



Mottisfont & Dunbridge

# ACORN



The Village Newsletter

October-November 2020

## The Acorn

We're delighted to have produced the first edition of the Acorn on paper and delivered to all homes in the parish since lockdown began in March.

For the last several months the Acorn has been just four pages per edition, and was delivered to about 36 email addresses. You should have spotted that it was also put up on the three noticeboards in the parish, together with a few spare copies to take away. It was also added to the parish web site, [www.mottisfontpc.org.uk/acorn.php](http://www.mottisfontpc.org.uk/acorn.php), where you can find all the editions going back to when we took over in October 2006.

Although not ideal, this seemed the safest thing to do. However, people in our delivery network have recently said they are happy to start delivering again, so here we are, back on paper and coming through your letter box! Our thanks to you all for your support.

### Six editions per year

Although it has been in the back of our minds for some time, we have finally taken the decision to produce an edition every other month. From now on, the Acorn should appear around the start of **February, April, June, August, October and December**. This will of course mean that you may have to think a little further ahead if you want to publicise an event, but we hope this will not be too much of a problem.

Julia and Peter

## Local Food Suppliers

Here are details of some local food suppliers:

**Broughton Community Shop**, located in the newly refurbished village hall, is open 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm on weekdays, and 9am to 12.30pm on Saturdays and Sundays. They sell local produce, essentials and treats, fresh and frozen goods, wine and spirits, cigarettes, newspapers and magazines. They do not do deliveries.

**The Fish and Chip Van** comes to Mill Rise in Dunbridge on the first and third

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## DUNBRIDGE VILLAGE GATEWAY

Highway engineers will soon be completing the village gateway feature on Barley Hill at Dunbridge.

Mottisfont Parish Council is behind the traffic-calming initiative, aimed at reducing vehicle speeds on the southern approaches to the built-up area of Dunbridge. Fencing-style panels will be added to the white structure already in place, and it is hoped this work will be finished within the next couple of months.

A different team from Hampshire's highways contractor, Skanska, will be installing a new red anti-skid surface at the gateway entrance, along with white line markings.

New specially designed Dunbridge nameplates carrying the 'please drive carefully' message have already been erected on the outskirts of the community and at the gateway itself. These were also paid for by the Parish Council, and are part of a wider on-going project to improve safety on the highway throughout its patch.

Andy Simmonds  
Highways and footways representative for  
Mottisfont Parish Council

## MYSTERY LADYBIRDS

If you walked the Mottisfont Estate Path in the early part of lockdown you might have seen some painted ladybirds, but where are they now? They have all disappeared.

Maybe they have all flown away because their houses were on fire and their children had gone.

Maybe they have been moved and decorated someone's garden.

If you have seen them you could take a photo and post it on the village Whats App group.





Greetings from Mottisfont Abbey!

I'm writing this on a beautiful warm and sunny September day, very different from the very heavy rains we had in August accompanied by such high winds we had to keep a keen eye on whether to shut the site completely to visitors. The grounds are starting to

feel autumnal with very atmospheric mists in the morning, our fruit trees laden with apples and pears and leaves starting to turn. Our seasonal cakes made from all this glorious fruit have also gone down really well!

Visitor numbers have been steady throughout September and August. The success of the booking system has been variable. We found that visitors were booking multiple slots over several days - sort of 'spread betting' their visit in relation to the weather, and then not cancelling the slots they didn't need, but it has helped to even out the flow of visitors throughout the day.

The booking system will remain in place for the foreseeable future, but we have also been asked by the central office to also start accepting people who have not booked if we have the capacity. At the moment our top priority is to keep our staff and visitors safe throughout the Coronavirus pandemic, so we have a maximum capacity limit determined by the main carpark that we will not exceed. Staff are following enhanced hygiene routines across all parts of the business and are never far from hand gel and other sanitising equipment. Visitors are asked to wear face masks in all indoor spaces, including visitor reception, the café and the shop.

We are looking to open the house over the autumn and winter in a few weeks time, and also the bookshop, again with enhanced safety measures such as one way systems, hand sanitizers, and restrictions on numbers in line with social distancing. With Coronavirus on the rise again however, we all understand that it may all be a bit 'stop-start' this autumn and winter, and we check government and National Trust guidelines regularly! Many of our staff meanwhile remain on furlough until the government scheme comes to an end at the end of October.

As some of you will have heard, we have also had to contend with four break-ins in July and August, we think by the same gang. The first was in our farmyard barn, where our storage systems fortunately prevented our 'visitors' from getting anything of value. Our woodyard was also targeted. A few weeks later the gang also tried to break into our small New Forest depot before they returned to the farmyard barn again armed with more serious kit including angle grinders. Fortunately they were seen and reported at Burgate, and also heard at the

farmyard by our fantastic neighbours, who reported them to the police. A huge thanks to all involved; your actions were very much appreciated by all of us, and especially our countryside and gardening teams.

According to the NFU, rural crime is at its highest level for 8 years, and is being driven by targeted and organised criminal gangs. Please do take extra care to secure your own outdoor properties, be vigilant, and do report anything suspicious – but as these incidents are organised and targeted, do call the police rather than doing anything that would put you in harm's way.

On top of all of this, our countryside team has also been super busy this summer dealing with fly tipping across all of our sites, another pernicious type of rural crime. In addition, rural car parks like those on our estate often become targeted. The reports we have mainly involve in-car theft (bags, etc.), so please take care. The rangers do advise all car park users not to leave objects in parked cars if at all possible.

Louise and I have both reported on the impacts of Coronavirus on the National Trust's financial position, and the launch of the 'Reset Programme' which involves a restructure of staff and budgets to ensure that the Trust is able to weather the effects of the pandemic sustainably. The proposals do very sadly include redundancies and also fewer hours available to those people who work for us on a more flexible basis. We will be able to communicate more detail in later editions of the Acorn once the proposals are confirmed in October.

#### **Log sales suspended this year**

Unfortunately another service that I know many of you use and value is our log sales. The countryside team is working on essential tasks only while staff are on furlough, and as a result of this we will not be able to supply or deliver logs this year. Our apologies for the inconvenience this will cause, but we hope this leaves you plenty of time to find alternative supplies this year before the cold winter weather sets in.

*Vicky Fletcher*

*General Manager, Mottisfont &*

*South West Hampshire*

*Email: [Vicky.Fletcher@NationalTrust.org.uk](mailto:Vicky.Fletcher@NationalTrust.org.uk)*

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

##### **Autumn activity weekends, every weekend until 1st November, 10am-5pm**

Different nature-inspired mini-trails and activities to help families enjoy and appreciate the season:

- 3rd - 4th October: go on a scavenger hunt around the grounds to pick up autumnal windfalls.
- 10th - 11th October: what's in our veg patch?

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Discover what produce we usually grow in the Kitchen Garden and what you could grow at home.

- 17th - 18th October: use found materials from our gardens to create natural works of art.
- 31st October - 1st November: help us create our own compost by gathering up leaves from the paddocks. You can learn more about the types of tree they come from, too.

### **October half term, 17th October – 1st November**

A creative, harvest-themed trail with self-led activities including looking at nature's patterns, dancing like a falling leaf, and finding inspiration in the trees for poems and pictures.

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

Our gardens are ablaze with colour in October. The veteran Great Plane framing the east side of the house boasts a particularly dazzling autumn display. Chestnut trees lining the upper half of our main pathway glow with yellow-orange leaves, and the acid green summer foliage of our tulip trees turns a magnificent pale gold. While we weren't able to fill our Kitchen Garden with produce as normal this year, there are still some displays of scented herbs in raised beds.

To help keep everyone safe, please follow social distancing and government guidance when you visit our gardens. There are one-way routes for the walled gardens (with some small areas closed off), the river walk and the meadow. The winter garden and font stream pathway remain closed for now.

You may find that our gardens aren't quite as you're used to seeing them. We had few gardeners in the property during lockdown, while everyone else stayed home and stayed safe, so the gardens aren't perhaps as well-groomed as you might be expecting, with some weeds and rough edges. We are gradually welcoming our staff and volunteers back, so please bear with us while we work through this, and we hope that you can still enjoy the seasonal pleasures our grounds still have to offer.

### **The art of autumn: a creative trail for adult visitors**

Throughout its long history, Mottisfont has been a place of contemplation and inspiration: from ancient meetings at the font spring to the spirit of creativity which Maud Russell cultivated here from the 1930s. Artists of all kinds still come here today to reflect, observe and seek ideas, and we invite you to do the same.

As you explore the gardens, look out for points which we've highlighted as sources of inspiration. You'll be prompted to look around you in new ways and respond to what you see; whether it's by using photography, sketching, creative writing – or any other medium you choose. Or you could simply take time to pause, immerse yourself in our history, and

absorb your surroundings. You can always take the moment home with you, and see what inspiration brings later. Join us on a journey and find your creative voice.

### **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 Instagram, and follow us on Twitter @MottisfontNT for regular updates.

### **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](mailto:jeffmottisfont-at-btinternet-dot-com) (change -at- to @, etc.).

### **Memory Walk in aid of the Alzheimer's Society**

In the last couple of months, we have walked more than 110 km to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society, and our total currently stands at a magnificent £490. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has donated to this excellent cause.

We have had amazing fun, getting sunburnt, getting soaked to the skin and, above all, getting lost in the beautiful countryside that surrounds us. We have explored Dean, King's Somborne, Parnholt, Ampfield, Squab Wood, Michelmersh – the list goes on and on.

We have had so many funny things happen to us: we have "trespassed" over fields where footpath signs have mysteriously disappeared, and have risked life and limb on stiles that are unbelievably dangerous. On one occasion we took a wrong turning and ended up walking through a herd of water buffalo. Another time, a farmer warned us that our bright blue T-shirts could be dangerous because there was a bull in a field that we had to cross – putting on red waterproofs to hide our T-shirts didn't help!

All in all, this has been a wonderful experience which we will cherish for years to come. We hope that the money we have raised will help the Alzheimer's Society to improve the lives of people affected by dementia; if you would like to make a donation, there is still time: see [www.justgiving.com/team/eamwalkietalkies](http://www.justgiving.com/team/eamwalkietalkies).

Thank you again for all your support.

Lynn and Margaret



## From the Rector

At the start of October, the Church is looking forwards to some of the feasts and festivals in the Christian calendar later in the year, and how we will be able to mark them. Christmas is a particular conundrum, and until the course of the pandemic is clearer it is difficult to know what will be possible. Remembrance events this year will necessarily need to focus on the war memorials in our communities rather than church services, which will enable them to be held outdoors and allow more people to participate.

As we all know, being flexible and willing to adapt are essential virtues at the moment. Hence, in church life we have had to do many things differently. One change over the summer unrelated to Covid was the choice to focus preaching and teaching on St. Paul's letter to the Romans, which was set as one of the readings during these months anyway. I am grateful to those of you who have taken the time to express your views on the experience of learning in a bit more depth about one of the texts that was instrumental in shaping our faith, the person who wrote it, and what it has to teach us in our own modern day.

You will notice from the list of church services that we will no longer be holding online services on "Zoom" in favour of in-person worship in the evenings. I am grateful to everyone who has taken the time to tell me what they thought of the on-line service experience. Both it and in-person worship with restrictions are not entirely satisfactory, but such has been the impact of Covid on our lives and practice of our faith.

At the start of next month (2nd November) we will be marking All Souls Day, when we will be remembering and giving thanks for the lives of those who have died during the year. This year will be particularly poignant

as so many have died before their time. There will be a service in Stockbridge at noon, and another in Houghton at 7:30pm.

Finally, this month will see the annual meetings of several of our parishes. At these meetings various people will be chosen to take on important roles in the governance of the Church – churchwarden, PCC member or Deanery Synod member. I would encourage all members of the church community to seriously consider and pray about whether they are called to fulfil one of these roles. Many people express opinions about how the Church is organised and run, and it is important that the lay people of these parishes take on a role in the way these things happen, and not just expect others (or the clergy) to do this for them. Please talk to me if you feel so called to serve.

## SUNDAY SERVICES

### 4th October

Broughton: 9.30am Parish Communion  
Mottisfont: 6pm Evensong

### 11th October

Broughton: 11am Parish Communion  
Houghton: 6pm Evensong

### 18th October

Broughton: 9.30am Bible Uncovered  
Bossington: Parish Communion (BCP)

### 25th October

Broughton: 8am Holy Communion (CW or BCP),  
9.30am Family Service  
Houghton: 9.30am Parish Communion  
Mottisfont: 11am Family Communion  
Bossington: 6pm Meditation

## BROUGHTON FIREWORK DISPLAY CANCELLED FOR 2020

Unfortunately, due to the current pandemic and restrictions regarding public gatherings, we will not be able to hold our annual bonfire and firework display on 5th November. Obviously, this will also mean that we will not be in a position to accept any garden debris or burnables this year.

It is with great sadness that we have to cancel this wonderful event which has been entertaining Broughton residents and the local community for close to 40 years, but we know that everyone will understand and look forward to better days ahead.

Stay safe everyone.

Broughton Firework Committee

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

*for the diary of events, information on local food outlets, back numbers of the Acorn, and lots more!*

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Wednesday of each month. Dawn and Keith would prefer people to ring them with orders between 10am and 2pm on the day, but may also be able to take orders at the van. Their number is 07716 837147.

**Hansards** in Awbridge stocks fruit, vegetables, eggs, milk, bread and pet food. They will deliver to the parish, but please phone them on 340654 after 3pm when they are less busy, to place an order. They should then be able to deliver on the following day.

**The Mill Arms** is doing take-aways of its full menu, which can be found on their Facebook page and on their website at [www.millarmsdunbridge.co.uk](http://www.millarmsdunbridge.co.uk). Orders can be placed at lunchtime from noon to 2.30, and in the evening from 5.30 to 7.45. Starting on 9th October is their regular Friday Chip Shop Special. Call them on 340355 for details, or to place an order.

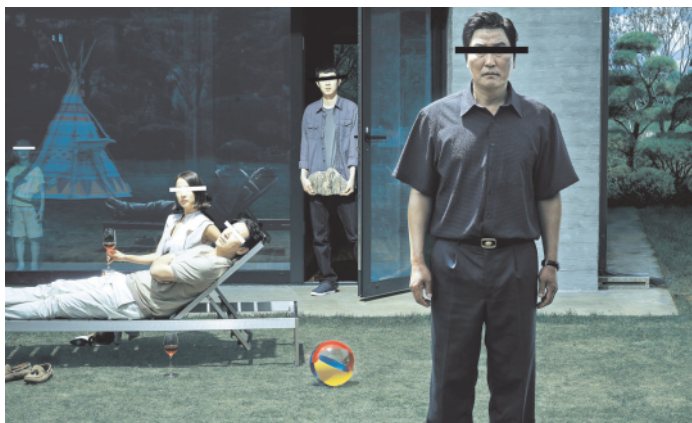
**Lockerley Stores** is open from 7am to 7pm Monday to Saturday, and 7am to 5pm on Sunday.

## STOCKBRIDGE CINEMA



### Friday 16th October: **Parasite (15)**

South Korean black comedy thriller in which a family of fraudsters lie their way into working closely with an affluent family. Winner of 4 Academy Awards in 2020 and the first ever foreign language film to win the award for Best Film [English Subtitles].



Showing at Stockbridge Town Hall SO20 6HE at 4.30pm and 7.30pm.

### Wednesday 21st October: **Official Secrets (15)**

The true story of a British whistleblower, intelligence specialist Katherine Gun (Keira Knightley), who bravely leaked information to the press about an illegal NSA spy operation designed to push the UN Security Council into sanctioning the 2003 invasion of Iraq.



Showing at Stockbridge Town Hall SO20 6HE at 4.30pm and 7.30pm.

Tickets can be purchased online: price £6.25 plus £0.75p booking fee per ticket (£7.00 total) via [www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk](http://www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk), or by telephone from TicketSource 0333 666 3366 (£1.75 charge per booking in addition to online ticket price).

Socially distanced seating, no bar, and wearing of face coverings is required. Visit our website, [www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk](http://www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk), for full details.

## VILLAGE HALL IMPROVEMENTS

Thanks to funding from the National Lottery we have now completed three improvement projects at the village hall.

The wooden floor in the main hall has been sanded and sealed.

The dilapidated outside school toilets have been refurbished by local builders Dave & Tom Wheeler to provide a secure store and covered bin area.

The last job to be completed was the new wheelchair ramp on the south side.

Installed in an amazing ninety minutes, the ramp came as a kit of parts from Rapid Ramp, a company from Hastings. The smart new ramp is finished in village hall green with a non-slip galvanized surface.



Pat & Dave Francis.

## 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](mailto:tinastuart1-at-gmail-dot-com). (remove the dashes, and change "at" to "@" and "dot" to ".").



## Mottisfont Social Club

To follow the new Covid-19 rules, the Social Club will be opening from 6pm and closing at 10pm. When entering you must sign in, leaving your telephone number, and go straight to your table where you will be served.

A face covering must be worn when you move around the club, but you do not need to have it on when sitting at your table. There is a maximum of six people per table.

Bingo will start at 8.15pm sharp, so please come early. Find The Joker is still taking place, and will be drawn at the end of the Bingo.

We are looking at running a Halloween event on 31st October, but this is being reviewed. If you are interested, please contact the club.

All members must please abide by the new rules, so we can help keep the infections down and still enjoy a night out.

## Broughton and Mottisfont Village Bus Update

The village bus has not been running since lockdown began in March. We were hoping to resume some services from early October, but with the rising number of infections, we have decided against this.

We had carried out a full risk assessment based on the Community Transport Association guidelines and had developed procedures to run services in the safest way possible. However, there would still be a risk to both passengers and drivers: the very concept of bundling people into a tin box and taking them to a town centre is not totally commensurate with the ideas of shielding or social distancing!

For the latest information please check the Broughton Village website [www.broughtonvillage.net](http://www.broughtonvillage.net), email [thevillagebus@outlook.com](mailto:thevillagebus@outlook.com), or call 234794.

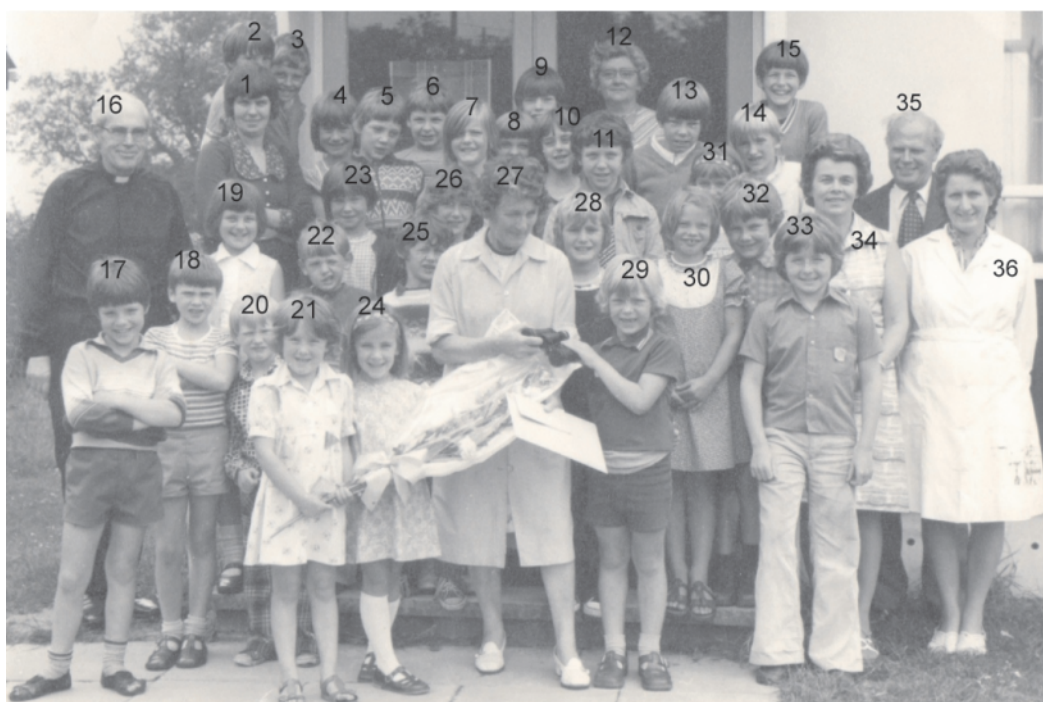
Andrew Illingworth, Hon. Sec.

## MOTTISFONT PRIMARY SCHOOL 1977

In the August and September edition of the Acorn, we showed a photo of people at Mottisfont Primary School in 1977, kindly provided by Pat Francis. She wondered how many people could be identified.

This was seen by Martin Fletcher, who evidently likes a challenge! He contacted some other people, and believes that he now has all the names - but he's happy to be corrected if you know better.

The names Martin has provided are:



(1) Mrs. Brenda Osman, (2) Andrew Johnson, (3) Matthew Whitfield, (4) Claire Johnson, (5) Piers Hall, (6) Glen Morris, (7) Evette Barter, (8) Jacqui Blake, (9) Julian Surplice, (10) Natalie Bond, (11) Stuart Blake, (12) Mrs. Scoones (Infants Teacher), (13) Kevin Lawrence, (31) Sarah Hayward, (14) Robert Olden, (15) Tony Thornton, (16) Vicar, (17) Stephen Thornton, (18) Craig Morris, (19) Heather Jones, (20) Lee Olden, (21) Teresa Pragnell, (22) Stephen Hayward, (23) Wendy Johnson, (24) Saira Francis, (25) Darren Lawrence, (26) Joanne Lawrence, (27) Mrs. Sillence (centre), retiring dinner lady, (28) Anthony Simmonds, (29) Paul Surplice, (30) Maria Ward, (32) Jason Gaylor, (33) Luke Thompson, (34) Mrs. Joan Southwell, (35) Mr. James (Head Teacher), (36) Mrs. June Young.