



Mottisfont & Dunbridge

# ACORN



The Village Newsletter

April 2019

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

On Saturday 13th April from 10am to 1pm there will be a working party at the village hall to tidy the outside areas. Please bring refuse sacks, shears, brooms, spades and rakes. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.

Book Saturday 30th November in your diary, when there will be a magic lantern show at the village hall. Alan Brindle from Southampton will bring his magic lantern and show slides from the Victorian era. There will be a reminder nearer the time, but try to keep the date free.

## Lost mobile phone

A Samsung 8 phone with a black flip cover was lost on 4th of March, probably between the Mill Arms and the Social Club.

If you have found it, please contact Bill Sherratt on 07919 603642 or email will\*dot\*sherratt58\*at\*gmail\*dot\*com.

## Dunbridge allotments

Dunbridge allotments is a lively community of gardeners working on 14 allotments in the middle of the village. One of the plots has become vacant. Anyone interested in taking on this plot is invited to contact me on 07811116761 or kim\*dot\*bown00\*at\*gmail\*dot\*com.

Kim Bown

## MEET THE NEIGHBOURS

Come and join neighbours and friends for a chat over a drink at the Mill Arms.

**Tuesday,  
23rd April, 7pm**



## Passport to Mottisfont

Why do the powers-that-be like to keep us in the dark? Because knowledge is power, of course, but also because sometimes things slip out that can make it more difficult for our politicians to achieve their self-centred aims (maybe we should remind them more often who they work for?). So, using dark and devious means, we at Acorn Towers were delighted to get hold of the true unexpurgated text of Article 50 of the Treaty of the European Union, where we discovered some previously unreported words that made us sit up and pay close attention: *"Citizens of a member state seeking to leave the European Union shall be entitled to declare their city, town, village, or neighbourhood to be independent of the said member state, on the basis of a simple majority vote. Such areas:*



- i. will be required to paint the European Union flag onto the road surface at all points of entry;*
- ii. will be entitled to set up border posts to enforce customs regulations;*
- iii. will be regarded as members of the European Union."*

We immediately called a top-level meeting of GOMAD (Grumblers Of Mottisfont And Dunbridge, our answer to the government's COBRA committee) which for security reasons was held in an unused room - formerly known as "Flints" - at the Mill Arms. After extensive discussion among all those present, we both voted unanimously in favour of independence. Several gallons of blue and yellow paints are now on order.

One important detail that GOMAD discussed was whether the border with neighbouring villages should be hard or soft. It was felt that a good compromise with elements of both hardness and softness would be beaded curtains, so these will be installed at all entry points.

It's at least as good as anything we have heard from Westminster.

The deadline for inclusion of items in the May edition of the Acorn is 16th April.  
Please email items to [acornnews@mandercom.co.uk](mailto:acornnews@mandercom.co.uk).



**National  
Trust**

Hello everyone,

As I write, it is a glorious day – the magnolia behind the house is in full bloom, the chinodoxa are creating a lovely blue carpet down the Lime Walk, and a film crew are setting up to shoot some scenes in the cellarium. We're not allowed to say what the production is yet, but as soon as we are we'll let you know so you can look out and see if you spot the location!

We ended the National Trust year on the last day of February, with just a couple of thousand fewer visitors than last year – just over 375,000. The weather played a significant part in that – we went from snow at the start of the year to a cold and rainy Easter, then of course it was very hot for much of the summer. Our family visitors all flocked happily to see the Tiger who Came to Tea, armed with sun block and hats, but some of our older adult visitors quite understandably decided to stay in the shade or head for the beach.

We opened our lovely new Kitchen Garden and Top Lodge (where visitors can find out more about the history of the gardens and how we look after them, especially our roses), completed a new green sewerage project to serve the newly refurbished walled garden toilets and some neighbouring cottages, and carried out winter woodland management works around the estate.

We started restoring the curtains from the Whistler Room, and have had great fun engaging kids with all the gruesome (and now dead!) bugs that we found inside them after they'd been frozen.

This year, we'll be finishing repairs to the beams inside the Stables, and monitoring a beam with cracks in it inside the main house, above the Whistler Room – of course, we are being extremely careful with that one! It's in an area of the house that we have not used much for some time, and now all load and use has been removed from the rooms around the area whilst it is monitored and assessed. Meanwhile, our Building Surveyor is due to visit the village hall to look at the cracks there, and will plan remedial actions needed.

We're looking forward to a year of beauty, fun (especially with the Beano in the summer, who are writing a special comic trail for us where Dennis, Gnasher and their chums invent a time machine to go back into the past to discover Mottisfont's history!), restoring habitats for wildlife, exploration and discovery. If you haven't been into the house for a while, it's worth popping in to see the new interpretation about the building and how it's changed over the last 800 years.

Hope we'll see you soon,

With all best wishes,

Louise

Louise Govier

General Manager, Mottisfont & SW Hants Group

### **For families...**

#### **Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt**

**Saturday 6 – Monday 22 April**

Enjoy a Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt throughout the school holidays. Roam the grounds and find out about the bugs, birds, plants and fish that live here. There are loads of fun nature-themed activities to get stuck into, plus a delicious Cadbury chocolate treat for all participants. £2.50 per trail.

### **In the gardens...**

Bright yellow daffodils are spreading out near the font and along the pathways of the winter garden - we've planted a mix of large and small varieties which should provide colour right through to the end of April. Tulips in the parterre, lime walk and central walled garden will begin to bloom this month, providing the finale of our spring bulb showcase. The first spring vegetables have been planted in the new Kitchen Garden, and we should see a modest display of apple blossom appearing on the young trees which surround the water feature.

### **In the gallery...**

#### **Thelwell: Laughter and Landscapes Until Monday 22 April**

It's your last chance to catch our popular Thelwell exhibition, full of old favourites such as the famous plump ponies and other satirical cartoons with astute and amusing observations on country life. There's also breath-taking landscape art, showcasing the artist's love of the local area. Some of this work has never been publically shown before, including a selection of Thelwell's early wartime sketches.

### **In the house...**

This year we're revealing stories of Mottisfont's fascinating architectural history, from the 12th century right through to the present day. As you explore the interior, look out for new signs which will help you unravel the complexities of this intriguing house.

### **On the wider estate...**

Spring wildflowers are emerging in the estate woodlands. It's wildlife survey season for our rangers – we'll be starting to survey butterflies this month, as early adult hibernator butterfly species begin to emerge. This is when we can monitor the effects of our winter conservation projects such as scrub clearance and coppicing.

*continued on page 3*

**Friday 26th April at 7.30pm**

Tickets £10 each, to include jacket potato and chilli supper

Teams of 8 maximum  
Licenced bar and raffle

Tickets available from PTA chair,  
Eileen McIlwain, on 279157

A small plastic propagator has been found on Barley Hill. Probably the recent very strong winds had blown it from a nearby property.

It's safe in my garage. Please phone 340129 to be reunited!

*continued from page 2*

## Keep in touch...

Visit our website, [nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont), to keep up to date with things to see and do. You can also find us on social media – look out for us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @MottisfontNT for regular updates.

Eight gardens will be on show in Longstock, some of which are maintained by retired professionals from Longstock Park Nursery, whilst others are tended by enthusiastic and knowledgeable amateurs.

The Village Allotments will also be open and representatives will be there to give advice and proudly show off their work. St. Mary's Church will be florally decorated and will be worth a visit, as will its recently renovated churchyard.

Programmes will be on sale in the Village Hall (postcode SO20 6DP) and also at one of the two other designated parking areas in the village.

Entry prices to all gardens (covering both days) are £8 for adults. Under 16's get in free.

Teas will be served in the Village Hall on both afternoons, starting at 1.30pm, where there will be a plant stall with many quality plants and bargains.

A limited amount of free mini bus transport will be available to take visitors up and down the village.

Unfortunately it will not be possible for dogs to enter any of the gardens.

All proceeds will be in aid of St. Mary's Church,  
Longstock.

Your local village team, Mottisfont Cricket Club, is looking for players. We play in the Hampshire County Division 4 West on Saturdays, and on Tuesdays we play in the Border League Division 2.

We supply superb teas for Saturday matches!

The season starts in early May. Please contact Tony Stemp on 340398 if you are interested.

**Sunday 19th May, Broughton Sports Field  
12noon - 3pm.**

**Entry £2 (children free)**

*BBQ, refreshments, cake stall, ice cream and candy floss, brass band, fire engine, tractors, dog show, maypole, games, bouncy castle, books, plants, face painting, tug of war, pony rides, raffle and much more!*



# BREAKING UP

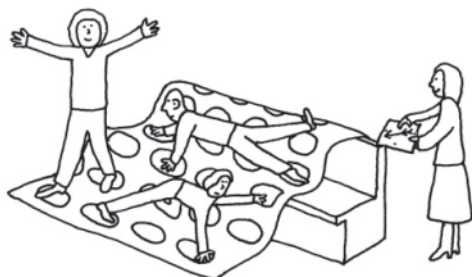
HOW CHURCHES CELEBRATE THE END OF TERM



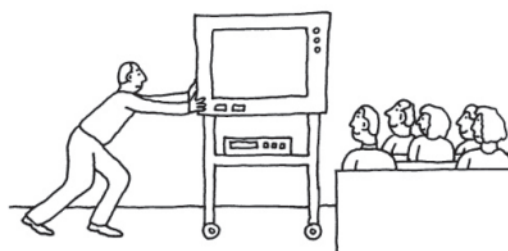
NON-UNIFORM DAY



PRIZEGIVING



GAMES CAN BE BROUGHT IN



A VIDEO INSTEAD OF THE SERMON

Cartoon supplied by  
the Area Dean,  
James Pitkin.  
©cartoonchurch.com

## CHURCH SERVICES FOR APRIL

	7th April 5th of Lent Passiontide begins	14th April Palm Sunday	21st April EASTER	28th April 2nd of Easter
8am	<b>BROUGHTON</b> HC CW	-	<b>6am BROUGHTON</b> First Light Communion at Nutley Farm	-
9.30 am	<b>BOSSINGTON</b> HC BCP ----- <b>BROUGHTON</b> The Bible Uncovered	<b>BROUGHTON</b> HC CW ----- <b>HOUGHTON</b> Family Communion, CW	<b>BROUGHTON</b> Family Service & HC followed by Easter Egg hunt ----- <b>BOSSINGTON</b> HC BCP	<b>BROUGHTON</b> Family Communion, CW
11am	-	<b>MOTTISFONT</b> Messy Church Club	<b>10am HOUGHTON</b> Family Communion, CW ----- <b>MOTTISFONT</b> Family Communion, CW	<b>MOTTISFONT</b> Family Communion, CW
6pm	<b>MOTTISFONT</b> Evensong	-	-	<b>HOUGHTON</b> Evensong ----- <b>BOSSINGTON</b> Meditation

HC = Holy Communion

CW = Common Worship

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

**GOOD FRIDAY, 19th April at 10.30: Holy Week Trail at Houghton**

## Thoughts from St. Andrew's

April at last! Yet we are still working our way through Lent, and must patiently await the delights of the forthcoming late Easter.

On this subject we are extremely grateful to our Area Dean, Rev'd James Pitkin, whose excellent contribution below is both poignant and thought provoking.

Thank you to James for this, and indeed for all the regular monthly pieces he has so diligently provided for us during the interregnum. They have been greatly appreciated, and we sincerely hope he will continue until we have a new priest in post. Not too much longer we hope!

So, we will leave you with James's words, and simply take this opportunity to wish you all God's blessing for a joyful Eastertide.

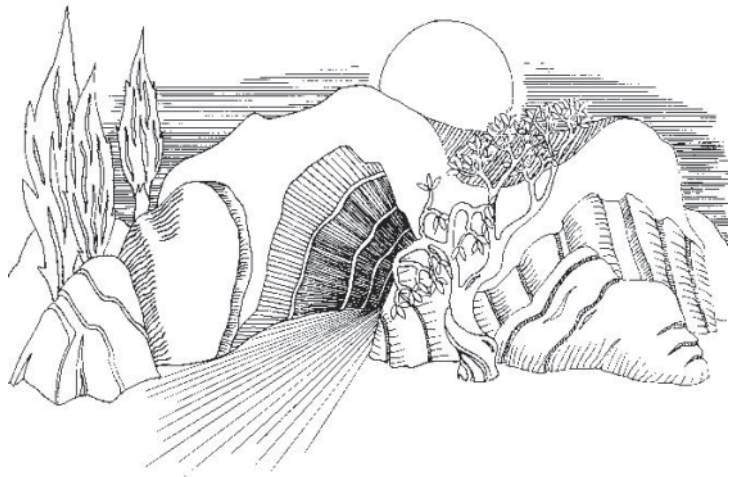
Sue and Trish

## Half an Easter? No, thanks!

This year, Easter falls at the end of school holidays, which will make church and schools mark Easter in a different way to usual.

In a certain church marketing newsletter, called the Church's Advertising Network, a campaign has been developed to attract people to church during the season of Easter. In this public relations campaign, it is suggested that the cross is removed from the altar.

According to the author, a survey has revealed that the cross is one of those symbols that the new generation of church goers considered too "churchy". One minister interviewed for the campaign gave his whole hearted endorsement. "We are going to attempt to concentrate on the resurrection, and not the death of Jesus."



Easter without the cross. Rather an interesting thought. Is it possible to have resurrection without crucifixion? No. It distorts the entire gospel if crucifixion is separated from resurrection. The road to the empty tomb will forever pass by a cross. The one who is raised from the dead is none other than the crucified Christ. Easter without a cross is a hoax.

Good Friday remembers the time that Christ spent on the cross. If you see only the happy ending of a movie, everyone who saw it from the start is elated, but you go away saying, "So they were all hugging each other? So what?" But if you see the beginning and the middle part, with all the suspense and grief, you understand what the characters overcame, and the happy ending is all the happier.

So to me, attending the Easter services without attending Holy Week services is like watching the happy ending of the movie without seeing the middle - you only rob yourself of joy. For the joy, join others to celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Day.

Your Area Dean, James

### BROUGHTON BRIGHT HOUR

Thursdays at 2.30pm  
in the Meeting Room  
at St. Mary's Church, Broughton

#### Events for April

4th April: Mr. Ron Caddy  
11th April: Mrs. Margaret Pickett  
18th April: Members' Meeting  
25th April: Members' Meeting

Everyone welcome, please come and join us.

Barbara Perry, Booking Secretary, 301466

Don't forget the village web site:

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

What would **you** like to see on it?

## Whist Drives

at

Mottisfont Village Hall

Commencing at 7.30pm

The next monthly Whist Drive will be on Friday 26th April.

All commencing at 7.30pm.

***Join us for the last Whist of the season!***

Gordon & Cathie  
340129



**STOCKBRIDGE MUSIC**  
presents

## THE GESUALDO SIX (CHORAL)

Friday 3rd May 2019

St. Peter's Church, Stockbridge, 7.30pm



Six powerful classically trained voices with a passion for ensemble singing. This is a vocal consort comprised of the UK's finest young consort singers, directed by Owain Park. They are enjoying a rapid rise to fame.

They will be performing sacred and secular music from across the ages.

Tickets £14 available from  
[www.jumblebee.co.uk/stockbridgemusic](http://www.jumblebee.co.uk/stockbridgemusic)  
Local box offices will open 4 weeks prior to the concert

*(Yes, there are seven of them. One is the director, who also sometimes sings - Eds.)*

Friday 12 April

## The Heiresses (12A)

Chela and Chiquita, both descended from wealthy families in Paraguay, have been together for over 30 years.

Recently their financial situation has worsened and they begin selling off their inherited possessions. But when their debts lead to Chiquita being imprisoned on fraud charges, Chela is forced to face a new reality. (In Spanish with English subtitles.)

Showing at Stockbridge Town Hall, SO20 6HE, at 7.30pm. Doors open at 7pm.

Wednesday 17 March 2019

## First Man (12A)

A look at the life of the astronaut, Neil Armstrong, and the decade leading to the historic Apollo 11 mission that led him to become the first man to walk on the Moon in 1969. The film explores the triumphs and the cost - on Armstrong, his family, his colleagues and the nation itself - of one of the most dangerous missions in history.

Showing at Stockbridge Town Hall, SO20 6HE, at 4.15pm and 7.30pm. Doors open 30 minutes before the start time.

Tickets £5.00 from Garden Inn and John Robinson in Stockbridge or online via our website [www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk](http://www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk)





## The Broughton and Mottisfont Community Bus

Charity Number: 284910

The Community Bus provides regular scheduled journeys from Mottisfont to Romsey, Salisbury, Andover, Winchester and Southampton. For a full time table please see



<http://www.broughton-hants.net/village-bus>

or call Peter Barnett (Mottisfont Parish Council's representative on the bus committee) on 340793.

### Drivers Wanted

We are always looking for additional volunteer drivers.

The normal commitment is about one half-day a month. No previous experience is required, just an ordinary driving licence. Full training is given.

It's fun and a great way to contribute to the community!

### The WI

At our March meeting we welcomed a number of guests from Awbridge, Houghton, Kings Somborne, Lockerley and Tytherley W.I groups to enjoy a talk and exhibits about Needlework Bygones given by Sue Franklin.



We were shown Sue's collection of thimbles, thimble cases, needles and pins which she has collected over the years, some of which were extremely old and very interesting.

As it was the 21st anniversary of our group, one of the committee members had baked a celebration cake, which was enjoyed by all, together with tea and coffee.

The next meeting will be held on 9th April at 7.30pm in Mottisfont & Dunbridge Village Hall.

We are due to be entertained on this evening by "The Chantrelle Singers" led by Angela White.

Guests will be very welcome to join us for this evening.

Mary Batten  
President

## MOTTISFONT PARISH COUNCIL

### Meeting dates

Annual Parish Meeting - Wednesday 24th April

Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 15th May

Parish council minutes, etc. can be found at  
[www.mottisfontpc.org.uk/pc/pc.php](http://www.mottisfontpc.org.uk/pc/pc.php)

### Elections, 2nd May

Elections for all Test Valley Borough Council Wards and all Parishes within the Test Valley area are scheduled to take place on Thursday 2nd May.



The Notices of Election for the Test Valley Borough Council elections and for Parish elections in the Test Valley area have now been published and can be downloaded from  
[www.testvalley.gov.uk/aboutyourcouncil/localdemocracy/elections/elections-2-may-2019](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/aboutyourcouncil/localdemocracy/elections/elections-2-may-2019).

### The Thomas Dowse's Charity: What do we do? Can we help?

The Thomas Dowse's Charity is able to provide grants to individuals, up to the age of 25, living in Broughton, Bossington, Mottisfont and Dunbridge, for educational purposes, including such things as the cost of school trips, music tuition, overseas educational trips, uniform, swimming lessons, transport to educational establishments, laptops, and books.

Applications are treated in strict confidence. Applicants must demonstrate need, but there is no means testing.

Applications for consideration at the next meeting should be received by the secretary at least 10 days before the next meeting (date still TBD).

Grant applications should be made on the new application forms which have the Trust's Privacy Notice attached for your information. These are available from St. Mary's Church, Broughton, Mottisfont Church, Broughton Primary School or by email from [tina-stuart-1-at-gmail-dot-com](mailto:tina-stuart-1-at-gmail-dot-com). (remove the dashes, and change "at" to "@" and "dot" to ".").

## MOTTISFONT SOCIAL CLUB

### Forthcoming events

**6th April:** 70s/80s Disco 8pm, with themed clothing  
**27th April:** the monthly quiz with snowball question over £100

**11th May:** charity disco & raffle 8pm, to raise money for Southampton cancer centre and Papyrus, the national charity dedicated to the prevention of young suicide (see [papyrus-uk.org](http://papyrus-uk.org))

### Regular Activities at Mottisfont Social Club

**Mondays:** Ladies' Darts Team, Romsey and District Ladies' Dart League. Snooker Team - Division 2 of the Southampton Snooker League.

**Tuesdays:** Billiards Team, Test Valley Billiards League.

**Wednesdays:** Free snooker and pool night.

**Thursdays:** Crib Team, Romsey Crib League. Bingo - this is very popular, with a chance of winning up to £100. Find the joker game.

**Fridays:** Two Darts Teams, Romsey Men's Darts League.

**Saturdays:** Quiz - On the last Saturday of each month. Up to 6 people per team. £2 each. There will be a snowball round.

**Sundays:** We have our own Skittle League, 10 people in a team. We are always looking for new teams to join.

Most of these activities take place between September and May apart from ladies' darts, bingo and the meat draw which take place all year round.

If you are interested in any of these activities, please contact the club on 340521, or pop in for a drink.

## Local author publishes first novel

Mottisfont Village Hall Secretary, Jennifer Wineberg has just published her debut novel entitled "Ruskin's Copper Shadow". The book links her great great grandmother, Isabella Milburn, to the famous art critic, writer and historian, John Ruskin, whose bicentenary is being celebrated this year.

The story is triggered by events at a stately home in the wilds of Northumberland, Wallington Hall, where the reader witnesses the attempts of Lady Trevelyan to destroy the love between Isabella and Ruskin.

When this girl, Isabella Milburn, fell pregnant in 1865, Pauline was desperate to protect her close friend John Ruskin from scandal. He was a regular visitor to the Hall and had just lost his father. She was not going to let her love for Ruskin be undermined by a servant girl.

The tale is told through the eyes of a fictitious Northumbrian canon who like Ruskin, has an impetuous desire to right social wrongs. He finds his own love in Rosalind who is just as feisty and headstrong as Isabella and who bears him a child in similar circumstances to Ruskin.

Jennifer was motivated to write the book when she saw a picture of a little girl on a wall painting at Wallington Hall and noticed the striking resemblance between her and her late aunt Mabel. Jennifer's father always said that their family was connected to Wallington Hall in some way and she researched her family history using local archives and internet based genealogy platforms. She eventually came to the

conclusion that the little girl was her great great grandmother Isabella Milburn. Seven years later she is delighted to have been able to publish her story of deception, manipulation and intrigue. It is available on Amazon Kindle and Apple books. See [www.books2read.com/coppershadow](http://www.books2read.com/coppershadow).

Please let Jennifer know what you think about her revelations!

Twitter: Jennifer Winebe1, Facebook: @JWine66  
e-mail: [jennifer\\*at\\*wineberg\\*dot\\*co\\*dot\\*uk](mailto:jennifer*at*wineberg*dot*co*dot*uk)

## Did you know?

If you own an Android mobile phone, you may have heard that many of the apps on it will report information about what you are doing, where you are, etc. to various organisation who use this to build a picture of you for use in advertising. What you may not know is the scale of this reporting.

In mid-November I installed an app that claims to block communications with known tracking organisations. The app is called Blokada, and it keeps count of the number of times it blocks tracking messages.

Now, I'm not a heavy user of my phone, and don't use Facebook or Twitter, but in the four months I have been using Blokada, it has blocked over 17,000 messages! So I think we have to ask ourselves: is that honest of the app creators (they don't usually say they are doing this), and am I OK with it?