



Mottisfont & Dunbridge

ACORN



The Village Newsletter

August & September 2020

VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

We are delighted to announce that the Village Hall has now re-opened for small meetings, group events and private hire, in line with current government guidance.

As mentioned in last month's Acorn, we have been extremely busy over the last few weeks. The floor in the main hall has been sanded and sealed, work on refurbishing the old toilets is almost complete, and a new wheelchair ramp is due to be installed in the near future.

The Committee has also carried out a full COVID-19 Risk Assessment and has made a number of changes which mean that we can safely welcome you back to the hall. These include the introduction of a one-way system throughout the building (clearly marked and sign-posted), the provision of hand sanitiser at all entrances, and reduced capacity for inside events.

Unfortunately, there are still a few events that we cannot accommodate at the moment, but we will keep the situation under regular review as the government guidance is updated.

If you would like to hire the hall or have any queries about the changes we have made, please contact Diane Roberts – her contact details can be found on the Village Hall website: www.mottisfontvillagehall.co.uk.

MEMORY WALK

IN AID OF THE ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY

Since the lockdown began in March, we have spent many hours walking around the parish and further afield, exploring dozens of footpaths and trying to get a bit fitter.

During August and September, we will be walking 100 km to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society, which is the only UK charity that campaigns for change, funds research to find a cure and supports people living with dementia today.

Our target is to raise £200 (£100 each) so, if you would like to donate to this excellent cause, please visit our JustGiving page www.justgiving.com/team/eamwalkietalkies or, alternatively, we are happy to accept cheques made payable to the Alzheimer's Society.

Thank you.
Margaret Astur, Lynn Young

MOTTISFONT SCHOOL

This photo was taken when Mrs. Sillence retired as Dinner Lady at Mottisfont School. I think the photo was taken in the Spring or Summer of 1977 judging by the age of the children.

Who can you recognise in the photo?

Pat Francis



NO ACORN IN SEPTEMBER. THE NEXT ONE WILL BE FOR OCTOBER.



Well, a big hello to everyone!! I'm writing this on day 5 of my new role as General Manager of the Mottisfont and South West Hampshire portfolio, so forgive me if this is fairly short and sweet! I'm very excited to finally be here, and busy meeting people, discovering the estate, and finding out what everyone does.

I would firstly like to pay tribute to Louise Govier, who has been a driving force here at Mottisfont, a familiar and well known face for many of you, and leaves a fantastic team in place as she heads on to her very exciting and well deserved new role as Chief Executive of Artsworld, and I wish her every success in her new role.

I have had a really warm and friendly welcome from everyone I have met so far, and have been really impressed with what I have seen: huge amounts of enthusiasm and positivity despite the strange times. I have learnt that Mottisfont has the National Collection of Plane Trees as well as old roses (amazing!), had the huge privilege of exploring some of the water-meadows and world-famous fishing beats, finding out what it takes to keep our rose garden in shape, and learning about the famous figures connected to Mottisfont including Maud Russell, Rex Whistler and Derek Hill.

I am looking forward to continuing on my voyage of discovery over the next few months, including all of the very important things that go on behind the scenes at Mottisfont from retail to objects and buildings conservation to catering.

I'm also looking forward to meeting many of you, whether through Parish meetings, out and about in the villages, or you would be very welcome to come and say hello next time you come in for a visit.

I can't deny these are very strange times to be starting a new job, with the safety of both visitors and staff from Covid 19 our key priority. Many of our staff remain on furlough, and the slimline teams are working hard to manage essential tasks around the house, gardens and surrounding countryside. The booking system for visitors continues to work well though. Whilst the house remains closed for now, visitors are still very definitely enjoying having a trip out to Mottisfont, enjoying the beautiful countryside and gardens, and of course visiting our popular café and shop.

Just a quick reminder that any Parish Pass holders still need to use our booking system, so if you would like to use your Pass please email helping.mottisfont@nationaltrust.org.uk or ring 344001 to book a slot. Please note that masks will now need to be worn in our shop and café area in line with government guidance.

As Louise indicated in her last article, the National Trust is also about to launch plans to save significant costs, which is necessary as the charity has lost so much income because of Covid19. This may involve redundancies of staff, so again please do bear that in mind as I know many National Trust staff both live and work within the local area.

Vicky Fletcher
General Manager
Mottisfont & South West Hampshire
Email: Vicky.Fletcher@NationalTrust.org.uk

Support line and WhatsApp Group

The Parish Council's telephone support line on 236987 is still available for anyone in the parish needing assistance or a chat. The line is provided free of charge by TTNC, and is manned by a rota of local volunteers.

The PC's WhatsApp group is proving popular. To join, email your mobile number to jeffmottisfont-at-btinternet-dot-com (change -at- to @, etc.).

LOCAL AREA TRAFFIC

A bright spot on the otherwise bleak coronavirus horizon has been the reduction of traffic travelling through our parish on the B3084. Unfortunately, those living near this road – which is a sizeable proportion of Mottisfont and Dunbridge residents – will have noticed that traffic has increased markedly in the last couple of weeks and is returning to previous levels.

Some good news: the new gateway, designed and paid for by your Parish Council, will shortly be installed on Barley Hill, Dunbridge, to signal entry to the built-up area. We are waiting now for HCC to install it. Some residents asked for the 30 mph speed limit to be extended towards Kimbridge and we took up their case with HCC, but unfortunately the response was *"There aren't any current plans to review the speed limits on the B3084. Speed limits are only reviewed in line with our policy and criteria, which is focussed on a road casualty reduction as the highest priority. In determining whether a speed limit review is necessary we consider if there is a significant and recurring speed related road casualty history and if a speed limit reduction would assist in reducing casualties. On this basis the B3084 is a low priority for review I'm afraid"*.

Also very welcome is the National Trust's ticketing scheme which has certainly reduced traffic flows in Mottisfont village, making it safer for walkers and cyclists in that area, and leading to a marked improvement in the quality of the environment. Our message to the Trust is *please continue with the ticketing scheme*.

The Parish Council



THE MILL ARMS

It was lovely to see so many of you over the past 10 days following the reopening on Tuesday 21st July.

We are getting used to the new way of operating: a one way system in and out of the pub, no standing at the bar (or vertical drinking as the Government defines it!) and limiting table sizes, as well as all waiting staff wearing face coverings when serving customers at their tables. This is new for all of us and we fully expect to tweak the process as the weeks pass and we all learn the best way to operate, both from a staff safety perspective and a customer experience.

Initially we are operating to slightly reduced hours, which we will continue to review:

Bar:	Monday to Thursday	12 noon to 10pm
	Friday and Saturday	12 noon to 10.30pm
	Sunday	12 noon to 9pm
Food:	Monday to Friday	12 noon to 2.30pm & 5.30 to 8.30pm
	Saturday	12 noon to 8.30pm
	Sunday	12 noon to 6pm

We are also operating a takeaway service and our menus can be found on the website: www.millarmsdunbridge.co.uk or on our Facebook page. Orders can be phoned in on 340355 up to 45 minutes before food service finishes.

With the weather looking set to improve in August, we also have plenty of garden space and tables if you wish to join us to drink or dine outside (tables are on a first come first served basis outside).

CRICKET IS BACK!

Mottisfont Cricket Club's 2020 season in the Hampshire League and Border League was called off because of Covid-19. However, recreational cricket was allowed to be played again from 11th July, so we will play the outstanding matches as friendlies, as follows:

1st August	Ringwood	Home
9th August	F.Y.E.O.C.C.	Home
15th August	Michelmersham & Timsbury	Home
22nd August	Ellingham	Away
29th August	Sway 2nds	Home
5th September	Trojans	TBA
12th September	Broughton	TBA
19th September	Farley	Home

All starting at 1pm.

Tony Stemp

Our bedrooms will be fully operational from Monday 3rd August, and we are pleased to have a steady flow of bookings across August, so if you have family or friends looking to come to the area for a few days visit then give us a call if they need a room.

We will also be participating in the Chancellor's 'Eat Out to Help Out' scheme which will run from Monday to Wednesday throughout August, starting on Monday 3 August.



This programme will entitle you to a 50% discount on food and non-alcoholic drinks up to a maximum of £10 discount per diner per meal, and can be used as many times during August as you like. We will also be running it at our sister pub, The Hunters Inn, if you wanted to sample a different menu.

We have been receiving enquiries about bookings in the function room, and while gatherings of more than 30 are still not permitted, and only in limited circumstances (e.g. weddings), we are happy to make provisional bookings from October onwards and discuss with you as guidelines are updated.

We are truly happy to be back in business and look forward to saying hello and serving you again in the coming weeks.

Gina, Lorna and the team

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 towards the cost of such things as uniform, school trips, music tuition, overseas educational trips, 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.

In the current circumstances the Trustees are not able to meet, but are still able to consider any applications for grants. Please email the secretary for an application form or collect one from Broughton Primary School, St. Mary's Church (Broughton) or Mottisfont Church (if they are open).

Applications received will be circulated to Trustees for consideration and applicants will be notified as soon as possible.

Email address: tinastuart1-at-gmail-dot-com. (remove the dashes, and change "at" to "@" and "dot" to ".").

From the Rector

August traditionally heralds a bit of a break: time off school for the children, a couple of weeks in the sun, or just some leave from work and friends, and family round for a barbeque. But this year is different.

August marks our attempts to get back to doing our day-to-day activities that have not been possible for a long time. Usually the start of the school holidays is a daunting time as parents wonder how they will fill the time, but after the experience of trying to educate children during lockdown, entertaining them for 6 weeks seems like a trivial task.

Church life has also been very tentatively trying to get back to some sort of normal. At the time of writing communion services have been held in some of the churches, and by the time you read this will have taken place in most of the churches in the Midtest benefice. We are discovering that restoring worship in church within the guidelines to protect public health yields a quieter, more reflective style, and has led to a slightly reformed church-going culture. In particular the need for greater care and precision in preparing and planning means that it may be difficult to return to the full service pattern that we had prior to the lock down.

There have been other joys though – in particular several weddings arranged at short notice, and conducted without fuss or ceremony. Government guidance restricts all weddings to 30 attendees, but some of our churches have a lower limit that can be

safely accommodated. However, couples have been motivated by a wholesome desire to be married in a church and have not been concerned about guests and trimmings.

Several parishes have also been seeking the support of their communities, explaining plainly the financial challenges that they are facing, and have been met with a generous response from many, for which I am hugely grateful.

This is a challenging time in Church life, as we explore how we can best be available to the communities we serve. There are joys mixed in with the difficulties. At times it can seem overwhelming, but with open eyes, minds and hearts, we hope to see God's guidance and purpose through this time of change and transformation.

St. Andrew's Church To Reopen!

Our first public service since the beginning of the Covid 19 lock-down will be on

Sunday 2nd August at 6pm

**A 'said' Communion service led by our Rector,
The Rev. Philip Bowden**

All recommended precautions to minimise risk of Covid transmission are in place, including planned spacing of seating. Everybody is welcome, and only in the very unlikely event of numbers exceeding safe capacity would people be asked to refrain from entering. In this instance your forbearance and understanding would be appreciated.

Opening times for **private prayer** will continue be posted on the church door until further notice, and are largely dictated by the need for adequate periods of quarantine. The next such opening will be on **Thursday 6th August 9am to 11am**.

We look forward with hopefulness to the time when we can return to regular services, and a church with an open door everyday for anybody who seeks its beauty and spiritual haven.

Trish Armstrong, Churchwarden

Mottisfont Social Club

The Social Club re-opened on 4th July with Covid-19 rules in place. You **MUST** sign in and sanitise your hands on arrival, and there are plenty of hand sanitisers around the club to use. Please ask if you cannot find one.

Opening times are as before: 7pm to 11pm and noon to 2pm, and 7pm to 10.30pm on Sunday.

Bingo will be starting again on Thursday 30th July at 8.30pm.

Find the Joker will not be starting until 15th October at the earliest.

Hope to see you all soon.

The Acorn

The Acorn is half its normal size again this month, but there are signs that various activities are getting under way again. At last! So, if you are planning an event from October onwards, and you would like to publicise it across the parish, get in touch with us at **acornnews@mandercom.co.uk**.

Mottisfont & Dunbridge Acorn is edited and published by Peter & Julia Barnett, Dunelm House, Barley Hill, Dunbridge, Romsey, SO51 0LF, telephone: 01794 340793, acornnews@mandercom.co.uk, with assistance from the National Trust, the Mill Arms and the Mottisfont Social Club. Opinions expressed in The Acorn are not necessarily those of the editorial team. We do our best to ensure the accuracy of items in The Acorn, but we will not be responsible for the consequences of errors or omissions. You should check with organisers of events in case there are last minute changes. © Mottisfont & Dunbridge Acorn, 2020.