
THE GAUNTLET

THE LOCAL MAGAZINE FOR THE SOMBORNES
AND ASHLEY

FEBRUARY 2024

Christmas 2023 remembered

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Quickly flows the Som

Volunteers clear the stream

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Entertainment on the way

Lots to see

PAGES 12, 13, 14 and 15

Somborne Society's full program

More entertainment this winter

PAGES 20 and 21



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Useful names and numbers

Parish Church

Associate Priest:

Rev Anne Newport 01794 651616
/07807 827781
eanewport166@gmail.com (Thurs. Fri. Sun)

Licensed Lay Ministers:

Howard Rowe 01794 388400
Sabine Burningham 01794 765273

Wardens:

Joan Appleyard 01794 388224
joanappleyard@aol.co.uk
Janet Ingleson 01794 388618
janetingleson@gmail.com

PCC Secretary:

David Pye 01794 388405

Treasurer & Gift Aid Sec:

Claire Bevan 01794 341923

Flowers: Pollyann Monk 01794 388482

Methodist Church

Minister: Revd Peter Rayson 02381 780560

Stewards: Marilyn Bolton 01794 389356

Marion Downing 01794 388121

Roman Catholic Churches

Hampshire Downs parish 01962 852804

St Swithun Wells parish 02380 273882

Village Hall

Bookings: Sarah Pennington 01794 389354
(tel. after 7.30pm please) or email
vhbookings@thesombornes.org.uk

Epworth Hall

Bookings: Marion Downing 01794388121
marion.downing@yahoo.co.uk

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Parish Council

Graham Searle

clerk@kingssomborne-pc.gov.uk

Borough Councillors

Stewart MacDonald 07803 594872

Ian Jeffrey 01794 388872

Alison Johnston 01794 500610

County Councillor

David Drew 01264 357024

Member of Parliament

Caroline Nokes MP 020 7219 1468

caroline.nokes.mp@parliament.uk

Local Authority

Test Valley B C 01264 368000

Village Website

www.thesombornes.org.uk

The Gauntlet

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Please deliver articles for *The Gauntlet*
to thegauntletmag@hotmail.com
or The Post Office.

**Copy date is no later than 5.00pm on
the 15th of the month please.**

See our colour online edition
at the village website (see above)

Village Directory

Allotments

Contact: Susie Upfield 01794 388198

Badminton Club

Monday evenings in the Village Hall

Contact: Sue Jackson 01794 388884

Bellringing

Every Monday 7.30pm - 9.00pm.

Contact: Clare Thomson 01794 388268

Catherine Edwards Trust

Provides grants to village students

Contact: David Bevan 07769 682696

Computer Café

First and third Tuesday every month 10.00am - 12.00 at the Village Hall. Hands-on support and advice for all ages and experience on using internet, email etc.

Contact: Ian Bradley 01794 388386

Cricket Club

Contact: Rachel King 07809 289861

Christians Together Home Group

Bible study group. Usually third Friday of the month at 10.30am. All welcome.

Contact: Barbara Heffer 01794 389126

Community Responders

Contact: Sarah Seymour 0783 3300504

Dial-a-Ride

Trips to Romsey every Wednesday, for senior citizens and disabled people, at 2.00pm. Fare £3.75.

Contact: 01264 356808

Drop In Coffee Morning

Coffee morning at the Epworth Hall. Every Tuesday (except the second in the month) at 10.30am.

Contact: Marion Downing 01794 388121

Epworth Lunch

Lunch for over 50s at the Epworth Hall. On the second Tuesday in the month at 12.30pm.

Contact: Marilyn Bolton 01794 389356

Friends of King's Somborne Church

Contact: Sandie Pepperell 01794 388021

Football Club

Contact: Andy Gannaway 01794 388733

Footpath walk

Monthly walk on Parish footpaths on the last Sunday of each month. Check the Village Diary or village website for details.

Contact: Duncan Gould 01794 388049

Garden waste scheme

Garden waste will be collected in w/c 5th and 19th February 2024.

Household waste

Non-recyclable household waste (black bins) will be collected in w/c 5th and 19th February 2024.

Recyclable household waste (brown bins) will be collected in w/c 12th and 26th February 2024.

Julian Contemplative Prayer Group

Meetings for people from any denomination who are seeking a place for silent prayer and contemplation

Contact: Jane Duncan 01794 388059
janeduncan329@gmail.com

Messy Church

Meets 3rd Sunday of each month in term time, 3.00pm - 5.00pm at the Methodist Church.

Contacts: Sam Barnes 07742 077114
messychurch@gmail.com

Neighbourcare

Transport to essential appointments.

Contacts: Sue Jackson, Mary Bradley
07470022396

Parent, Baby & Toddler Group

Informal friendly get-together for babies, pre-school children, parents and carers. Every Wednesday 9.30am - 11.15am in the Village Hall.

Contacts: Kate Johnson 07831 123893
ksparentandtoddlergroup@gmail.com

Prayer Group

Contact: Dulcie Witts 01794 388267

Village Directory (continued)

School Association (PTA)

Social and fund-raising events to benefit the school and its pupils.

Contact: Alex Hodge 07904 005570
kssa.contact@gmail.com

Scouts

Beavers Mondays 6.00pm
Scouts Wednesdays 7.00pm
Cubs Thursdays 6.00pm

Contact: Michelle MacBean 01794 389152

Services for the over 50's

Contacts: Sue Jackson 01794 388884
suejackson884@icloud.com
Gill Butler 01794 388831
gill_butler@outlook.com

Short Mat Bowls Club

Meet alternate Tuesday afternoons in the Village Hall.

Chair: Julia Bowen 01794 389631
Julia.Bowen@landsker.net

Somborne Café

Every Tuesday 10.00am—1.00pm in the Village Hall

Contact: Alistair Dodds 07831727271
sombornecafe@gmail.com

Somborne Community Cinema

Second Thursday of each month

Contact: Roger Stephens 07483 211834
hello@sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk

Somborne & District Society

Meetings held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 8.00pm, usually in the Village Hall.

Contact: Linda Aucock 01794 388542

Somborne Garden Club

Meets as advertised for talks and visits, for all garden lovers.

Secretary: Nickey Buckley 01794 388694
nm.buckley@yahoo.co.uk

Somborne Needleworkers

Meet each Thursday at 2pm at the Parish Church.

Contact: Eileen Humphries 01794 388427

Somborne Players

Amateur Dramatics Society. For both children and adults.

Contact: Rebecca Rickard 07748 189864
rebeccarickard65@gmail.com

Sombornes Pre-School

Early Years education for children aged from 2 to school age.

Contact: Rebecca Hunt 07530 893773

Somborne Sessions

Details: www.sombornesessions.co.uk

Contact: Trevor Ryan 01794 388743
info@sombornesessions.co.uk

Somborne Singers

Weekly meetings to sing ballads, songs from shows etc. every Tuesday at 7.45pm in the Parish Church.

Contact: Howard Rowe 01794 388400

Somborne Sisterhood W I

Meets on the first Friday of each month at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

Contact: Natalie
sombornesisterhood@gmail.com

Wednesday Wanderers

Walk on the third Wednesday morning of each month

Contact: Margaret Heffer 01794 389126
heffers@btinternet.com

Women's Fellowship

Meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2.30pm in the Epworth Hall.

Contacts: Marion Downing 01794 388121
Marilyn Bolton 01794 389356

Women's Institute

Meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Contact: Linda Aucock 01794 388542

Working Men's Club

Various entertainments.

Contacts: Trina Masham 07852 257596
Carol Black 07847 528661

Christmas at the Parish Church

Thanks to all those who helped decorate the church so beautifully with the greenery and candles which, when lighted for the Carol service and Christmas morning service, just lit up our ancient church.

This year we were able to welcome our own Vicar, Revd Anne Newport and her husband Rob to our Christmas Services.

The annual candle-lit Carol Service, led by LLM Howard Rowe with our organist Guy Boney, was held on Sunday 17th December. The Somborne Singers led the singing and members of the community read the lessons. A retiring collection of £359.50p was held for the 'Save the Children' Fund.

Three groups of carollers sung their way through the village on the evening of Tuesday 19th December. We were so glad to see so many welcoming faces at doors. The evening ended in The Crown where Jude and the staff provided us with lovely mince pies and warm glühwein. We must thank Sian Johnson, Jo and Tony Brooke-Webb and the Revd Anne and her husband Rob, all for their hospitality at the start of the evening and there were at least two other households who helped us on our way with more goodies to enhance the singing. A wonderful amount of £320.00 was collected on behalf of the 'Save the Children' Fund, so thank you all.

At the Christingle service on Christmas Eve, it was so good to see the Church overflowing with so many families coming along. Young ones collected a Nativity figure at the beginning of the service which in turn

they took to the crib during the story of The Nativity told by Howard Rowe. The Vicar produced her own enormous Christingle to tell of its meaning. A retiring collection in aid of 'The Children's Society' amounting to £370.20p was sent off to help with their worthwhile work with homeless and vulnerable youngsters.

Services were also held in the Parish Church for Midnight Mass and on Christmas Morning. Ashley held their own service at St. Mary's later in the morning.

On New Year's Eve a Group Service was held at Michlemersh led by Revd Tom Benson.

Whilst we awaited the arrival of Anne, we are very grateful to all the visiting clergy who have helped during that time, especially the Revd Tom Benson, the Priest-in-Charge of the Braishfield Benefice, who together with our Churchwardens Joan and Janet ably assisted by others, have worked hard and tirelessly to enable our church to be open and welcoming for all services.

We also welcome at this time, the Right Reverend Philip Mounstephen as the 98th Bishop of Winchester and a few of us were lucky enough to attend the Installation Service at Winchester Cathedral on Saturday 13th January.

Sandie Pepperell

A big 'Thank You' to the volunteers clearing the Som

Although the Environmental Agency came and cleared the weeds and grass from the Som Borne a few months back, it has been volunteers from the village who have done most of the work. They have cleared the banks and the embedded vegetation. This has enabled the stream to flow constantly. They have even taken the weed and grasses away, allowing the daffodil bulbs to grow along the edges and enhance the view of the stream.

As Ute Brock, one of our Parish Councillors, has pointed out 'The work has definitely worked out so far. Looking at the surrounding fields, I haven't seen that much flooding since living here, even more than in 2014. Luckily the clearing has kept the stream level lower but we are not safe yet as the level is still rising and if it starts to block the first few bridges, then that is not good'.



So on behalf of those residents and the community living beside the stream and in the surrounding roads, may we say 'Thank you' for all your hard work and commitment in helping to keep the stream clear. In particular we would like to thank John Ward who has been far the most amazing one, who for the last month, has been clearing the stream nearly every day, even around Froghole, come rain or shine. Also thanks to Wayne, Andy, Bob, Andrew and Ute herself who have also spent time in the waters clearing the vegetation.

Christmas Fair delights again

Christmas trees in the entrance hall and on the stage along with bright decorations throughout gave a warm and festive feel to the Village Hall for the Christmas Fair held on a freezing cold day at the end of November.

An array of stalls in the main hall and the committee room ensured plenty of shopping opportunities while, in the Jubilee Room, teas and delicious cakes satisfied the inner man, woman and child. The event was particularly well attended because of the advertising boards, courtesy of Charters, displayed in village gardens

Howard Rowe opened the Fair on behalf of the church and ticket sales for the grand raffle started to take off. So too did the collective buzz of excitement as early Christmas shopping got under way. The



Santa ready to greet his visitors



The Tombola ladies relax before the rush

tombola did excellent business as did the wide range of other stalls. WI members, needleworkers, the Somborne Society, the church, the pre-school and the KS Scouts were all represented as were many other helpers manning the stalls.

There was no excuse not to shop, given the range of merchandise on show – including appetising cakes, woollen goods, books, paintings, tea towels, cards and calendars, wood carving, soaps, clothing, and even mistletoe!

In the adjacent Pre-school building Santa was in his

grotto welcoming youngsters with a cheery smile and a gift.

At the end of the afternoon the raffle tickets were drawn, prizes presented and thanks accorded to all those who had helped make the



Grand raffle prizes await the winners



Scouts are always prepared!

event such a success. As a result of everyone's hard work and noble efforts, Louise Causer was able to declare proceeds of almost £2,000 for church funds.

Mike Reynolds

Up Somborne carollers

A hugely enthusiastic band of Carollers commenced the evening at Rookley Manor, being welcomed with Sloe Gin and mince pies. Thus fortified, we continued right up through the village receiving many compliments on our way; I feel sure our vocal confidence being boosted by our own professional young male singer being in our midst - thank you Ben. The evening concluded in the traditional way at Rookley Cottage with mulled wine and mince pies to soothe our vocal chords, not that you would think it with all the chat and bonhomie!

The magnificent donated sum of £400 was forwarded to Winchester and District Young Carers in memory of dearly loved villager Jenny Frank who so unexpectedly died in October and had given so much of her time and expertise to this group.

Liz Jones

Wreath making a great success

The annual King's Somborne wreath making evenings were once again a huge success! The evenings were held over two nights, plus 'kits' were given out to those who couldn't attend but still wanted to make a wreath and support the cause. Over 80 people made beautiful wreaths!

As well as the evenings being a fun social event, all the profit from ticket sales went to the King's Somborne School and King's Somborne Scouts (including Beavers and Cubs). The Somborne's Pre-School ran the bar and raffle and all the money raised from these went directly to the Pre-school. All together the evenings raised over £2,000 for children in our village.

We wanted to say a huge **'Thank you to everyone who supported the event'**. A massive thank you needs to go to Ollie Godfrey from King's Somborne Tree Care and Clarie



Marsden and her gardener Olly for donating the beautiful foliage we had on offer. Also, thank you to the many volunteers who helped both before, during and after the event. Finally, thank you to everyone who attended the evenings especially those who arranged for whole tables of friends and family to come along!

Katie Dynes

Somborne Garden Club - dates for your diary

Saturday, 11th May, 10.00am - Plant Swap, Froman's Farm

June - Garden Visit to Houghton Lodge TBC

Thursday, 4th July, 7.00pm - BBQ, The Old Vicarage

September – Garden visit TBC

October – Winter Talk, TBC

More information will follow closer to the dates.

Church floral decorations

Thank you to all who came and helped to decorate the church so beautifully for our Christmas celebrations.



I am currently drawing up the new rota for the weekly church flower arrangements over the coming year, and we are always pleased to hear of anyone who would like to be part of the team for decorating the church in the coming year. Professional experience whilst greatly welcomed, is not necessarily required. Just a good eye and an interest in decorating with flowers.

Pollyann Monk

We had a great group of helpers, on both the 15th and 16th December, and were pleased to welcome some new recruits to join the production team. What an enjoyable morning we spent, happily creating such pretty arrangements and once again reigniting the joys and the spirit of Christmas. Busy hands ensured that many window arrangements and posies were swiftly created. This year the holly was well laden with berries, helping to ensure that over the two mornings, the church was transformed and looked very festive for all the services over the Christmas season.



Dates for your Diary:
Soup and Sherry Lunch



Saturdays
3rd and 17th February
2nd and 16th March
in the Parish Church
12.30pm-1.30pm



Community Speedwatch

Just before Christmas, I received the following letter from Chief Inspector Emma Hart from Hampshire Police:

“Dear Community Speed Watch,
“Since joining the department in June 2023 I have been constantly impressed by the dedication and professionalism shown by every person working to reduce incidents on the road where speed is a contributory factor.

“As you continue to grow in volunteer numbers and hours that you spend providing a visible deterrent to road users, changing driver behaviour and capturing offences, your hard work is appreciated and I wanted to thank you all for your efforts this year. Every year any number of incidents caused by excessive speed is too many and the work that you have completed absolutely makes a difference. ...”

I would like to add my thanks to all the members of the King’s Somborne Community Speedwatch for all their hard work throughout 2023.

During the year Hampshire police have sent out a total of over 29,000 letters to motorists speeding of which over

1,000 were sent to multiple and high speeders.

Locally, during 2023, King’s Somborne Speedwatch team held over 30 sessions across 5 different sites in the village. As a result of this the police sent out 261 letters of which 95% were for first time speeders. The average speed for those speeding was 37 mph with one motorist travelling at 52 mph. During one hour long session on Romsey Road a total of 36 vehicles were travelling over 35 mph.

We will shortly be starting up again. If possible we try to do a 1 hour session each week. We are a friendly group and we usually work in teams of 3 or 4. If you would like to join us please phone me on 01794 388405 , email me at nicola@yewbank.net or Jim Fitzpatrick on fitz4452@gmail.com

Nicola Pye

Tractor run success

We can confirm that this year's Romsey Young Farmers' tractor run on 23rd December raised over £10,000 and counting continues. Thank you to everyone who helped with the run.

Alex Drake



**Jubilee Room
Kings Somborne
Village Hall**

Tuesdays

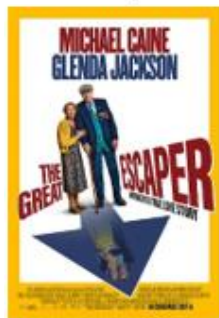
10.00am – 1.00pm

**Delicious treats
and coffee**



SOMBORNE COMMUNITY CINEMA

Thursday 8th February



The Great Escaper



1h:36m



7.0/10



80%
TOMATOMETER



83%
AUDIENCE SCORE

2023 Drama

The true story of Bernard Jordan escaping from his care home to attend the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings in France.

Thursday 14th March



The Old Oak



1h:53m



7.1/10



76%
TOMATOMETER



71%
AUDIENCE SCORE

2023 Drama

The future for the last remaining pub, The Old Oak, in a village of Northeast England, where people are leaving the land as the mines are closed. Houses are cheap and available, thus making it an ideal location for Syrian refugees.

Tickets for these films are just £6 each and are available from the Somborne Community Cinema web site at

www.sombornecommunitycinema.co.uk

or at the door on the night.



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.



Following on from our opening act of 2024 in January, we've a busy season lined up (and are already working on acts for the Autumn!).

Our next Session is on Saturday, 16 March, when we'll be playing host to THE TRIALS OF CATO. This trio are brilliant players who perform with energy and verve; The Trials Of Cato pay clear homage to folk, but twist it into a thrilling, entirely modern form.



Trust us, you won't want to miss this! Tickets are available now, priced £16 in advance (or £18 on the door) from www.sombornesessions.co.uk. The doors and bar open at 7.30pm.

Then on Saturday, 27 April, BROOKS WILLIAMS & AARON CATLOW will be with us with their brand of joyous and virtuosic music that not only tugs at the heart-strings but also



gets you up on your feet. Tickets for Brooks Williams & Aaron Catlow are on sale now from www.sombornesessions.co.uk, priced at £15 (in advance) or on the door for £17.

And for the final gig of our Spring season, we see the return of RED STRIPE. Red Stripe played at the Somborne Sessions over ten years ago, and we thought it was time that we called the band back for another blast of their musical energy. The band has a great time wherever it goes – their infectious energy filling the venue with on- and off-stage antics! Tickets are on sale at www.sombornesessions.co.uk; £18 in advance (or £20 on the door). Door and bar open at 7.30pm.

Keep your eyes on our website and facebook page, as we'll soon be scheduling more live music for our autumn season!



Somborne Community Cinema

**Free Warm Hub Monday Matinees
are Back!**

at King's Somborne Village Hall

The Community Cinema has been awarded a significant grant by the Lottery Community Fund to run the Warm Hub Matinee Film screenings as was done last winter. This is part of the "Warm Spaces and Cost of Living" initiative. There is no ticket needed, no entry fee and refreshments will also be provided.

February 12: Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol 3

March 4: Book Club The Next Chapter

March 25: Summerland

Doors open 1.45pm Film starts 2.15pm

No tickets required : Free refreshments

All children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult





Babes In The Wood

Friday 16 February 2024

7:30pm

Saturday 17 February 2024

2:30pm & 7:30pm

By Damian Trasler, David Lovesy and Steve Clark

KING'S SOMBORNE
VILLAGE HALL

TICKETS ON SALE FROM
www.ticketsource.co.uk/somborne-players

Images by iStockphoto & Bright on Focus

What's on in February 2024

Your guide to events in and around the district.

Winchester Science Centre

www.winchestersciencecentre.org
Open. Weekends and school holidays
9.20am – 5.00pm (last entry 2.20pm).
Weekdays closed during term time.

Hampshire School holidays –

Monday to Sunday 9.20am – 5.00pm
(last entry 2.20pm)

School holiday dates:

February half term 9-19 February

Events – book online

27 January – 10 March

Astronaut – subtitled film show

Test the water – science show

Beyond the Moon – live Planetarium show

27 January – 19 February

Zero Degrees

The Hibernation Station

5 February

Home Educator Day -science show/ workshop

8 February

Night Sky Live

11 February

Starlight Cinema – Labyrinth

12 February

BSL Day

17 February

Pink Floyd: The Dark side of the Moon 50 yrs

Mottisfont Abbey

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont
The garden open 10.00am – 4.00pm,
House open 11.00am – 4.00pm, Cafes
open 10.00am – 3.45pm; shop
10.00am-4.00pm

Events

20 January – 14 April

Heath Robinson at War Exhibition

Willis Museum and Sainsbury Gallery

01256 465902 Free admission
Open Wednesday – Sunday 10.00am
– 4.00pm

Events

14 August 23 – 4 April 24 Make &
take a craft table

Winchester Cathedral

Winchester-cathedral.org.uk
01962 857200

Cathedral open 9.00am – 5.00pm

Monday - Saturday, 12.30pm –

3.00pm Sunday

Cafe 9.30am – 5.00pm, gift shop

10.00am – 5.00pm

Events

Tower tours Wednesdays 2.15pm

Saturdays 11.30am and 10.15am

5 – 18 February

Festival of the Moon

6 February

Moon Medley 7.00pm

9 February

Dark night under the Moon 6.30pm

15 February 7.00 pm

Mark Thompson in the Moonlight: A talk

17 February 6.00pm

Silent disco under the moon – for children

17 February at 8.00pm

Silent disco under the moon – for adults

All year round – **Kings and scribes exhibition**

Summer family trail

Janet Ingleson

Theatre

Theatre Royal, Winchester

www.theatreroyalwinchester.co.uk

24 January – 10 February

Viggo Venn: British Comedian

3 February

Westenders

4 February

Rivers & Roads Concert

6 February

The Circus of Horrors, Cabernet of

Curiosities

7 February

Bowie Experience

8 February

Seriously Collins

9 February

Friend (The one with Gunther)

11 February

The Amazing Bubble Man

15 – 17 February

Guys and Dolls

18 February

Count Arthur Strong: And it's

Goodnight from him

20 February

Buffy Revamped

21 February

The Take That Experience

22 – 24 February

Houdini's Great Escape

25 February

Awake my Soul: Mumford & Sons

Story

28 February

Swinging at the Cotton Club

Plaza Theatre, Romsey

www.plazatheatre.com

1 February

My Book of Genesis

2 February

Made in Tennessee

13 – 17 February

Switzerland

23 February

The Searchers & Hollies Experience

24 February

The Wall of Floyd

Salisbury Playhouse

wiltshirecreative.co.uk

12 January – 22 March

Mind the Gap: Spring 2024

1 February

An Evelyn of Burlesque

2 February

Fascinating Aida:40th Anniversary

Show

3 February

Alfie Moore: A Face for Radio

15 February – 9 March

One Last Push

Mayflower Theatre

mayflower.org.uk

2 February

Candace Bushnell

8 – 10 February

The Sleeping Beauty Ballet

13 – 14 February

Sao Paulo Dance Company

15 – 17 February

Cirque

17 February

One night at the Disco

18 February

Ramesh Ranganathan

20 – 25 February

Shrek the Musical

27 February – 2 March

Blood Brothers

The Watermill Theatre

watermill.org.uk

2 February – 16 March

Sherlock Holmes and the Poison

Wood

Janet Ingleson

Village diary for February 2023

Every Monday	6.00pm	Beavers
	7.30pm	Badminton (September –April)
Every Tuesday	10.30am	Drop in coffee (except the second Tuesday)
	10.00am	Somborne Cafe
	7.45pm	Somborne Singers
Every Wednesday	9.30am	Parent, Baby and Toddler Group
	2.00pm	Dial-a-ride
	7.00pm	Scouts
Every Thursday	2.00pm	Needleworkers
	6.00pm	Cubs

School holidays, Bank Holidays and other events may cause changes; contact the names given on pages 2 and 3 of this magazine for details.

2nd	WI Sisterhood	8.00pm	15th	Over 50s Minibus Trip	10.00am
3rd	Soup & Sherry	12.30pm	16th	Panto: Babes in the Wood	7.30pm
6th	Computer cafe	10.00am	17th	Soup & Sherry	12.30pm
7th	Contemplative Prayer	7.30pm	17th	Panto: Babes in the Wood	2.30pm 7.30pm
8th	Community Cinema: The Great Escaper	7.15 for 8.00pm	20th	Computer cafe	10.00am
12th	Warm Hub Cinema Guardians of the Galaxy	1.45 for 2.15pm	21st	Contemplative Prayer	7.30pm
12th	Parish Council	7.00pm	25th	Footpath walk	2.00pm
13th	Epworth Lunch	12.30pm	27th	Short Mat Bowls	2.00pm
13th	Short Mat Bowls	2.00pm	28th	Somborne Society	8.00pm
14th	WI	7.30pm	28th	Women's Fellowship	2.30pm

District diary for February 2024

1 February

Andover The Lights
The Greatest Magician 7.30pm
Tickets: Theatresonline

3 February

Sparsholt College Open Day
9.30am – 2.00pm
Tickets: Eventbrite.co.uk

3 February

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens
Gardeners Breakfast & tour 8.30am
Info & tickets: HCC online shop

8 February

King's Somborne Community Cinema
The Great Escaper

8 February

Night Sky Live
Winchester Science Centre

9 February

Andover The Lights 7.30 pm
The Roy Orbison Story: Barry Steele

11 February

Romsey Market Place
Vegan Market

12 February

King's Somborne Community Cinema
Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 3

17 February

Winchester Record Fair 9.30am –
6.00pm Royal Hotel, Winchester
Tickets: 10Times

18 February

Winchester Arts and Craft Market
9.00am – 5.00pm
The Broadway

20 February

Speed dating in Winchester 20s & 30s
7.30pm – 10.30pm 31b The Square,
Winchester

21 February

Stockbridge Cinema
The Old Oak 4.45pm and 7.30pm

21 February

The Greyhound on the Test
Old World Vs New World
Comparative wine tasting
7.30pm – 9.30pm
Tickets: Giftpro.co.uk

23 February

Winchester Ghost Tour
8.00pm – 9.00pm
Tickets Skiddle.com

24 February

Romsey Abbey 7.30 pm
Royal Marines Collingwood Band

24 and 25 February

The Army Flying Museum
The Brick Event (Lego)
Three sessions each day
Book online @ The Brick People

26 February

Romsey Community Town Hall
Cinema
The Great Escaper 3.30pm
Book online

28 February

Speed Dating 45 – 65 years
7.30pm – 10.30pm
31b The Square, Winchester
Tickets: Slowdating.com

Every Tuesday and Saturday

Salisbury Market 8.00am – 3.00pm
Salisbury Market Place

Every Tuesday, Friday and Saturday

Romsey Market at the Corn Exchange
8.30am – 2.30pm

Janet Ingleson

Somborne and District Society



Welcome to the start of another year of archaeology and history talks and events from the society. I'm also looking forward to many longer, drier and warmer days ahead!

For our festive entertainment, The Madding Crowd presented their Christmas Programme, including carols, songs, and a Mummers' Play.

We started the evening with mulled wine, soft drinks and nibbles on the tables. The Madding Crowd interleaved their singing with humorous historical quotes and short stories. The audience had the opportunity to join in with some of the songs and demonstrate their period dancing skills. During the interval more drinks, mince pies, and stollen were served. A big thank you to all who helped organise the event and make it successful, and a big thank you to The Madding Crowd for a memorable evening. Here are a couple of pictures of the revels.

Other events to close the year included hosting a stall at the Christmas fair in the Village Hall on Saturday 25th



November, and our annual Christmas Meal on the 6th December at the Abbots Mitre in Chilbolton. Thank you again to John Green for organising the Christmas meal.

The 2023 "John of Gaunt Award" for the district's primary school children, aged 6-11 years old, launched in October. We have assessed the entries with the help of an independent judge, Mary Harris from the Romsey Local History Society, and are very impressed with the quality of the children's work. The winners will be announced shortly, and the prizes awarded at the village school.

On the 28th of February 2024, also at 7.30pm for 8.00pm, Jan Smith delivers a talk titled "Vagrants and Paupers" covering the treatment of the poor from medieval times to the establishment of the welfare state

On the 27th of March 2024 we have a talk by Jaqueline and Brian Sutton titled "The Duke of Monmouth – How his head was turned and lost". The talk includes the characters behind





his story, the 1685 Battle of Sedgemoor, the Duke's capture and execution, the trial Alice Lisle of Ringwood, the Bloody Assizes, and 'The Hanging Judge' – Judge Jeffreys.

The Somborne and District Society is a long running and popular group with a significant membership. We arrange talks on history, archaeology, and other topics of interest to members. We organise social events, exhibitions, and visits. We produce booklets, a quarterly newsletter and have an archive accessible to members. We

are a registered charity and are run by a friendly group of people, but we do have a problem. Some committee members will be stepping-down after contributing for many years. We really need new people to join the committee and help with the running of the society. Please seriously consider joining us and supporting your local community. Let's chat about how you can help. It's not onerous, it's fun!

Steve Silver-Warner (Chair)
somsoc@silver-warner.co.uk

DO YOU LIKE TO WALK?

Every Monday at 9.15a.m. a group of us from the W.I. meet behind the Parish Church, beside the John O'Gaunt sign and walk together exploring the local countryside. We walk for a couple of hours with occasionally a stop for coffee on the way and very occasionally even cake and always a good chat.

If you would like to join us we would be delighted to see you.

Either come to the John O'Gaunt sign one Monday or phone me, Frances Shone, on 388626 for more information.



Drop In



for a cuppa and a chat
in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere
at the Epworth Hall!
Every Tuesday
(apart from the second one in the month)
from 10:30am to 12 noon.
All proceeds go to charity.
Everyone is welcome!

TEST VILLAGES U3A

Thursday 1st February

John Hughes presents: “Where have all the birds gone?”

There is no doubt that bird populations worldwide have plummeted. John’s talk focuses on the decline in bird populations in the UK and explores losses due to the collection of wild bird eggs, the millinery trade, exotic predators, habitat loss and highlights global warming and disease as the latest threats.

Thursday 7th March

Mr James Smallwood FRCS presents: “The Black Stuff

James, a recently retired consultant surgeon, will lead us on a journey through the history and the natural world of melanin pigments and their health consequences in the human.

Meetings start at 14.00 (doors open at 13.40) in Chilbolton Village Hall

New members are welcome to attend our meetings

Find out more about our Test Villages group at u3asites.org.uk/test-village

Services for the over 50s

Sue 388 884 & Gill 388 831

Do contact us if you need any support or have anything that is worrying you.

Blue Badge applications, attendance allowance, pension credit, dementia support services etc



Epworth Lunches

**Tuesday February 13th
12.30pm £7**

- * Chicken Casserole***
- * Rice * Peas * Sweetcorn ***
- *Pancakes***

*** Coffee ***

Booking essential - Marilyn 389 356



Over 50s Minibus Trips

Booking essential

Phone Sue 388884

Thursday February 15th 2024

Lunch at Basingstoke

£10.00 Pick up 10.00am Home for 4.00pm

Somborne Sisterhood

By the time you read this, Christmas will be a distant memory with but a few remaining pine needles stuck in the carpet!

The Sisterhood celebrated with a wonderful meal in the Jubilee room. Decorated with white tablecloths, coloured napkins, sparkling lights, clementines and the essential Quality Street (other sweets are available!).

Jude from the Crown brought to us an amazing meal of curry, rice, naans and also plenty of poppadoms, mango chutneys and onions. Everyone brought a bottle and all contributed generously to a raffle. This raised £173 which we have donated to King's Somborne Scouts.

At our January meeting, the Somborne Sisterhood was treated to a fascinating talk by Faith Ellison, a zoology student at Cardiff University, about 'how the slowest mammal in the world survives in the rapidly changing world today'. The sloth, known as 'el perezoso' in its native Costa Rica, seems on the surface to be like a cuddly bear but, in fact, can be quite vicious. However, its cute features have led to a



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



disturbing desire for selfies and subsequently the animal being subjected to cruelty. Sloths are solitary creatures and live in the rainforests, which we are destroying. They live among amazing flora and fauna, providing food and lodgings for a moth in its fur. We learnt that sloths do not move quickly, have a slow metabolic rate, take ages to digest even one leaf and so only poo once a week! Their babies are born in trees, tumbling down on the umbilical cord and then are pulled up; one might say the early bungee jumper! To learn more about these animals and help protect them, look up <https://slothconservation.org>

If you would like more information about the sisterhood, email sombornesisterhood@gmail.com or follow us on Instagram

Rebecca Rickard

Cheesy Bake – easy quick supper dish

Serves 4

It is possible to make this dish in either one larger dish or 4 smaller pots e.g. large ramekins

You will need:

- 8 oz (225 gms) strong cheddar cheese, grated
- 4 eating apples, grated with skin on
- 2/3 large tomatoes or 8 small ones, roughly chopped
- 3 oz (80 gms) sultanas (optional)
- 2 large avocados, roughly chopped (optional)
- 200/300 bacon lardons (optional)

- it is best to use all the ingredients!

1. Preheat oven to 200 degs (or 180 degs fan)
2. If including lardons, fry off while assembling other ingredients in large bowl, excluding 1oz of cheese.
Mix well, adding lardons when cooked.
3. Pile into dish/dishes and grate over remaining cheese.
4. Bake for 10/15 minutes until slightly brown on top – don't overcook as avocado will go sour.

Enjoy!





Minor Injuries Unit in Andover

The Minor Injuries Unit based at Andover War Memorial Hospital can help with injuries you have sustained within the last 2-3 weeks such as sprains, possible fractures, dislocations, wounds, burns, bites and stings. You can walk in between 8.15am and 4.00pm each day, including bank holidays or book an appointment by calling 111. For children aged under 2 years please contact 111.

Proactive Care Team

Just a reminder that patients and their carers can contact the proactive care team for advice about support to allow patients to remain in their own homes. You can call them on 01962 674631.

GP changes

We are very pleased that Dr Emma Baskerville is staying with the Practice after completing her GP training. Dr Hannah Pike has returned from maternity leave, and we welcome her back.

Joint pain

For adults experiencing any joint pain you can book an appointment with Lydia, our Physiotherapist, who works on Wednesdays and Fridays at Broughton.

Eye problems

The surgery does not have the specialist equipment necessary to examine eyes effectively. There is a Minor Eye Conditions Service available to all patients by calling 0300 303 4922. If necessary, they can arrange a prescription, an appointment with an optician or the local hospital.

eConsult

You can contact the surgery online via our website, stockbridgesurgery.co.uk. This is especially useful for requesting extensions to sick certificates or if you a question regarding your medication.

Medication reviews

There is no need to book an appointment for a medication review unless a member of the surgery team has asked you to do so. The doctors will review your medication and history and a member of the team will be in touch if we need to book you an appointment. Sometimes we require blood tests or other investigations prior to a review.

Blood pressure

If you are aged over 45 years old, we encourage you to have your blood pressure measured once every 5 years. This can be done using the machines in our waiting rooms and handing the reading in to reception.

We're investing between £700 million and £900 million in hospital services in Hampshire.

We'd like to know what you think about our plans to build a new hospital, invest in Winchester hospital, and our proposals for where services are provided from in the future.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve your hospital facilities and services for decades to come.

Have your say and help shape tomorrow's hospitals

To find out more visit
www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk
or scan the QR code



You can also email hiowicb-hsi.mohhs@nhs.net
call 0300 561 0905 or write to us at
Freepost HAMPSHIRE TOGETHER

**Our public consultation is open
until midnight on 17 March 2024.**



Left behind in the Parish Church

The following items have been left behind in the Parish Church after services.

1 ladies small black cardigan

1 light grey scarf

1 small pair of ladies leather gloves

1 medium pair of ladies leather gloves

1 pair of men's leather black gloves

If anyone has claim to any of these items, please get in touch with **Louise Causer on 01794 389364** who can help you.

SADS plan a busy 2024

Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society has planned what may be our busiest year ever in 2024: a rehearsed reading, three full productions, and monthly curtain call meetings.

The first event, on the 24th February in the Town Hall, is a rehearsed reading of 'Coffee and Cakes: Return to Ravensbruck' a new play by Miriam Coley directed by John Baxter. Tickets will be on sale from the 4th February from our website www.stockbridgeamdrams.org.uk.

Written for five actors who multi-role, the play examines women's experience in the Holocaust. It's set in Ravensbruck, a concentration camp for women.

Then in April we will be performing more of Alan Bennett's 'Talking Heads' monologues. We performed three last year which were very well received. More details to come on our web site.

In August we have planned a joint production with Salisbury-based group, JT Productions, of Simon

Stephens' dramatization of the well-known novel by Mark Haddon 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time'. This will be directed by Tom Humphreys of JT Productions. Tom has negotiated with the rights holders to make the central role a 15 year old girl. So if you know anyone who might be interested in doing this please contact stockbridgeamdrams@gmail.com. The actress doesn't have to be 15 – she could easily be in her 20s – she just needs to be plausibly young

We will see out the year with 'Brontë' by Polly Teale about the Brontë sisters. This play was extremely well received by both audiences and critics when first performed in 2005 and has had several revivals and tours since then.

In addition to these productions, we will maintain our very popular monthly Curtain Call meetings on the first Tuesday of every month from October through to April. All are welcome and no experience necessary. Again details on our website.

King's Somborne WI

King's Somborne WI began 2024 in style with a talk entitled Coco Chanel, her Life, Loves and Lies.

On 10th January, 18 members and 2 guests were entertained by our excellent speaker Steve Herra. Chanel was born Gabrielle Chanel on 19th August 1883 in Saumur, France. Her parents lived an itinerant lifestyle because her father worked as a peddler. After her mother's death in 1885, Chanel aged 12 was sent to an orphanage for 7 years and afterwards to a religious institution where she learnt about fabrics, making and repairing garments which would be the foundation of her business empire.

Her nickname of Coco came from her time at La Rotunde where she sang 'Who's seen Coco at the Crocadero?' During curtain calls the audience would demand 'Cooo Coco and the name stuck. Another explanation came from Chanel herself who said it was a shortened version of cocotte, French for 'kept woman'.

Despite being romantically linked with Etienne Balsan and later Arthur 'Boy' Capel, both of whom were instrumental in her first fashion venture of hat making, she never married.

On meeting perfumier Ernest Beaux, the now iconic Chanel No.5 perfume was born. The scent is said to represent the smell of cold/frozen France on the 5th day of the 5th month. It contains 80 ingredients and the bottle shape was inspired by bottles in 'Boy' Capel's travelling case. Unfortunately, the business deal she had struck with American department store owner Pierre

Wertheimer left Chanel with just a 10% share of the business.

Chanel was a ruthless operator and during the 1936 textile workers strikes she immediately fired 300 staff. With the onset of war in 1939 she closed the business and sacked the remaining 4,000 staff.

At the age of 70 in the early 1950s, Chanel made a triumphant return to fashion with Jackie Kennedy famously wearing one of Coco's suits when her husband was killed. Coco Chanel died aged 88. The business was kept going by Karl Lagerfeld and continues to be owned by the Wertheimer family to this day.

After Steve's fascinating talk, members discussed ideas for future WI events. These include supporting Drop In at the Epworth Hall and visiting the gardens at Crawley or Bramdean to view spring bulbs.

Next month's meeting is on **14th February** when we will learn Who was Jane Austen's best friend? Visitors always most welcome.

Sarah Pennington

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



Stockbridge Community Cinema

Friday 16 February
5.00 pm and 7.30 pm

Past Lives (12A)

Nora and Hae Sung, two deeply connected childhood friends, are wrested apart after Nora's family emigrates from South Korea. Two decades later, they are reunited for one fateful week as they confront notions of destiny, and the choices that make a life, in this heartrending modern romance. The film received five Golden Globe nominations in 2024 including Best Director, Screenplay, and Drama. *[In English and Korean with subtitles]*



Wednesday 21 February
4.45 pm and 7.30 pm

The Old Oak (15)

Directed by Ken Loach, this is the story of a village in the Northeast of England, where the mine has closed, and people feel deserted by the system. Many young ones have left and what was once a thriving, proud community struggles to keep old values alive. But there is growing anger, resentment, and a lack of hope. Houses are cheap and available which makes it an ideal location for the Syrian refugees that have been accepted into the country in recent years. How will they be received and what will be the future for the last remaining pub in the village?



Information common to both films:

Showing at Stockbridge Town Hall SO20 6HE. Tickets are available online from 1 February (£6.00 incl £0.50p booking fee per ticket) via www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk or by telephone from TicketSource 0333 666 3366 (£2.00 charge per telephone booking in addition to the online ticket price). Please visit our website for full details of our films.


STOCKBRIDGE MUSIC
Patron: Professor David Owen Norris MA (Oxon) FSA FRAM FRCO

Friday 1st March, 7.30pm
St Peter's Church, Stockbridge SO20 6HE

David Hill - Organ
Crispian Steele-Perkins - Trumpet




“The Trumpet Shall Sound”


Tickets £20 (U18s £5) from stockbridgemusic.uk, on the door or from
Romsey Visitor Information Centre, 13 Church St, Romsey SO51 8BT Or scan:





This concert is kindly sponsored by a member.

The Road to Ypres
THE WAR PHOTOGRAPHY OF OLIVE EDIS

A touring exhibition of photographs by Britain's first female war photographer



Army Flying Museum
On display from 10 Dec 2023 to 3 Mar 2024
01264 781086 armyflying.com

Coventry City Museum, 2000-2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

Planting begins for the ‘Hampshire Hedge’ conservation project



The countryside charity
Hampshire

The Hampshire Hedge is a 3-year project that will connect the South Downs National Park with the New Forest National Park by means of a network of hedgerows forming a green corridor of new and restored habitat. The hedgerow is planned to wind its way for about 14 miles (22km) through the central Hampshire parishes and link woodlands, meadows, local nature reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

The project has received funding from National CPRE Hedgerow Heroes project, The Linbury Trust and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Along the route the project will be engaging with the local schools and communities, creating hedge laying

traineeships, encouraging volunteer action, and raising awareness of the importance of hedgerows through talks and events.

Ellie Banks, CPRE Hampshire hedgerow project officer explains ‘Our target is to plant three miles of new hedging this winter, which is 25,000 whips going into the ground. We will also be laying half a mile of existing hedgerow.’

More than half of England’s rural hedgerows have been lost since 1945.

To find out more visit our website <https://www.cprehampshire.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering/cpre-hampshire-hedge-volunteer/> and sign up to be a Hedgerow Hero!

What does King's Somborne church actually do?

This was a question I was recently asked, and because I have always been a part of my local church, not something I had ever really thought of writing down before, so here goes!

Firstly, as a gathered collection of Christians we pray for the people of the area, praying both individually at home and in our Sunday services, particularly when we know there is a special need. So our prayers include the school, the pre-school, the parents and toddler's group etc., as well as associations such as the Scouts.

Secondly, we hold a service every Sunday to enable us to gather together, praise God, and share our stories with each other over coffee afterwards. We welcome everyone to come and join us.

Thirdly, we gather together at coffee mornings, soup and sherry lunches, marquee markets (in the summer) and other various fund-raising events to reach out into the community, so we can raise funds to keep the church running.

Fourthly, in conjunction with the Methodist church we run a monthly 'Messy Church' for children on the third Sunday of each month where we carry out craft with children and their parents, share bible stories, and generally 'get messy'.

Next, we come to what are known as 'Occasional Services' because they mark particular passages in our lives. We hold baptisms, weddings and funeral services for those in the village who would like them to be held in our church building.

We also study together and spend time in silent contemplation in smaller groups; again, all are welcome to come and join us.

We have a pastoral care team, and visit those who would welcome such a visit, taking home communion to those who wish, who are housebound.

Lastly, we are acutely aware that there are particular challenges living in a rural community, with limited bus services, both for employment opportunities and for those with no cars. So we hold a welfare fund that those who find themselves in need may apply for through the Vicar. Through this, provided we have sufficient funds at the time, we are able to assist with food to cover school holiday periods, and to help out with emergencies from time to time. If you feel able to contribute to this fund, please contact me for the details.

It seems to me our most important function is to just prayerfully be here for each and every person in our villages. In this way we hope to encourage others and to share the good news of Jesus with as many as possible.

With every blessing

Reverend Anne Newport.

Ashley St Mary

Celebrations at Ashley were very enjoyable over the Christmas period. First we had an open air evening Carol singing event which was very well attended. Fortunately the weather was kind and it was not very cold but in any event there was mulled wine and braziers to keep us warm so we could enjoy our mince pies. Many thanks to all who helped with the preparations especially Saif who conducted the singing.

Our Christmas service attracted about 40 people which is the largest congregation that we have had for many years. Evelyn Owen as usual played our harmonium and Anne Newport gave a most uplifting address. Bucks Fizz was served and it was an excellent community occasion for our small hamlet.



A forthcoming event will be on Friday 28th June when the theatre group 'This is my Theatre' will be coming to Ashley to perform 'Persuasion'. They have been several times before and their productions have always been very enjoyable.

Terry Mackintosh



Messy Church – Growing up!

Were you one of the families who arrived at the Methodist Chapel on the third Sunday afternoon in January for free fun, games, crafts, Bible Stories and food? It's New Year Messy Church!

This term's theme is 'Growing Up', and the story this time was about the boy Jesus, who they thought had got lost at a crowded temple festival. Growing up!



We measured how tall we were, crafted temple prayer scrolls, tried some carpentry, experimented with edible bricklaying, planted pots to grow for the Spring, and built an amazing lego temple in the chapel. After storytime and a song called 'My Lighthouse', we all joined round the food table for sandwiches and cakes. Everyone had a great time!

The next Messy Church is on Sunday 18th February at 3.00pm. I'd better put it in the diary now!

Please join us! *Howard*




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April 4th May 2nd June 6th

For further information contact Rev'd Anne Newport on 01794 651616

Parish Home Group

Weekly on Thursdays, 7.30 - 9.00pm during term time

Contact Howard Rowe for details

howard_rowe@btopenworld.com or 01794 388400

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER MEETINGS 2023

These meetings are for those who seek the opportunity to practice silent prayer and contemplation with others.

The meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday in each month at 7.30pm. They will take place at the New Vicarage, Romsey Road in Kings Somborne and 1 Highfield Cottages in Up Somborne on alternate dates.

If you wish to know more information or venue, please phone Jane Duncan on 01794 388059 or 07766 811623

Next meetings:
7th and 21st February,
6th and 20th March,
3rd and 17th April,
1st and 15th May.



Jane Duncan 01794 388059

Church services in February

Parish Church

4th February

8.00am Holy Communion (1662)

10.00am Morning Worship

Readings:

Chris Kirby: *Proverbs 8.22-31*

Louise Causer: *John 1.1-14*

11th February

10.00am Holy Communion

Readings:

Christine Ball: *2 Kings 2.1-14*

Sandie Pepperell: *Mark 9.2-9*

14th February. Ash Wednesday

Holy Communion with Ashes

7.30pm at Michelmersh

18th February—The first Sunday of Lent

10.00am Holy Communion

Readings:

David Pye: *Genesis 9.8-17*

Linda Aucock: *Mark 1.9-15*

25th February—The Second Sunday of Lent

10.00am Holy Communion

Readings:

Antony Chilton: *Genesis 17.1-7, 15, 16*

Alwena Rowe: *Mark 8.31-end*

4.00pm BCP Evensong at King's Somborne

Friday, 1st March

2.30pm World Day of Prayer in the Parish Church

Methodist Church

4th February

10.30am Mr Ken Richardson

11th February

10.30am Mrs Sandra Timms

18th February

No morning service

3.00pm Messy Church

25th February

10.30am Rev Robert Powell

Roman Catholic Churches

St Thomas' Stockbridge

St Joseph's Romsey

St Andrew's N. Baddesley

Details of services at RC churches, see:

www.hampshiredowns.org.uk and

www.stswithunwellsparish.org.uk

Prayer Group

Monthly on the first Monday of the month, 2.15pm for 2.30pm at

Shappon, opposite the church

All Welcome!

The Vicar has the last word

Firstly, a huge thank you for the wonderful cards we received over the Christmas period. It was a real joy to see full churches, and to hear some wonderful carol singing both in the churches and in the streets.

Sometimes I see words from other people that are just so thought provoking, I certainly can't put it any better, and this passage is one I wanted to share with you this month. I do apologise if you have come across it before.

'When a torch grows dim, or stops working, do we just throw it away?

Of course not, we change the batteries

When a person messes up or finds themselves in a dark place, do we just cast them aside?

Of course not! You help them to change their batteries.

Some need AA.... Attention and affection

Some need AAA..... Attention, affection and acceptance

Some need C..... Compassion

Some need D..... Direction.

And, if they still don't seem to shine... simply sit with them quietly and share your light.'

Jesus tells us time and time again to love our neighbours, not judge our neighbours, just love them. "I give you a new commandment: love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another" (**John 13:34**). In this time of institutional decline in social care it is more important than ever that we keep an eye out for those in our community who need help keeping their torches bright, and if your own light is dim at present, I pray that you have friends and neighbours who will notice and be there for you.

As we look at the wider world, and the state of chaos in the Ukraine, the Middle East, Yemen, we can but pray for peace, and pray that within that chaos, there are those who still have light to share.

Anne

Reverend Anne Newport

Associate Minister, King's Somborne

Printed and published by the Parish of Somborne with Ashley, Church of St Peter and St Paul, King's Somborne, Hampshire. SO20 6PW

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