



The Mottisfont & Dunbridge ACORN



Parish Newsletter

April / May 2026

Dear Neighbours

There is a wonderful energy humming through the village this month. The brave snowdrops of February have made way for the cheerful trumpets of daffodils and the hedgerows are starting to don a delicate green haze that signals spring is truly here. I've found myself pausing just to listen to the birdsong; it feels as though the village has suddenly found its voice again.

As the days start to stretch, I'm feeling more eager to get out and reconnect with our community. And there is so much happening over the coming months - there's the buzz of the upcoming Village Hall game night, the friendly Meet the Neighbours gatherings, and I'm loving the shared enthusiasm at the K9 training sessions. It's a season for joining in, and these moments of coming together are what make our village such a great place to live.

As we move toward the greener season, I'm also happy to help with a bit of 'digital spring cleaning.' If any neighbours would prefer to receive The Acorn electronically rather than as a paper copy, please do email me to let me know and I will send out email copies to you instead.

To keep our physical copies arriving on doorsteps, we are also looking for future sponsors. The Acorn is funded entirely by the generosity of locals and businesses who donate the £35 printing costs for an edition. If you would like to support a future issue, please do get in touch.

However, a word of warning, keep your wits about you as you read through this April edition! A few 'extraordinary' news items may have sprouted up alongside the primroses - some perhaps a little too remarkable to be true. Whether you're spotting the first swallows or spotting a tall tale, let's continue to enjoy this lovely season together and keep looking out for one another.

Warm wishes,
Allis X

MEET THE NEIGHBOURS is an opportunity to get to know the people who live nearby over a drink at the Mill Arms.

Come and join us for the next two Meet the Neighbours events from 7.30pm on:



Wednesday 29th April & Thursday 28th May
Put these dates in your diary now!

The deadline for inclusion of any articles / information in the June / July edition of The Acorn is 22nd May 2026.
Please email any items to acornparishnews@outlook.com

Mottisfont Cricket Club

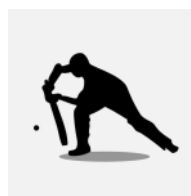
As we are preparing for the start of a new cricket season at Bengers Lane we are reaching the climax of another successful Indoor League competition. Last winter we were crowned champions of Division Four and are on track to battle for the top spot in Division Three this year - having lost only one game in the season so far. We also started a second indoor team who have played very well in their inaugural season sitting comfortably mid-table with an equal share of wins & losses.

We worked hard on the pitch last autumn to help recover from last summer's drought and it's fortuitous that we did, as groundwork was impossible with the rain we had in January and February. Nature does have a way of balancing things out and as I write this the square is looking fabulous.

We have two Friendlies arranged for April, on the 18th v. Braishfield and on the 25th v. East Tytherley before the season starts in May. Our home games start v. Longparish on the 9th May and Michelmersh on the 23rd but for the full 2026 Fixture List, please refer to the previous edition of The Acorn, where we published our full 2026 fixture list. We look forward to seeing you at the boundary—first ball is at 1:00 PM for all league games. Don't forget to follow us @MOTTISFONTCC for the latest match updates and results!

IMPORTANT: New league regulations for the 2026 season.

Due to a clerical error at the Hampshire Cricket Board, Bengers Lane has been re-classified as a 'High Altitude Ground.' To compensate for the thinner air, all home games will now be played with a glow-in-the-dark oversized ball (approx. the size of a grapefruit) to ensure it is visible to fielders. Furthermore, any ball hit into the



neighbouring cow field will now be officially counted as 8 runs instead of 6, provided the batsman can retrieve it before the next over.

Whist Drive at Mottisfont Village Hall

Friday 17th April & Friday 15th May
(7pm start)



Bee Bonanza at Courtens Garden Centre

Who doesn't love a Bumblebee? But do you know how important they are to provide us with our homegrown veg? FACT: More than 90% of the leading global crop types are visited by bees. Some plants e.g. beans and blackcurrants are nearly always bee pollinated and can easily be grown in pots in small spaces even if you don't have a garden.



Courtens Garden Centre is holding a special day - a Bee Bonanza - on Saturday 25th April so you can find out all about bees and the plants they pollinate. Experts from several wildlife and conservation trusts will be there to answer your questions and give advice so you too can help the bees survive while you grow your own crops. Local honey, honeycomb, candles and Wessexmead Works on sale and loads of bee friendly plants too.

Courtens Bee Bonanza will help children make a start to grow their own plants, introduce them to a hive of bees and they can take part in activities and have some fun.

Come along to Courtens on **Saturday 25th April 10am - 3.30pm**. Parking, refreshments in the cafe and Ligouri's Pizza van on site and all things busy bees! Raffle in aid of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.

Courtens Garden Centre, Romsey Road, Whiteparish. SP5 2SF

What 3 words: selling.little.scarecrow

Tel: 01794 884489 www.courtensgardencentre.co.uk email: courtensgardenpartners@yahoo.com

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Brass Band Coming to Mottisfont

After 146 years in Lockerley, the Lockerley silver band will be starting a new chapter by moving to Mottisfont from April 2026.

Sadly we have been evicted from our long-time home in Lockerley of 146 years, but we're very excited to become part of the Mottisfont community and are looking forward to making music in the village. You may soon hear the sound of brass band tunes drifting through the village on a Friday evening when we rehearse! We're a friendly band that plays mainly for the enjoyment and social side of music, although some of our members also compete with other local bands at high levels. We're not yet sure if we'll keep our current name or choose a new one, so name suggestions are very welcome! We also take requests — if we have the music, we'll happily play it.

If you used to play a brass instrument years ago and fancy having a blow again, please do come along — you would be very welcome. We even have spare instruments if yours is gathering dust or no longer works.

Please have a look at our website and Facebook page to see what we get up to, and we hope to join in with the Mottisfont village fete this year.

If you hear us rehearsing, do pop in and say hello — you'll be very welcome.

Walk the Test Way Returns

Walkers across Hampshire and beyond are being invited to lace up their boots and take part in the much-loved Walk the Test Way, a unique charity walking event organised by the Rotary Club of Romsey Test. Taking place along the beautiful Test Way in Hampshire, the annual event gives participants the chance to enjoy stunning countryside while raising money for a charity of their choice.

With routes ranging from 5 miles to over 25 miles, the event is designed for everyone — from families looking for a scenic day out to seasoned walkers seeking a rewarding challenge. Participants are transported to their chosen starting point and walk back to Romsey, where a warm welcome, refreshments and a medal await.

Since its launch in 2003, Walk the Test Way has raised more than £1.3 million for charities across the UK. In recent years alone, tens of thousands of pounds have been distributed annually to causes including health charities, youth organisations, disability support groups and local community initiatives.

What makes Walk the Test Way special is its flexibility — participants can raise funds for any registered charity close to their heart. Every step taken directly benefits causes that matter most to the walkers themselves.

Beyond fundraising, the event is a celebration of community spirit. Families, schools, businesses and local groups walk side by side, sharing stories, encouragement and a shared sense of achievement as they cross the finish line together.

A spokesperson for the organisers said: "Walk the Test Way is about bringing people together to enjoy the Hampshire countryside while making a real difference. Whether you walk five miles or twenty-five, every step helps someone in need."

Registration opens in May 2026. For full details and to register, visit: www.walkthetestway.org.uk

Live Music at The Mill Arms: Introducing Capodiem

Looking to brighten up your Monday evening? Join us for a fantastic night of live music. Capodiem is a talented acoustic group of musicians and singers known for their eclectic and engaging sets. Their repertoire spans multiple genres and even features original compositions from time to time.

The launch night kicks off at 7:30pm on Monday 13th April, in the cosy setting of The Conservatory at The Mill Arms. Following this opening performance, you can catch Capodiem on the third Monday of every month. Be sure to mark your calendars for 18th May and 15th June, as the group settles into their new monthly residency.

The National Trust - Mottisfont Abbey



Easter Adventures at Mottisfont!

Make your way along the trail and find activities for the whole family. The trail takes place between 21 March to 12 April, from 10am to 5pm with last entry at 4.30pm, so come along and explore the beautiful gardens at Mottisfont. Prices are £3.50 per trail which includes an Easter trail sheet, bunny ears and dairy or vegan and Free From* chocolate egg.

This year at Mottisfont, it's all about tea parties with lots of fun family activities. Compete in the scone and spoon race, test your aim with toss the teabag and your skills with giant sandwich jenga. Try a spot of plate spinning or biscuit rolling station and get creative with the sandwich spinning wheel and discover a whole range of quirky fillings. Slug and cress anyone? Little ones can also then draw their sandwiches for display in the stableyard.

So pop on your bunny ears, grab your activity sheet to guide the way, and follow the trail around Mottisfont's grounds to discover the 10 awesome activity stations. At the finish line, a yummy Easter egg (choose dairy chocolate, or vegan and Free From*) is waiting for you.

Town & Country art exhibition until 12 April

Running from 24 January to 12 April, this exhibition brings together over 60 works in watercolour and oil by three acclaimed contemporary artists: Lesley Fotherby, Jack Russell and Melissa Scott-Miller.

Blossom Time at Mottisfont

Join us from 20 March - 10 May for our annual Blossom Time at Mottisfont, where we celebrate the arrival of a new season with blossom tree appreciation, blossom inspired poetry, spotter trails and more.

From the delicate blossoms of spring and the vivid greens of summer to the rich hues of autumn and the frosty panoramas of winter, the show captures the distinctive beauty and character of each season. Visitors will encounter scenes ranging from snow-laden hedgerows and village cricket matches to London's bright squares and waterways. Renowned for painting en plein air, these artists respond with skill and sensitivity to the splendour of Britain's urban and rural settings, recording fleeting moments of seasonal change. With different styles and visions of nature, each artist brings a unique perspective.

Find out more: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/hampshire/mottisfont>

The Art & Craft of Print exhibition 9 May – 1 November

This summer, the National Trust celebrates the art and craft of printmaking with a major summer show at Mottisfont in Hampshire.

'The Art & Craft of Print' is a beautiful exhibition, exploring contemporary British printmaking in its many forms. Curated in partnership with St Jude's Prints, it brings together many leading printmakers working in Britain today, including Angie Lewin, Mark Hearld, Emily Sutton and Jonny Hannah. From screen print and linocut to wood engraving, letterpress and lithography, the displays and behind-the-scenes insights reveal the intricate, often complex processes behind the art.

Mottisfont's intimate gallery spaces will immerse the visitor in the artists' work, complemented by St Jude's award-winning wallpaper and fabric designs.

Air-Drop Shopping: A Mottisfont & Dunbridge First.

Our local supermarket is excited to announce a high-tech upgrade to their home delivery service. Starting next week, Mottisfont & Dunbridge will be the primary test site for the new Super-Drone express delivery. To participate, residents simply need to signal the orbiting drone by wearing a bright orange hat and standing in the centre of their gardens. Once spotted, the drone will hover and winch down the shopping.

Please note: The supermarket cannot be held responsible for bread landing in gutters or sausages becoming entangled in telephone wires.



Games Night @ The Village Hall

Saturday 11th April (7pm start) sees the launch of our very first Games Night (suitable for ages 10+). You're invited to come along for an evening of fun as you rotate through our large-scale games, teaming up with different partners. It's a great way to meet people, enjoy some friendly competition, and share plenty of laughs. Our games include a shuffleboard, cornhole, darts, quoits and a giant Jenga - to name but a few. Entry is £5 per person, which includes snacks and a prize for the overall winner. Pay on the night (cash or card). You're welcome to bring your own wine/beer, and we'll provide glasses along with fridge facilities to keep everything chilled.

We're hoping to make this a regular monthly event, with plans to take the games outside onto the patio during the summer months. Our second event is already scheduled for Saturday 16th May, so be sure to keep the date free.

Booking is essential, so please get in touch to secure your place. Contact Andy: Andy-MVH@outlook.com WhatsApp: 01794 755315
All proceeds will go towards the upkeep of the village hall.

MOTTISFONT SOCIAL CLUB

EVERY THURSDAY: BINGO - includes Mystery Envelope Draw and Snooker Ball Game (Snooker Ball Game tickets can be purchased throughout the week - purchaser to write their name on the reverse of the ticket if unable to attend the Club on the Thursday evening).

EVERY SATURDAY: National Lottery Bonus Ball (tickets can be purchased throughout the week) and Roulette Wheel and Meat Draw.

Membership Draw is held every evening that the Club is open.

WEDNESDAY, 1 April	WI DUNBRIDGE MEETING
FRIDAY, 3 April 8pm	QUIZ (Mike Hughes)
SATURDAY, 4 April	ANNIVERSARY PARTY
SATURDAY, 11 April 8pm	BEETLE DRIVE (proceeds to electricity fund)
FRIDAY, 17 April 8pm	QUIZ (Mike Hughes)
MONDAY, 20 April 8pm	SNOOKER
SATURDAY, 25 April 8pm	QUIZ with raffle (proceeds to electricity fund)
WEDNESDAY, 13 May 8pm	COMMITTEE MEETING
FRIDAY, 15 May 8pm	QUIZ (Mike Hughes)
SATURDAY, 16 May 8pm	CLUB SKITTLES
SATURDAY, 23 May 8pm	QUIZ (in aid of Diabetes)
FRIDAY, 29 May 8pm	QUIZ (Mike Hughes)

Lockerley Walking Group



You are invited to join us for a 6 mile walk from Farley Chamberlayne Church up onto Farley Mount and round by various bridleways and quiet roads back again. We shall meet at 9:30 at Lockerley Green to share cars and start at 10:00 at Farley Chamberlayne SO51 0QP what three words: caged.spruced.consoled. There is a slight incline at the start and then a short steeper one along the road on the way back. No stiles. The only muddy bits are on the paths at the top of Farley Mount but nothing serious at the moment. We park at Farley Chamberlayne by kind permission of the churchwardens and it would be churlish to go there without visiting the church which is an amazing microcosm of Hampshire history. Please bring some cash to contribute to church funds/ pay for parking and we shall give you a brief tour. Lunch at the Wheatsheaf in Braishfield at approximately 1pm. Don't yet know whether they want us to choose menu options in advance. Contact Susie 342426 or Diana 340702

Ruth & Brian Livesey and Lyn & Dave Evans are organising a walk on: Friday 24th April. 10 am meet at The Lord Nelson Arms, Middleton, Winterslow. SP5 1QS. The walk starts from the Lord Nelson and is 5.5 miles (8.9 km) or for those who prefer a shorter walk, some of the group will take a small detour which would make it 4.3 mile (6.9 km) We shall do a circular walk from here, into Bentley Wood and back at 1pm for lunch. There are no stiles and a short incline. There is alternative free public parking at the recreation ground. This is 100 metres along the road from the Lord Nelson opposite the school. Please bring a drink for a mid-way stop. Please let us know if you are joining us. Contact Ruth: 07539 862707 ruthliveseywd@gmail.com

Lockerley Primary School

Spring at Lockerley has been bright and full of rich learning. Despite the rain, we've prioritised getting the children outside - splashing in puddles is all part of the fun! Outdoor learning is central to our curriculum, and we have recently invested heavily in our grounds, extending the trim trail and adding a large digging sand pit. We are especially excited to unveil 'The Nature Nook', a beautiful handcrafted shelter designed with our School Council and Frost Design to enhance our outdoor provision.

Recently, we celebrated Mental Health Week and NSPCC Number Day, with children dressing up for a day of house-based maths games.

School & Village Services

Monarch Wrap Around Care: We offer excellent Monday–Friday care run by a qualified teacher, featuring sports, crafts, and home-cooked meals in a homely environment.

Caterpillars Playgroup: Tuesdays (term-time), 10:00–11:15am at the school. £2 'play as you go' for ages 0–5. Stories, crafts, toys, and baby-weighting scales.



The Travelling Pantry: Tuesdays, 11:00am–12:00pm at the Village Hall. Run by Unity, a £5.00 visit allows you to select 12 items to help your food budget go further.

Stay Connected: Follow our Facebook page or visit www.lockerleyprimary.co.uk to learn more about our school and enriched curriculum.

MOTTISFONT VILLAGE HALL NEWS

It was great to see so many villagers attending the AGM in March. We were also pleased to welcome three new committee members. Bookings are going well and finances are really healthy. Unfortunately we have been unable to have the new boiler installed due to our preferred contractor being unwell. However, we hope to get the work finished over the summer.

Remember you can book the hall for family parties, barbecues and meetings.

Looking ahead to the summer, the fete is booked for Sunday 9th August from 1 to 5 p.m. There will be all the usual stalls, so put the date in your diaries now. This year Lockerley Silver Band will share the stage with Bernie Boozle Band to entertain everyone during the afternoon. More information in the July Acorn, but if you have any ideas for stalls or can help in any way please let us know via the village WhatsApp Group or message us on our Facebook page.

Village Hall – Can You Help?

Website Design

Our village hall is at the heart of the community, and we are always looking for ways to improve how we promote what we offer.

We are currently looking to redesign our website to make it more modern, user-friendly, and effective in attracting bookings from people both locally and from further afield. A well-designed website is an important tool in helping us showcase the hall and increase usage.

This could be a great opportunity for a student, recent graduate, or start-up looking to build their portfolio and gain real-world experience. We are open to fresh ideas and would welcome anyone keen to take on a small but meaningful project.

If you, or someone you know, might be interested in helping, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Maintenance Volunteers

We are also looking for volunteers to help with the general upkeep of the hall.

This is a worthwhile way to support the community, and only requires a small commitment — perhaps just a couple of hours a month. Volunteers would attend organised sessions to complete small maintenance tasks and help keep the hall in great condition.

It's also a good opportunity to meet new people, and as a thank you, refreshments will be provided along with discounts on future hall bookings.

Contact

Email: Andy-MVH@outlook.com
WhatsApp / Tel: 01794 755315

Unlock Your Dog's Potential at The K9 Club

Looking to strengthen the bond with your four-legged friend? Join our weekly sessions at the Village Hall, where we bring together interactive enrichment, cognitive games, and fun trick training designed to engage your dog's mind. Our activities help build focus and nurture calm, confident behaviour.



Big News: New Technology Trial

We are thrilled to announce that the K9 Club is the first in Hampshire to trial the revolutionary 'Vox-Collar'. Using advanced frequency sensors, the collar translates your dog's thoughts into a clear voice. Early trials had local Labradors reciting 18th-century poetry, while Terriers spent most sessions complaining about the quality of the local biscuit selection. We expect these to be very popular for our April 1st session!

Whether your dog is a budding poet or just needs focus, visit www.k9club.uk to see our full schedule and book your spot.

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.com) and check 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: RS007162. VAT Reg no: 302 2090 69. Registered Office: Ford Springs, The Hollow, Broughton, Stockbridge SO20 8BB



Broughton & Mottisfont Community Bus
Registered Charity Number 284910

Excursions 2026

In 2026, from May to November, we shall again be running a monthly excursion on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. These trips have proven popular in the past and were well attended in 2025. So, not wishing to change a winning formula, the same destinations have been chosen, with the addition of Windsor in October. Please join us on one of this year's excursions, you will be very welcome.

The tickets will be priced at £15 per person and all trips will start at 09:30 from the village square.

Date	Destination
Wed 20th May	Weymouth
Wed 17th June	Gunwharf Quays
Wed 15th July	New Forest
Wed 19th August	Swanage
Wed 16th September	Bath
Wed 21st October	Windsor
Wed 18th November	Street

To book places please call 01794 234794 after 09:00 on the first day of the month of the trip. Bookings will be taken on a first come, first served basis, but consideration will be given to over booking on subsequent trips.

Contact 01794 234794 - thevillagebus@outlook.com
On behalf of the Broughton and Mottisfont Bus Committee

Fishing and more on the Mottisfont Estate with Wessex Rivers Trust.

Wessex Rivers Trust has officially taken over the fishing tenancy on the Mottisfont Estate. Having worked with the National Trust on habitat restoration projects across the estate for several years, we are excited to take this next step in looking after our local waters. The sale of fishing days will fund education sessions for young people at Mottisfont to learn more about our chalk streams. Alongside the fishing we'll also be running a range of wellness, art and nature-based events, to give more people opportunities to spend time by the river. We would like to carry on the tradition of offering discounted fishing days for parish residents, so if you live in the parish and are interested in this opportunity, please contact Neil Swift at neil@wessexrt.org.uk. We're also in the process of planning an Open Day for parish residents to enjoy spending time on the river bank, meet the team and learn more about the river, so look out for details of that in the future.

To find out more about our plans and activities at Mottisfont visit <https://www.wessexrt.org.uk/ChalkStreamExperience.html>





NEWS FROM THE WI

WI members have had two 'hands on' meetings recently. In February, Sarah, from Sarah's Stamp Shack at Plaitford, told us about her craft classes which are held at Appledore Cottage. Then, after an initial demonstration, we proceeded to make individual coasters, using plain boards and paper serviettes. Such concentration! You could have heard a pin drop! However, we were all pleased with the results, and some of you may have seen our effort on Facebook. In March, something quite different. As our planned speaker had to cancel, our resourceful committee booked us in for a Skittles Evening at Mottisfont Social Club. The even provided nibbles to go with our drinks. It proved to be great fun, and some of us who had not played for many years, were happily surprised that we had not lost the knack of bending our knees and rolling a ball along the alley! Well done to the ladies who gallantly volunteered to stand the ninepins up - sometimes at risk to life and limb. All the Club members were very welcoming to a group of ladies invading their space with our usual chatter and laughter. We have now formed a team for the Hampshire WI Quiz competition, the first round of which will take place at Wellow in May. An appeal was put out for new committee members, as some of the present committee would like a break after serving faithfully for several years. Next month, on 14th April, we will be back at our usual venue of the Village Hall, where Sandy and Mike, aka Bishop's Bells, will entertain us - and who knows, there may be another 'hands on' opportunity. Why not come along and join us? We've recently welcomed two new members, and there's always room for more.

Speed Indicator Devices

The Parish Council is investing in SIDs - that is, speed indicator devices which you will have seen on many local roads and no doubt, will have been greeted with a smiley face. We have secured a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner to buy a device and are seeking further funding to meet Hampshire's high charges for erecting new posts (where needed) on which to mount it. The PC has already paid for a survey by Hampshire who have to approve potential places where it can be sited. SIDs have to be moved around every few weeks between several locations because it has been found that drivers tend to take less notice of a smiley/frowny face when it has been in the same place for a while. The most likely locations are Barley Hill, Spearywell Road and Hatt Hill - all places where drivers are known to exceed the 30/40 mph speed limit. The Parish Council has repeatedly lobbied Hampshire to help reduce speeds in the parish and extend the restricted areas but they have always refused our requests. So we are making our own investment to try to reduce traffic speeds locally. It will be a few months yet before the equipment can be purchased and put in place but this should happen later this year.

Your Local Voice at Test Valley

Our Borough Councillors are here to represent us. Please contact them if you need support for a community grant, have concerns about planning applications, or need help with borough services like recycling and housing:
 Alison Johnston 01794 500610 cllrajohnston@testvalley.gov.uk
 Ian Jeffrey 01794 388872 cllrijeffrey@testvalley.gov.uk
 Stewart MacDonald 07803 594872 cllrsmacdonald@testvalley.gov.uk

SOMBORNE COMMUNITY CINEMA

The Choral - Thursday 9th April 2026: 1h:53m

Written by Alan Bennett. As war rages on the Western Front in 1916, the Choral Society in Ramsden, Yorkshire has lost most of its men to the army. The ambitious committee, determined to press ahead, decides to recruit local young men to swell their ranks. They must also engage a new chorus master, and despite their suspicions that he has something to hide, their best bet seems to be Dr. Henry Guthrie – driven, uncompromising, and recently returned from a career in Germany. As conscription papers start to arrive, the whole community discovers that the best response to the chaos that is laying waste to their lives is to make music.

Song Sung Blue - Thursday 14th May 2026: 2h:12m

Based on an incredible true story, Mike (Hugh Jackman) and Claire (Kate Hudson) are two down-on-their-luck musicians who prove that it's never too late to find love and follow your dreams. They form a joyous Neil Diamond tribute band called Lightning and Thunder, rising from a humble garage to dive bar gigs to unexpected hometown stardom. When tragedy strikes, their love for each other and passion for music give them the strength to overcome hardships, rediscover hope, and inspire everyone around them.

Information common to both films: Tickets £6 online at www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk or at the door on the night @ King's Somborne Village Hall

Doors open: 7.15pm. Films start: 8pm - leaving time to get your drinks/snacks from the well-stocked bar

National Theatre Live

Friday 24th April - All My Sons Doors Open 6:45pm Curtain Up 7:30pm

Tickets £10 online at www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk or at the door on the day. Refreshments available.

Stockbridge Music Welcomes Michelmersh Silver Band

Thursday 23 April 2026 7.30pm at St Peter's Church Stockbridge

The current resurgence of interest in brass band music has brought many long-established regional bands back into the limelight. Right on our doorstep we have the 140 year old Michelmersh Silver Band, and when better to celebrate this most English tradition of music than on our national saint's day? Join us for a special St George's Day concert at St Peter's Church with Michelmersh Silver Band conducted by Kevin Smith.

With a very English flavour, the programme opens with a number of pieces from films and musicals and other popular light music. In addition to brass band favourites such as 633 Squadron, the programme includes pieces by Bernstein, the Beatles, and themes from Oklahoma and Bond movies. The second half rounds off with music often associated with the Last Night of the Proms including Elgar's Nimrod and Parry's Jerusalem.

The band are currently rehearsing for the South West of England regional contest and are a local band with a national reputation. We expect this to be a very popular event with reasonably priced tickets at just £15 or £5 for children, £30 for a family ticket – 2 adults, 2 children under 18. Refreshments will be available.

The concert will take place at 7.30pm on St George's Day, Thursday 23 April, at St Peter's Church, Stockbridge. Tickets are available at www.stockbridgemusic.uk

STOCKBRIDGE TOWN HALL

Wednesday 29th April

5:30 for 6pm.

The Halo Trust

by Major General James Cowan CBE DSO.

James Cowan, a soldier for 30 years, rising from private to major general, commanded The Black Watch in Iraq and was the British commander in Helmand. He has led the HALO Trust since 2015.



How, in a world increasingly affected by conflict, should we balance soft and hard power so that communities can rebuild for a more peaceful future?



The HALO Trust clears mines from areas of former conflict.

Admission: £20 to include a glass of wine.

To register for this event in advance, please pay:

St Peter's Stockbridge PCC (ref 'Talk 29 April),

acc no 17804768, Code 30-98-90.

You can also send a cheque, payable to St Peter's Stockbridge PCC and ref Talk 29 April on the back, to John Oldfield, 5 Wheelers Yard, Oxford Road, Sutton Scotney, Winchester SO21 3QZ.

All proceeds to St Peter's, Stockbridge

STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY CINEMA

Friday 17 April 7.30pm I Swear (15)

I Swear is a biographical drama that tells the true story of John Davidson, a Scottish teenager diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome in the 1980s. The film explores his early struggles with the condition, including alienation and misunderstanding from peers who labelled him as 'insane,' and the emotional challenges of growing up with a disorder few people had witnessed. As Davidson matures, he channels his experiences into advocacy, campaigning for greater awareness and acceptance of Tourette's, and helping others find hope and understanding. Nominated for 5 BAFTA awards including Outstanding British Film and Best Actor (Robert Aramayo)

Wednesday 22 April 4.45pm and 7.30pm The Choral (12A)

1916. As war rages on the Western Front, the Choral Society in Ramsden, Yorkshire has lost most of its men to the army. The Choral's ambitious committee, determined to press ahead, decides to recruit local young males to swell their ranks. They must also engage a new chorus master, and despite their suspicions that he has something to hide, their best bet seems to be Dr. Henry Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes) - driven, uncompromising, and recently returned from a career in Germany. As conscription papers start to arrive, the whole community discovers that the best response to the chaos that is laying waste to their lives is to make music together.

Wednesday 20 May 4.45pm and 7.30pm Hamnet (12A)

Hamnet is a historical drama directed by Chloé Zhao (Nomadland), following Agnes and William Shakespeare as they confront the death of their 11-year-old son, Hamnet, from the plague. Set in 16th-century England, the film traces how their grief fractures their marriage, with Agnes consumed by sorrow while William channels his pain into his writing. As they struggle to reconnect, the story explores how loss reshapes identity, love, and artistic purpose, becoming the emotional catalyst for Shakespeare's creation of Hamlet. Hamnet has been a major awards contender, earning multiple Academy Award nominations for lead actors Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal, Best Picture and Best Director.

Saturday 23 May 7.30pm Frieda Kahlo: Making of an Icon (12A)

A vivid and insightful documentary tracing the extraordinary life and artistic evolution of one of the world's most recognisable painters. Drawing on rare photographs, archival footage, and Kahlo's own letters, it explores how personal tragedy, political conviction, and fierce self-expression shaped her groundbreaking work, including her complex relationship with Diego Rivera. Timed ahead of the major Frida Kahlo exhibition opening at Tate Modern in June 2026, the film reveals how Kahlo consciously crafted her public image, transforming herself into a global symbol of creativity, identity, and resilience.

Information common to all films: Showing at Stockbridge Town Hall SO20 6HE. Tickets via www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk or free telephone call to TicketSource 0333 666 3366.

Please visit our website for full details of all films.

From the Rector - April Reflections

Dear friends,

April in the countryside always feels like the world stretching itself awake again. The days are a little longer, the sun occasionally remembers how to shine, and the lanes are suddenly busy with daffodils, lambs, and the determined gardeners who are quite sure this will be the year everything grows perfectly. It's also the month when we celebrate Easter.

For many people, Easter comes with familiar and cheerful traditions: chocolate eggs appearing in alarming quantities, children hunting enthusiastically through gardens, and perhaps a well-earned roast lunch shared with family or friends. All of these are good things, and I suspect none of us would want to see them disappear! But behind the chocolate and the long weekend lies a much older story which sits at the heart of the Christian faith. It begins in the darker moments of Good Friday and ends in the surprising joy of Easter morning, when the message of the first Easter was that life had triumphed over death with hope and love having the final word.

It's a remarkable true story, but it's also one that fits rather naturally into the rhythms of rural life. At this time of year we see signs of new life everywhere. Fields that seemed empty a few weeks ago are suddenly dotted with lambs. Buds appear on trees that looked lifeless through the winter. Even the birds seem to sing with renewed enthusiasm at five o'clock in the morning (which some of us appreciate more than others!).

Easter reminds us that renewal and hope are woven deeply into the fabric of life. After difficult seasons, whether in the world around us or in our own lives, new beginnings are still possible.

In our rural parishes, our churches will be marking Holy Week and Easter with a variety of services, from quieter reflective moments to joyful celebrations on Easter Day itself. Whether you come every week, once in a while, or have not been in a long time, you would be most welcome to join us.

At the very least, you can be sure there will be a warm welcome and probably a cup of tea not far away.

**With every blessing,
Revd Joe**



The Thomas Dowse Trust

Are you (or is someone you know) under 25 and living in Broughton, Bossington, Mottisfont, or Dunbridge? The Thomas Dowse Trust offers confidential financial grants to help with educational costs, including:

Essentials: Uniforms, laptops, and textbooks.

Skills & Travel: Music/swimming lessons, school trips, and transport.

How to Apply: Applications are not means-tested, but should briefly demonstrate the need. Pick up a form at Broughton Primary, St Mary's (Broughton), or St Andrew's (Mottisfont), or email Tina Stuart at tinastuart1@gmail.com.

Deadline: Please submit your application by Sunday, 7th June for consideration.

April & May 2026 Church Services

	Mottisfont	Broughton	Houghton	Bossington
2 April Maundy Thursday		7:00 Foot Maundy Thursday Eucharist		
3 April Good Friday Churches bare				
5 April Easter Day White	11am Easter Eucharist	10am Easter Eucharist	9:30am Easter Eucharist	9:30am Easter Eucharist Registry
12 April Easter 2 White	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00 Parish Eucharist		
19 April Easter 3				9.30am Holy Communion BCP
26 April Easter 4 White	11am Parish Eucharist	8am Holy Communion 11.00am Family Service	6.00pm evensong	5.00pm Meditation
3 May Easter 5	6pm Evensong	9.30am Parish Eucharist		
10 May Easter 6	11am Morning Worship	11.00am Parish Eucharist	6pm Evensong	Rogation
Thursday 14 May Ascension Day		6.00pm. Singing on the church tower roof, for those who wish to join in 7.00pm Ascension Day Service and Commissioning of PCCs		
17 May Easter 7				9:30 BCP Parish Eucharist
27 May Pentecost Red	11.00am Parish Eucharist	8.00 Holy Communion (CW or BCP)	9.30am Parish Eucharist	Jointly with Broughton 11.00am Rogation Service at St James 6pm Meditation