

# Mottisfont & Dunbridge

# ACORN



The Parish Newsletter

April and May 2025

Dear Neighbours

Welcome to our second newsletter of 2025 which I am calling our Spring Newsletter in tribute of longer days and nature's awakening. Find yourself a patch of sunshine amongst the daffodils and bluebells and enjoy.

Spring always presents an array of uplifting sights, and aromas as new life emerges around us and, as always, it has encouraged me to resolve to spend more time outdoors. It is during my recent ambles, that I have come across the notable abundance of Wild Garlic growing in these parts. An interesting fact: in Germany and Austria, Wild Garlic is referred to as Bärlauch, which translates to Bear Leek. The name is apparently derived from the brown bears that dig up and consume the bulbs during the spring season. And who can blame them? As I'm sure you all know, Wild Garlic is a culinary treat.

Unlike our common cultivated garlic, it's the leaves of Wild Garlic that are eaten rather than the bulbs. The taste is delicate, similar to the flavour of chives and I can't wait to get started in my kitchen. Wild Garlic Pesto is one of my favourite things to make,

but this year I'm going to experiment with new recipes.

A few words of caution for any of you intending to do the same – please be sure that you identify the plant correctly and that what you pick is safe to eat. And of course, leave room for chocolate. The Easter Bunny is frolicking our way with his basket of eggs.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank you all for your supportive comments following my debut Newsletter earlier this year and for the offers to help with delivery.

However, there is a further request; this Newsletter is produced voluntarily. There is no charge for any content, and every effort is made to include all relevant information. Currently, the printing costs are being funded personally, and support in 'sponsoring' an edition would be appreciated. The cost of sponsorship is £35 per newsletter. Please drop me an email at [acornparishnews@outlook.com](mailto:acornparishnews@outlook.com) if you are able to assist.

Kindest Regards,

*Allis*



## Exhibitions to Explore

**Mottisfont's galleries are showcasing fascinating exhibitions this spring:**

☺ Three Victorian Travellers – Featuring 80 stunning watercolours from 19th-century artists Albert Goodwin, Hercules Brabazon Brabazon, and Walter Tyndale.

☺ Derek Hill & Women Artists – Celebrating the work of female artists in Mottisfont's collection, including Vanessa Bell, Gwen John, Barbara Hepworth, and Joan Eardley.

☺ Coming Soon: The making of the Mottisfont Angel: The Creative Legacy of Boris Anrep Boris – A new exhibition exploring the life and work of the celebrated Russian mosaic artist.



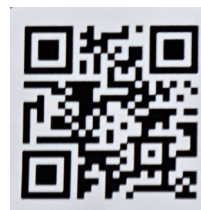
## **The K9 Club**

Do you want to bond with your dog while building their confidence?

Join Sandra and the K9 Club on Saturday Mornings at Mottisfont Village Hall for the Play and Learn enrichment classes.

Welcome to dogs of all shapes, sizes and ages. Sandra hosts blocks of 6-week classes where you can learn all about the power of enrichment, build confidence in your dog and deepen your bond.

Fancy joining — Scan the QR code.



## Spring delights and Easter Adventures at Mottisfont



**National  
Trust**

at 4:30pm).

Spring is in the air, and Easter is just around the corner! As the gardens burst into bloom, Mottisfont invites families to step into a world of adventure with our Easter trail, running from Saturday 5th April to Monday 21st April, 10am–5pm (last entry

### **Roll up, roll up! Easter Adventures trail**

Inspired by the charm of a classic British fête, we've created a fun-filled mix of games and activities to delight visitors of all ages. Test your skills at the Coconut Shy and target practice or try your luck at the ever-popular Hook a Duck. For those up for a challenge, our Wacky Races put a hilarious twist on sack racing and the egg-and-spoon run! Don't forget to take on Clowning Around, a playful challenge guaranteed to bring smiles all around.

Each trail is £3.50, which includes an Easter trail sheet, a pair of bunny ears, and a delicious chocolate egg (dairy, vegan, and 'Free From' options available). Normal admission applies, and National Trust members visit for free.

### **A Celebration of Blossom**

As part of the National Trust Festival of Blossom, Mottisfont's gardens are bursting into life. Our magnificent magnolia trees are the first to bloom, with their pearly-white petals glowing in the sunshine. Daffodils sweep across the lawns, and cherry trees are ready to burst into colour. The Lime Walk is carpeted in a sea of blue chinodoxa, creating a fleeting but breathtaking display. But hurry, the little blue flowers won't hang around!

To celebrate, we've created blossom-inspired moments for visitors to enjoy throughout April:

✿ **Blossom Highlight Map** – Discover the best blossom spots in the gardens.

✿ **Mindful Poetry Moments** – Relax and reflect under the trees or by the river.

✿ **Origami Blossom** – Create your own delicate flower.

✿ **Blossom Badge-Making** – Take home a little piece of spring!

✿ **Blossom Activity Packs** – Packed with fun, from blossom-spotting to seasonal scone baking.

*The garden is awakening, with even more blossom and spring flowers yet to come.*

## **MOTTISFONT CRICKET CLUB — NEWS AND HOME FIXTURES**

Exciting news is emerging from the Mottisfont Cricket Club about developing the Bengers Lane ground to forge links with the GMR Group, co-owners of the Delhi Capitals franchise in the IPL. Whilst details are still to be revealed it is believed this has come around through the support of a local leading businessman and former resident of Awbridge. The GMR group recently acquired the Hampshire Hawks and were looking for a 'nursery club' to develop the upcoming talents of young players, both locally and from India and in a philanthropic gesture were casting their net over grassroots cricket and were looking specifically for a village club in Hampshire.

In a bizarre twist it was a tree survey by the National Trust that opened the door for Mottisfont CC, a remedial study of the ancient oak at the cricket ground led to a suggestion that the area under the tree should be roped off and the boundary of the pitch brought in. Mottisfont has one of the largest pitches in its division, so this was not going to be a problem. In a chance conversation at the Mill Arms this was talked through to the proposition of having two cricket pitches at the ground which would open up the possibility of playing four days a week in four leagues, two in the 50 over format and two close to T20 style, plus colts training. It would involve a five year plan to initially swap to changing the current football pitch this autumn to switch to playing cricket on that in the 2026 season and then developing the current square, adding another two wickets to be ready for the 2027 season. Spreading the number of teams helps in not contravening the limit of only

being able to field two overseas players in each team.

This has all been restricted to a handful of committee members, but action has already been taken to prepare for the changes, they have coaxed David Lawrence to return to bring the current pitch back up to scratch for the higher standard the GMR group would require and to consult on the preparations of the new squares, his 23 year experience of the ground will prove invaluable. The club has also, this winter, worked on the drainage ditches alongside the current football pitch and surveyed the area next to the Bengers Lane entrance to double the size of that car park. The future of a new home for the football team is still to be decided.



Having researched the link between the Awbridge businessman and the Cricket Club we have found that previously he aided in Mottisfont playing Hampshire & West Indies pace bowler Cardigan Connor in the late 90's, (see photo).

### **Home fixtures for April/May:**

April 19th 1.00pm Friendly v. Newport Inn  
April 27th 1.00pm Friendly v East Tytherley  
May 10th 1.00pm HCL v St. Cross  
May 13th 6.15pm BL v Totton & Ealing  
May 24th 1.00pm HCL v Paultons

### **Songs of Praise.**

A 'Songs of Praise' is being planned for St John's Church, Lockerley, on Sunday 29th June 2025 at 6pm. All are welcome to come.

If you have a favourite hymn and would like it considered for singing at the service, please, send your choice to [admin@tandbchurches.org.uk](mailto:admin@tandbchurches.org.uk) by Easter Sunday, 20th April.

**The Village Hall has a new contact number:**

**01794 755315**



Calling this number will transfer you to an available member of the Village Hall Team.

Alternatively you can WhatsApp the number or visit the website:

**[www.mottisfontvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.mottisfontvillagehall.co.uk)**

### **Broughton & Mottisfont Village Bus New timetables and routes**

From 1st April (no, really!) the Village Bus will be operating a new timetable with additional routes and stops:

Andover: 4th Wednesdays - now includes Stockbridge

Romsey: Fridays - now includes Awbridge

Salisbury: Tuesdays and 2nd Wednesdays

Southampton: 1st Wednesdays

Winchester: Thursdays - now includes Stockbridge

Please note that the Salisbury runs on Tuesdays will start at 9.30am, as will the Andover runs on 4th Wednesdays.

The new timetable is available online at [www.broughtonvillage.net/village-bus](http://www.broughtonvillage.net/village-bus), and is on the noticeboards in Dunbridge, Mottisfont village centre, and by the village hall.



### **A Farewell from Margaret and Cliff Astur**

We moved into our house in Dunbridge in February 2004 after spending a few years in Spain and have loved living here.

Many friends made and great memories – joining the Village Hall Committee a couple of months after moving in and immediately John Butler asking me could I run the following year's Fete? - you can imagine what my reply was !!

In the early days, so embarrassed at winning the best hyacinth at the Horticultural Club (long since gone) – I actually bought it at Waitrose as I didn't want to seem not to be a contributor for the competition.

Some years ago, a group of us, sending up sky paper lanterns (now banned) on New Year's Eve on middle Barley Hill. Cliff did go and find the wires from Mount Farm the next day though!!

I thought the Eurostar was going to come through Dunbridge – one of the April 1st Acorn articles that I actually believed for a while – was so excited.

Playing tennis with friends at Dunbridge House, the WI, Whist once a month, so many things to do. Meet the Neighbours and Skittles at the Mill Arms – recently getting 2 strikes !! Suppers at the Village

Hall, Quizzes and the Fete every year, such a fabulous traditional event, much organisation and hard work but always the best. Cliff will miss his annual Coconut ritual, maybe he can find a similar role in our new location.

Laughs over people living at Lower, Middle and Upper Barley Hill – you know who you are !!

Lock down and finding a great walking buddy in Lynn – Oh how many rambling miles we have covered, all over this area and beyond. Walking 100k to raise money for Alzheimer's, finding ourselves in fields with a bull or water buffaloes, naked ramblers in the Water Meadows, sometimes hot but mainly wet & muddy, forever getting lost, but always sort of knowing where we were.

During 2023 realised that we needed to downsize a bit. Things were also helped by the closing of Mottisfont Fishing Club and Cliff not able to look after the beloved fishing huts and walking the beats every day.

We are now moving to the Meon Valley where Cliff has found a fishing paradise and to be nearer our family. Thanks to the people in Dunbridge, especially our neighbours Julia and Peter and everyone who have made our life here wonderful for the last 22 years.

**Adios y hasta la vista**

## 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.

*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!*

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

*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

## Mid-Test Benefice Sunday Service Pattern—April / May 2025

	Bossington	Broughton	Houghton	Mottisfont
<b>6th April</b> (Passiontide begins)		9.30am Parish Eucharist		6pm Evensong
<b>13th April Palm Sunday</b>		9.30am Parish Eucharist	6.00pm Evensong	11am Morning Worship
<b>17th April Maundy Thursday</b>				6.00 Lent Course final session followed by Maundy Thursday Service at 7.30pm
<b>18th April Good Friday</b>				
<b>20th April Easter Day</b>	9:30am Easter Eucharist	10am Easter Eucharist	9.30am Easter Eucharist	11am Easter Eucharist
<b>27th April Easter 2</b>		8.00 Holy Communion (CW or BCP ) 11.00 Family Service	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11am Parish Eucharist
<b>4th May Easter 3</b>		9.30am Parish Eucharist		6pm Evensong
<b>8th May Victory in Europe Day</b>				
<b>11th May Easter 4</b>		11.00am Parish Eucharist	6pm Evensong	11am Morning Worship
<b>18th May Easter 5</b>	9:30 BCP Parish Eucharist	9:30am Bible Uncovered		
<b>25th May Easter 6</b>	Jointly with Broughton 11.00am Rogation Service at St James	8.00 Holy Communion (CW or BCP)	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.00am Parish Eucharist
<b>29th May Ascension Day</b>		6.00pm. Singing on the church tower roof, for those who wish to join in 7.00pm Ascension Day Service and Commissioning of PCCs		



## Bee Bonanza



The decline in our pollinators has been dramatic and is an ever increasing problem for the food and plant industries. Many insect pollinators are disappearing from areas of Britain and as gardeners, we can do our bit to help. Courten's Garden Centre, in Whiteparish, is restocking with plants for pollinators. Specialising in herbs, wild flowers, fruit, perennials and fragrant shrubs which attract bees, butterflies, moths and hover flies amongst others.

A special day—A **Bee Bonanza** will be happening on **Saturday May the 10th** at Courten's to help inform and encourage customers to do their bit to help save the pollinators and make friends with the bees.

Meet the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust, The Pollinator Pioneers, a colony of bees and a bee hotel maker. Bee and lavender products will be on sale and something different in the café. Buy a raffle ticket to have the chance to win a beautiful potted patio blueberry plant with all proceeds going to The Bumble Bee Conservation Trust. (Exhibitors may be subject to change)



So BUZZ along to Courten's, Romsey Road, Whiteparish SP5 2SD (Opposite the pond on the A27 just outside Whiteparish)

Open (Weds - Sat) 9:30am—5pm The Shed Café open till 4pm.  
Tel: 01794 884489 (Weds - Sat) Email: [courten'sgardenpartners@yahoo.com](mailto:courten'sgardenpartners@yahoo.com)  
You can follow Courten's on Facebook and Instagram

**Bee there or Bee square!**

## Lockerley Primary School

Spring term has been packed full of opportunities to enrich the learning for all the children. Alongside the learning in the classroom we are always looking for ways to bring the learning to life. This term we have seen trips to the O2, Romsey Town, Science Centre and a local river study with Wessex River Trust. Within school we have celebrated many different subjects with Number Day, World Book Day and the unforgettable Professor Kaos on Science Day! Sporting achievements are given just as much value: we have taken part in Gym Festivals, Netball Tournaments and Outdoor Learning Day. All the children have enjoyed getting outside the classroom with weekly outdoor learning sessions. We are continually looking for new ways to excite the children and instil a love of learning and a love of their environment. If you would like to know more, please visit our website



[www.lockerleyprimary.co.uk](http://www.lockerleyprimary.co.uk)

### Caterpillars Playgroup

Every Tuesday during term-time 10:00 – 11:15am

£2.00 'play as you go'

We invite you to come along to our new playgroup, from birth to 5year olds.

There will be songs, stories, craft and toys.

Run by a qualified teacher.

We have baby-weighing scales,  
Refreshments Served.

No need to sign up, just come along and join the fun.



## **MOTTISFONT & DUNBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL (Charity No 291629)**

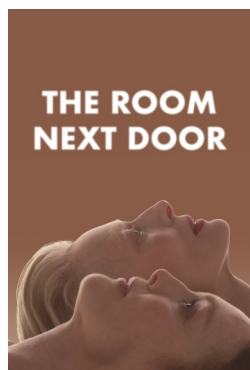
### **SPRING FOLK CONCERT**



**LOCAL GROUP  
'BEGGAR'S BELIEF' WILL  
MAKE A WELCOME  
RETURN TO THE  
VILLAGE HALL  
ON**

**SATURDAY 31<sup>st</sup> MAY 2025**

**Doors open 7.00 p.m. for  
7.30 p.m. start**



**Friday 25 April  
7.30pm**

**The Room Next Door (12A)**

Ingrid (Julianne Moore) and Martha (Tilda Swinton) were close friends in their youth, when they worked together at the same magazine. Ingrid went on to become an auto-fiction novelist while Martha

became a war reporter, and they were separated by the circumstances of life. After years of being out of touch, they meet again in an extreme but strangely sweet situation.

**Saturday 26 April  
2.30pm**

**Paddington in Peru (PG)**

Paddington returns to Peru to visit his beloved Aunt Lucy, who now resides at the Home for Retired Bears. With the Brown Family in tow, a thrilling adventure ensues when a mystery plunges them into an unexpected journey through the Amazon rainforest and up to the mountain peaks of Peru. *(Under 18's reduced ticket price £5.00)*



**INFORMATION COMMON TO BOTH FILMS**

Showing at Stockbridge Town Hall SO20 6HE.

Tickets £6.00 on sale from the

**1st of April** via [www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk](http://www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk) or by telephone from TicketSource 0333 666 3366 (no additional charge).

**Please visit the website for full details of all films: May titles should be available by the end of March.**

## SOMBORNE COMMUNITY CINEMA

### Special Monday Matinee

### VE Day Commemoration



**12<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**at King's Somborne Village Hall**

**Come in 1940s Dress (Optional)**

**Doors open 1:30pm Film Starts 2:15pm**

**Free to All | No Ticket Required**

**Tea | Coffee | Biscuits**

### 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 on

**Sunday 26th May 2025.**

Email address: [tinastuart1@gmail.com](mailto:tinastuart1@gmail.com)

# SOMBORNE COMMUNITY CINEMA

## Meet The Neighbours

Please join us at the Mill Arms for Meet the Neighbours, a chance to chat and connect with local residents over a drink.

The next events are at 7:30pm on:

**Wednesday 23rd April**

and

**Tuesday 20th May**



Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025



2024 Drama / Biography / Music

The tumultuous, beautiful and tragic story of the life of the world's greatest

female opera singer, relived and reimagined during her final days in 1970s Paris.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025



15 **A Real Pain**

1h:30

2024 Comedy / Drama

Oscar winning comedy drama that sees two estranged cousins reunite for a tour through Poland to honour their beloved grandmother. The adventure takes a turn when the pair's old tensions resurface against

the backdrop of their family history.

Tickets for films are just £6 each and are available from the Somborne Community Cinema web site at [www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk](http://www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk)

or at the door on the night.



King's Somborne Village Hall



## theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

In February we welcomed back Jeremy Prescott, a retired Army officer, whose topic this time was 'The Normandy Landings'. As usual, we had declared that we would welcome visitors and were delighted to welcome several gentlemen to the meeting as well! Jeremy told us about the detailed planning which went into the event, including the deception plan, Operation Fortitude, which was successful in deceiving the Germans into believing that British troops would land elsewhere. We also heard how the weather played its part in deferring the date until 6th June 1944 and resulted in about 8,000 troops successfully landing on the beaches of Normandy. Sadly, we also heard that over 1,000 British troops were killed on D Day.

March, saw a completely different topic. Two ladies, both called Jo, came as representatives of the 'Cook' food shops which sell ready frozen meals tasting as good (or better, in my case) as home-made ones. Manageress Jo told us that 'Cook' shops were started in 1997, by a brother and sister team from Farnham in Surrey, who still play a very active part in the business. There are now 107 shops, and the Romsey branch has been in operation for 17 years. The firm is very particular about sourcing the ingredients used, and all suppliers are known and visited by company representatives. All the preparation is done by hand in the company's kitchens, and no preservatives or additives are used. The range has expanded to include Indian and Thai recipes and now offers small and child sized portions as well as special offers for new parents. They also supply a number of free meals each week to several charities locally, and offer Click and Collect and home deliveries. Of course, tasting is believing, and members were able to taste portions of Chicken Alexander and Chocolate and Raspberry Roulade, both were delicious!

Next month's speaker is local historian, Phoebe Merrick, who will tell us about 'Villages in the Test Valley'.

Why not come along and visit us on Tuesday 8th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall - you will be most welcome.



### **News from Test Valley Borough Council ("TVBC")**

There is much news and change in local government – some good and some less good – so we thought residents may appreciate an update.

Starting with the good news, we are lucky to have so many volunteers in Mid Test willing to give their time, energy and effort to improving our community. We have made it a priority since being elected in May 2023, to promote local community projects with grants and other support where we can. We are delighted that so many projects have come forward and been successful in securing funding through the various grants administered by TVBC. Projects include new sports pavilions, community bus initiative, business hub, renovation of community buildings, new defibrillators, support for local community shops, and much more.

Smaller grants, of up to £1,000 are available through the Community Councillor Grant scheme. And in addition, grants of up to £500 are currently available to support communities who wish to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE day.

Due to limited space in this edition, we hope to provide an update on changes to national planning targets and devolution and local government reorganisation next month. As a preview:

On planning: You might have noticed publicity about new housing targets for councils announced by Angela Rayner last autumn. Test Valley's housing target is to be increased by a staggering 78%...

On devolution and local govt reorganisation: Just before Christmas the government published a White Paper setting out their plans for devolution and whole scale local government reorganisation. In Hampshire, that means an elected Mayor and the creation of new unitary authorities that are responsible for most local services...

Do please get in touch if we can ever be of any help. Our details can be found via the TVBC website.

With kind regards

**Cllr Alison Johnston**  
Mid Test Ward,

**Cllr Ian Jeffrey**  
TVBC Mid Test Ward,

**Cllr Stewart MacDonald**  
TVBC Mid Test Ward, TVBC

#### **MOTTISFONT SOCIAL CLUB**

##### **THE MIKE HUGHES QUIZ**

Friday April 4th & 18th at 8pm

Friday May 2nd, 16th & 30th at 8pm

£2.50 per person and teams of up to six

##### **MOTTISFONT CLUB AGM**

Wednesday April 9th

Starting at 8.15pm

Do come and support the Club or we will lose it.

##### **EASTER CLUB SKITTLES**

Saturday April 12th at 8pm

£3 to play with draw and food

##### **LIVE MUSIC AND EASTER DRAW WITH BLOOM'N RACKET**

**Draw tickets on sale at the Club**

Saturday April 19th

From 7pm

#### **WHIST AT MOTTISFONT VILLAGE HALL**

Friday 11 April 7pm start

Friday 16 May 7pm start



St Andrew's Church in the Parish of  
Mottisfont & Dunbridge  
presents a

#### **CHURCH OPEN DAY On Saturday 12th April 2025 11am to 2pm Entry Free**

What better than spring to showcase this ancient 12th century church—a gem in the centre of our rural village and deeply appreciated by many souls past and present.

Features will include ...

A POINTS OF INTEREST display and guide  
Children's FUN ACTIVITY CORNER

Stories behind some of those local people named  
on the WW1 memorial

Screened display of photos including St Andrew's  
wedding photos from recent times and decades  
past.

CAKE STALL

HOMEMADE JAMS AND PRESERVES STALL

#### **ST ANDREW'S—THE FUTURE**

Preserving our beautiful Grade 1 listed church for ourselves, and for generations to come is in our hands and on our watch. Come and see plans of what we will be undertaking in the first phase. This includes an extensive but essential re-rendering of the crumbling external walls, giving St Andrew's a very different look and a fresh lease of life.

Light refreshments, tea and coffee available.

All welcome ... including friends, families, visitors, curious walkers and those visiting NT Mottisfont.

*St Andrews Church, Church Lane, Mottisfont. SO51 0LL*