

The Mottisfont & Dunbridge ACORN

Parish Newsletter August and September 2025



Dear Neighbours

Welcome to the August and September Edition of The Acorn! How quickly the time flies.

I hope you have all enjoyed June and July and managed to stay cool in the hot weather the months have sent our way. August's weather looks to remain unpredictable, shifting from heat and sunshine to sudden rain - though the showers are welcome given the hosepipe ban.

Here's a little homemade lavender-lemonade recipe I have been using to help me stay refreshed, cool and hydrated as the temperatures have soared. Why not try some:

- 14 sprigs fresh lavender
- 4 lemons
- 200g sugar
- Ice

Place the lavender heads and sugar in 300ml water and bring to the boil, stirring until all the sugar has dissolved. Set aside to cool and mix 1 litre of water with the strained juice of the lemons.

When the syrup has cooled, strain into the lemon water and pour into glasses. Garnish with lavender and lemon, serve with ice and add the magic ingredient - a shot of vodka (optional!).

Well, why not? Whatever the weather, August is most definitely a month for outdoor living, cocktails in the garden, barbecues, and picnics. The tomatoes are ripening on the vine, berries are juicy and ripe, and the apples are beginning to fall. Which reminds me, have you visited the Post Office Orchard recently – you can read all about the ongoing work on page 3.

August is also the month in which our community truly

shines as our Village Hall hosts the annual Village Fete. And what an exciting day that promises to be with bats, bric-a-brac, cake and games. Not to mention the silent auction, skittles, and Tony's famous draw.

September, I expect will bring a different vibe. It's a month wherein the world begins to quietly shift into autumn's embrace. The lazy days of summer start to fade and are replaced with a gentle nudge towards routine and, of course for some, school, university and maybe a new job or retirement. For me September is due to deliver my first grandchild!

But no matter what August and September brings for you, I hope you all enjoy these golden days of summer, and I look forward to seeing you at upcoming events and hearing your stories. If you have news, photos, or announcements, please send them my way for inclusion in the next issue (acornparishnews@outlook.com). Finally, it is noteworthy that Friendship Day is celebrated in the UK on the first Sunday of August. It is a day which serves as an occasion to recognise and celebrate the value of friendship, and I would like to take this opportunity to extend this to acknowledge the importance of neighbourly relations - and express my appreciation to all of you for everything you do to make this community special.

Wishing you all a bright and beautiful August and September.

With Love, Allis X

The Acorn is very grateful to The Village Hall who has kindly sponsored this edition.

THE VILLAGE FETE NEEDS YOU

Can you spend some time from 10 a.m. at the Village Hall on Saturday 9th August to help set up gazebos? Or do you have an hour to spare the following day from 10 a.m. to take tables to the various stallholders; come along in the afternoon to relieve stallholders for an hour; or take round drinks.

Donations of bottles, tins and new gifts for the tombola can be left in the garage at Hawthorn Cottage in Lockerley Road. Cakes for sale can be brought to the hall on the day of the fete.

Offers of help to Lynn Young on 01794 40134 or lynnhenmatt@aol.com

The fete will run from 1-5 p.m. on Sunday 10th August at Mottisfont Village Hall, Hatt Hill, Mottisfont.
Free entry and parking.

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:

**Wednesday 27th of August
and**

Tuesday 30th of September

Put these dates in your diary now!



New Community Business Hub opens at Broughton Village Hall

A new community business hub has officially opened its doors at Broughton Village Hall, offering a modern and inclusive space for remote workers, students, and local residents – free of charge. Funded by £15,636.95 from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) awarded by Test Valley Borough Council, the hub was launched on May 15th and has already begun to make a positive impact on the local community.

The space includes open areas for co-working, meetings, and networking, as well as a soundproof, air-conditioned pod ideal for confidential calls, interviews, or focused study. The hub is open to anyone in the area looking for a professional and welcoming environment - particularly those working from home or seeking connection during the day.

The idea for the hub first emerged during a community workshop hosted by Test Valley Borough Council, where a local resident highlighted the growing need for a flexible, local working space to help combat rural isolation and support community connection. Following that initial spark, further engagement and research confirmed there was strong demand from individuals working from home,

parents running small businesses, and those needing a quiet space for meetings or study. The project moved forward with the support of the council's engagement team and has already been well used since opening.

The space includes open work areas, a soundproof air-conditioned pod for confidential calls, interviews or studying, and access to on-site refreshments via the community shop and café, making it a welcoming and practical hub for all kinds of users.

Since opening, the hub has already proved popular, hosting everything from business meetings to A Level study sessions, and providing a valuable venue for people to meet up with colleagues or friends. Councillor Stewart MacDonald, who attended the launch, said; "This is exactly the kind of project that shows what can be achieved when local people and local government work together. The new hub is already reducing social isolation, encouraging collaboration, and giving people a flexible and professional space right on their doorstep. It's a fantastic addition to the village."

The community hub is open now and available for bookings. To find out more or to book the space, please contact Broughton Village Hall.

www.broughtonvillagehall.com

Community Resilience Group

As mentioned in the previous Acorn, an open meeting was held at the Village Hall to introduce the idea of resilience and to talk about where we would like to go with it to help protect the people of this parish.

After some discussion, it was agreed to hold a few informal get-togethers at the pub to capture good ideas from a wider range of people.

Pub dates will be sorted out in due course - keep an eye on the noticeboards and the WhatsApp Group.

Gina's Second Hike



Gina from the **Mill Arms**, along with her 3 sisters, including Lorna who manages the Mill Arms, and her 3 nieces, completed the MacMillan Mighty Hike along the Jurassic coast in early July. This was Gina's second hike this year to raise money for **MacMillan Cancer** and was to honour not only her own journey against cancer but also that of her Head Chef, Shaun Green and a number of her regular customers.

The team raised an amazing £3,500 and along with the monies raised on the first hike have exceeded a total of **£6,000 for this amazing charity**. Gina would like to thank everyone who supported her and her family on this second hike for this worthy cause.

There is still time to donate to her page on **www.justgiving.com/page/gina-mcdonald-2**

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary

are looking for people from all ages and backgrounds to join their force.

If you or someone you know is interested in getting a degree and looking for a meaningful and rewarding career in policing, Hampshire & IOW Police can offer the Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship (PCDA) - a fully funded route into policing that combines academic study with practical frontline experience.

Or if you don't fancy the degree route; their Policing Plus scheme is a flexible way to get started and explore your potential in a variety of roles.

Visit the Hampshire & IOW Police Recruitment page to learn more and apply:

<https://hampshirepolicejobs.co.uk/policingplus/>

Or if you have any questions, contact the recruitment team at police.recruitment@hampshire.police.uk or call 023 8045 1611.

News from the WI

Our guest speaker in June was Christine Watkins from the Art House in Romsey. She has had an interesting life and was very enthusiastic! Christine had originally taken a degree in Fabric Design and became a weaving specialist. She ran a design agency in London and also worked abroad. Christine now works in papier mache and 3D textiles, but her main aim is to help other artists to set up businesses to advertise and sell their work.

Craft days are held at Christine's home, and in August; during Open Studios Week, her house in Albany Road is a wealth of different art and craft items for the public to browse and buy - with free coffee and cakes! Well worth a visit.

In July we welcomed Judy Theobald, herself a WI member at Netley, who had once been a London journalist. Judy's topic was 'Weddings through the Ages'. She began by telling us of weddings in Roman times, when wedding rings were made of iron in order to deflect evil and the Devil away from the bride.

After the Norman invasion, weddings became more formal and vows were introduced. Couples married at younger ages then - girls as young as 12 and boys at 14. The church dictated on which days couples might have sex - technically on only about one third of the year.

Judy moved on to wedding traditions in the Middle Ages and thence to Victorian times. It was Queen Victoria herself who introduced the white wedding dress, in order to stand out from the brightly dressed guests.

Next month, (12th of August) James Fernandes' topic is 'Red'. A dangerous evening, perhaps. Why not come along and find out?

Meanwhile, we hope you have all been busy decluttering for our stall at the Village Fete on August the 10th. Donations to Cathie Woods please, or to the Village Hall on the morning of the fete itself.

The National Trust introduces the Post Office Orchard

After obtaining Blossom Project funding last year, we have been hard at work over the last 10 months creating the new orchard in the small field behind the old post office. Previously known as the Post Office Paddock; it is now to be called the Post Office Orchard.

At the end of last summer we demolished the derelict stable block and removed the debris which took a couple of considerably large skips – some skip lorry drivers refused to even go up the track to deliver whilst others seemed willing to brave it so it was a bit of a logistical feat to pull off.

Over the autumn and winter months we have installed twenty chestnut tree cages, and planted within each one a fruit trees chosen for its blossom and fruiting abilities.

There are six plum trees, four apple, four pear, four damsons and two greengages of eight different 'varieties'.

With the help of our volunteers we also planted a scrub block, made up of guelder rose, wayfarer, spindle, hawthorn, blackthorn, common buckthorn, rowan and sweet briar rose to provide blossom and berries for birds, small mammals and invertebrates. In time, we will remove the plastic tree tubes and recycle them.

The top soil that was removed from the planting area has been piled up into a south facing bank to create a basking/hibernacula bank for reptiles, bugs and beasties. Many labyrinth spiders have already made it their home.

A pond has been created and planted up with wetland species to provide some habitat diversity. It will be an ephemeral pond, its water level rising and falling with the rain, whilst dragonflies patrol its surface.

In April 2025 we laid the foundations for a wildflower patch which will provide nectar and pollen sources whilst adding a splash of colour and beauty. I'm pleased to say, despite the driest spring in over 150 years, our laborious efforts at keeping it well watered have allowed it to establish and burst into bloom with the midsummer.

Please come in, relax and enjoy this orchard space and watch it grow through the years. Please ensure you respect not just the orchard by not leaving any trace of your visit, but also the neighbours – no loud parties!

Invertebrates can enjoy the blossoms whilst both humans and wildlife can make the most of the fruits – feel free to take some fruit but please leave some for other people and for the wildlife.

We hope you enjoy the fruits of our labour.
Cat Hadler. Lead Ranger. National Trust



An Update from Mottisfont Cricket Team

We are happy to report that the cricket team is having a successful season so far in all aspects of the game.

We lost a number of key players last season due to either relocation or injuries; this coupled with the restructuring of the Hampshire League meant we dropped to Division 5 for this season. We recruited well in the winter and our Indoor Team won their league with an unbeaten record, we also increased practice net sessions at Embley Park and welcomed a couple of our 'old boys' back from injury.

This has seen a remarkable transformation and the Saturday team currently lie in second place in the league (but for an abandoned game could be top) and have a string of home fixtures in August to help us in the pursuit of the title and a return to Division Four. The Tuesday night team are in third place and through to the semi-final of the Border League Plate Competition.

We are comfortably the best supported team in our divisions with fabulous turn outs on both Saturday & Tuesdays but will always welcome new (or indeed old) faces to our home games with tea and cake.

The home fixtures for the remainder of the season are:

*Sat 2nd August 1pm Compton & Chandlers Ford
Tue 5th August 6.15 Border League Plate Final (fingers crossed) Venue TBC*

*Sat 16th August 1pm Easton & Martyr Worthy
Sat 23rd August 1pm Mansbridge (followed by a barbecue)*

Sat 30th August 1pm Broughton

We will also be helping with the Village Fete on Sunday 10th August and just to help with forward planning we are hosting a Race Night at the Social Club on Friday 26th September and a Village Skittles Night at the Mill Arms on Friday 17th October.

The Race Night has been hugely successful in the last couple of years and is open to all, we have a short end of season presentation in the interval for the cricket club but it is huge fun and we have a fantastic raffle. The Village Skittles evening was oversubscribed last year and we unfortunately had to turn teams away so please contact Terry on 07596662637 or terrylewis.home@gmail.com to register a team as soon as possible.

News from Mottisfont Football Club

Paul, who owns the car sales business, Car-Pod Ltd in North Baddesley is the new Chairman of Mottisfont Football Club.

£2,500 was raised via a scratchcard with the choice of 50 football teams, each costing £50 to sponsor. Romsey Motor Factors won and now have their name on the shirts.

This money has purchased a new kit and will financially secure the club's future for the next few years. Paul wishes to thank everyone for their kind donations.

Mottisfont F.C. play in The City of Southampton Football League, Division 2.

Their home ground is at Bengers Lane, Mottisfont and would be grateful for any support.

News from Lockerley Church of England Primary School

We have had a busy summer term so far at Lockerley Primary School. Children in Years 3 and 4 enjoyed an overnight camp at the Lockerley Water Farm. They had a wonderful time, playing games, eating toasted marshmallows around the campfire and even managed a few hours' sleep! We have a dedicated team of staff who are committed to giving the children experiences they will remember forever. We also saw success this week for both our Key Stage 1 & 2 teams at the schools' cluster athletics event at King's Somborne Primary. Well done to both KS1 and KS2 teams. We provide a rich sporting calendar to give the children opportunities to compete with local schools in both competitions and festivals across the year.

Cricket Jargon

Cricket is known for its rich terminology. Here's a little jargon glossary to help readers immerse themselves into the game.

Badger – a very enthusiastic cricketer

Cafeteria bowling (aka buffet bowling) – bowling so pathetic it allows the batters to simply 'help themselves' to wickets

Chin Music – a bowling technique where the ball is designed to bounce and target the batsman's chin or throat

Dibbly Dobbly – a bowl that is neither fast nor slow and with no special technique

Dolly – an incredibly easy catch that the fielder barely has to move to make

Pie chucker – a rather poor bowler whose delivery gives the ball a look of a 'pie' in the air

Yorker – a difficult ball to bat in which the ball hits the pitch close to the batter's feet. May originate from Yorkshire or come from the 18th century term 'to pull a Yorkshire' meaning 'to deceive'

The deadline for inclusion of any articles/information in the October / November edition of the Acorn is the 19th of September.

**Please email any items to
acornparishnews@outlook.com**

What's Happening in your Neighbourhood?



Romsey's Demfest Returns with Special Guest Susan Hampshire

Romsey's much-loved Demfest returns on Sunday 31st August 2025, taking place from 11 - 4 at the beautiful Sir Harold Hillier Gardens. Organised by the Romsey Dementia Action Group (ROMDAG), this free community festival celebrates Romsey's ongoing commitment to being a dementia-friendly town - and this year's event is set to be more memorable than ever.

We are thrilled to welcome Susan Hampshire, the acclaimed English actress and advocate for dementia awareness. Susan will be joining attendees throughout the day, helping to shine a light on the importance of community support and understanding for those affected by dementia.

Demfest brings together families, carers, health professionals and the wider public for a day that is both uplifting and informative. We welcome back the amazing team at Outreach Radio. This year's entertainment will include performances from local favourites such as the Romsey Ukulele Group, The Memory Choir, and Cinnamon Jazz, just to name a few. Visitors can also enjoy interactive activities, demonstrations, and many information stands offering practical support, resources, and guidance.

We are also delighted to share that ROMDAG is now a registered charity—a milestone that reflects our commitment to supporting people affected by dementia in Romsey and surrounding areas.

We extend our sincere thanks to Clare Goddard and the team at Sir Harold Hillier Gardens for generously hosting Demfest and supporting this special community event.

Admission is free, and all are welcome. Whether you're seeking information, hoping to connect with others, or just looking for a great day out, Demfest 2025 has something for everyone. For more information, visit www.romdag.co.uk or follow us on Facebook @romdag

Do You Need a Girl Friday?

Alice is willing to do odd jobs around the house:

Cleaning, gardening, grass cutting, dog walking, babysitting or elderly relative sitting.

Enhanced DBS certified. Competitive rates

Call Alice 01794 652212

The Thomas Dowse Trust

The Thomas Dowse Trust 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 things such as uniform, school trips, music tuition, overseas educational trips, swimming lessons, transport to educational establishments, laptops and books. Applicants are treated in strict confidence and must demonstrate need. There is no means testing.

Please email Tina Stuart for an application form or collect from Broughton Primary School, St Mary's Church Broughton, or St Andrew's Church Mottisfont.

**Applications should be sent
before the 14th of
September.**

Email: tinastuart1@gmail.com



Lockerley Primary School Open Mornings

Wednesday 17th September 9:30am

Tuesday 14th October 9:30am

Wednesday 12th November 9.30am

Come and see how we make a real difference

We warmly welcome you and your child to come to see our school. There will be many different activities for your child to get involved in including pond dipping, gardening, sports and arts.

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](https://www.broughtoncommunityshop.co.uk) 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



Volunteer Needed

Anyone who used Dunbridge Station in the Spring will have seen the lovely display of daffodils which we (Pat & Dave Francis) planted with Cathie Wood last Autumn. The bulbs and lavender plants were funded by Hampshire Community Rail. Additionally the fish, originally made by Gordon Wood, have been refurbished by Cathie and her daughter Wendy. However the recent hot weather has meant that most of the lavender plants have not survived and the wooden tubs also need to be replaced.

We are in the process of seeking funding for new tubs and replacement plants and hope to do this work in the Autumn. However, **we need a willing volunteer to care for the plants**, particularly in the summer. It would be a shame to remove the flower tubs as they do brighten up the platforms. There are water butts on the station, so there shouldn't be any need to transport water from home.

If you can help, please email The Acorn at acornparishnews@outlook.com



The K9 Club

Hello - I'm Sandra.

I am a local Mottisfont dog trainer who finds great purpose and joy in training and engaging with dogs.

I currently live with Teemo, the snaggie-toothed terrier mix, Mocha, an interesting blend of Prague Ratter and Miniature Pinscher, Harry, the shy and gentle Poodle Mix, and Florence, the sassy Toy Poodle. Teemo and Mocha came from Cyprus, Harry from the Azores, and little Florence from Essex!

I have many years of experience in agility, scent work, heelwork to music, hoopers, gun dogs, and obedience training. I have competed in Agility and reached KC Grade 5 (with both Harry and Florence), and I have competed twice at Crufts in Obreedience (same-breed teamwork obedience).

I have attended many workshops, courses and classes over the years and I am currently studying with the Institute of Modern Dog Trainers. Achieving results through force-free methods is very important to me and my passion is to bring out every dog's best side.

Why not come and see me at the Mottisfont Village Fete on Sunday 10th August and let your 4 legged friend have a go at Dog Agility.

Or check out my website for more information about my Play and Learn classes and enrichment walks.

<https://www.k9club.uk/>



The National Trust Mottisfont Abbey

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang: Celebrating 60 years! 19th July - 2nd November

This summer we're taking our visitors on a magical adventure – inviting visitors to step into the pages of one of Britain's most beloved children's stories, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, in a playful summer exhibition celebrating its 60-year legacy. From the very first illustrations by John Burningham to brand new artworks by Steve Antony and Thomas Gilbert, visitors will discover how this magical car has been brought to life across generations. This imaginative exhibition and free family trail takes you through colourful rooms bursting with artwork, interactive displays, and inventive fun.

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang with Merry-go-Round Storytelling Dates: 20th 30th July, 6th, 16th, 20th August, 3rd, 7th September, 12.30 & 2.30pm

Free, interactive storytelling. No need to book

Join Amanda Kane-Smith from Merry-go-Round Storytelling for lively, interactive storytelling that brings this much-loved story to life, packed with fun and perfect for families! These 30 minute sessions are outside on the north lawn behind the house. You're welcome to bring rugs to relax on.

Guided walks on the River Test

Tuesdays and Wednesdays 11.30am -12.30pm & 2pm - 3pm until 3rd September

This is the second year that we're offering guided walks along the banks of the River Test – free to parish and tenant pass holders. Led by volunteers, the walks will highlight the importance of chalk streams and the work we're doing to protect them.

Heritage Open Days

20th & 21st September

"Heritage Open Days" is an **annual celebration of England's history and culture** allowing visitors free access to heritage sites and community events that are either not open to the public - or like Mottisfont are subject to membership or an entrance fee.

SOMBORNE COMMUNITY CINEMA

Thursday 14th August
Bridget Jones Mad About The Boy (15)
2025 Comedy / Romance

Grieving the loss of her husband and trying to navigate life as a single mother to their two children, Bridget finds herself drawn to a younger man, but also has a flirtation with her son's schoolteacher, while trying to find her way back into the dating world.

Thursday 11th September
Heretic (15)
2025 Thriller

Two young missionaries become ensnared in a deadly game of cat and mouse when they knock on the door of the diabolical Mr. Reed (Hugh Grant). Trapped in his home, they must turn to their faith if they want to make it out alive.

Information common to both films

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

WHIST AT MOTTISFONT VILLAGE HALL



Friday 15th August 7pm start
Friday 19th September 7pm start



Mottisfont Village Fete at Mottisfont Village Hall

Sunday 10th August
1pm - 5pm

Please see the enclosed flyer that contains all the details for this year's fete.

It will be great to see everyone there at this fun day out for the whole family.

MOTTISFONT SOCIAL CLUB

THE MIKE HUGHES QUIZ

Every other Friday
£2.50 per person, teams of up to six.
Starting at 8pm
Friday 8th & 22nd August 2025
Friday 5th & 19th September 2025

PARTY

9th August 2025

STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY CINEMA

Wednesday 27 August 4.15pm and 7.30pm
A Complete Unknown (15)

New York, 1961. Against the backdrop of a vibrant music scene and tumultuous cultural upheaval, an enigmatic 19-year-old from Minnesota arrives with his guitar and revolutionary talent, destined to change the course of American music. He forges intimate relationships with music icons of Greenwich Village on his meteoric rise, culminating in a groundbreaking and controversial performance that reverberates worldwide. Timothée Chalamet stars and sings as Bob Dylan in the true story behind the rise of one of the most iconic singer-songwriters in history.

Friday 12 September 7.30 pm
Fallen Leaves (12A)

In modern-day Helsinki, two lonely souls in search of love meet by chance in a karaoke bar. However, their path to happiness is beset by obstacles - from lost phone numbers to mistaken addresses, alcoholism, and a charming stray dog. The film, directed by Aki Kaurismäki, is a gentle, melancholic romance that explores themes of

loneliness, connection, and the redemptive power of love in a seemingly impersonal world. It's a modern-day story of ordinary people striving to find happiness and hold onto their humanity. [In Finnish with subtitles]

Wednesday 17 September 4.30pm and 7.30pm
Mr Burton (12A)

The true story of the relationship between Port Talbot schoolmaster Philip Burton and a wild schoolboy Richard Jenkins, the son of a wayward drunk. Richard dreamed of becoming an actor, but his ambitions were in danger of being derailed by a combination of family trouble, the pressure of war, and his lack of discipline. Mr. Burton recognized the raw talent in his pupil, becoming his tutor, strict taskmaster and eventually his adoptive father. It is the story of how Richie Jenkins was turned into Richard Burton, the greatest actor Wales has ever produced.

Information common to all films

Showing at Stockbridge Town Hall SO20 6HE. Tickets £6.00 on sale from the first of each month via www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk or by telephone from TicketSource 0333 666 3366 (no extra charge). Please visit our website for full details of all films.

St Andrew's Church

Rector's Reflections – Looking Towards August

Dear Friends,

As we approach the quiet beauty of August, I'm struck once again by the rhythm of village life in this wonderful part of the world. The fields are full, the hedgerows heavy with berries, and there's a slower, gentler pace that settles over us.

For many, August is a time to pause and catch our breath. Schools are out, holidays are in full swing, and the demands of everyday life ease a little. Even in church life, there's a natural lull, a chance to rest, reflect, and prepare for the busy season ahead.

It's in these quieter moments that we can notice things more deeply: the distant hum of a combine harvester, or the simple joy of a shared cup of tea in the garden. Whether you're travelling far or simply enjoying the peace of our beautiful villages, I hope August offers you time to be refreshed in body, mind and spirit.

Looking ahead, I'm especially excited to share news of something new starting in September. We'll be launching 'The Mid-Test Minnows'. This will be a toddler group for little ones and their grown-ups from across the benefice. It will be a space to play, chat, and connect. This will be a group open to all, whether you are church-going or not. I know how important those first friendships and warm welcomes can be, and I can't wait to see what grows from it.

There are also plans afoot for harvest celebrations, autumn walks, and new ways of gathering as the season turns. But for now, let's enjoy this gentle month of August. Let's take time to watch the sun dip behind the hills, to check in on a neighbour, to give thanks for all that is good and growing in our communities.

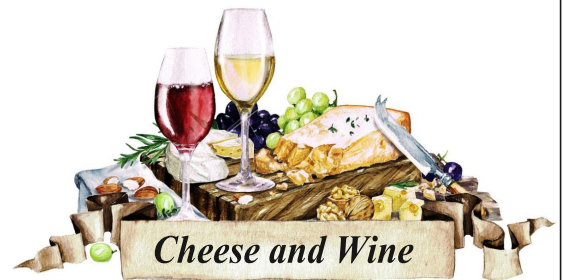
Whatever this month holds for you, may it be filled with moments of peace and joy.

With every blessing,
Revd Joe

	Mottisfont	Broughton	Houghton	Bossington
3 rd August Trinity 7		9.30am Parish Eucharist		
10 th August Trinity 8 / BVM Patronal		11.00am Parish Eucharist (Patronal)	6pm Evensong	
17 th August Trinity 9				9.30 BCP Parish Eucharist
24 th August Trinity 10	11.00am Parish Eucharist	8.00 Holy Communion (CW or BCP) 11.00 Family Service	9.30am Parish Eucharist	6pm Meditation
31 st August Trinity 11				
7 th September Trinity 12	6pm Evensong	9.30am Parish Eucharist		
14 th September Trinity 13 / BVM	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Parish Eucharist	6pm Evensong	
21 st September Trinity 14		9.30am Bible Uncovered		9.30 BCP Parish Eucharist (harvest)
28 th September Trinity 15	11.00am Parish Eucharist (harvest)	8.00 Holy Communion (CW or BCP) 11.00 Family Service (harvest)	9.30 BCP Parish Eucharist (harvest)	6pm Meditation

The Friends of St Andrew's Church, Mottisfont

Invite you, your families and friends to our



A riverside garden fundraiser for Church renovations,

at Mottisfont House (adjacent to Church) Mottisfont. SO51 0LN

Saturday Sept 6th 2025 6.00 – 8.00 pm

To be followed by

Strawberries and Cream



*Tickets on entry (to include a glass of wine/juice)
or in advance from Mrs Clutterbuck after 6th August*

(01794 340475)

ADULTS £20, UNDER 16s FREE

Licensed bar

Outreach Service

There will be a special 'Outreach Service' at St Andrew's Mottisfont at 11am on Sunday 14th September replacing the advertised Morning Worship Service. Currently we offer an Outreach service three times a year hoping to encourage newcomers, and especially children, to our church. It's an opportunity to meet informally for a short themed service including songs, stories, craft activities, prayers and refreshments. All ages are welcomed, and we are particularly keen to invite those who have recently moved into our villages and the Parish of Mottisfont and Dunbridge. On this occasion we will be focusing on Noah and his families.