



Mottisfont & Dunbridge



ACORN



The Parish Newsletter



December 2024 and
January 2025



The Travelling Players

will be returning to

Mottisfont Village Hall

on

Monday, 23rd December at 6pm

Tickets £10 for adults, £7.50 for children

Through their unique brand of quirky storytelling, live action, music, a puppet or two, a host of Gothic surprises, some ghostly flights of fancy, and a clanking of chains, the Travelling Players will bring this Yuletide classic to life.

Join us for this heartfelt hug of a tale!

After all, as Dickens said,

"There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humour."

Suitable for the whole family

Phone 340609 to book, as tickets are selling fast!

NEW EDITOR FOR THE ACORN

Julia and I are delighted to be able to announce that following the call in the last edition, we have a new editor for the Acorn: Allison Sandiford, who moved to the parish earlier this year, and lives on Hatt Hill.

This is therefore the last edition that will come under the editorship of the Barnetts. Eighteen years ago we took over from Pat and Dave Francis, and after 166 editions we are ready to pass the Acorn on, into the safe hands of Allison.

It has been a real pleasure to compile each edition of the Acorn from all our various sources. We have especially enjoyed catching a few people out (you know who you are!) and raising a few smiles with our April Fool pieces.

We'd like to thank all our contributors, without whose input the Acorn would have little to say. Our printer, Mike, has given us a fantastic deal for the last several years, and we hope he will continue to do so under Allison's watch.

Finally we'd like to thank our network of deliverers, who set out in all weathers to put copies through the doors of their neighbours, saving us a huge amount of time and shoe leather. The big medal here should go to Michael Horne who currently delivers 57 copies around Dunbridge!

For sending in contributions, please note the change of email address to:

acornparishnews AT out look dot com
(change AT to @, dot to . and remove all the spaces)

but the old address will continue to work for at least a few months.

We want to wish Allison all the best for her tenure as editor, and hope she has as much fun with it as we have.

And finally, we'd like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Julia and Peter



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Wishing you all a fun festive season and a very merry Christmas from the team at NT Mottisfont and South West Hampshire.

We look forward to seeing you over the Christmas period to see A Nutcracker Christmas at Mottisfont. In terms of visitor operations and busy periods we are not currently expecting routine queues getting into the carpark but we will be actively monitoring and managing the carpark and traffic flows. We are likely to be at our busiest on days with nice weather during the School Holidays (Saturday 21st December to Sunday 5th Jan), so do expect some delays during those two weeks. Please do leave a little extra time if you need to drive past the main visitor car park.

Rather than running a specific evening event this year, which we know can be difficult for families to get to, please see details of our Tennant & Parish Pass Holder hot drink and mince pie offer below as a thankyou to all of you.

Vicky Fletcher, General Manager

Event highlights: Check out our webpage for more information

A Nutcracker Christmas at Mottisfont 23rd November - 5th January (closed 24th & 25th December)

Step into the enchanting world of The Nutcracker this Christmas. Inspired by the beloved ballet, your journey begins at our Box Office, where you'll collect your timed ticket to immerse yourself in this magical tale. Wander through sparkling rooms adorned with twinkling trees, captivating music, and dazzling details that bring the story to life. Outside in the gardens, take part in our Nutcracker themed adventure trail filled with surprises for all ages, making every corner a delight to explore.

Entry: Normal property admission price (free for Parish & Tennant Pass holders, National Trust members, Art Fund members and under-fives).

Timed tickets: To ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience for all visitors during the festive season, we will be operating a timed ticket system for House visits only to avoid overcrowding on busy days.

How to get a ticket on the day: To visit the Nutcracker-themed Christmas inside the House, it's essential to pick up a timed ticket from Visitor Reception upon arrival. These tickets apply only to the house, and do not apply to the car park, gardens

or family trail. The tickets are available from 10am on the day you visit. No pre-booking is required. The house opens at 10:30am, with the last entry at 3pm. The Visitor Welcome team will assign you the next available time slot on arrival at Visitor Reception, which you hand in to the House team when it's your time slot to enter the house. We've designed the ticketing structure to ensure there are enough tickets for everyone to enjoy the festive displays inside the house throughout the day.

Visiting the house: Please arrive at the house entrance within the half-hour time slot stated on your ticket. This helps us ensure a smooth flow of visitors, and avoid congestion or delays for others.

Romsey Abbey Choir – 14th December, 12 noon to 1.30pm

Come and join in with the festive spirit on Saturday 14th December as we welcome the Romsey Abbey Choir for the first time at Mottisfont, who will be singing carols in the Stables courtyard.

Offer for Tennant & Parish Passholders

Between Saturday 30th November and Sunday 8th December, bring your Tennant or Parish Passes to our Visitor Reception team. As well as giving you a time to visit the house, we will also give you a voucher for each pass holder for a regular tea, coffee or hot chocolate and a mince pie to enjoy before or after your visit to the house.

Three Victorian Travellers – Saturday 25th January to Sunday 20th April

Step into a world of art and adventure in this captivating exhibition, featuring over 80 original artworks by three extraordinary Victorian watercolourists, Albert Goodwin, Hercules Brabazon Brabazon and Walter Tyndale, who were also passionate explorers. Through their framed paintings and personal items like Walter Tyndale's diary and scrapbook, you'll journey alongside these artists as they bring distant landscapes to life.

National Trust Trees & Storms Update

Our team have the responsibility and challenge of managing the National Trust tree stock across the South West Hants Portfolio. Many of the trees are within or close to property boundaries, along highways and public rights of way. With an increase in storm frequency, as well as other biotic and abiotic factors, trees are experiencing a growing number of stresses. These factors can lead to them losing branches or failing at base, which on occasion can block roads and impact access.

The National Trust has a detailed approach to managing tree safety. We routinely undertake tree surveys to assess for defects and hazards, where necessary judging any risk control measures that may be needed and

continued on page 3



The Mill Arms



Here we are in December 2024 and it's time to reflect on another 12 months in which we have seen a continuation of significant world events including recent and upcoming changes of government that will have a significant impact on our economy and cost of living. The recent budget has not been kind to small employers or the hospitality industry, and we expect another tough year in 2025. We do appreciate that times are tough for all of us, and are thankful for all our customers who continue to support us.

While 2024 has also been a challenge in terms of health issues for some of our senior team, the rest of the team have rallied round and continued to make the customer experience as great as always. We are blessed with a great front of house team to welcome you here at the Mill Arms, along with an amazing kitchen team who serve up excellent meals week after week. We are truly thankful for such support.

Our Sunday Roasts continue to be extremely popular, and we are now regularly fully booked for the full Sunday service, so please make sure that you phone early enough in the week to make a reservation. Our Loyalty Card scheme also continues to be a favourite with customers, and we are now close to 700 members who not only enjoy discount but also free meals for birthdays, and wine on the house for anniversaries. If you haven't signed up, then do ask next time you are in.

We continue to host the Tytherley Skittles League, Hampshire Sheep Farmers and Hursley Pony Club on a regular basis, along with many family celebrations for birthday and christenings, and other local groups that now use us as their venue of choice for gatherings. We are also delighted to again be hosting Christmas Wreath-making classes for Bluebells Flower Design in early December. Check our facebook page ad, website, and the facebook page of Bluebell Flower Designs for dates and prices.

The Christmas menu is now available (but must be pre booked), and will be served Monday to Saturday from Monday 2nd December until Saturday 21st December. Friday and Saturday dates are going fast, so if you are planning on dining with us, can we suggest you get in touch soon.

Our Christmas Quiz will be on Tuesday 17th December, and we will combine that evening with our Christmas Draw. First prize this year will again be a Firkin of Beer (that's 72 pints for on site consumption) or 12 bottles of our 'By the Glass' wine, along with spirits, chocolates, toiletries and toys. The Draw sheets are pinned up in the bar. Purchase a square for £1 and the more squares we sell the more prizes we buy.....

Dates and times for Christmas/New Year openings are as follows:

Tuesday 17th December:	Quiz (8pm) and Raffle (9pm)
	Teams of up to 6 people, £2 entry per person
	Prize for the winning team, and mince pies all round
Christmas Eve:	12 noon to 8pm (food served 12 - 6pm)
Christmas Day:	CLOSED
Boxing Day:	12 noon to 4pm (food served 12 - 3pm, reduced menu)
New Year's Eve:	12 noon to 6pm (food served 12 - 4pm, regular menu)
New Year's Day:	12 noon to 4pm (food served 12 - 3pm, reduced menu)

Please note the pub will be closing for a break for all staff during January. We will be open on New Year's Day through to Friday 3rd January. We will then close for a week, re-opening on Saturday 11th January.

We look forward to seeing you over the festive season and raising a glass or two. Gina, Lorna and the staff wish you a Merry Christmas, and a healthy and prosperous 2025.

National Trust, continued from page 2

managing any remedial works. A key element of our tree safety policy is ensuring that any management is proportionate, working to strike a balance between possible risks and the benefits trees provide.

If trees do become unstable or wind blown during or after storm conditions, and you believe them to be under our ownership, it's important that you report them to us. You can do that by contacting our main office: Mottisfont@nationaltrust.org.uk, 01794 340757. If you are a National Trust tenant you can also contact the Tenant Repairs & Compliance Team.

For staff safety we cannot attend site during storm conditions, but we will respond as soon we are able. Any trees blocking the roads should be reported to Hampshire Highways by calling 0300 5551388 (8.30am to 5pm) or 101 if out of hours. If you believe it poses an immediate risk to public safety you can call 999.





The Thomas Dowse's Trust

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.

Please email the secretary, Tina Stuart, for an application form or collect one from Broughton Primary School, St. Mary's Church (Broughton) or Mottisfont Church. Applications should be sent in before the next Trust meeting in March - see the next *Acorn* for the date.

Email address: tinastuart1atgmaildotcom (change "at" to "@" and "dot" to ".").

Lockerley Primary School

Is your child starting school in September 2025?

We would love to welcome you for a tour of our school. We offer **individual appointments**. We can answer any specific questions you may have, and discuss a special need or circumstances you want to talk through with us, so we can find out what's important to you as a family.

Father Christmas will be visiting Caterpillars Playgroup

We are very excited that Father Christmas will be making a special appearance at Caterpillars Playgroup on **Tuesday 17th December** at 10am. He will meet the children, read a story, and have small gifts to share.



Lockerley Primary School Christmas Fair

Friday 13th December, 3.15pm – 4.15pm

We are delighted to *continued on page 5*

MOTTISFONT AND DUNBRIDGE

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 15th December 2024 at 3.00 pm
at St Andrew's Church



This is a break from the longstanding tradition of holding the Carol service on the last Sunday before Christmas Day, so don't be caught out! It will be led by our new Rector, Rev'd Joe Sweetnam, and is a chance to welcome him and meet him.

MULLED WINE

Soft drinks.

& Hot n/a

Festive

Punch.

MINCE PIES

SAUSAGE

rolls...

all after

Service.



KINDLING WOOD FOR SALE

£5 a bag

Contact David on
07967 657003

I can deliver locally.



MEET THE NEIGHBOURS

Meet the Neighbours is an opportunity to have a chat with and to get to know people who live nearby, over a drink at the Mill Arms.

So, why not come and join us for the next two *Meet the Neighbours* events from 7.30pm on:

Tuesday 10th December and
Wednesday 22nd January

Put these dates in your diary now!





CHURCH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

	Bossington	Broughton	Houghton	Mottisfont
1st December Advent Sunday	-	9.30am Parish Eucharist	-	11am Morning Worship to celebrate Advent
8th December Advent 2	-	11am Parish Eucharist	6pm Evensong	11am Morning Worship
15th December Advent 3	9.30am BCP Parish Eucharist	5pm Carol Service	-	3pm Carol Service
17th December (Tuesday)	-	-	6pm Carol Service	-
20th December (Friday)	6pm Carol Service	-	-	-
21st December (Saturday)	-	6.30pm Carols in the Churchyard	-	-
22nd December Advent 4	-	8am Holy Communion CW or BCP	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11am Parish Eucharist
24th December Christmas Eve	-	4pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass	-	-
25th December Christmas Day	9.30am Parish Communion BCP	10.30am Parish Communion	9.30am Parish Communion	10am Parish Communion
29th December Christmas 1	10am United Benefice Service at All Saints, Houghton			
5th January Epiphany	-	9.30am Parish Eucharist	-	-
12th January Baptism of Christ	-	11am Parish Eucharist	6pm Evensong	11am Christingle Service
19th January Epiphany 2	9.30am Parish Eucharist BCP	9.30am Bible Uncovered	-	-
26th January Epiphany 3	-	8am Holy Communion CW or BCP 11am Family Service	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11am Parish Eucharist

Lockerley Primary School - continued from page 4

announce that our Christmas Fair will take place on **Friday 13th December**.
There will be raffles, Christmas produce stalls, refreshments, tombolas, face painting, Santa's Grotto, carol singing and our school calendars, to which all children have contributed. We look forward to seeing you there.

Festive Fun Run Saturday 14th December at 10am for 10.30am start

Join us for a run/walk 2 mile route around the village starting from Butts Green.

Festive fancy dress is optional.

Entry £1 per child/ £2 per child

Refreshments available

Christmas Service

We warmly invite you to our Christmas Church Service at St John's Church on
Thursday 19th December at 9am.



STOCKBRIDGE CINEMA



Wednesday 4th December
7.30pm

Wilding (PG)

Based on Isabella Tree's best-selling book by the same title, Wilding tells the story of a young couple who bet on nature for the future of their failing, four-hundred-year-old estate. The young couple battle entrenched tradition, and dare to place the fate of their farm in the hands of nature.



Ripping down the fences, they set the land back to the wild, and entrust its recovery to a motley mix of animals, both tame and wild.

It is the beginning of a grand experiment that will become one of the most significant rewilding experiments in Europe.

Tickets £6 (incl. £0.50p booking fee) each.

Saturday 7 December
3.30pm and 7.30pm

The Marriage of Figaro (U)

In this recorded live opera from the Royal Opera House, Music Director Antonio Pappano brings his specialist perspective to Mozart's effervescent score.

A young and predominantly Italian cast performs this 2022 revival of David McVicar's sumptuous and hugely popular period staging.



Mozart's music unfolds with beautiful solos and ensembles to amplify the deep emotions behind the seemingly farcical surface.

Tickets £10 (incl. £0.50p booking fee) each.

Friday 17 January 2025
7.30pm

The Outrun (15)

Saoirse Ronan stars as Rona, who, fresh out of rehab., returns to the Orkney Islands; a place both wild and beautiful, off the Scottish coast.

After more than a decade of living life on the edge in London, where she both found and lost love, Rona,



now 30, attempts to come to terms with her troubled past.

As she reconnects with the dramatic landscape where she grew up, memories of her traumatic childhood merge with more recent challenging events that have set her on the path to recovery.



Tickets £6 (incl. £0.50p booking fee) each.

Wednesday 22 January 2025
5pm and 7.30pm

Thelma (12A)

When strong-willed 93-year-old Thelma Post gets conned by a phone scammer pretending to be her grandson, she sets out on a treacherous quest across Los Angeles, accompanied by an ageing friend, to reclaim what was taken from her.



Tickets £6 (incl. £0.50p booking fee) each.

All films showing at Stockbridge Town Hall, SO20 6HE. Tickets priced as shown above, and on sale via www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk, or by telephone from TicketSource 0333 666 3366 (no additional charge). Please visit our website:

www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk

for full details of all films.

Broughton and Mottisfont Village Bus

Here are our regular services:
Romsey: Thursday mornings and Friday afternoons

Salisbury: Tuesday mornings

Southampton: 1st Wednesday of each month

Winchester: 2nd Wednesday of each month

Andover: 4th Wednesday of each month



DID YOU KNOW?

You can use these services free of charge if you have an older person's bus pass. And the pass is free too!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A DRIVER?

The Village Bus is looking for volunteer drivers. No special licence is needed, and training will be given.

For more information, please call 01794 234794, email thevillagebus@outlook.com, or visit

www.broughtonvillage.net/villagebus.

In October, on a very wet evening, we welcomed Jill Perryman as our speaker.

Originally from London, Jill had had a variety of careers, including working for a Mission Organisation in China for 17 years.

After retirement in 2023, Jill decided to visit all 57 Anglican cathedrals in the British Isles, using her trusty minibus for accommodation. She began in Bangor and finished in Wells, and included in her itinerary the largest, Liverpool, and the smallest, on the Isle of Cumbrae.

At each cathedral she photographed a quirky feature - maybe a gargoyle, or stained glass window, or a font. We were treated to a whistle-stop tour in less than an hour, and were quite breathless at the end of it!

November's meeting was a home grown affair. Our secretary, Caroline Egg, gave us a brief demonstration of how to make a decoupage Christmas card - and then it was over to us!

Scissors and double sided sticky tape at the ready, lots of laughter, and the occasional curse. We were all reasonably pleased with our efforts, but I heard one lady say "I'm off to W H Smith's in the morning!"

We are all looking forward to our Christmas meal at Ampfield Golf Club, but before that, some of us are going to see The Pirates of Penzance at the Plaza Theatre, and we have our own Christmas meeting on 10th December, when Bob Blake will be reading some funny poems, and will no doubt tell us anecdotes of his life, before we indulge in festive fare.

Yvonne Goodridge

NEW CLOTHING BANK AT THE SOCIAL CLUB SUPPORTS HAMPSHIRE & IOW AIR AMBULANCE



Mottisfont Social Club
has a brand new clothing bank supporting
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance
Please donate all of your unwanted and unloved
clothing, shoes, handbags and belts here



WHIST AT MOTTISFONT VILLAGE HALL



Friday 20th December, 7pm start
Friday 17th January, 7pm start

BROUGHTON COMMUNITY SHOP

Village Hall, High Street, Broughton SO20 8AX. Tel.: 01794 502495

Broughton Community Shop: Weekdays: 9.00am - 5.00pm
Saturdays: 9.00am - 12.30pm Sundays: 9.30am - 12.30pm

Broughton Post Office: Weekdays: 9.00am - 5.00pm
Saturdays: 9.00am - 12.00pm Sundays: Closed

Coffee Shop: Indoor and outdoor seating, and takeaway drinks. Dogs are welcome outside and on a lead. Closes 30 minutes before shop closure.

Follow us on FB or Instagram at broughtoncommunityshop and check on our website www.broughton.shop.
Or email news@broughton.shop to be included in the shop's mailing list for updates, promos and more.

Local produce, essentials and treats, fresh and frozen goods, wine and spirits, newspapers, magazines, fresh flowers and beautiful greeting cards, and of course parking is FREE!

Broughton Community Shop (Hampshire) Limited is a Community Benefit Society registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefits Societies Act 2014
Registration no: RS007762. VAT Reg no: 302 2080 69. Registered Office: Ford Springs, The Hollow, Broughton, Stockbridge SO20 8BB



SOMBORNE COMMUNITY CINEMA

MONDAY MATINEE SOCIAL HUB FREE FILMS FOR 2025 ANNOUNCED

13th January: Finding Your Feet
27th January: On the Basis of Sex
10th February: Mr. Malcolm's List
24th February: Sometimes Always Never
17th March: My Sailor My Love
31st March: 80 for Brady

Free to All - No Ticket Required - Just Turn Up
Doors open 1:45pm - Film Starts 2:15pm
Tea - Coffee - Biscuits

Free transport will be provided by the Broughton and Mottisfont Community Bus. The bus will pick people up at Mill Rise, Dunbridge at 1.30pm, and Mottisfont Social Club at 1.35pm. Return times depend on the length of the film.

The use of the Community Bus is supported by Test Valley Borough Council, and by Broughton and Mottisfont Parish Councils.



Also showing:

Thursday 12th December

The Holdovers - 2024 Christmas/Comedy/Drama

A true Christmas film, following a curmudgeonly instructor at a New England prep school who is forced to remain on campus during the Christmas break to babysit the handful of students with nowhere to go. Eventually he forms an unlikely bond with one of them, a damaged, brainy troublemaker, and with the school's head cook.

Thursday 9th January

Thelma - 2024 Comedy/Action

When 93-year-old Thelma Post gets duped by a phone scammer pretending to be her grandson, she sets out on a treacherous quest across the city to reclaim what was taken from her. A fun and entertaining film.

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.

Tickets for these films are just £6 each and are available from the Somborne Community Cinema web site at www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk, or at the door on the night.



MOTTISFONT SOCIAL CLUB

MOTTISFONT CLUB EVENTS

THE MIKE HUGHES QUIZ

Every other Friday
£2.50 per person and teams of up to six,
starting at 8pm on
13th December, 3rd, 17th and 31st January

CHRISTMAS SKITTLES

Saturday 7th December
£3 per person with draw and food, starting 8pm

CHRISTMAS DRAWS

will take place on
Saturday 14th December
Tickets on sale from the bar

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CLUB

If the club is to open on New Year's Eve we need to know numbers of members who plan to attend. Tickets must be bought in advance for the evening at for £5 each, by 8th December.

If the club does open that night, the tickets can be exchanged for drinks up to their value.
If the committee decides that not enough tickets have been sold, refunds will be given.

Tickets are available now.

CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

Christmas Eve: 7pm to 11pm
Christmas Day: 12 noon to 2pm
Boxing Day: CLOSED
Friday 27th: 7pm to 11pm
Saturday 28th: 7pm to 11pm
Sunday 29th: 12 noon to 2pm
Monday 30th: 7pm to 11pm
New Year's Eve: DEPENDS ON TICKET SALES
New Year's Day: CLOSED

Are you interested in local history?

The Dunbridge and Mottisfont Local History Group has put together nine folders of local history for anyone to look at or borrow.

They are normally kept on the table in the entrance hall at the Village Hall. If you would like to borrow any of them, please contact Michael Horne, at 4 Mill Rise, Dunbridge, so he can get them from the Village Hall (which is usually locked) for you to collect them from his house.

Michael Horne. Tel. 340105