THE GAUNTLET

THE LOCAL MAGAZINE FOR THE SOMBORNES
AND ASHLEY

MARCH 2024

Panto triumph for the Players' Babes in the wood

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Supper, lunch and services PAGES 30—33 and 35



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| Rev Anne Newport | 01794 651616 | Test Valley School | 01264 810555 | | |
| 41660 11 // | /07807 827781 | Police | | | |
| eanewport166@gmail.com (| Thurs. Fri. Sun) | | | | |
| Licensed Lay Ministers: | | Action Fraud | 0300 123 2040 | | |
| Howard Rowe | 01794 388400 | www.actionfraud.police.uk | 0000 555 111 | | |
| Sabine Burningham | 01794 765273 | Crimestoppers | 0800 555 111 | | |
| Wardens: | | Police non-emergency | 101 | | |
| Joan Appleyard | 01794 388224 | www.hampshire.police.uk | 000 | | |
| joanappleyard@aol.co.uk | | Police emergency | 999 | | |
| Janet Ingleson | 01794 388618 | Parish Council | | | |
| janetoingleson@gmail.com | | Graham Searle | | | |
| PCC Secretary: | | clerk@kingssomborne-pc | .gov.uk | | |
| David Pye | | | Borough Councillors | | |
| Treasurer & Gift Aid Sec: | | • | | | |
| Claire Bevan | 01794 341923 | Stewart MacDonald | 07803 594872 | | |
| Flowers: Pollyann Monk | 01794 388482 | Ian Jeffrey | 01794 388872 | | |
| Methodist Church | | Alison Johnston | 01794 500610 | | |
| Minister: Revd Peter Rayson | n 02381 780560 | County Councillor | | | |
| Stewards: Marilyn Bolton | 01794 389356 | David Drew | 01264 357024 | | |
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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 4th and 18th March 2024.

Household waste

Non-recyclable household waste (black bins) will be collected in w/c 4th and 18th March 2024.

Recyclable household waste (brown bins) will be collected in w/c 11th and 25th March 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.

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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

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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

The Somborne Players:

Babes in the wood



Once again, The Somborne Players delivered a fantastic family pantomime with a hilarious script, which was entertaining for the younger members of the audience whilst keeping the adults amused and engaged with innuendo and 'groan out loud' jokes. The Somborne Players have gone from strength to strength with many new faces appearing this year. All three performances were sold out — word must have spread about the quality of the Somborne Players' pantomime productions.

Their production of the Babes in the Wood had all the elements that go to make a perfect traditional pantomime; a hero, a villain, comedy, slapstick routines, audience participation song and dance and, of course, a fantastic Dame, Nurse Molly Coddle, played by Alan Glynne Jones, whose performance matched many of the professional dames, in more high-profile venues.

The story is set in Medieval England



and King Richard is away fighting in the Crusades. The villainous Sheriff of Nottingham, Sam Judges, who never fails to deliver a polished performance, was nothing short of brilliant in his characterisation. He hatches a plan to do away with the Babes, Pip and Penny (Samson Cuff and Megan Horrell), aided by his comic stooges, Block (Audrey Thomas) and Tackle (Lesley Everard-Evans). Fortunately, Robin Hood (Rebecca Rickard) and her merry band are there to thwart their plans with a bit of help from the glamorous fairy (Caroline Crump). The Babes are saved, Robin marries Maid Marion (Sian Johnston), and the Sheriff gets his just desserts!

special mention has to go to Audrey Thomas (in what she has said will be her last Players and panto) Lesley Everard -Evans playing stooges, Block Tackle. and



They are a talented comic duo having paired up in many previous pantos, evidenced by the chemistry they have with each other and their ability to ad lib and interact with the audience to great comic effect.

Rory McClenaghan played Knave, or Dangerous Dave as he wished to be known, the 'wannabee' member of Robin Hood's merry band. Rebecca Rickard, performed the role of Robin Hood with thigh slapping gusto supported by her very merry band, including Friar Tuck (David Haydon) Ruth Eckett and Vanessa McClenaghan, as Little John and Will Scarlet, and Davina Nicholson (another newcomer) as Alana Dale.



Sian Johnston, as Maid Marion, used her talent to great effect as Maid Marion, portraying a lovesick damsel with attitude!

Samson Cuff and Megan Horrell, among the youngest members of the cast, performed their roles as the Babes with admirable confidence. The even younger members of the cast played forest animals and elicited the usual 'oohs' and 'aahs' from the audience, endearing as little ones always are in their animal costumes, and displaying delight in being part of the pantomime.

The guards, David Cottom and Lucy Horrell, also new to the Somborne Players, supported the main cast along with the villagers played by Rosetta Clark-Smith, Ellie Monger and Lynda Waggott. The supporting members of the cast performed songs and some lively dance routines, choreographed by Carla Horsefield.

There were some highly entertaining scenes expertly performed. The kitchen scene was good old slapstick comedy involving flour and custard pies, whilst the schoolroom scene was a masterpiece in visual comedy with Block falling off the end of the bench every time one of the other occupants of the bench stood up.

This review would not be complete without acknowledging the fantastic work carried out by those who do not appear on the stage. David Welton has once again directed the show to a high standard, ably assisted by Jonathan Crump. The sets designed and painted by Jonathan Rickard with help from Sarah Sevmour and other members of the cast, demonstrated their artistic talent whilst the technical expertise of the sound and lighting crew, Roger Stephens and Tom Dynes, completed the feeling of magic that is part of the pantomime experience. Finally, Linda Aucock kept the cast on track as prompt. So many others contributed to this the success of pantomime backstage: thanks to them all!

Thank you Somborne Players for all your hard work and dedication in delivering a very funny, entertaining, and uplifting performance.

Jane Whittingham



Southern Water: You will have all noticed the procession of road-tankers which have been present in the village between church road and vicarage lane for extended period of time. This is to remove the ground water entering the foul network, which is by then contaminated. This is a consequence of high levels of ground water. Leakage into the foul system should not occur, however it has, along with locations at other villages along the Test Valley. The tankers are then transporting it for safe treatment and disposal. This situation is likely to continue until ground water levels drop. The PC has arranged a meeting with Southern Water on 22nd February where we hope to get information about a more permanent

New trees and hedging: The Parish Council, working with Hampshire County Council's "Shoots Along the Roots" program, has planted a new hedge between Top and John of Gaunt fields as well as a selection of trees including white beam, crab apple, field maple, sorbus and three disease resistant elms. This, it is hoped, will provide a further wildlife habitat and enjoyment for all.

Vandalism theft and antisocial behaviour: The above planting was completed on Friday 9th February but by Monday 12th the protection and stake of one of the elms was damaged and the protection further extensively damaged by Tuesday by some mindless individual(s). This wanton vandalism deprives the rest of the parish visually and financially but is in fact illegal. Can we all try to protect the environment and infrastructure?

We have recently had fly tipping, graffiti and theft of padlocks. The PC will inform the police and prosecute those responsible, given sufficient information to do so. Unless we all demand and respect good behaviour we fall to the lowest common denominator.

Allotments: The Allotments association has held a further meeting along with Shorewood Homes, the PC and Test Valley planning department to discuss soil quality, slope and the transition to the new allotments on completion. The concerns discussed will be considered prior to Shorewood Homes submitting their report to Test Valley for final approval.

The bourne: Thanks the outstanding work done by the volunteers who cleared the bourne, as published in the Gauntlet last month, it has not breached the banks and at the time of writing the level is now falling. The EA has confirmed they will be back in touch for further discussion in the near future once their current flooding crisis abates.

Resilience: We have now received the funds from the SSE grant and will progress the purchase and installation of the container utilised to store the resilience equipment prior to its purchase.

Parish Council: The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 11th March at Epworth Hall. Parishioners are welcome to attend and bring to the attention of the council any matter of concern.

Graham Searle

Chair King's Somborne Parish Council

Village Hall news



I've recently joined the King's Somborne Village Hall committee and volunteered to submit the first of what will be quarterly updates about the Village Hall.

The first thing I should do is introduce myself, I'm Ian Newnham and have taken over as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee. I have taken over following the decision from Robin Somerville to step down from the role. It is with great sadness that I have to pass on the news that Robin passed away in early February.

I understand from the many positive comments that I have heard that a big debt of gratitude goes to Robin for all his hard work whilst in the Chair. Our thoughts and prayers are with Robin's family at this difficult time.

My wife, Alison, and I moved into the King's Somborne area, in Horsebridge, in December 2019 and the first thing that struck us was the wonderful community spirit that exists in this area. It really is quite unlike almost anywhere that we have lived previously.

I also have to recognise how hard working the all-volunteer Committee members are in order to make sure that the Village Hall continues to provide a venue for all sorts of community activities as well as being a place that can be hired for business events.

If you visit our website at King's Somborne Village Hall (kingssombornevillagehall.co.uk), you will find information regarding the regular events that occur, a gallery of photographs from previous private and business functions as well as a

description of each of the rooms that may be hired on an hourly or daily basis. If you visit the Bookings page you will be able to see all of the activities that are already booked for future regular and one off events.

We have been asked in the past: "Why don't you put on 'this' event etc" and quite often a common misconception of the role of the Committee. It is our responsibility to ensure that the Village Hall functions as a safe, clean and secure place for the community of King's Somborne and the wider Test Valley to be able to use for the events that they wish to organise. We do not create 'events' but are more than happy to advise on all aspects of the hall and it's working. If you want to start a regular club or gathering, of almost any type, look at booking the Village Hall on a one-off or regular basis. If you need assistance in deciding which of the rooms would be appropriate, then I am sure one of our committee members will be able to help you.

The key contact details can be found on the website along with Hiring Conditions and our Privacy Policy. Some of the regular activities at the Village Hall include Pilates and Yoga classes, a weekly Cafe on a Tuesday (I can recommend the sausage rolls and cakes!), Women's Institute meetings, Parent & Toddlers groups and Cinema sessions ,to name just a few.

If you have any questions, email us at enquiries@ksvillagehall.uk and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Ian Newnham Chair

Somborne and District Society:



We are very pleased to say that the 2023 "John of Gaunt Award" were announced in winners ceremony at the village school on the 7th of February 2024. As well as the overall prizes there were prizes for each year group, plus prizes for the children's own class favourites. Every child that entered received personalised bookmark, all received a 'can you find it' leaflet, both containing pictures from local artist Keith Chapman. It must be stressed how impressed we are with the children's engagement and the quality of their work. They gave the judges a hard time! The overall winner, Poppy Crutchfield. becomes the new custodian of the trophy engraved with the past winners' names. The brilliant

runners-up were Megan

Horrell and Florence Horrell. Further details will be included in the society's next newsletter. Well done to all the entrants and we look forward to the next event starting later this year.

For our January 2024 talk, "Table for Two - Prehistoric Menu Please", Tricia Silver-Warner introduced us to prehistoric food and cookery. The talk covered the ingredients available to prehistoric people and looked at the tools and techniques used based on evidence and experimental archaeology. After the formal presentation there was live demonstration of processing cooking spelt pottage along with the showcasing of several dishes cooked



using an open wood fire earlier in the day. The experimental pre-historic style coil pots used for the cookery were based on archaeological evidence. I made and wood-fired these a couple of years ago. The menu included fish wrapped in hay and wet clay then cooked in the fire, fish wrapped in damp hay and cooked over the fire on a frame, duck eggs cooked in the embers, venison stew, spelt grain and boiled quail eggs. At the end of the presentation the audience were invited to try nettle tea and rosehip tea, with the opportunity to try some of the at their own food risk! Mackintosh thanked Tricia for the talk. describing it as one of the most (if not the most) unusual and enjoyable presentations we have had.

On the **28**th of February **2024**, 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.

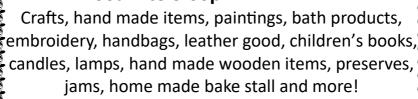
On the 27th of March 2024 we have a talk by Jaqueline and Brian Sutton titled "The Duke of Monmouth – How his head was turned and lost". The talk includes the characters behind his story, the 1685 Battle of Sedgemoor, the Duke's capture and execution, the trial of Alice Lisle of Ringwood, the Bloody Assizes, and 'The Hanging Judge' – Judge Jeffreys.

I'd like to end with a special announcement by welcoming **Jamie Lane** to the Somborne and District Society committee. Jamie is a great addition to the team, but we are still looking for further people to help run the society. Can you join us?

Steve Silver-Warner Chair

Easter Fair

King's Somborne Village Hall Saturday 23rd March 11.00am to 3.00pm



Raffle and tombola

Come and browse the lovely hand made products.

Proceeds of the raffle to The Sombornes pre-school charity.

To book a table or donate a raffle prize

contact Joan on 07789004673 or jtt11965@gmail.com

The Sombornes Pre-school Spring Term news

We've had a busy start to the Spring Term so far, with learning focussed on our community and people who help To support learning about the Emergency Services, we had a visit



from Josh, a local firefighter, who spent time chatting to the children about his job, and showing them some of the protective equipment and clothing that he needs to stay safe. Everyone was keen to try on the firefighters' helmet! We have visited 'The Travelling Pantry', which operates from the Village Hall car park each Wednesday morning, providing a great service for helping local families make their food budget go a bit further. For £5 we were able to choose twelve food items, including some

ingredients that children used to make flapjacks.

We have also been very lucky to have been visited by the Reverend Anne Newport, who has kindly offered to pop into pre-school every other Friday morning to share stories and songs with us. Finally, before finishing for our half-term break, the children made some Valentine's Day fairy cakes to take home to share with their families!



Whilst places are filling up, we do have some sessions available if you are interested in making enquiries for your child to join our friendly setting! For further information, please e-mail Becky

manager@thesombornespreschool.co.uk, or phone us on: 07530 893773.

Katie Grant. The Sombornes Pre-school.

March walk

6miles (9.5km) 2½hours

Sunday 31st March 2024

2:00pm

King's Somborne Village Hall

We leave the village along Winchester Road and take the path past the Beef Unit. We continue towards Up Somborne before turning left to take the steep path down to Little Somborne. At Little Somborne we head North to North Park Farm and the path back towards the village. We take the permissive footpath that avoids the A3057 and joins New Lane. Then it is down New Lane before returning to the Village Hall via footpath 14 and Muss Lane.





£15 PER PERSON



PEOPLE PER TEAM

EARLY BIRD OFFER OF £12PP IF BOOKED BEFORE 1ST MARCH

FRIDAY 15TH MARCH / 7:30PM / KING'S SOMBORNE VILLAGE HALL

DINNER NOT INCLUDED THIS YEAR PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN NIBBLES

LICENCED BAR

TO BOOK CONTACT
KSSA.CONTACT@GMAIL.COM

PLEASE PAY IN ADVANCE BY BACS: ACC NOS 95990607 / SORT 55-81-26

SOMBORNE COMMUNITY CINEMA

Thursday 14th March





(1) 1h:53m

IMDb 7.1/10

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.

Thursday 11th April



Anatomy of a Fall

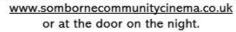
(1) 2h:31m

IMDb 7.8/10

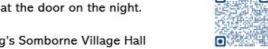
2023 Crime / Drama / Thriller

A gripping crime drama set in the French Alps where a woman is suspected of her husband's murder, and their blind son faces a moral dilemma as the main witness in this thrilling Palme d'Or winner.

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



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.



Now in its 13th season, Somborne Sessions is still here, putting on great live music. Have you enjoyed our live music lately? In common, with most music venues, there's been a bit of a drop-off with audience numbers since the pandemic and tightening of many budgets. So, we thought we'd take this opportunity to remind everyone what we do here. We carefully hunt down great musicians performing original material. whether they're established or emerging young talent and our merry band of volunteers add great local ale and a well-stocked bar for all our lovely loyal followers to enjoy a cracking evening. All profits get ploughed back into the village hall. So, if you've not experienced a Somborne Sessions before, or haven't been for a while, we'd love to see you there. And, of course, being a village hall event, there's a raffle and a chance to win tickets for a future session, a signed CD by the artist of the night, or one of our much coveted Somborne Sessions Mugs!

Our next Session is on Saturday, 16th 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. You can expect some stomping tunes and captivating stories. Trust us, you won't want to miss this! Tickets available now, £16 in advance (£18 on the door).

Then on Saturday, 27th April. BROOKS WILLIAMS & AARON CATLOW will be with us with their brand of joyous and virtuosic music that not only tugs at the heartstrings but also gets you up on your feet. "How such a complete and sensational sound can come from just two voices and two instruments is awe-inspiring. They represent live music at its best." (Americana UK). Tickets, on sale now, priced at £15 (in advance) or on the door for £17.



For the final gig of our Spring season, we see the return of RED STRIPE. Red Stripe played here over ten years ago, and we thought it was time to call he 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 £18 in advance (or £20 on the door).

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

All tickets are available from www.sombornesessions.co.uk. Door and bar open at 7.30 pm.

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



Stop Food Waste

Caroline Foster is passionate about helping to prevent food waste.

She moved to the village just over a year ago from her home in Staines, where she began to distribute free food that she collected weekly from a supermarket. The food would otherwise go to waste as it has reached its 'sell-by' or 'use-by' date. So it cannot go to a food bank, or be sold the next day.

This is all made possible by an app on your phone. There are a lot of downsides to modern technology, but this is an upside! The app is called Olio and their logo is above so you know you have the correct app. (It is orangey-pink)

Caroline is designated a 'Food Hero' by the app. This means that every Wednesday evening she can go to a local store – in this case Tesco Express in Winchester - and collect all the food that cannot be sold the next day.

She never knows what might be there for her – it may be very little – often bread products or fruit and vegetables – anything perishable - and she collects whatever there is to prevent it being binned. Once she had 100 bananas! But normally around 20 to 30 items.

Caroline fetches the food at 8.30pm on a Wednesday and only on a Wednesday. She puts on the app what food she has collected, and anyone can respond and say what they would like to collect. It all has be done that evening, and you say what you would like and a time you can get to her to collect it, between 9pm and 10.30pm.



There is no charge and Caroline funds her own petrol to collect the food.

So please help Caroline by uploading the app and checking on Wednesday evenings at around 9pm ...put an alarm on your phone to remind you! Caroline lives centrally in the village, at Kneavesmire, Old Palace Farm, just near the alley to Scott Close, so it is easy to collect from, even if you don't have transport.

Caroline would be thrilled to find more people here to help her prevent food waste!

Sue Jackson was talking to Caroline Foster

What's on in March 2024

Your guide to events in and around the district.

Winchester Science Centre

www.winchestersciencecentre.org Open Weekends and school holidays 9.30am – 5.00pm (last entry 2.20pm). Weekdays closed during term time.

School holiday dates:

Easter: 29 March – 15 April

Events - book online

27 January – 10 March:

Astronaut – subtitled film show Test the water – science show Beyond the Moon – live Planetarium show

5 March: After Dark – Night Sky Live

15 March: Science Lates: Game On 16 March – 5 May

Bubble Trouble- Science show Atmospheres – live Planetarium show

We are stars – subtitled film show 16 March – 15 April Boom and Bloom

Eggs-travaganza Easter hunt

Mottisfont Abbey

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont The garden open 10.00am – 5.00pm, house open 11.00am – 4.30pm, cafes open 10.00am – 4.45pm; shop 10.00am-5.00pm.

Events

28 January – 14 April **Heath Robinson at War Exhibition** 23 March – 14 April **Easter Egg Hunt**

Andover Museum

01264 366283 Open 10.00am – 4.00pm 26 January – 10 March; Future Andover Doodle Rooom

Willis Museum and Sainsbury Gallery

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

Events

8 March: Mini Sketchbooks -

Creative drawing

17 March: Beaded Wire Easter

Projects

24 March: Sunday tea and talk: Timber framed buildings 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 & 10.15pm All year round – Kings and scribes exhibition

Summer family trail

4-8 March

Crown and Coronation Immersive Light Show

5,12,19,26 March

Lunchtime concerts

5 March

Musicians from Bedales

12 March

Laurie Sawbridge piano

26 March

Charlotte Du Cann piano

Janet Ingleson

Theatre

Theatre Royal, Winchester

www.theatreroyalwinchester.co.uk

- 5 March: James Wilton Dance LORE
- 6 March: **Dom Joly: The Conspiracy**
- 8 10 March: **Zog and the Flying Doctors**
- 9 March: National Theatre Live: Vanva
- 12 13 March: The Hound of the Baskervilles
- 14 16 March: The Signalman
- 17 March: Science Museum: The Live Stage Show
- 20 21 March: Sister Act
- 23 24 March: The Gruffalo's Child
- 23 March: Josh Berry: Sexual Politics
- 25 March: Amadeus
- 28 March: Playmakers Youth Theatre Showcase

Plaza Theatre, Romsey

www.plazatheatre.com

- 1 March: Romsey Comedy Club
- 12 16 March: One Man, Two Govnors
- 22 March: Fleetwood Unchained
- 23 March: Simon & Garfunkel through the years
- 29 March: I'm every Whitney tribute

Salisbury Playhouse

wiltshirecreative.co.uk

- 2 February 3 May: **Home Education Workshops-Spring 2024**
- 1 March: Moscow Drug Club
- 2 March: Patch's Parade Discovery Day You're Bad
- 8 March: 2024: A concert with Louise Jordon
- 15 February 9 March: One Last Push
- 9 March: Aurie Styla: The Aurator

- 13 March: Country Roads
- 14 16 March: King Arthur: A Legendary Comedy
- 16 March: A St Paddy's Day Hoolie
- 19 20 March: NT Connections Festival 2024
- 21 March: Opera Boys: A Night at the Musicals
- 21 March: Hollie McNish: The Lobster tour
- 22 March: Money for Nothing Barnstormers Comedy
- 23 March: Queenz: The Show with Balls
- 26 27 March: **Houdini's Greatest Escape**
- 28 March: Ania Magliano: I can't believe you've done this

Mayflower Theatre

- 27 February 2 March: **Blood Brothers**
- 6-7 March: Rambert: Death trap
- 8 March: Seven Drunken Nights
- 8 9 March: **Best of John Williams** & Hans Zimmer
- 10 March: Rob Brydon
- 13 16 March: Edward Scissorhands
- 17 March: The Night Sky Shoe
- 18 March: The Billy Joel Songbook
- 20 March: Death in Venice
- 21 23 March: Cosi fan tutte
- 22 March: Opera Favourites
- 25 30 March: Jesus Christ Superstar

The Watermill Theatre

watermill.org.uk

2 February – 16 March: Sherlock Holmes & the Poison Wood

23 – 30 March: Wendy & Peter Pan

Janet Ingleson

Village diary for March 2023

| 1 | Beavers Badminton (September –April) |
|------------------|---|
| 10.00am | Drop in coffee (except the second Tuesday) Somborne Cafe Somborne Singers |
| | Parent, Baby and Toddler Group Dial-a-ride Scouts |
| 2.00pm 6.00pm | Needleworkers Cubs |
| | 7.30pm 10.30am 10.00am 7.45pm 9.30am 2.00pm 7.00pm 2.00pm |

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

| 1st | WI Sisterhood | 8.00pm | 16th Somborne Sessions Trials of Cato | 7.30pm |
|--------------|--|--------------------|---|---------|
| 2nd | Soup & Sherry | 12.30pm | 16thSoup & Sherry | 12.30pm |
| 4th | Warm Hub Cinema Book Club The next Chapter | | 19th Computer cafe | 10.00am |
| 5th | Computer cafe | 10.00am | 20th Contemplative Prayer | 7.30pm |
| 6th | Contemplative Prayer | 7.30pm | 21st Over 50s Minibus Trip Salisbury | 10.00am |
| 11 th | Parish Council | 7.00pm | 26th Short Mat Bowls | 2.00pm |
| 12 th | Epworth Lunch | 12.30pm | 27th Somborne Society | 8.00pm |
| 12 th | Short Mat Bowls | 2.00pm | | |
| | | | 27th Women's Fellowship | 2.30pm |
| 13th | ıWI | 7.30pm | | |
| 14 th | Community Cinema The Old Oak | 7.15 for 8.00pm | 31st Footpath walk See page 10 | 2.00pm |

District diary for March 2024

2 March

Romsey Mayor's Charity Concert 7.30pm Romsey Abbey

2 March

Spring Foraging in Hampshire 10.00am – 1.00pm Gambledown Farm Tickets & info: Allevents in

3 March

Spiral Events Wedding Fayre 11.00am – 3.00pm The Potters Heron Hotel, Romsey Tickets: Allevents.in

3 March

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens Luxury chocolate making 10.30am – 12.30pm or 2.00am – 4.00pm

9 March

Luxury Mother's Day Floral Workshop 9.30am, 1.30pm or 5.30pm Kimbridge Barn, Romsey Tickets: AllEvents.in

9 - 10 March

Easter Market Moonstone Crystals Ltd Unit 6, Dukes Mill, Broadwater Road, Romsey Tickets: AllEvents.in

11 March

Romsey Community Cinema The Miracle Club 3.30pm & 7.00pm Tickets:

www.romseytc.org.uk,community cinema

13 March

Regional Veterinary Talks for Equine Owners 7.00pm Wellow Village Hall Tickets: AllEvents.in

14 March

Andover the Lights Limehouse Lizzy

15 March

Stockbridge Community Cinema Alcarras 7.30pm

20 March

Stockbridge Community Cinema The Great Escaper 5.00pm and 7.30pm

22 March

Tina Turner Tribute Night 6.00pm – 23.59pm Winchester Royal Hotel

23 March

Romsey Choral Society Bach's St John Passion 7.00pm Romsey Abbey Tickets: Allevents.in

27 March

Andover The Lights The Big Chris Barber Band

Every Tuesday and Saturday

Salisbury Market 8.00am – 3.00pm. Market Place

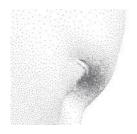
2nd and 4th Friday

Romsey Town Hall Market and Café 10.30am – 12.30pm

Tuesday, Friday & Saturday

Romsey Market at the Corn Exchange

Janet Ingleson





Talking Heads

By Alan Bennett

A Cream Cracker Under the Settee. A Chip in the Sugar.

A Lady of Letters.

Weds 10th - Friday 12th April 24 Stockbridge Town Hall 7.30pm tickets £12 + booking fee

www.stockbridgeamdrams.org for more information and to buy tickets, or leave a message on 01264 513676

SADS

Stockbridge Amateur Dramatic Society (SADS) next production will be three more of Alan Bennett's classic Talking Heads monologues. Bennett wrote fourteen of these monologues (fifteen if you include the longer play A Woman of No Importance). However, amateur performance rights are only available for six of them and we did three of those last April. They were extremely well received. So we are very excited to be able to complete the set this April. They are A Cream Cracker under the Settee played by Sue Jackson, A Chip in the Sugar by SADS newcomer Tom Humphreys, and A Lady of Letters by Katy Watkins. Like all the Talking Heads monologues, they are brilliantly written poignant, subtle and humorous. Performances will be Wednesday 10th, Thursday 11th and Friday 12th of April (note - there is no performance on the Saturday). Tickets are £12 on sale now. Go to www.stockbridgeamdrams.org for more information and to buy tickets, or leave a message on 01264 513676



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!

Join us TEST VILLAGES U3A

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.

Thursday 11^h April

Maggie Shelton presents: "Hampshire's Chalk Streams"

Join us for this illustrated talk by ecologist, Maggie Shelton, from Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust. She is the Community Catchment Officer for the Heritage Lottery funded project, called the Watercress and Winterbournes. Maggie will describe how she works with the local communities of the Test and Itchen headwaters to set up projects and initiatives to improve the health and heritage of their beautiful chalk streams.

Meetings start at **14.00** (doors open at 13.40) in **Chilbolton Village Hall**New members are very welcome to attend our meetings.

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



- 150g each of plain and milk chocolate (300g in total)
- 100g Unsalted butter
- 50g Golden syrup
- 150g sultanas

Ingredients:

- 150g ready to eat prunes, chopped .. or double up on sultanas if preferred
- 75g pistachios or other nuts
- 200g roughly crushed shortbread or rich tea biscuits
- Mini chocolate Easter eggs to decorate



Method:

- 1.Line a 24cm square baking tin with 2 layers of cling film.
- 2.Put the chocolate, butter and syrup into a saucepan and <u>gently</u> heat until melted and smooth.. DO NOT BOIL Stir in the fruit and nuts and then carefully fold in the crushed biscuits.
- 3. Spoon the mixture into the prepared tin and press down. Scatter over the mini eggs and gently press down.
- 4. Freeze for 2 hours or chill in fridge for around 5 hours or overnight.
- 5.Remove from the freezer fridge for 20 mins before cutting into bite size pieces







Jubilee Room Kings Somborne Village Hall

Tuesdays

10.00am - 1.00pm

Delicious treats and coffee

King's Somborne WI

Our President, Sarah, welcomed us all to the Meeting saying how pleased she was that we had been joined by two guests for the evening.

Sarah then introduced our speaker Jane Glennie who was going to give a talk entitled

"Who was Jane Austen's best friend".

Jane was dressed in period costume which was very fetching and set the scene for what was to follow. She introduced us to Martha Lloyd who at the time was living with the Austens in Southampton as the family were about to move to Chawton. She had been befriended by the Austens after her parents' death when she had been living in a church property in the Parish of the Reverend Austen.

Our speaker then played the part of Martha and gave us an account of life in Southampton at that time. This was all delivered in a very amusing and lively manner. She used some extracts from letters and other writing from Jane to illustrate her talk and to draw attention to the values and social mores of the period. At the time Martha was helping pack the family's papers and was collecting recipes from local friends so that she could take these to Chawton with her. (A book of these recipes is sometimes on display there).

Life in Southampton was very genteel especially in the area near Castle Square, where Jane lived. This was



apparently in strong contrast to life in the neighbouring city of Portsmouth! Jane was already avidly writing stories and drawing material from the social life she saw around her. Martha did not always agree with the titles Jane gave to her stories but Jane stopped showing her work to Martha and pressed on undaunted. She described Jane as very assertive and determined.

Our speaker then came out of character telling us that Martha later moved to Chawton where she helped the Austen family run their home. Some time after Jane's death she married Sir Frank Austen, one of Jane's brothers, whose first wife had died having given birth to thirteen children.

We all found this an amusing and enjoyable account and thanked our speaker warmly.

The subject for our next meeting is "The air I breathe", a talk by David Woodford.

Visitors are always welcome.

Eileen Reynolds

BME & WoW - for all vehicle lovers

BME is the **Belgae Mercedes Enthusiasts**, taking its name from the Belgae (pronounced Beljay) who were an ancient Celtic tribe that used to inhabit this area.

We meet at the Boot Inn on the second Tuesday of each month from 7.00pm onwards. We welcome all owners, enthusiasts, and those with an interest in the marque to come and join in, whether you own a Mercedes or not.

Web: https://belgaemercedesenthusiasts.weebly.com

Email: belgaemercedesenthusiasts@gmail.com

Facebook: Belgae Mercedes Enthusiasts



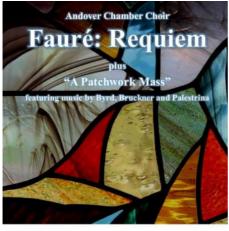
WOW is the **Wheels of Wallop**, a monthly vehicle meet on the third Saturday of every month from 10.00am at the Army Flying Museum. Hosted by BME, this is

open to all vehicles of all ages and is entirely free. Just turn up and join in, either as an exhibitor or a spectator.

DIARY DATES:
Tues. 12th March & Tues. 9th April

Tues.12th March & Tues. 9th April BME at the Boot Inn 7.00pm onwards Sat. 16th March & Sat. 20th April WOW at the Army Flying Museum 10.00am onwards





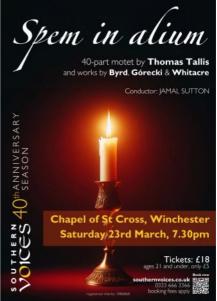
7:30 p.m. Saturday 13th April 2024 St Mary's Church, Andover

Tickets £12 (incl. refreshments) on the door or £10 in advance from The Lights, Newbury Building Society, Andover, or from choir members. Under 16s free.



In aid of 'Finding Freedom from Abuse' (formerly known as Andover Crisis & Support Centre) www.andoverchamberchoir.org.uk





Somborne Sisterhood

This month the Somborne Sisterhood had a very enjoyable evening playing skittles in the Mottisfont Social Club.

Refreshments were available from the bar and we had plenty of time to catch up with fellow members and guests while waiting our turn.

First of all we divided into three groups and played three rounds of a very closely run match. We took the competition seriously and made sure that the keeping of the score was accurate.







After that we played a fiercely competitive elimination round, each of us having three lives, until one winner was left. Well done Debbie!

Thank you to our hosts for a great evening.

Next month our meeting is on Friday 1st March at 8pm and we will be back in King's Somborne village hall. We will have a talk from Test Valley Venison and there will be some frozen products to buy on the night. Guests are very welcome, £7.

More information can be had by emailing

sombornesisterhood@gmail.com or follow us on instagram.

Jane Nicol





Just a reminder that you can view test results on the NHS App.

Routine GP appointments, physiotherapy assessments, blood tests and smear tests can be booked online.

Measles, Mumps and Rubella

You may have seen in the news that there have been increasing cases of measles. We would like to encourage any children or young people who have not received two MMR vaccinations to book in for these. It is particularly recommended if you are planning to become pregnant or to go away to school, college, or university. Pregnant women should not have the vaccine.

Healthier Together

We know many patients regularly look after grandchildren. If you are concerned about their health, we would recommend accessing the Healthier Together website or App. Please search 'Healthier Together' to find helpful information on how to manage conditions at home and when to seek medical help.

Patient Participation Group

We would like to say thank you to Gwen Picco who has recently stood down as the Chair of our Patient Participation Group. We are keen to encourage new members of the group. We meet four times a year on either a Wednesday or Thursday evening. If you cannot commit to meeting but would be willing to be contacted by members of the group regarding feedback about the surgery, please email us on https://doi.org/10.1007/journal.org/ email us on https://doi.org/10.1007/journal.org/ email us on https://doi.org/10.1007/journal.org/

Wednesday 28 February

All GP surgeries locally are closed for the afternoon for training. Patients should call 111 if they have an urgent medical need.

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 March 12th 12.30pm £7

* Sausages and Ratatouille*

*Mashed Potatoes *

Broccoli Cauliflower *

Trifle



* Coffee *

Booking essential - Marilyn 389 356



Over 50s Minibus Trips

Booking essential
Phone Sue 388884
Thursday March 21st 2024

Salisbury

£10.00 Pick up 10.00am Home for 4.00pm

Stockbridge Community Cinema

Friday 15 March 7.30 pm Alcarràs (15)

For as long as they can remember, the Solé family has spent every summer picking peaches in their orchard in Alcarràs, a small village in Catalonia. But this year's crop may well be their last, as they face eviction. The new plans for the land, which include cutting down the peach trees and installing solar panels, cause a rift in this large, tight-knit family. For the first time, they face an uncertain future and risk losing more than their orchard. [In Catalan with subtitles]



Wednesday 20 March 5.00 pm and 7.30 pm The Great Escaper (12A)

In 2014, near-nonagenarian Bernie Jordan (Michael Caine) is sad to miss out on an official group outing to the D-Day anniversary in France. Encouraged by his wife Rene (Glenda Jackson), he sneaks out from his care home and goes on one last big adventure to cross the Channel, while reminiscing about his wartime experiences.



Information common to both films:

Showing at Stockbridge Town Hall SO20 6HE. Tickets are available online from 1 March (£6.00 incl £0.50p booking fee per ticket) via www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk or by telephone from TicketSource 0333 666 3366 (no extra charge). Please visit our website for full details of our films.

Monthly coffee and (optional) crafts morning at St Peter's and St Paul's Church.

Thursday 10am-12noon.

All are welcome,

Dates for the next few months are:

February 29th, April 4th, May 2nd, June 6th.

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

Prayer Group

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

All Welcome!

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: 6th and 20th March, 3rd and 17th April,



Julian Meetings

Jane Duncan 01794 388059

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN SOMBORNE AND DISTRICT invite you to an

AGAPE MEAL

(A reminder of the Last Supper)

at the Parish Church on Thursday, 28 March at 7.00pm

Tickets: £10 (to include a fish and chip supper, hot cross buns and coffee) available from: Barbara Heffer Tel. 389126. Tickets need to be purchased by Sunday, 24 March. Please bring your own drinks

Dates for your Diary:

Soup and Sherry Lunch



Saturdays
2nd and 16th March
in the Parish Church
12.30pm-1.30pm



Anniversary of the D Day landings

We are planning to hold a service at the war memorial at 12 noon on 6th June to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the 'D Day landings.'

If anyone in the village has memories or family history about the D Day Landings that they would be willing that we share on that day, could you please contact myself or the church wardens.

With many thanks

Reverend Anne Newport



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Messy Church -Getting wet!

If you were one of the families at the Methodist Chapel on the third Sunday afternoon in February, you'll remember what fun we had! Fun, games, crafts, Bible Stories and food - it's Messy Church!

This term we're exploring 'Growing Up', and the story was about Jesus's baptism. We iced cupcakes with doves, crafted a river and fish to put in it, made mobiles with a message, designed candle-bookmarks, painted stones with



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our names and tried to match what we look like now with what we looked like as habies!

Then we watched a video storytime, and helped Rev Anne baptise her teddy with real water.

We sang the song 'My Lighthouse', before we all put the stones we'd decorated into water for ourselves. Then we all joined round the food table for sandwiches and cakes. We learned lots about what it means to be baptised, and everyone had a great time!



The next Messy Church is on Sun 17th March at 3,00pm.

Why not join in the fun with your family? Howard

Church flowers

If you would like to help make the **Mothering Sunday** posies, please meet at the Parish Church at 9.30am on Saturday 9th March.

To help decorate the **Parish Church for Easter**, please join us there at 9.30am on Saturday 30th March.

Lent Courses:

What does Mark's Gospel say about the Easter Story?

Weekly sessions during Lent:

Either Tuesdays 12 noon (prompt!) – 2pm at Braishfield Church Room including soup lunch

or Wednesdays 7.30pm-9pm at Poppies, Choice Plants including coffee/tea & cake

You are invited to join in the events surrounding Easter at the Parish Church

Palm Sunday 24 March:

United Communion starting at the Methodist Chapel at 9.40am; then at the Parish Church at 10am.

Maundy Thursday 28th March at 7pm:

United 'Agape' Fish & Chip Supper. £10 to cover fish & chips, hot cross buns etc. BYO drinks. Tickets from Barbara Heffer Tel. 389126.

Closing date Sunday 24th March.

Good Friday 29th March at 10am:

'An hour at the cross'

Easter Sunday 31st March at 10am:

Easter Sunday Family Communion, followed by Easter Egg Hunt



REMEMBERING A LOVED ONE – SPONSOR A LILY

Easter Sunday, 31st March 2024 will soon be with us. It is the day we remember our loved ones who are no longer with us. The Church will be decorated with Lilies in remembrance of them and their names placed on a pillar to be remembered in prayers.

If you would like to sponsor a lily in memory of a loved one, please contact me.

Sponsor monies are £5.00 per Lily per person remembered. Enclose the name or names of your loved ones you wish remembered and your name as the donor, in an envelope and drop through the letter box in the Vestry door inside the Parish Church.



If you do not wish names to be printed but still wish to contribute with a donation or silent remembrance, please state in your information that you do not wish to display the names but still enclose who it is from.

Thank you

Pollyann Monk

01794 388482 or pollyann@farming.co.uk

World Day of Prayer 2024

In the Parish Church
Friday 1st March
at 2.30pm
Followed by refreshments
All welcome

Words from the Vicar

It is suggested to Christians in Lent to walk alongside Jesus in the wilderness as he takes time away to reflect, and to just be, and where he is tempted by the devil before he begins his ministry. Then, in the last week in March, we walk through Holy Week together, share the grief of Good Friday as Christ is crucified, and then have the wonderful joy on Easter Morning when we celebrate Christ rising from the dead.

The Easter story may not seem to have much relevance in your life if you are not a practising Christian, but there is something in Jesus's time in the wilderness, which affects all of us.

If we lead our lives without pausing and reflecting ,we lose the cause and effect that our actions have on others.

The food industry is a prime example of this. Many of us over the years have bought our food and other commodities, such as clothing based solely on price, without really reflecting on the cause and effect of what that means.

If we take time to reflect seriously on where our food comes from, we would buy local products, meat and vegetables, in season. from local producers. If our only measure for the food we eat, and the goods we buy is its cost, then should we be surprised that unscrupulous businessmen will take advantage of that?

The mess in our food industry perhaps would never have happened if we had spent more time in quiet reflection about the consequences of our actions. Indeed, I suspect we would have stronger local economies, with more employment opportunity for our youngsters, farmers still in business, and less closed shops on our high streets. So many situations we find ourselves in today have only come about because reflecting and thinking seems to have gone out of fashion, cause and effect is being lost.

I suspect we would all benefit by spending some time in the 'wilderness' just pausing to think about the cause and effect of the decisions we make.

That way we are more able to resist temptation and be ready to celebrate Easter together.

With every blessing

Anne

Reverend Anne Newport Associate Minister, King's Somborne

Church services in March

Parish Church

Friday, 1st March 2.30pm World Day of Prayer in the Parish Church

3rd March—Third Sunday of Lent 08.00am Holy Communion (1662) 10.00am Holy Communion

Readings:

Guy Boney: Exodus 20.1-17 Linda Aucock: John 2.13-22

10th March- Mothering Sunday 10.00am Morning Worship

Readings:

Pollyann Monk: *Ephesians 2.1-10* Louise Causer: *John 3.14-21*

17th March– Fifth Sunday of Lent 10.00am Holy Communion with Baptism

Readings:

David Evans: *Jeremiah 31.31-34* Linda Aucock: *John 12.20-33*

24th March—Palm Sunday United Holy Communion Service 10.00am Holy Communion (Churches Together) (commencing at the Methodist Church at 9.40 am)

Readings: Christians Together Alan Vaux: Acts 10.34-43 Alwena Rowe: Mark 11.1-11

28th March—Maundy Thursday 7.00pm Agape Meal Service in the Parish Church

29th March—Good Friday 10.00am Hour by the Cross 31st March—Easter Day 10.00am Family Holy Communion *Readings*:

David Pye: 1 Corinthians 15.1-11 Sandie Pepperell: John 20.1-18

Methodist Church

3rd March

10.30am Rev Bib Kitching Holy Communion

10th March-Mothering Sunday 10.30am Rev Peter Rayson All age worship

17th March

No morning service 3.00pm Messy Church

24th March—Palm Sunday
9.40am at Methodist Church to process

to Parish Church at 10.00am

24th March—Good Friday
3.00pm Rev Peter Rayson
Service followed by tea

31st March—Easter Sunday 10.30am Mr Graham Hepburn

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

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

The Minister has the last word

This issue of The Gauntlet is the Easter issue. Many of you will have already noticed that Easter is very early this year although occasionally it can be even earlier. Easter and Christmas are the two most important annual celebrations for Christians and you might well wonder why Christmas is conveniently fixed while Easter inconveniently moves around.

I am happy to be able to tell you why. Every year Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the first full moon following the spring equinox. So now you know when, but I suspect that you may still be asking why. Strange as it may seem, there is logic to this calculation. To begin with, Easter is celebrated on a Sunday because Sunday, the first day of the week, is the day on which Jesus came back to life. Indeed, this is why church services are usually held on Sundays; every Sunday is a mini-Easter. Being on a fixed day of the week, this immediately means that it can't be on the same date every year but you will probably have noticed that Easter moves by far more than just one week. This is because the events of Good Friday and Easter Day are also closely linked to the Jewish Passover celebration. The eve of Passover is on the 14th of Nisan every year according to the historic Jewish calendar. This calendar is far older than ours and is not based on the sun but the moon, with a month running from new moon to new moon. The 14th Nisan is therefore always a full moon. To keep this link, Easter was made the Sunday after this date and, because the length of a year is not an exact number of lunar months, the date moves each year. For various reason, in the fourth century, the Church decided to remove the link between Passover and Easter and the spring equinox was used instead and that is where we have been ever since.

Now you understand why, you might still be asking yourselves why we couldn't just choose a Sunday around the right date and fix Easter like we do Christmas. You would not be the first to ask this and there were several attempts to do so in the twentieth century. The Roman Catholics agreed in 1963 the principle that Easter could be a fixed date and long as everyone could agree on the date and that, perhaps not surprisingly, was as far as it got. Almost everyone agreed that it could be fixed but they could not agree on when. Efforts are still being made to reach agreement but I'm not confident that they will succeed.

While I hope that, like me, you find this history interesting we do need to remember that what really matters in not when we celebrate Christmas and Easter. What really matters is that we do celebrate them because between them, they are the two most important events in God's relationship with creation. In Jesus, God came to earth as a human being; in Jesus, God died a human death; in Jesus, God defeated death and offers to us all everlasting life through him.

In the name of God, may I wish you all a peaceful Lent and a joyful Easter.

The Reverend Peter Rayson Methodist Superintendent Minister, Winchester and District Circuit

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The Somborne & District Society

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