **Darts at the Club** | |

# District diary for November 2026

**Celebrate Bonfire Night**

**6 Nov** ***Romsey Town Football Club Fireworks Night*** – A family-friendly evening with refreshments, entertainment and a spectacular fireworks display at 7.30pm. Gates open 6pm.

**6 Nov Ampfield Golf & Country Club** ***Fireworks Night 2026*** – Fireworks over the golf course, with food and drinks available from 5pm and the display beginning at 7.30pm.

**7 Nov** ***Winchester Round Table Bonfire & Fireworks*** – One of Hampshire's best-known Bonfire Night celebrations, featuring a torchlit procession through the city centre, a huge bonfire and spectacular fireworks display. The procession starts at 6pm, the bonfire is lit at 7.15pm and fireworks begin at 7.45pm.

**7 Nov Andover Golf Club** ***Bonfire Night Display*** – One of Test Valley's main annual fireworks events, popular with local families.

**Romsey**

**1 Nov** ***Romsey Makers Market*** – Browse artisan crafts, homewares, gifts and delicious local treats in Romsey Town Centre.

**4 Nov** ***Romsey Chamber Quiz Night*** – A friendly evening of questions, prizes and local rivalry. Venue: Flack's Brewery, Romsey

**7 Nov** ***Mass in Blue*** – Romsey Choral Society performs this jazz-inspired contemporary choral work at Romsey Abbey

**10-14 Nov** ***Young Frankenstein*** – Mel Brooks' much-loved musical comedy comes to Romsey Plaza Theatre

**19 Nov** ***Bah Humbug!*** – Floral designer Arnaud Métairie presents a festive demonstration at Crosfield Hall, Romsey after the NAFAS AGM.

**26 Nov-1 Jan** ***Christmas Light Up Trails*** – Seasonal illuminations at Sir Harold Hillier Gardens transform the gardens into a magical winter landscape.

**Winchester**

**5 Nov** ***Alasdair Beckett-King: King of Crumbs*** – Award-winning comedian brings his latest show to The Arc, Winchester.

**14 Nov** ***David Olusoga: A Global History of the British Cup of Tea*** – Popular historian explores the surprising story behind Britain's favourite drink at Winchester Guildhall.

**13 Nov** ***Chicago Blues Brothers*** – High-energy music and comedy celebrating soul, blues and Motown classics at the Theatre Royal, Winchester

**29 Nov** ***Hampshire Collector Con*** – Pokémon cards, collectibles, gaming and memorabilia under one roof at Winchester Sports & Leisure Park

**Salisbury**

**1 Nov** ***The Stylistics*** – The legendary soul group performs a catalogue of classic hits at Salisbury City Hall.

**3 Nov** ***Leo Sayer*** – An evening at Salisbury City Hall with one of Britain's most successful singer-songwriters

**13 Nov** ***Lucy Porter: Let Yourself Go*** – Smart, warm and wonderfully funny stand-up comedy at Salisbury Arts Centre.

**14 Nov** ***Remembrance Concert*** – A reflective evening of music marking the Remembrance season at St Thomas's Church, Salisbury.

*KarenBolton*

# Parish Council Notes October 2026

**Community Group**

The Community Group has continued looking at options for the purchase of the Crown concluding that the preferred option would be to form a Community Benefit Society (CBS) to own and run the Crown. This would involve raising share capital. It has been confirmed that a King's Somborne Community Share offer can combine what's called a Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme (SEIS) https://www.gov.uk/guidance/venture-capital-schemes-apply-to-use-the-seed-enterprise-investment-scheme. with an Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) https://www.gov.uk/guidance/venture-capital-schemes-apply-for-the-enterprise-investment-scheme, both of which provide tax relief for investors.

If sufficient funds can be raised then a new King's Somborne Benefit Society can both own and manage the pub at a very low cost of capital, thus ensuring a high possibility that the Crown can be managed profitably for years to come. Specialist skills will be required to ensure a viable scheme. It is hoped these can be found within the village when the need arises. The team will need Accountancy, Property Law, Construction Management and Hospitality Management experience.

Punch, the owners of the Crown, now have vacant position. Their estimate for refurbishment has increased to over £250k and as a consequence they are reviewing whether to sell or continue to operate on a tenanted basis after refurbishment. A decision in anticipated within eight weeks. The PC is grateful for the group's continued efforts.

**The Pavilion**

The estimates for the structural work to add French doors have been received and a contractor selected.

As it is now October the hedging can be cut to open up the South East side onto the cricket pitch which will be carried out.

**Resilience**

A Group has been formed to help manage incidents of sufficient magnitude that require a co-ordinated response consisting of parish councillors together with representatives of the Village Hall and the Working Men's Club

**Playing Field**

Due to the long dry summer the grass appears very brown in patches despite recent rainfall, although this has not been significant. As a consequence the PC, with kind co-operation of the Cricket Club, has agreed to purchase grass seed with a view to carrying out reparation where applicable.

**The Bourne**

The PC, after some interchange of correspondence, is endeavouring to set up a meeting with the Environment Agency to explore the current issues around maintenance.

**Website**

The new PC website has now been completed by Hugo Fox and is being reviewed by councillors.

**Parish Council**

It should be noted that the excellent service provided by our clerk will be

reduced as she heads off on maternity leave next month. A locum has been found to step in but her hours, due to availability, will be reduced. As a consequence, Councillors will step in to fill the gap as appropriate where possible. Parishioners are asked to seek answers to their questions directly from the responsible bodies i.e. TVBC, HCC, Environment Agency and Police.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 9th November at the Epworth Hall at 7pm.

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*

# Farming Notes from Tom Monk

It has been a particularly challenging year in the farming world after a disappointing Harvest in 2025.

The autumn 2025 planting went well, followed by a very wet winter, and the spring planting went to plan.

However, there was hardly any rain from April onwards and the plants suffered from extreme heat and lack of water. Can you believe that just 1 ml. of rain would equal 10,000 litres of irrigation for each hectare? With the hedges and undulations on Rookley farm, irrigation is difficult to install – it works well with flat, large fields. So the crops withered rather than ripened and yields were 30% down.

Autumn planting this year—of beans, rape, oats, barley, wheat and grass-went well, with fields due for spring planting drilled with cover crops for the winter to fix nitrogen in the soil, prevent erosion and improve soil health. At the moment the warm damp weather is ideal for flea beetle and aphids to attack the crops, providing a different set of problems for Tom!

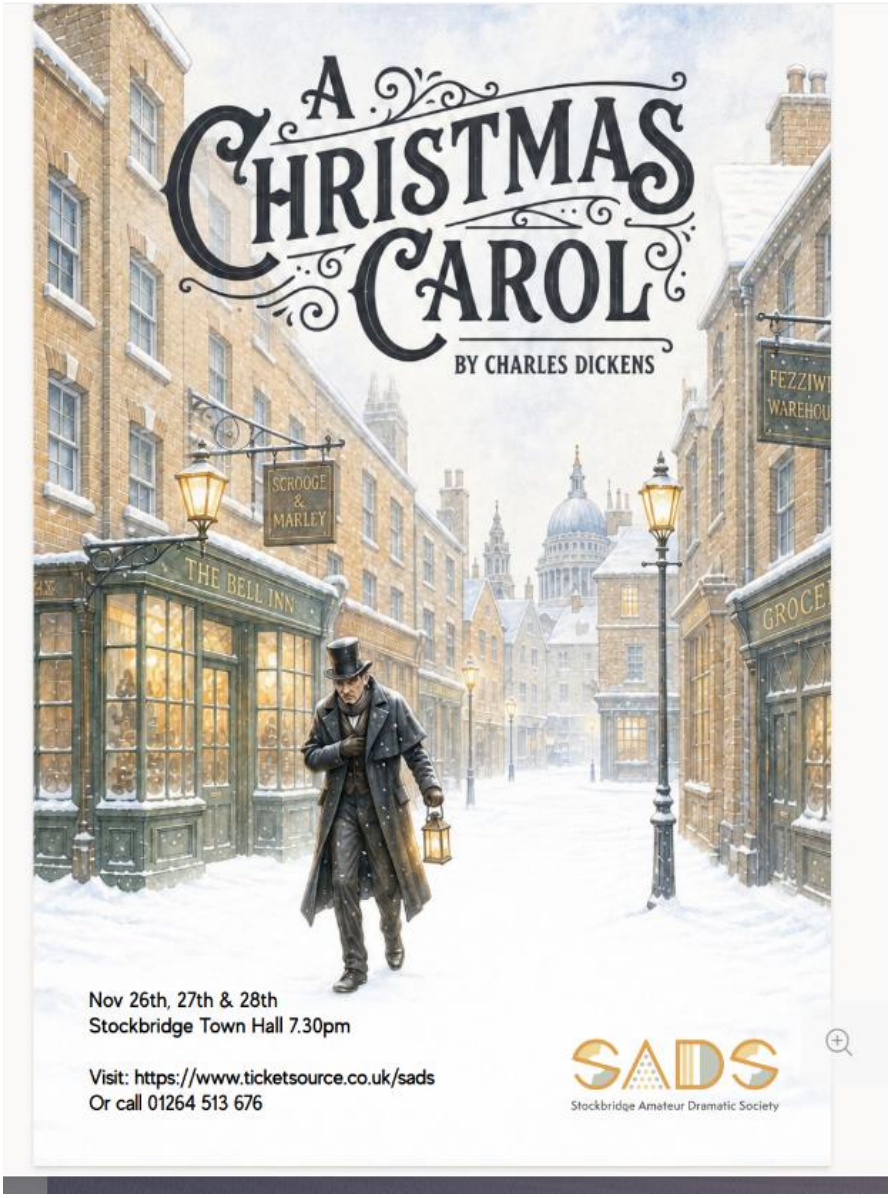


The large lagoon near the junction with the Stockbridge Road is being built to take the residue from the anaerobic digesters at Three Maids Hill. Waste straw from the farm is added to other organic matter for the digesters to produce methane gas. Then Tom can fertilise his field with the residue, which saves on artificial fertiliser use, and is an organic natural way to feed the plants, along with the sewage sludge, that will also improve soil structure and save money!

*Tom Monk*

*was talking to*

*Sue Jackson*


A CHRISTMAS CAROL
BY CHARLES DICKENS
SCROOGE & MARLEY
THE BELL INN
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

# Drop In is 40!

We are delighted to be celebrating the 40th birthday of our Drop In coffee mornings on 3rd November!

The first Drop In took place at the beginning of November 1986. They were started by Ken and Vera Tull and were held on the first Tuesday of each month as a means of raising money towards the building of the Epworth Hall. These were first held in the Chapel and were well supported from the start.

Once the hall was built a lady from the Parish Church began holding one on the 3rd Tuesday of each month and that is how it continued for many years. In more recent times they have been held every Tuesday (except 2nd one) and we have a good group of regular attendees plus the occasional cyclist/walker who might pop in when passing. In fact one cycles out from Winchester on a fairly regular basis to join us.

All donations given go to charity and there is a list displayed in the hall of all those we've supported over the years.

We hope to be able to continue for many years to come and look forward to seeing many more new faces. There's always a warm welcome!

*Marion and Marilyn*

**Over 40 years Drop In has donated to all the charities listed below.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Children in Need | Dr Barnardo's | Zeebrugge Ferry Fund |
| Methodist Church | Muscular Dystrophy | Hungerford Disaster |
| British Heart Foundation | Great Ormond Street Hospital | |
| Kisiizi Hospital | Red Cross | Action Aid |
| Methodist Building Fund | Hard of Hearing RHCH | Stockbridge Surgery |
| National Children's Home | Methodist Homes for the Aged | |
| Sisters of Mercy | Macmillan Nurses | Sightsavers |
| Robert Mugabwe Orphanage | British Sailors Society | Cancer Research UK |
| Home Missions | Air Ambulance | Mary's Meals |
| British Kidney Patients Association | St Marks College, South Africa | |
| Baptist Church Ladies | LPMA Conference | Overseas Missions |
| Leukaemia Research | Alzheimer's Society | Russian Orphanage |
| Romanian Orphanage Appeal | Naomi House | Multiple Sclerosis |
| Magpie Scanner Appeal | Macmillan Cancer Relief | Children's Society |
| Stockbridge Surgery Equipment Fund | KS Millennium Bell Appeal | |
| Mercy Ships | Mission to Seamen | Farm Africa |
| Countess of Brecknock Hospice | St John's Ambulance | ICU Ward RHCH |
| Karachi Church Organ Repair Fund | Parkinsons | Jacks Place |
| Lowland Search and Rescue Dogs | Edwina Mountbatten House | Emmaus |
| Operation Christmas Child | Ride and Stride Historic Churches | |
| Andover Young Carers | Prison Reform | BOAZ |
| Romsey Young Carers | Stroke Association | Compassion UK |
| Winchester Night Shelter | Guide Dogs for the Blind | Leprosy Mission |
| Southampton Hospital Children's Ward | House of Opportunity Shoeboxes | |

# Guy Fawkes Night
# Five things you probably didn't know

Every year we wrap up warm, stand around a bonfire and watch rockets burst into the November sky. But beyond the familiar story lies a collection of curious traditions that are far stranger than most people realise.

**The "guy" was once more important than the fireworks**

Today the fireworks are the main attraction, but for much of the 18th and 19th centuries children were far more interested in creating elaborate "guys". These were stuffed figures wheeled through towns and villages while youngsters called out "Penny for the Guy" to raise money for the evening's celebrations.

Some were surprisingly sophisticated, complete with old clothes, painted faces and even moving parts.

**Britain nearly banned fireworks... repeatedly**

Fireworks have been part of Bonfire Night for centuries, but concerns about injuries and unruly celebrations have led to repeated attempts to restrict them. In Victorian times newspapers regularly reported runaway rockets, singed hats and fireworks being posted through letterboxes. Some things, it seems, never change.

**Bonfire Night has regional quirks**

Across Britain, communities developed their own traditions. In some places blazing tar barrels were rolled through the streets. Elsewhere people carried lantern processions, performed mock battles or staged enormous torchlit parades. Many of these customs survived for hundreds of years completely independently of the original Gunpowder Plot story.

**Bonfires were once social media**

Before radio, television and the internet, bonfires were a way of bringing an entire community together. News was exchanged, friendships renewed and local events discussed. In many villages the bonfire was as important as the fireworks because it provided the gathering point.

**The science is as spectacular as the show**

Those brilliant colours are created by chemistry. Copper compounds produce blues, sodium creates yellow, strontium gives reds and barium creates green. Every firework display is therefore part celebration, part giant outdoor science experiment.

**Perhaps that's why we still love it**

Maybe the enduring appeal of Bonfire Night isn't really about Guy Fawkes at all. It's about gathering outdoors on a cold evening, sharing food, meeting neighbours and looking up together. In a world of streaming services and smartphones, few events still persuade entire communities to stand shoulder to shoulder and marvel at the same thing.

And that's something worth celebrating, whatever century you're in.

*Karen Bolton*

# Somborne and District Society



In September we had an excellent talk on the life of Thomas Paine by Michael Reynolds. Thomas Paine (1737-1809) was one of Britain's most influential and controversial political writers. Born in Thetford, Norfolk, he began life in humble circumstances before moving to America in 1774. There, his pamphlet, *Common Sense,* became a powerful argument for independence from Britain and helped inspire the American Revolution. Many saw him as a dangerous radical who encouraged rebellion against the Crown. Others admired his passionate belief in liberty, democracy, and the rights of ordinary people. His book *Rights of Man*, written in support of the French Revolution, criticised Britain's political system and called for reform. The government considered his ideas a threat, and he fled to France to avoid arrest. Although widely criticised in his lifetime, Paine's writings went on to influence democratic movements around the world. Today, he is remembered as a Norfolk-born thinker whose bold ideas challenged authority and helped shape modern debates about freedom, government, and human rights.

On **Wednesday 25th of November, 7:30pm for an 8pm** start, ***Dr Alistair Dougall*** presents his talk **"The Devil's Book: The Battle over Festive Culture in Early Stuart England".** *He explores how serious divisions emerged in early modern England between those who valued traditional festivity and those who tried to suppress it, and how attitudes to traditional festive pastimes and celebrations became a major factor in determining people's allegiance in the English Civil War. The talk will look at the types of sports and pastimes enjoyed by people in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth century, and at how and why attitudes to festive traditions changed in the late sixteenth century.*

*With events like the Olympics, we are today used to sports bringing people together but, far from uniting people, sports and their celebration had become hugely divisive by the early seventeenth century. The talk will look at the "Book of Sports" - the name commonly given to a declaration that James I issued which explicitly licensed the playing of certain sports on Sundays and which his son, Charles I then tried to enforce - and at the huge controversy surrounding its enforcement. It will look at how this fed into the Civil War and how and why Cromwell's government suppressed the celebration of Christmas and other traditional revelry during the Interregnum.*

Steve Silver-Warner (Chair)
sombornesociety@outlook.com







# WREATH MAKING FUNDRAISER

Friday 27th November

Doors open at 7:30pm for a 7:45pm start

KING'S SOMBORNE VILLAGE HALL

Come and enjoy a festive evening making a Christmas wreath to take home! All welcome. No experience necessary!

***Tickets just £30 each*** *(100% of profit goes to the school)*
***All materials provided but please bring your own secateurs***

***Bar and raffle run by the Sombornes Pre-School***
*(100% of profit goes to the preschool)*

***To book a place or table please visit www.kssa.org.uk or scan the QR code***

**If you have any questions, please email KSSA.contact@gmail.com**

*If you cannot make it on the evening, we can provide a kit for you!*
*Places may be transferred to another name but no refunds can be given.*

**All profit goes to the Kings Somborne School Association (charity no. 1029282) & Sombornes Pre-School (charity no.1143613)**

# Somborne Sessions - Celtic Social next up

Seven-piece Franco-Irish band Celtic Social Club are next up at Somborne Sessions - top quality live music at value for money prices in our very own village hall.

Celebrating well over a decade in the business, band founder, Manu Masko, began with one wild idea: to reinvent Celtic music by crashing it head-on with rock, reggae, hip-hop and pop. Since the band was first formed in 2013, it has recorded an amazing seven albums (four studio and three live), played across continents on countless stages, and performed at festivals including Shrewsbury Folk Festival and Fairport's Cropredy Convention.

Celtic Social Club comprises Taylor Byrne (vocals and guitar), Richard Puard (bass), Pierre Stephan (fiddle), Mathieu Pequeriau (harmonica), Manu Masko (drummer and band founder), Goulven Hamel (guitars) and Celine Rivaux (violin). Imagine those voices and instruments coming together in a burst of contemporary musical energy flavoured with Celtic tradition and you have an idea of the sound and spirit of a band described as 'a clever mix reminiscent of a supergroup containing members of The Dubliners, The Pogues and The Clash' (Rolling Stone).

This is going to be one musical night to be remembered!

Celtic Social Club play the Village Hall on Saturday 14th November 2026. Tickets are £18 in advance via www.sombornesessions.co.uk (£21 on the day, if available). Doors open at 7.30 for 8pm.



## Stockbridge Practice News – October 2026



If you have received an invitation for your covid and flu vaccination but haven't booked yet, please contact the surgery so we can make you an appointment.

### Support for older people and their families

We have recently updated our website with useful information and links on topics such as attendance allowance, blue badge applications, care at home, dementia support, respect forms and more.

You can find all of this by searching for 'older' on our website or visit:

https://www.stockbridgesurgery.co.uk/support-and-information-for-older-people-and-their-families

### Physiotherapy

We have had a Physiotherapist working with us for some years. Recently, Government changes have allowed GP surgeries to recruit additional GPs as well as Allied Health Professionals. We have made the difficult decision to recruit an additional GP instead of continuing with the Physiotherapy provision. We are pleased to announce that Dr Laura Dinsmore, who is currently a trainee with us, will be joining the practice as a Salaried GP from the start of November. Rupal Kanani, who has been our most recent Physiotherapist will be leaving us in November.

Patients are able to self-refer to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare for support with joint or muscle problems. This is the link:

https://hiowhealthcare.nhs.uk/msk/referrals

### Hearing problems

Patients are also able to self-refer to the Audiology Department at Hampshire Hospitals for hearing problems. Please ask a member of the reception team to send you a link to the online form or print one for you.

**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

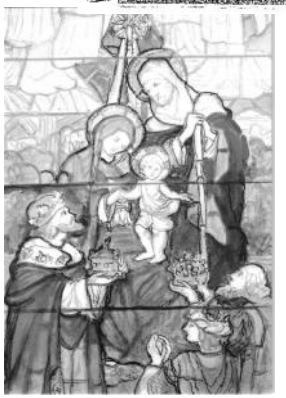
**Afternoon Tea and Cakes**

# Village Christmas cards 2026



Cards are in packs of 8 at £5.50 per pack. They are available from Louise Causer 07711238168, on sale in The Cross Stores or at the Church each Sunday in November and December



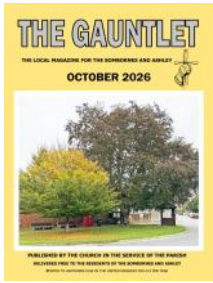
## DO YOU LIKE TO WALK?

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.

## 'THE GAUNTLET' MAGAZINE NEEDS YOUR HELP!




Are you able to give a few hours every couple of months to help in the printing of the Parish Magazine, which is done in the Parish Room of the New Vicarage.
Two of our regular 'helpers' are retiring, having been involved with the team for many years now.
For more information please contact

**Steve Guy on steve371@btinternet.com**

# Somborne Garden Club Events 2027

The Somborne Garden Club is much more than a gardening society. It is a friendly community of people who share a love of plants, gardens, and the pleasure of learning from one another. The club brings people together through visits to beautiful gardens, inspiring talks and lively conversations about everything from growing vegetables and nurturing flowers. We have no membership fees, just a mailing list to organise the events.

As the seasons have been a bit too unpredictable the last few years, we have planned our events with more flexibility in mind and fix the date a few weeks before the event.

If you are interested in any of these events, just join our group and contact any of us:

D Orange (d@fromans.co.uk), Nickey Buckley (nm.buckley@yahoo.co.uk) or Ute Brock (Ute@Brockys.com).

**Outline programme for 2027:**

**February:**
Inspiring talk about 'dryer' gardens. How to plan and organise your garden with the unpredictable weather patterns

**April:**
Enjoying the Tulip and Daffodil collection at West Green House Gardens (Hook)

**May:**
The legendary Plant Swap

**June:**
Members BBQ getting together

**June/ July:**
A relaxing evening in a private garden in Lockerley

**July:**
A visit to Waterperry Gardens or Kelmscott Manor and Gardens, near Lechlade

**End of November:**
An inspiring talk about Manor houses and their gardens over time









# An inspiring start for our bereaved children's appeal

Our unique appeal, made to the Up Somborne community to provide comfort and healing for bereaved children at Southampton hospital, who have lost a sibling or lost a parent, has taken its first beautiful steps.

Our heartfelt thanks go to **Andrzej, Fe, Glenda and Jane D. of Up Somborne**, who went to immense personal effort to donate specific books that have already brought comfort, healing, and light to children navigating their darkest days.

Thanks to donors like these, this initial chapter is wonderfully underway.

There is a dedicated list of books for grief for children : these may be pre-used and no money changes hands. I can arrange collection of the books.

Alternatively, contributions from residents, landlords, and local businesses, from as little as £4, would be deeply appreciated and will expand this vital resource.

The impact of these books and smaller tokens is profound; a young girl who lost her sibling recently carries her new book with her wherever she goes. It connects her to her sister.

Small things do make an extraordinary difference.

If you wish to support please email: Chris at **suecaz1971@gmail.com** by the **20th November**.

# 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 November 10th**

**12.30pm £7.00**

*Chicken Bake*

*Carrots* *Green Beans*

*Rice*

*Apple Crumble & Custard*

*Coffee *

**Further details - Marilyn 389 356**

## Over 50s Minibus Trips

**Booking essential**

Phone Sue 07891930684



**Thursday November 19th 2026**

# Wimborne

**£10.00** Pick up 10.00am Home for 4.00pm

# Sticky pumpkin and sweet potato traybake

### A good way of using up the pumpkins! Serves 4

½ small pumpkin or 1 small butternut squash( approx. 600 gms)
Cut into ¼" chunks, seeds removed (and saved)
2 sweet potatoes, cut into ¼" chunks
2 red peppers, deseeded and cut into thick wedges
2 red onions, peeled and cut into thick wedges
2 tbs olive oil 1 tbs red wine vinegar
1 tsp smoked paprika 2 garlic cloves, crushed
2 tbs honey 2 tsp cumin seeds

**Crispy Pumpkin Seeds**
Reserved seeds washed and dried
I tsp olive oil, pinch smoked paprika
(or buy a packet!)

**To serve**
100 g watercress and/or rocket
250g natural yoghourt
1-2 tbs sriracha (optional – slightly spicy!)

**Oven 200/180 fan**

Whisk oil, vinegar, honey, garlic and spices together in large bowl. Add veg, season with salt and pepper and mix thoroughly. Tip everything into large roasting tin in an even layer. Roast for 50 mins, giving a good mix ½ way through cooking.

Meanwhile make pumpkin seeds by mixing with oil and pinch of salt. Spread out on non-stick baking tray and bake for 20 mins until crisp. Season with pinch of paprika and set aside to cool.

Remove veg from oven and stir through watercress. Mix yoghourt and sriracha together and drizzle over veg and serve topped with pumpkin seeds.

PS You could include chicken thighs to recipe and roast all together to make non-veggie!

**Enjoy!**

**D**

# Somborne Speedwatch

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

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Everyone is welcome!

## TEST VILLAGES U3A

**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.

**Thursday 3rd Dec in Chilbolton Village Hall**

Christmas Social for Members Only
- a fun afternoon including festive food & drinks
and entertainment by Tony Harrris as a Pantomime Dame**.**
Reserve your place at the October and November meetings.

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

## 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!**

## 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.

## Holy Dusters

I wonder if there is anyone in the village who would like to join the "Holy Dusters" Team? Holy Dusters are a group of people/ladies, usually three or four per group who clean the church once every four weeks.

Would you be interested?

I would be very pleased to hear from you -

Linda Aucock 01794 388542 or linda.aucock@btinternet.com

# Church services in October

## Parish Church

**Sunday, 1st November—All Saints Day**
**08.00am Holy Communion (1662)**
**10.00am Morning Worship**
*Readings:*
Pollyann Monk: *1 John 3.1-3*
Caroline Hervey Bathurst: *Matthew 5.1-12*
**3.00pm All Souls' Service**

**Sunday, 8th November**
**Remembrance Sunday**
**10.50am Short Remembrance gathering at the War Memorial followed by Remembrance Service in church**

**Wednesday 11th November**
**Armistice Day with School**
**10.55am War Memorial**

**Sunday, 15th November**
**2nd Sunday before Advent**
**10.00am Holy Communion**
**Preaching: Joan Appleyard**
*Readings:*
Sue Jackson: *1 Thessalonians 5.1-11*
Alwena Rowe: *Matthew 25.14-30*

**Sunday, 22nd November**
**Christ the King**
**10.00 am Holy Communion**
David Evans: *Ephesians 1.15-end*
Linda Aucock: *Matthew 25.31-end*

**Sunday, 29th November**
**The First Sunday of Advent**
**10.00 am Holy Communion—Group Service**
Fi Chilton: *Isaiah 64.1-9*
Antony Chilton: *1 Corinthians 1.3-9*
Sandie Pepperell: *Mark 13.24-end*
**3pm Advent Carol Service**

## Methodist Church

**Sunday 1st November**
**10.30am** Rev Bob Kitching

**Sunday 8th November**
**10.50am** at War Memorial followed by service in Parish Church

**Sunday 15thNovember**
No morning service

**Sunday 22nd November**
**10.30am** Mr Mike Wood

**Sunday 29thNovember**
**10.30am** Rev Rachael Hawkins
Holy Communion

**Messy Church**
**please see page 38**

## 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

# Associate Minister's Last Word

Dear Friends,
As November approaches, I find myself thinking about the importance of remembering. Remembrance Sunday is always a poignant moment in the life of a community. There is something deeply moving about standing alongside one another in silence, laying wreaths and remembering those who gave their lives in the service of others. It is a moment that invites us to pause, reflect and give thanks, while recognising the terrible cost of conflict and the preciousness of peace.

It makes me wonder whether remembrance also invites us to think about how we live today. When we remember those who showed extraordinary courage and sacrifice, we might also consider the quieter acts of kindness that make a difference in our own community. Not everyone is called to do something heroic, but all of us have opportunities to make life a little better for someone else.

As a priest, I am often reminded that kindness rarely makes the headlines. It happens when someone checks on an elderly neighbour, listens to a person who is struggling, offers a lift to someone who cannot easily get out, or quietly makes sure that nobody feels forgotten. Sometimes it is simply a smile, a friendly conversation, or the courage to ask, *"How are you really doing?"*

These things might seem small, but they can mean a great deal to someone who is lonely, anxious, or facing a difficult time. One of the most important things we can offer another person is the reassurance that they matter and that they are not alone.

For Christians, this is at the heart of our faith. Jesus taught us to love our neighbours as ourselves, and his parable of the Good Samaritan reminds us that love is not simply a feeling; it is something we put into practice. The Samaritan noticed someone in need, stopped, and offered practical help. He did not walk past or assume that someone else would take responsibility.

Perhaps that is a challenge worth carrying with us beyond Remembrance Sunday. We cannot undo the suffering of the past, but we can help to build a more compassionate future through the choices we make today.

As we remember those who sacrificed so much for others, may we honour their memory not only with words, wreaths, and silence, but also through the way we treat one another. May we notice those who are struggling, offer kindness without expecting anything in return, and work for peace wherever we can.

And as we give thanks for those who have served others, may we find our own ways to serve our neighbours. Lest we forget – may we never forget the difference that kindness can make.

With every blessing,

*Ann* Rev'd Ann Devereux

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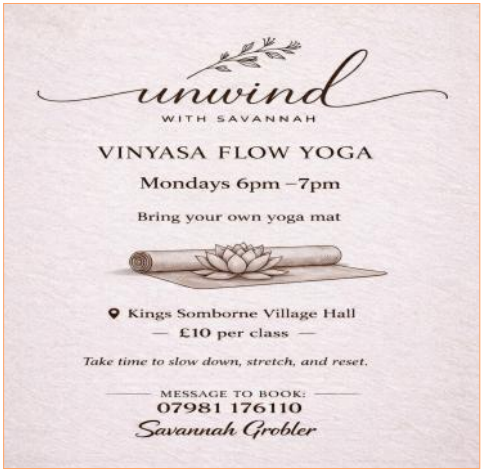
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