



# Mottisfont & Dunbridge ACORN



The Parish Newsletter

February & March 2025

Dear Neighbours

Happy New Year! (Is it too late to be saying that?) I hope 2025 has started well for you. I am very excited to start the New Year as Editor of The Acorn having taken over from Peter and Julia Barnett. But a little nervous too - I am reliably informed that Peter and Julia have done an excellent job with The Acorn for 18 years and I understand that I have very big shoes to fill.

My husband, Andy and I celebrate our first year in Mottisfont & Dunbridge next month and we would like to thank you all for the warm welcome we have received. Moving 200 miles from Saddleworth near Greater Manchester to Mottisfont & Dunbridge was a big life-change but building our new lives in this lovely community has been incredibly rewarding and has opened up a world of new friendships and experiences.

We have tried many new things in our first year. Our attempt at Skittles didn't go too well - it is apparent that we lack any natural talent. However, thanks to the apple trees in our new garden, we have proven ourselves proficient at making chutney. And additionally, we have discovered that Andy possesses a natural aptitude for serving as a car park attendant at village events.

Furthermore, we are thoroughly enjoying exploring this beautiful region and have taken several wonderful walks with our two dachshunds, Winston and Daphne. Of course, our excursions typically conclude with a brief stop at the Mill Arms for refreshments - please excuse Daphne if she has barked at you; she has a lot to say.

Christmas in Mottisfont & Dunbridge has been especially magical and two of my favourite memories have to be the Nutcracker at Mottisfont Abbey - I lost myself completely as I wandered through the sparkling trees and decorations, and the music and light effects were exceptional, and the Village Hall pantomime, A Christmas Carol - brought by The Travelling Players. Their distinctive unconventional storytelling, music, and puppetry, delivered an unforgettable heartwarming classic.

Without wishing the year away - I can't wait to see what next Christmas brings.

Anyway enough about me - I'd like to extend a big hello and thank you, to all The Acorn contributors - please bear with me whilst I find my way around the publishing software and forgive me any 'newby' mistakes.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite you all as readers to contribute to The Acorn. I'd love to hear from you - The Acorn offers a friendly platform on which you can all connect, and is a great place for you to provide information and encouragement to one another or simply entertain. Of course, sadly I cannot guarantee that there will be room for every contribution submitted but I promise to do my best.

I also have a request; The Acorn is in need of a couple of new deliverers to distribute to houses in Spearywell and Mottisfont Village. Can anyone spare 30 minutes (and a few hundred steps) every two months to help?

If you are able to join The Acorn's network of deliverers or if you wish to contribute, please message me at [acornparishnews@outlook.com](mailto:acornparishnews@outlook.com)

Kindest Regards,

*Allis*



**Test Valley**  
Borough Council

## Do You Need Help with Winter Fuel Payments?

If you are over 66, please contact Citizens Advice who will confirm if you could receive a payment of up to £100 towards your fuel bill. Call Citizens Advice on 0808 178 6882 or go to their website at [www.testvalleycab.org.uk](http://www.testvalleycab.org.uk)

*As the days begin to lengthen and signs of spring emerge, Mottisfont is the perfect place to unwind and reconnect with nature. With its historic charm, vibrant gardens, and family-friendly activities, there's something for everyone to enjoy this season.*



## Highlight Events:

### Spring awakens in the gardens

The gardens are waking from their winter slumber, with early blooms putting on a delightful show. The garden and grounds are coming alive with crocuses, daffodils, and vibrant hellebores. Stroll along the tranquil riverside walk or explore the grounds to spot snowdrops carpeting the floor—a seasonal highlight.

• **Early Spring Blooms:** Snowdrops, daffodils, and crocuses are making their appearance in February, creating a gentle tapestry of colour.

• **Hellebores and Primroses:** These resilient flowers dotted around the grounds, add charm to the winter gardens.

• **Magnificent Magnolia:** By March, the elegant magnolia trees are beginning to bloom, filling the air with their delicate fragrance.

## Mottisfont Estate

Mottisfont's woodlands are transformed in spring. The Estate's ancient trees and hedgerows burst into life; Snowdrops often linger into mid-February (weather depending), soon joined by the vivid green of new leaves and, later, carpets of bluebells. It's a serene spot for peaceful walks or family explorations. If you haven't ventured out on a walk around the estate, Spring is a wonderful time to pull on your walking boots and get exploring!

- **February Half-Term Trail (Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February):**

Enjoy a scenic walk around the grounds and take part in fun activities like den building, spotting red kites from the bird hide, and racing family pooh sticks from one of Mottisfont's charming bridges. Don't miss our Wild Play area, perfect for little climbers and running off some steam, or use your creativity with the loose play to build towers or an activity course!

- **Walk with us... (Daily – volunteer led):**

Join our friendly volunteer garden guides for a stroll through Mottisfont's gardens, learning about the flora, fauna, and history of this unique estate.

- **Art Exhibition: Three Victorian Travelers (Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April)**

This exhibition explores the intrepid lives of three artists from Victorian England: Hercules Brabazon Brabazon, Albert Goodwin and Walter Tyndale. All three travelled widely to depict foreign lands and tell the remarkable stories of their encounters abroad. In doing so they brought a vibrant immediacy of images to the newly wealthy and literate middle classes of the late 19th and early 20th century England who eagerly embraced the delights of Victorian travel. Each artist in their own style – Brabazon with his energetic and spontaneous brush, Goodwin with atmospheric detail, and Tyndale with an illustrative flair – capture the wonder of their travels. The results include awe-inspiring architecture, bustling markets, ancient artefacts and resplendent landscapes. In bringing together scenes from the vast continents of Europe, Africa and Asia, today they reveal to us the world as seen by the three great Victorian watercolourists.

## Mottisfont & Dunbridge Village Hall

### VILLAGE HALL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Annual Meeting of The Mottisfont Village Hall Association will take place on

**Wednesday 19th March at 7.30 p.m.**

If you think you can offer some support please come along to the meeting as new members will be very welcome to join the committee.

Following the highly successful Village Hall Open Morning last year, this year's event will be on

**Saturday 23rd March from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

This will be an opportunity to find out more about what happens in the village. Organisers from local groups are invited to come along to share news and information about their activities.

The summer seems a long way off, but it's not too soon to think about planning this year's village fete, which will take place on

**Sunday 10th August from 12 noon to 5 p.m.**

Thanks to the support of Mottisfont Cricket Club last year's fete was a great success bringing in much needed income to support the increasing costs of maintaining the hall. Please let us know if you can help in any way even if it's just an hour or so to help set up on the previous day, relieve a stall holder or clearing up.

**Please contact: Lynn on 340134 or Dave & Pat on 340609**



Andy here from the Village Hall. I have recently taken on the role of Booking Secretary at the hall and wanted to ensure everyone has my details.

Our beautiful hall is available to hire at very reasonable rates (discounted for residents of the parish) and is ideal for corporate events, clubs, functions, birthdays or just about anything where you need a large building for work or fun.

You will have exclusive use of all the facilities, which include well-kept grounds, a fully equipped kitchen, large hall and anteroom, toilets and plenty of car parking.

Hire by the hour, the day, or for longer. We can accommodate just about any requirements.

In the summer months the large outdoor patio and field area provide a great space for any outdoor event.

We have recently invested in a Wi-Fi connection for corporate meetings or just stream your favourite music. Visit our new website for more information [www.mottisfontvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.mottisfontvillagehall.co.uk)

You can view our new online availability calendar via the website, or contact me at

**Andy-MVH@outlook.com, or**

**Phone / Text / WhatsApp - 07803502468**



### NOTICE OF APPLICATION - TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

Notice has been given that Mr S Mitchell is applying to Test Valley Borough Council for the below proposal which falls within our Parish. Details of the application can be found via the Council's website, and by entering the application number above.

Representations had to be submitted in writing before 31st January 2025 to be considered in the determination of the application.

**APPLICATION NUMBER:** 24/02898/FULLS

**PROPOSAL:** Construction of 12 two storey properties on the site of Dunbridge Goods Yard, to include access and parking, layout, scale, landscaping, design and other associated works

**SITE:** Dunbridge Former Goods Yard, Barley Hill, Dunbridge, Hampshire

# 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](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.

*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

## CHURCH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2025

	Bossington	Broughton	Houghton	Mottisfont
<b>2 Feb</b> <b>Candlemas Presen- tation of Christ in Temple</b>		9.30am Parish Eucharist		
<b>9 Feb</b> <b>4 before Lent</b>		11.00 Parish Eucharist	6.00pm Evensong	11am Morning Worship
<b>16 Feb</b> <b>3 before Lent</b>	9:30 BCP Parish Eucharist	9.30 Bible Uncovered		
<b>23 Feb</b> <b>2 before Lent</b>		8.00 Holy Commu- nion (CW or BCP) 11.00 Family service	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.00am Parish Eucharist
<b>2 March</b> <b>Sunday next before Lent</b>		9.30am Parish Eucharist		
<b>5 March</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b>				
<b>9 March</b> <b>Lent 1</b>		11.00 Parish Eucharist	6.00pm Evensong	11am Morning Worship
<b>16 March</b> <b>Lent 2</b>	9.30 BCP Parish Eucharist	9:30am Bible Uncovered		
<b>23 March</b> <b>Lent 3</b>	6pm Meditation	8.00 Holy Commu- nion (CW or BCP) 11.00 Family service	9.30am Parish Eucharist	11.00am Parish Eucharist
<b>30 March</b> <b>Mothering Sunday Lent 4</b>	No service	10am Mothering Sunday	9.30am Mothering Sunday Parish Eucharist	11.00am Mothering Sunday



## News from St Andrew's Church, Mottisfont PCC



**Mothering Sunday 30th March 2025**

There will be a service of appreciation, gratitude, and expressions of love for mothers present or remembered in this springtime service at

**11am**

Mothering Sunday falls late this year so there should be plenty of springtime flowers with which to make posies. All the necessary will be supplied, but feel free to bring your own flowers if you wish.

Everybody welcome

Refreshments to follow

**SAVE THE DATE**

**St Andrew's Church Open Day**

**12th April 2025**

The PCC are planning an Open Day to welcome all in our united villages of Mottisfont and Dunbridge, their friends and families, and indeed anyone curious or interested to experience our wonderful 12th century church nestled in the centre of our parish. It's a free opportunity to join with friends, have a look around and learn more about its key features, its history, and its graffiti!

This Open Day will also be a chance to find out more about the crucial plans for the forthcoming essential renovations i.e. what we need to do to save our church for ourselves and for future generations. Like all ancient Grade 1 listed buildings it must be nurtured, maintained, and preserved if it is to remain fit for purpose...a complex and costly challenge.

There will be refreshments, displays, and fun things to do.

More details to come in the next issue.



Mottisfont and Dunbridge has its own dedicated local Police Officer:

You can connect with the local Officer by visiting

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

## 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 9th March 2025.**

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

**Did you know there are nine folders containing information of local interest available for borrowing at the Village Hall, catalogued as follows:**

- 1) Rail Stations in the Area
- 2) Personal Memories of the Area
- 3) Local Shops and Mills, Including Local Wedding Photographs
- 4) Local Crafts, the Canal, and Preparations for D-Day
- 5) Local Clubs and Individuals from the First and Second World Wars
- 6) Artifacts, Farms, Barker-Mill, Old Pubs, Village Hall
- 7) Church, School, Abbey
- 8) Events and Historical Houses in the Area
- 9) Photographs of the Gas Pipeline Installation in 2008

**To borrow/enquire,  
please phone 340105 or email  
[hornes@btinternet.com](mailto:hornes@btinternet.com)**





**Friday 14 February 2025**

**7.30pm**

**Freud's Last Session (12A)**

Set on the eve of WWII and towards the end of his life, Freud's Last Session sees Freud (Anthony Hopkins) invite iconic author C.S. Lewis (Matthew Goode) for a debate over the future of mankind and the existence of God. Exploring Freud's unique relationship with his daughter Anna, and Lewis' unconventional romance with his best friend's mother, the film interweaves past, present and fantasy.

**Wednesday 19 February 2025**

**5.00pm and 7.30pm**

**The Critic (15)**

Set in 1930's London, The Critic is a thrilling tale of ambition, blackmail, and desire with a dazzling anti-hero at its heart. When the most feared and vicious theatre critic in town Jimmy Erskine (Ian McKellen), finds himself in the crosshairs of the Daily Chronicle's new owner, he strikes a Faustian pact with struggling actress Nina Land (Gemma Arterton) who is desperate to win his favour.

**Friday 14 March 2025**

**7.30pm**

**Small Things Like These (12A)**

Christmas 1985, and devoted father and coal merchant Bill Furlong (Cillian Murphy) discovers startling secrets kept by the convent in his town, along with some shocking truths of his own. The film reveals truths about Ireland's Magdalene laundries - horrific asylums run by Roman Catholic institutions from the 1820s until 1996, ostensibly to reform "fallen young women."

**Wednesday 19 March 2025**

**4.45pm and 7.30 pm**

**Conclave (12A)**

Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) is tasked with running this covert process after the unexpected death of the beloved Pope. Once the Catholic Church's most powerful leaders have gathered from around the world and are locked together in the Vatican halls, Lawrence uncovers a trail of deep secrets left in the dead Pope's wake - secrets which could shake the foundations of the Church.

**Information common to all films**

The films will be shown at Stockbridge Town Hall, SO20 6HE. Tickets are priced at £6.00 (including a £0.50 booking fee) and will be available for purchase from **1 February** through [www.stockbridgcinema.org.uk](http://www.stockbridgcinema.org.uk)

or TicketSource at 0333 666 3366 (no additional charge)

Please refer to the website for complete details of all films.



Patron: Professor David Owen Norris MA (Oxon) FSA FRAM FRCCO

**STOCKBRIDGE MUSIC**

Friday, 7th March 2025 at 7.30pm  
Doors open at 6.45pm  
St Peter's Church, Stockbridge



**David Owen Norris**

"Yes, yes, we *will* have a pianoforte!"

A 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert for Jane Austen, born 1775

Tickets £25 (U18s £5)  
from [stockbridgemusic.uk](http://stockbridgemusic.uk)  
or on the door, if still available

**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:

**Thursday 27th February**

and

**Tuesday 25th March**



# SOMBORNE COMMUNITY CINEMA

*At King's Somborne Village Hall*

## **The Critic** - Thursday 13th February 2025

Sir Ian McKellen stars as a powerful London theatre critic who lures a struggling actress into a blackmail scheme with deadly consequences. A suspenseful thriller co-starring Gemma Arterton, Mark Strong and Lesley Manville.

*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. 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.*

## **MONDAY MATINEES 2025** *Free to all : No ticket needed*

*Doors open at 1:45 : Films start at 2:15 : Tea, Coffee and Biscuits*

*Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult at all times*

## **Mr Malcolms List** - 10th February

A young woman courts a mysterious wealthy suitor in 19th century England. But, has Mr. Malcolm found the perfect woman... or the perfect hoax?

## **Sometimes, Always, Never** - 24th February

Alan is a stylish tailor with moves as sharp as his suits. He has spent years searching tirelessly for his missing son Michael, who stormed out over a game of Scrabble.

## **My Sailor, My Love** - 17th March

A retired sea captain and his daughter must reassess their strained relationship after he begins a new romance with a widowed housekeeper.

## **80 For Brady** - 31st March

A group of friends made it their life-long mission to go to the Super Bowl and meet NFL superstar Tom Brady.



Christmas seems quite a while away now, but we had a very cheerful December meeting, when Bob Blake entertained us with poetry readings of a humorous nature, and we played a favourite game of 'Pass the Christmas Carrier Bag'. This was followed by a delicious buffet supper, kindly provided by the committee members.

A few days later we met for an early Christmas lunch at Ampfield Golf Club which was much enjoyed.

In January we were visited by Ben Stride, a charismatic young man from a local farming family, who is now a very enthusiastic bee keeper and owner of Stride's New Forest Honey. He had started his working life as an apprentice at Hilliers and then became a self-employed gardener. In 2018 he became interested in bee keeping through an enthusiastic elderly mentor and bought his first hive. His love of beekeeping has become an obsession, and through hard work he has built up a successful business. He took us through the many joys and pitfalls of honey production and at the end we were able to taste a variety of honeys and buy jars and honeycombs for us to enjoy at home.

Next month's meeting will be on **11th February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**, when Jeremy Prescott will talk about Bomber Command. Visitors are always welcome, and this talk may also be of interest to male members of the community.

## MOTTISFONT SOCIAL CLUB

### SUBS

Mottisfont Social Club subs are now due, the cost is £15.00 for ordinary members and £8.00 for concessions (over 65 and under the age of 21 in full time education).

Members have until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025 to renew their membership.

New membership cost is £20.

### AGM

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025, starting at 8.15pm.**

Should any member wish to raise an item for discussion at the AGM it must be put in writing to the secretary at least 7 days prior to the date.

Matters arising at the AGM will be deferred until the next full committee meeting.

### THE MIKE HUGHES QUIZ

Every other Friday  
£2.50 per person, teams of up to six,

Starting at 8pm  
7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February  
7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March  
4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> April

### EASTER SKITTLES

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April Starting at 8pm

### WHIST AT MOTTISFONT VILLAGE HALL

21<sup>st</sup> February, Starting at 7pm  
21<sup>st</sup> March, Starting at 7pm

### **Salt Bins**

Hampshire County Council has filled community salt bins for the coming months. This salt is available for anyone to spread on local roads and pavements to complement main road salting by gritters.

Please report empty or damaged salt bins, or request new ones for your area at:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem>

## Lockerley Primary School

We are a small village school but we have a big impact on our pupils learning. We are committed to providing our pupils with an enriched and inspiring curriculum delivered through personalised teaching. We get to know each child as an individual and have a drive for all children to achieve personal success.

Last term we saw children going on trips, sporting events, visitors came into school, themed days and fairs. There has also been lots of opportunities for families to come into school and celebrate the children's learning. We are already planning many more opportunities in 2025.

Check out our Facebook page or school website to keep up to date.



### 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, run by a qualified teacher, from birth to 5year olds.

There will be songs, stories, craft and toys.

We have baby-weighing scales

Tea and coffee available. Drink and snack for children

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

### **Where to report road issues:**

Potholes: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>

Tree/hedge problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding>

Pavement problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving>

Problems with rights of way: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

**When reporting an issue, you'll be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report.**