DECEMBER 2025

BENTWORTH, LASHAM, AND SHALDEN PARISH MAGAZINE

St. Mary's Bentworth; St. Mary's Lasham; St. Peter and St. Paul Shalden

Dear Friends

I am so accustomed to using my satnav that I'm not sure I could use a road map very well anymore. I certainly couldn't follow a star like the wise men in our Christmas story. They had tremendous faith that their journey was leading them towards something wonderful. Matthew tells us when they saw the star they were overjoyed that they had found Jesus.

This Advent we still follow that star faithfully and we are assured of joy when we find Jesus. He is there for the finding.

We can follow the star each day starting from where ever we find ourselves.

We keep our eyes on a fixed point and steer our course accordingly. If we get sidetracked the star still shines brightly and we can find our way back on to the true path.

The star brings us to where Christ is born

in each new day and he gives us new life.

We can follow the star by reading our Bibles. The Bible is one way God speaks to us. We read stories about his faithfulness to his people and how he loves them with a constant parental love. We read about the life of Jesus, and hear him speak to us. We can hear God's promises and step into them. And then there are the letters of the first followers that teach and encourage us. I love Isaiah and the Psalms in which we can see the reflection of all our inner struggles and we can draw comfort and courage when we may feel we have lost heart.

We follow the star by praying (that's just talking honestly with God), listening and asking ourselves what does our prayer time suggest to us. God promises he listens to us.

We follow the star through loving others who are close to us so we can be a positive presence in their lives.

We follow the star through practical service, often invisible to others but never to God. He appreciates our efforts as we humbly choose to quietly clean, cook, prepare, visit or a myriad of other things. It is almost a physical way of following seen by no one but delighting our father who sees us and who labours in the field beside us.

We follow the star through loving our neighbour and when we obey commands that we don't feel capable to do in our own strength .

We follow the star across deserts, over mountains, in beautiful green fields with the sun shining and through fierce storms we think will never end.

The star that settled over Bethlehem beckoned people who were not Jews, people from far away, who did not seem to obviously fit into the 'people of God'.

In a sense, not only do we follow the star, but we also point people to it so they can follow the star themselves.

Matthew reminds us what happens when we reach the star and find Christ:

"The wise men bowed down and worshiped him and they opened their treasures and gave them to the infant Jesus."

X

I look forward to following the star with you this advent.

X

Jon Rooke



THE VILLAGER

the editor

Please send copy for the January Magazine to your Village Correspondent, or the Editor to villager@candj.me.uk, by noon on Monday 8th December.

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Again we have new advetisers, on pages 6 and 22.

Happy Christmas to all our readers



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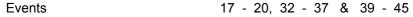
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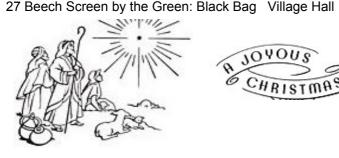


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BENTWORTH

BENTWORTH CARE GROUP

Jackie Crawford

The members on duty for medical appointments in December are:



Sarah Whitley 562188.; David Eyre-Brook 07702 492 509 **Poo Madge 617003**



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We are also happy to pick up prescriptions and do shopping for those unable to do so themselves.

THE MUCK IN COFFEE MORNING

As always there will be no Coffee Mornings over Christmas: December 22nd and 29th. So come and meet friends and enjoy coffee or tea with lots of biscuits on Mondays December 1st, 8th and 15th, for just £1, most of which goes to charity. 10.30 – 11.30am Thank you to Emma and David Wiggin for the use of their lovely barn at Parsonage Farm. Happy Christmas to all.



WELCOME TO BENTWORTH



Jackie Crawford

Welcome to Monique and Rupert who have moved into Farm Cottage (next to Nigel and Anne) from London. They have 3 children Saskia and Ellie who are no longer at home and son Max who is finishing his 'Masters' at Uni and will no doubt be descending periodically with friends and laundry in tow!

Monique and Rupert love sports and would be very interested to join the village cycling group. We hope also to see them at our weekly coffee morning and our next village film night.

BENTWORTH GARDEN CLUB



On Tuesday 28th October we gathered at the Millenium Hall for our end of season social. This year we did an afternoon get together for a change, this seemed a good idea as we had a pretty good turn out.

So instead of canapés and nibbles we enjoyed some delicious cake homemade by Emma, Poo and Sarah. With lashings of tea, and everyone was happy.

Poo had devised a cunning picture quiz, that got everyone warmed up. Di Blatchford was the delighted winner.

Then came the torture, Garden Quiz time with plants to identify and anagrams to solve everyone was kept busy. There were tricky ones and easy ones

(Well I would say that - I set the questions!)

The winning team was The Snowdrops: Barry, Valerie, David, Gillian and Charlie

They won some lovely tulip bulbs - so obviously they scurried home to plant them.

We wish everyone in the Garden Club and beyond a very Happy Christmas and the committee will be getting together soon to plan the calendar for 2026.

Happy Gardening everyone

BENTWORTH HARVEST PICNIC 17th October 2025 Jenny Lewis &Simon Houston

Simon Houston and I would like to thank everyone who came to the Harvest Picnic in the Jubilee Hall. It was wonderful to see many of the new arrivals in Bentworth and some who had left the village but returned for the event, attending. It gave people a chance to make new friends and catch up with longer standings ones. A welcome glass of bubbles or fruit juice was offered to everyone on arrival. As in the past the range of picnics was incredible, from sandwiches to stuffed baked potatoes and varieties of salads. All those who attended were asked to make a small contribution to the evening in envelopes left on the tables – in cash – and after expenses we found we had £201 which will be passed to a charity, which has yet to be decided on but we will let everyone know who we have chosen.

Laura Bellm provided lovely displays of autumn leaves and flowers on the stage and all the tables and she also gave 6 bottles of apple juice made from fruit in her garden as one of the raffle prizes. Thank you Laura.

Simon attained some amazing prizes for the draw. These included a fruit and vegetable hamper from Covent Garden, a visit to Hattingley winery, a voucher from the Sun for supper.

Julian Lewis brought us up to date with the latest farming news and Richard Hill spoke about the fortunes of the Bentworth Cricket Club, they are always looking for new members. Nick Bolsover then reminded everyone that someone who was brought up in the village was about to complete an extraordinary feat. Jess Rowe together with Miriam Payne were on a record-breaking, non-stop, unsupported row across the Pacific Ocean, from Peru to Cairns, Australia, approximately 8,000 miles in 167 days. It was anticipated that they would arrive in Perth the morning after our event. They will be the first all-female crew to complete this journey. Amazing.

Thank you to 'Fred' who lent us her vast array of tablecloths for the evening and again to everyone who came. We look forward to seeing you next October to celebrate the end of harvest 2026.





BENTWORTH FILM NIGHT - Update

Sue Brooking

On Friday 14th November, we gathered in the Jubilee Hall to watch the hugely enjoyable film, **Mr. Burton**. We would like to offer our thanks to all those who came out to see the film and were really delighted that everyone enjoyed the evening. It is so important that we can continue to show films in the school hall. We really appreciate your support, without which we could not continue to stage these film nights. Not only are the films entertaining but the social gathering aspect of the evening is equally or perhaps more important.

We have just received a list of the new set of films available for screening and wanted to let you know that we will holding the next film nights in January and March 2026.

We are intending to show **Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale** in January and then **I Swear** in March. Full details of dates will be in the January issue of the Villager.

Please see below a brief summary of these two films and recent reviews to whet your appetite.

Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale (planned for January 2026)

When Lady Mary finds herself in a public scandal and the family faces financial trouble, the household grapples with the threat of social disgrace. The Crawleys must embrace change with the next generation leading Downton Abbey into the future.

Perfect for a bit of escapism in January?

"With a profound embrace of the changing times and clever winks at Downton devotees, writer Julian Fellowes and director Simon Curtis deliver a heart-swelling conclusion." Variety

"Just like the previous film, this is a solid send-off for the whole Downton saga, with everyone — upstairs and downstairs — getting their moment to shine, leaving you with a tear in your eye and a warmth in your cockles." Empire

I Swear (planned for March 2026)

The true-life story of John Davidson. Diagnosed with Tourette's at 15, targeted as insane by his peers, he struggled with a condition few had witnessed. Campaigning for Tourette's as an adult, he was awarded an MBE by the Queen in 2019.

This film has great reviews

"A terrifically warm, generous film." The Guardian

"It is a drama with three-dimensional people, facing three-dimensional problems and dealing with them... I absolutely loved it." Mark Kermode

"Just lovely. Tourette syndrome has not been afforded its cinematic dues, but what an affable, funny character to explore it with in John Davidson -- and what a performance from Robert Aramayo." Empire

BENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL Christmas Tree Decorating

Sunday 7 December 12 noon

Once again, the Parish Council is putting up a Christmas Tree on the village green.

Please come and join us, along with your children, and help decorate the tree.

There will be mulled wine and mince pies for all that attend and something more suitable for the little ones.

We look forward to seeing you.

Nikki White Councillor



Bentworth Parish Council Newsletter

Nikki White - Councillor

Councillors will be delivering the Parish Council newsletter in early December. It will be full of articles about the village and in addition we will be including a residents survey.

This is your opportunity to have your say about what you consider to be the main priorities for the Parish Council to concentrate on. Responses can be either via a post box or email. Details will be included in the newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Scheduled meeting dates may be subject to change or additional meetings of the Council may be called to deal with urgent matters (e.g., planning applications) as necessary. These will be advertised on the Notice Boards and the Website.



Cate Baynton

Lasham Church celebrated its Harvest Festival service on Sunday 5th October.

Peter Owen-Jones led the service, ably assisted by our churchwarden, Sarah Miskella. The church looked resplendent, due to the efforts of Sue Jamieson and her flower arranging team.

Thanks to all those who contributed to making this such a special service.











LASHAM COFFEE MORNING

Anthea Del Mar

When asked how her cakes are always both delicious and beautiful, Sandra says she really doesn't know, she always does the same thing. Well, so do I, and mine always come out squashed flat and tasting pretty indifferent, but luckily Sandra was our hostess for the November coffee morning. The cake, the biscuits, the cheese flapjacks and mini hot sausage rolls were all memorable.

However, the conversation is always great, whatever the standard of catering, and the atmosphere was excellent. Tony and Sandra's extension came into its own, providing a very good sitting area. Many thanks to them both, and to Amanda who produced numerous cups of coffee and tea.

If anyone would like to volunteer as a hostess please step forward. It really is not too onerous, people are very appreciative, and it would be good to have some more venues.

The next coffee morning will be on January 6th 2026. Nothing in December as the Christmas Bazaar is on November 30th and to have a coffee morning the next day seemed excessive.



















SHALDEN



St PETER & St PAUL GUILD OF MARTHA

December

6 Jane Shirvell / Lin Baxter

13 Karen Saponaro / Lynne Hignett

20 Michele Rankin / Kirsty Ennever 27 Rozanne Wilson / Rosalind Ommanney

January 2026

3 Jane Shirvell / Lin Baxter

10 Karen Saponaro / Lynne Hignett

17 Michele Rankin / Kirsty Ennever

24 Rozanne Wilson / Rosalind Ommanney

31 Debbie Todd / Silvia Blake

SHALDEN REMEMBERS

Peter Rankin

Kirsty Ennever

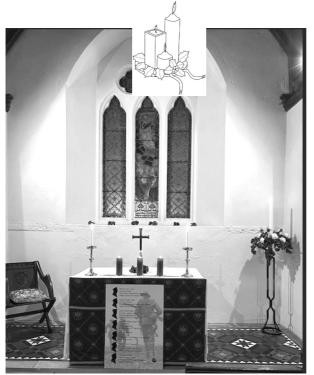
Shalden's Remembrance Sunday Service is traditionally in the evening, this year on 9th November, with a good turn out from Shalden. This year it was led by our good friend Revd. Peter Owen-Jones with readings from Ben Jones (ex- Royal Tank Regiment) and Henry Wilson (ex-Irish Guards), who also recited Wilfred Owen's 'Dulce et Decorum Est' a moving poignant anti-war poem that exposes the harsh reality of World War I.

The address by Peter Owen-Jones cited an actual case reflecting on our first reading from Micah, where swords / guns were actually turned into ploughshares in the peace following the Mozambique civil war in the 1970's and suggested how we may all contribute to peace in our hearts.

Henry also made the Act of Remembrance and laid the church wreath for Shalden's seven fallen under the war memorial at the back of the church. This was accompanied by a wreath laid on behalf of Shalden Parish Council by Counsellor Mark Green and one on behalf of the EHDC by Peter Rankin.

Thanks also to Michele for the poppy pedestal next to the altar and Kirsty for the display in the porch, not forgetting lan and Loraine Champness for tidying up our Commonwealth War Grave in the churchyard.

We will always remember them









MICHAEL CAMPBELL

From Henry and Rozanne Wilson

Having been away when the November villager was being prepared, we are very grateful to be allowed to add our thoughts on dear Michael, whose loss is such a blow to us and so many.

What a special man he was! Hugely generous, always constructive, full of positive ideas, truly caring, the best of company and a natural leader. His MBE was well overdue and hugely deserved given his long-standing and positive participation in Treloars, village affairs and many other good causes.

It has been a privilege and pleasure to have known him. He has been an example to us all.

Our hearts go out to Linda and his family. RIP

SHALDEN QUIZ NIGHT!

Helen Hilditch

The first Autumn quiz of 2025 was held on Friday the 24th of October, with a fantastic turn out of 7 teams and 42 quizzers! The competition for most elaborate food and beverages has begun, with many a tasty platter on display!

The Tap room was open, serving **fff** beer on tap and a selection of ciders, beer, lager, wines and soft drinks

It was a brilliant evening, raising funds of £248 toward the Shalden Fireworks, which was gratefully received.

The theme of the quiz was Autumn, Halloween and Bonfire Night, with tricky questions and a fiendish picture round of topical dingbats!

The overall prize of a case of wine was won by Team Crumble Corner, 4 points ahead of The Bee Team, and team "I've No Idea" who were relegated to 3rd place on countback.

A quick game of Heads or Tails for the losing teams members to contest rounded out the evening.

The next quiz was held on Friday 21st of November. A Tap Room village Christmas social evening is planned for <u>Friday the 19th of December</u>, please do add this to your diary and come along for a jolly evening of drinks and snacks.

The first quiz of 2026 will be on Friday the 20th of February, following the traditional and brilliant Music Quiz in January.

The more teams, the more prizes there are on offer!

Please contact Helen to book your table or if you would like to join a team;

E: helen_hilditch@hotmail.com

T: 07947 881 464











SHALDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Katherine Horton Clerk to Council

The Parish Council's next meeting is Wednesday 14th January. PC meetings start at 7:30pm and take place in Shalden Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

The CHURCH

BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Ellie Elder

We are excited to say that our new Benefice Administrator started on Monday 17th November - a big warm welcome to Abbie Coles. We are really looking forward to Abbie being part of the team.

CHARITIES

SPOTLIGHT ON A LOCAL CHARITY

Jane Slater (Trustee)

The Tantum Trust is not very known in our villages yet a proportion of it's funds is given to local families in desperate need. The charity has been established since 1992 and was the brainchild of local businessman, Carl Tantum. Carl and I worked together for around 10 years and I became a trustee of this charity a few years ago. Some of what I see seems a million miles from the idyll of living in Lasham.

What started as a table top sale in Bordon has grown to be 4 charity shops and the profits from these shops provide grants to the poorest families in our community. The families in need, make applications through an agency such as the CAB, their children's school or GP surgery. Typically those applying are living on very low incomes and in some cases have been rehomed after having to flee a scene of domestic violence. The charity's Trustees vet each application, ensuring that the funds raised can be distributed as effectively as possible. Many of the requests are for essential household items such as cookers and fridges, but the requests are varied and the charity has helped with such things as car repairs, rent arrears and essential therapy sessions. Sadly in the last few years there has been an increased need for child mental health support and language development.

The charity is small but very effective. Funds raised are from items that may otherwise go into landfill, the shops provide a valuable local resource in Bordon, Liphook, Grayshott and Haslemere and most of the staff and all of the trustees are volunteers. Funds get to those in need quickly and the charity never gives out money but always sources the best cost for any item needed and organises it's prompt delivery.

Christmas time is a busy time for The Tantum Trust as they distribute food vouchers via local schools to the children identified as the most in need. This year it is expected that around 1500 children will benefit from their parents being given Sainsburys or Tescos vouchers to help buy some extra food over the festive period.

As a trustee I see some desperate cases come across our desk for consideration and it's harrowing to think that within our small geographical region there are some living in such extreme poverty.

The Tantum Trust has distributed nearly £1.5m over the years and has also funded and laid on educational programs to teach families how to cook healthy food on a budget. We are always looking for help: Quality donations for the shops, financial donations, volunteers and trustees. We also want to make sure that anyone in desperate need can come to us (via an agency) for support. www.thetantumtrust.co.uk

GENERAL INTEREST

WILD LIFE Diana Tennyson

COP30, Climate Summit: This year the Summit is being held in Brazil and delegates from all over the world have travelled to Belem, Brazil, for two weeks of negotiations, discussions and global collaboration which will be focused on tackling the climate crisis with urgency. The purpose of COP30 we are told is to accelerate the implementation of the 'Paris Agreement's climate goals by focusing on action and accountability'.

One of the reasons why I decided not to stand again as a district councillor back in May 2023 was because the climate change panel at EHDC was dissolved and our 'natural environment' sub-group therefore no longer existed. Now there is a complete change for local Government. Returning to the 'Paris Agreement', its key objectives include finalizing the rules for carbon markets, scaling up climate solutions, and a just transition to a green economy', while also highlighting and supporting the need for climate finance and adaptation to support vulnerable countries.

Looking at this objectively we are covering 'mitigation, adaption and means of implementation'. We need to transition energy in terms of our industry and transport, take care of our forests, oceans and biodiversity, transform agriculture and our food production, and build resilience for cities, infrastructure and water.

Hurricane Melissa: The recent hurricane, Melissa, caused widespread devastation in Jamaica. This was an extremely powerful, erratic and catastrophic tropical cyclone which became the third-most intense hurricane on record. I think we all gasped whenever we saw what residents were enduring. Living in the northern hemisphere we tend to experience fewer problems with climate change at present. Justin Rowlatt, the UK's first climate change editor, explained that this storm was unusual in its intensity and ferocity. There will be more storms but they will not be as powerful and damaging as Melissa.

Paul Ciniglio: One person who spoke to everyone at EHDC about the sad state of our buildings is Paul Ciniglio, Head of Whole Home Retrofit. He spends much of his time working on the 'Superhomes' network having co-created 'the SuperHomes Rating Scheme'. Paul is an acknowledged expert and 'inspirational leader' in the field of sustainability, and joined Boulter Mossman in 2017. He has retrofitted his own home by installing insulation, solar panels, a ground source heat pump and double glazing. All new homes now have to aspire to these guidelines, but be careful if you are thinking of buying a new property granted planning permission before 2024, as it may still come with a gas boiler! I am looking at properties with triple glazing, ground source heat pumps and solar panels. Any power generated from solar panels is sold back to the national grid and the homeowner benefits.

Gardens: Unfortunately most new homes have very small gardens, but they often provide an allotment area, so most people with time on their hands can enjoy constructing raised beds and producing some seasonal food for their families. It is important that small children learn to plant seeds and grow fruit and vegetables. Gardeners World has over the last twelve months focused more on children who also enjoy growing their own produce.

SUDS: I have mentioned 'sustainable urban drainage systems' before. Originally only the Cala Homes site in Lymington Bottom Road had one, but last year it remained as dry as a bone. The Azalea estate off Boyneswood Road escaped one, and so did Medstead Farm, so why does every planning application include one to help ensure there is no run-off and prevent flooding on local roads? I very much doubt it. I have had to flag up flooding issues in Alton Lane to planners on several occasions. We only need a torrential downpour of an hour or more, a 'cloudburst' and rainwater flows straight down to the Primary School where collect small children. A friend sent me a it wreaks havoc when parents are trying to

picture of Porlock Hill this summer, now here you would expect problems if creating too many flat surfaces at the top of a steep hill. A SUDS just outside Swaffham, Norfolk



Old Down Woods: I have received pictures from residents of tree felling at Old Down Woods off Brislands Lane. We expected some thinning out but were surprised by the number of trees removed.



Ropley, a Conservation Area: I have been asked why Ropley has been designated as a conservation area. Several reasons spring to mind, but mainly due to its heritage assets. It has a number of listed buildings, and even the primary school is mentioned as a positive contributor. It also mentions St. Peter's churchyard and it has a historic

pond used for watering livestock. The village character includes features such as walls made from brick and flint, and traditional gates. Hall Place is also mentioned, a handsome building, as well as Gardeners Cottage. I have been contacted about a number of planning applications in Ropley, one quite close to the rear of St. Peter's Church where residents were concerned for Dormice, but this would be part of the ecological survey. Ropley could also be adversely affected by flooding if too many developments are approved in Four Marks creating more hard surfaces, and heavy rainfall also flows downhill to Ropley often flooding parts of the A31.



EVENTS



CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

in aid of the Hampshire Medical Fund

12th December – 7.30pm Winchester Cathedral

The 'Celebration of Christmas' concert is taking place at Winchester Cathedral on Friday 12th December. It is a magical evening of readings, carols and beautiful music raising money for local charity, the Hampshire Medical Fund, which funds cutting-edge medical equipment at our local NHS hospitals. Tickets cost from £20.

Visit www.hampshiremedicalfund.org/events for more information or tickets.

THE CURTIS MUSEUM AND ALLEN GALLERY

Jill Line

Jo McGivern

OPENING TIMES Tuesday to Saturday Curtis 10am – 4.30pm. Allen 10.30 – 4pm [Please note the Gallery and Museum will be **closed on Sundays** until further notice] www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery

ALLEN GALLERY

The Allen Gallery in Church Street, Alton was successful in receiving funding from multiple sources, including the National Lottery Heritage Fund, East Hampshire District Council and Alton Town Council for a redevelopment. The redevelopment project started in May 2025 and the project team at Hampshire Cultural Trust are now planning for the scheduled capital works to begin in early 2026.

This ambitious project will transform the Allen Gallery into a more welcoming, accessible and inspiring space for everyone, with new displays, a dedicated community area, and a programme of ceramics-inspired creative workshops and activities for all ages.

The schedule of capital works being undertaken will mean **a period of closure** for this work to be carried out which will be as follows:

End of December 2025: The Allen Gallery closes to the public

Throughout 2026: work is carried out at the venue

Early 2027: The gallery will reopen to the public.

During the closed period there will be a range of community programmes and creative activities, much of which will take place at the **Curtis Museum** and other local venues. These will include family workshops, volunteering opportunities, and special events designed to bring people together and celebrate Alton's heritage.

To find out more about this programme and to keep up to date with the project please visit Allen Gallery | Hampshire Cultural Trust.

Volunteer opportunities

Now the nights are drawing in and outdoor pursuits don't seem quite so attractive as they did during the long, hot summer, why not become a volunteer at the Curtis Museum? It's indoors, you meet some really nice people, and you can learn a bit of local history at the same time. We are also looking for volunteers to help with the ongoing Allen Gallery Project (see above). Training will be given for helping to pack, move and catalogue the collection. And eventually to re-site the artefacts once the Gallery is up and running in its new form.

Once a week, once a month or just occasionally, - we would love to hear from you.

For more details, please contact manager Ian Grierson on 01420 82802 or ian.grierson@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk or drop in and have a chat with the volunteers on duty.

Talk sponsored by the Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery.

Mediaeval Women, by Caroline Stapleton, 13th November, 7.30pm, Allen Gallery.

FREE. donations welcome.

Next year, talks will be held in the Community Centre.

CURTIS MUSEUM

Saxons v Vikings - Follow our **activity trail** with two routes, Saxons or Vikings? Choose a side and join its boot camp on this fun family trail.

Make a Shield to blend in with your chosen team.

Only £2 per shield with craft materials provided.

4th November - 29th November 10am - 4.30pm.

Mediaeval Christmas

We're travelling back in time this Christmas, to mediaeval Alton. From the Saxons to the Normans, discover the origins of many of the traditions we still do today. Join us for a free activity trail, make and take crafts, and a communal Christmas decoration.

2nd December - 3rd January, 10am - 4.30pm.

Christmas Craft Club

17th and 31st December , 11am -3pm (drop in). Festive make and take crafts £2 per child, 5th craft free.



ALTON ORGAN SOCIETY

Elspeth Mackeggie Gurney

There are times when an organ concert performance takes your breath away both with choice of programme and the delivery skill of the organist. That time occurred on Tuesday 4 November 2025 when lain Farrington delivered the most polished, technically brilliant and

moving concert. The first part of lain's programme consisted of compositions by four well known and distinguished French organists. Alexandre Guilmant was renowned for revising old classics composed, in this case, by Handel. Originally a minuet, his Grand Choeur in D was a big, bold and grand sound that was the perfect start. Dupré's "Cortege et Litanie"; followed: a hymn like work which uses plainsong as one of the two themes and which blended together in a climactic end as the "procession" reached its destination. Widor is famous for his bold and popular Toccata from his 5th organ Symphony.

However, lain played a completely contrasting piece, the slow and romantic "Andante sostenuto" from Widor's Symphonie Gothique. The last of the French pieces was the well-known and well loved "Finale" (Symphony No 1) by Louis Vierne who was organist a Notre Dame. Paris from 1900 until his death in 1937.

There followed something completely different as we moved to England and witnessed the most beautiful compositions by the organist himself. Titled "Lay my burden down", lain composed five African-American spirituals 11 years ago. The second piece - "Sometimes I feel like a motherless child" was dedicated to his late mother who died on the day he was involved with the 2012 Olympics hosted in London. It was very moving and, clearly written from the heart. Iain's arrangement of "Amazing Grace" was heavily influenced by Aretha Franklin's rendition in the 1970s. It was quite a long piece but so full of gorgeous bluesy chords and was also inspired by lain's love of gospel music. He ended this collection of pieces with a technical and joyful uplift in "Every time I feel the spirit".

The applause was overwhelming. Iain's concert was the most memorable given by a talented musician combining organ playing of the highest professional standard with exquisite compositions filled with harmonic extremes, jazzy rhythms and superb musicianship.

Our next recital is:

December 2^{nd} – **Peter Wright** – formerly organist of Southwark Cathedral. Peter's programme includes the stunning "Prelude & Fugue in E minor" by J S Bach (The Wedge), Cesar Franck's "Piece Heroique" as well aspieces by Muffat, de Grigny, Floe Peeters & Richard Popplewell.

Refreshments are available from 7.30pm & the recital starts at 8.00pm. Tickets cost £12;

We look forward to welcoming you on December 2nd – if you don't come along, you won't' know what you might be missing!



CHRISTMAS CONCERT - Hart Male Voice Choir Wed, 3rd December 2025 – 19:00

St, Lawrence Church, Alton Price: £15



Join us for to welcome in the festive season with a Christmas Concert from the Hart Male Voice Choir at the Church of St Lawrence, Alton, GU34 2BW, Wednesday 3 December, 7pm.

Your ticket includes the concert, mulled wine (or apple juice) and mince pies – which will be served during the interval.

At checkout when buying your adult ticket(s), you can also buy child ticket(s).

NB: There are no actual physical tickets for this event. Your receipt or email receipt are sufficient and your name will be on the event attendees list.

THE SCREEN BY THE GREEN, BEECH

Joanna Curtis

Saturday 6th December

National Theatre Live: The Fifth Step (15) 2pm and 7pm (Doors 1:30pm and 6:30pm) Bookings: beechvillage.org.uk/events

Saturday 27th December

(15) Black Bag 7:30pm (Doors 7pm)

Bookings: beechvillage.org.uk/events



Trust and Traitors: December at the Screen by the Green

December brings secrets and shocking revelations to Beech Village Hall as trust hangs in the balance.

First up, Saturday 6th December: National Theatre Live's **The Fifth Step** (15) with Martin Freeman and Jack Lowden. What starts as AA mentorship over coffee turns into confession territory nobody expected. Two showings: 2pm and 7pm.

Then Saturday 27th December: **Black Bag** (15) starring Cate Blanchett and Michael Fassbender in Steven Soderbergh's stylish spy thriller. When married intelligence agents hunt a mole, trust becomes the ultimate weapon. Evening screening 7:30pm – the ideal post-Christmas escape.

From recovery room revelations to espionage deceptions, December keeps you guessing.

Advance Tickets: Fifth Step £14, Black Bag £7 | beechvillage.org.uk/events Cabaret seating • Licensed bar • Free parking

Beech Village Hall, 1 Wellhouse Road, Beech, Alton GU34 440

MERRY CHAIST MAS

CLUBS

ALTON ALTON CAMERA CLUB

Renee Smith

Over the last few weeks we've been treated to inspiring speakers who've shared their passion for photography along with their advice and tips. Jon Hawkins, a skilled freelance photographer, offered a captivating and entertaining presentation showcasing his stunning images of British wildlife, many of which were taken in the local Surrey and Hampshire countryside. With years of experience capturing the beauty of nature across the UK, Jon shared expert insights, amusing behind-the-scenes stories and practical photography tips.

Our second talk was by Richard Brayshaw FRPS, a Surrey based photographer who concentrates on photography as a visual art. Through his photography, Richard encourages new ways of looking and seeing, searching for hidden narratives and interpretations, encouraging the viewer to ask "How does it make me feel?".

We also had a visit from sports photographer Michael Berkeley who provided an insight into his life as a freelance sport photographer. Michael shared his 'Before, During and After' process of an assignment from preparation and the shoot itself, through to post production editing.

Competition-wise, the popular Mobile Phone Image competition was judged by Joe Bird. He awarded first place to Renee Smith's image 'Twisted Staircase', second place to

'Dolomiti' by Jason Bunce and third place to Barry Clark for





'Kimmeridge Ledge'.

Steve Smith's image 'Embers of the Sea' and Andrew Sorrell's 'By the Right - Dressing!' were

Highly Commended. Joe also judged the first round of the PDI (Projected Digital Image) competition. He awarded maximum marks of 10 to the following images 'Buzzard vs Rat' by Jo Hawkes,



Congratulations to our talented photographers.

'Contemplating My Next Move' by Paul Booker.





and 3 Lilies and a Bud' by Andrew Sorrell.





One of the most popular activities in our club are the bi-monthly field trips. At the start of October we returned to the New Forest to attend a Fungi Explorer Walk with Wild New Forest Guided Tours. Our guides spotted and identified a wide variety of fungi without picking or disturbing them and we learned about their fascinating ecology before going on to photograph them.

Jacqui Austin

beautifully

Later in the month we headed to London for a field trip. It was a

autumn day as we

Fungi field trip:

Lynne Harles

Kelvin Perry





photographed visitors to Comic Con at Excel and then took a boat trip along the Thames to Battersea Power Station. After lunch and a brief photography session, we got back on the boat and headed back downstream to Tower Bridge where we were lucky enough to see the bridge raised to

let a cruise ship through. Patrick Cooper

hone your

see

for



sunny

TO THE PARTY OF TH

Adrian Corser

photography skills and get out and about with like-minded enthusiasts, come and see what we're about! No obligation to join immediately, you can come along for a taster session or two. We meet every Wednesday, 7.30pm at Holybourne Village Hall and welcome new members of all

photographic levels. Please www.altoncameraclub.org.uk more details.

If you'd like to

Steve Emmerson





Anne Evison

Roy Roberts

THE ROTARY CLUB OF ALTON

Christmas Cheer for Ukraine

More than two hundred boxes of Christmas gifts for children are on their way to war-torn districts of Ukraine from the Alton area.



The collection of the gifts has been organised by Alton Rotary and then packed into shoeboxes. The boxes – one per child – include toys, dolls, books, games, jigsaws, drawing materials, hats, and gloves.

The boxes have been sorted to be appropriate for children of different ages.

Alton Rotary members packing Christmas boxes for children in Ukraine

Many of the boxes have been donated by the Ukrainian community in the Alton area, as well as by their hosts and friends. There have also been substantial group donations from pupils at Oakmoor Secondary School in Bordon and staff at Asmodee, a games company based in Bordon. The number of boxes -223 in all - is more than double the number sent to Ukraine last Christmas by Alton Rotary.

One of the organisers of the collection, Lisa Hillan, said the community response to the Christmas appeal had been excellent, and she thanked all who had donated boxes of gifts. She added, "Local people have really wanted to support our appeal this year — there's a strong sense of sympathy for the dreadful plight of families in Ukraine this Christmas."

Other Rotary clubs across Central Southern England have organised similar collections, and the 223 boxes from Alton will be part of a total of 19,000 boxes shipped to Ukraine from the region.

Find out more about Alton Rotary at

www.altonrotaryclub.uk
or call Mike Sanders on 0708 093953.







ASA https://www.tasalton.com/programme Vanessa MacMahon Forthcoming Lectures:

Tuesday 9th December: Graham Jones A Very Ceremonial Christmas

This very light-hearted lecture, looks at the various ceremonial events that take place around Christmas time. Carol services, concerts and even Changing

Lecture to be held at Martin Read Hall at Alton College 7:30pm

(doors open 6:45pm)

Tuesday 13th January 2026 Anthony Russell: The Virgins of the National Gallery

The National Gallery has an extraordinarily rich collection of images of the Virgin Mary, especially for a nation that formally broke the ties with the Church in Rome. It is sometimes argued that the presence of an omnipotent matriarch has always been important to this island's culture. This is an opportunity not only to enjoy these images for their great beauty but also to consider their varied intention and impact.

This lecture will be held at <u>Wessex Arts Centre</u> at Alton College commencing at 7:30pm (doors open 6:45pm)

MEDSTEAD

HAMPSHIRE FEDERATION OF WI - ROEDOWNS

Diana Constantine

At our November meeting our guest speaker was Trevor, who is a volunteer with Hampshire Search and Rescue. He gave a very thorough and informative talk all about their work. It's a registered charity which was set up in 2003, and has 131 members, with a wide age range and backgrounds. The volunteers support Hampshire and isle of Wight Constabulary with searches for vulnerable missing people. The volunteers are 'on call' 24

hours a day, and once a call out is initiated the members respond to confirm if they can attend or not. The criteria for involvement is set by the police, and is generally within Hampshire Each volunteer needs to pass various competencies such as fitness, safeguarding water safety, communication, navigation, health and safety, to name a few.

The dedication of these volunteers is an amazing addition to the work of the police.

Forthcoming meetings

3rd **December** Christmas table decorations

7th January Line dancing **4th February** Aromatherapy

Roedowns WI meet in the Wiltshire Room, Medstead Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 19.30hrs.

Guest speakers, outings and good company. Tea/coffee, biscuits, raffle and gift voucher prize at each meeting.

Visitors and new members are very welcome. Contact Secretary on

roedownssec@hampshire.org.uk or

President Jill Kerr 01420 564116.





'Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle' Luther Burbank

In November the club welcomed Helier Bowling as the speaker. Her presentation was on 'Building a Show Garden'. Helier lives in Medstead and her previous career was as a lawyer. She shared that she wasn't a trained gardener but had a passion for growing a cutting garden of flowers. She was approached by a company that makes greenhouses to grow flowers from seed and show them in a garden at Hampton Court Flower Show in July 2022. The finished garden looked stunning and she got a 5 Gold Star Award! After she trained as a Garden Designer getting a Diploma. She volunteered at Chelsea Flower show and showed another garden at Windsor Flower show getting a Silver Medal. This year she

and two other friends she met at college presented a garden on a balcony named 'Wild is the Wind' which was a Scottish Garden and they were sponsored by the Whisky Company Fettercairn. They were awarded a silver medal. Helier has certainly embraced gardening and become an accomplished Show Garden Designer. It was a great presentation of her work.



On 2nd December this month we have our AGM. We don't have a meeting in January but start our meetings again in February 2026!

If you want to join or attend as a guest please come along on 3rd February where we have Christian Dupont talking about 'Water in the Garden'

Gardening jobs for December-Rake up any remaining leaves, plant bare root roses, pile straw around base of tender shrubs and plants for protection, hard prune overgrown shrubs while they are dormant, prune climbing roses before February. Prune grapevines and clear ponds and water features of fallen debris.

Medstead Gardeners' Club wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a very Happy and Healthy New Year. Keep gardening!







NORTH HAMPSHIRE NATIONAL TRUST CENTRE (NHNTC)

Hugh Bethell

Last week, the **North Hampshire National Trust Centre (NHNTC)** hosted a successful recruitment event at **The Vyne**, combining a cream tea with a special "Regency Tour" of the property guided by volunteers.

The tour highlighted the house's two-part history. The Vyne was originally built as a

vast **Tudor palace** by **William Sandys**, Lord Chamberlain to **Henry VIII**, and was large enough to host the King, Catherine of Aragon, and Anne Boleyn. The Tudor Chapel and the Long Gallery survive from this era.

The house was radically changed in the 17th century when it was acquired by **Challenor Chute**, a lawyer and later Speaker of the House of Commons. He demolished much of the Tudor structure and added a **classical portico**, giving the house its Georgian look. A later Chute added the grand Palladian staircase.

The property was a local social hub and was frequently visited by novelist **Jane Austen** during the Regency period.

The recruitment event has attracted 17 new members. The NHNTC, with nearly 300 supporters, runs monthly events—winter talks and summer outings—and donates surplus funds to the National Trust for projects, primarily at The Vyne. New members are always welcome at just £8 per person or £13 for couples but membership is currently offered half price until the end of the financial year. To join go to the Centre's website: nhntc.com





CLUB CONTACTS

Medstead Bowls: Secretary Dennis Church 01420 564475

dennis@windhamhill.plus.com

Medstead Players: Tania McCullough chairman@medsteadplayers.co.uk or Secretary Julia Halls 07747 665 968; or publicity@medsteadplayers.co.uk

Medstead Tennis: www.medsteadtennisclub.org.uk

Alton Rotary: Roy Roberts 07768 070 572 Mike 07808 093 953

REGULAR FEATURES

Kim Ottridge

Broadlands Equine Therapy & RDA



We have had a very busy start to the Autumn as we welcomed back our local schools, regular and new participants and many visitors through our Tea with a Pony programme.

From Hay Nets to Sugar Rush!

What a month of weather roulette we've had. Not so long ago we were trudging out with armfuls of hay to keep the ponies happy as there was little grassnow we're playing grass police. The autumn flush has hit hard, and the fields have turned into an all-you-can-eat buffet of high-sugar grass!

Our ponies are looking a little too pleased with themselves, so the grazing is now strictly rationed.

As if that wasn't enough, Mother Nature also decided to gift us a bumper crop of

acorns. So, the oak trees in the big field are now officially off limits to our four legged friends



Wine Tasting

At the end of September, we enjoyed a wonderfully successful **Wine Tasting Evening** with Simon from *The Naked Grape*. Guests were welcomed with a sparkling wine on arrival, followed by five carefully selected wines — all vegan, to ensure everyone could enjoy the experience.

It was a fun, informative evening, and the wines were absolutely fabulous!



Trip to Liphook Equine Hospital

In early October, we organised a trip to Liphook Equine Hospital — and tickets sold out in record time! Those who attended had a fascinating visit. The hospital's vets and nurses generously shared their expertise and guided us on an in-depth tour of the facilities.

Celebrating 70 Years of Broadlands

This year marks our **70th Anniversary**, and what a celebration it has been! At the start of the year, we set ourselves an ambitious goal — to raise an additional **£30,000** on top of the **£120,000** we need annually to run the charity.



Thanks to everyone's incredible support — through events, donations, and even cake baking — we are delighted to say we've reached that target!

These funds have enabled us to purchase two of the ponies we hoped to add to our herd, and we're now searching for a third. Next on the list: ensuring they have the right tack and receive full training.

A heartfelt *thank you* from our Trustees, Staff, & Volunteers— we couldn't have done it without you.

2025 Christmas Cards

Our Christmas Card competition closed with a record number of entries this year. The four winning designs are currently with the printer and the cards will be on sale via our website within the next few weeks.

Upcoming Events

Friday 19th December Carols at Broadlands

For more information on our forthcoming events or becoming a regular supporter please visit www.broadlandsgrouprda.org.uk.

COUNTRY MATTERS

Julian Lewis

December 2025 - Maybe the world's climate is not heading for a catastrophe.

We have had a wonderful sunny and mostly dry spring, summer and start to the autumn which is illustrated by the rainfall figures. At the end of January 2025 the rolling 12 month rainfall was 1283mm (52 ins) which by the end of October had dropped to 743mm (30 ins). The rainfall we have had is just 58% of that at the start of the year – a dramatic change. The first day of November was very wet – 25.2 mm – but the rest of the month has had below average rainfall and the forecast to December is now mostly rainless – the dry period continues. To put this into perspective there have been similar falls and increases in previous years – it is a consequence of a maritime climate.

The autumn sown crops for harvesting in 2026 are looking superb – it could not have been a better autumn to establish crops with dryish soil but enough moisture to help germination and plant establishment. The weather forecast for the next week 17-24th November is for northerly winds and frost at night which will be ideal for killing aphids, reducing slug activity and controlling any disease on the crop leaves. The colder temperatures will also slow crop growth which is a good thing – lush crops tend to have more disease and also become too tall in the spring which can lead to lodging – the term describing when the crops fall over close to harvest.

My sheep are enjoying the mild autumn to date and now have plenty of grass to eat after the summer drought. Unfortunately, autumn grass is not very nutritious so the animals may have full stomachs but not they will only slowly improve their condition. The lambs will soon start being fed concentrate nuts which have a high energy level to improve their condition so that they can be marketed before Xmas.

Rising global temperatures are always near the top of news items. But why are the temperatures rising? A group of eminent scientists have concluded that the world's temperatures have always fluctuated and at the moment we are in a warming phase but man's actions are not the primary cause. Higher CO2 levels can actually be beneficial — warmer growing seasons have resulted in record world harvests from the longer growing seasons and higher CO2 levels — plants like CO2. The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports that precipitation has increased in mid latitude areas. Additionally,the IPCC has "low confidence" that there are negative trends globally

-rainfall over the world is not reducing although obviously some areas have droughts – but there always have been droughts. Below are a few notes about commonly perceived global warming scenarios.

The IPCC has "low confidence" that climate change is impacting levels of flooding – in fact it maybe that flooding – terrible though it is – is happening less frequently and is less severe. Conclusion - there will always be floods but the severity is unlikely to be increased by global warming. In the UK flooding receives huge publicity but is often caused by poor maintenance of rivers, waterways and building in unsuitable areas. IPCC studies show that in areas unaffected by human activity show very little increase in flooding. The IPCC also concludes that "evidence that increased flooding on a global scale is lacking".

Mountain snow cover is higher in the winter months but the warmer springs result in an earlier melt. In the US snow cover has increased since the 1960s with the exception of a period in the early 1980s.

Coral reefs are being bleached by pollution from the nearby land masses and not increasing temperatures – coral thrives in warm temperatures. Ironically one of the worst chemicals for damaging coral is oxybenzone – a sunscreen chemical used by humans! Corals have existed for 40 million years and have survived huge temperature and carbon dioxide level swings. Because of the warming seas coral is now being found further north and south of the equator – the areas with coral are increasing. The Australian Institute of Marine Science has documented that approximately 22% of coral on the Barrier Reef is bleached and close to land therefore at risk of pollution. The figure frequently used in the media of 93% of coral being bleached is NOT correct.

The Greenland ice sheet is slowly melting but in terms of the total the loss is miniscule and almost undetectable.

Most pacific islands are actually increasing in size and not shrinking. This is because rising sea levels bring with them increasing deposition of sand and sediment which is enough to counter the rising sea levels.

The world's oceans are not becoming acidic. Neutral is a pH of 7. The world's oceans have dropped since 1750 from a pH of 8.2 to 8.1 – the oceans are still very alkaline. The oceans prefer higher levels of CO2 – phytoplankton especially thrive with higher levels of CO2. Phytoplankton are the foundation of the marine food chain.

Sea levels have risen by at least 30 cms per century for hundreds of years – it is not a new phenomenon and are currently about 130 metres higher than in the last ice age.

The IPCC has agreed that "there is only low confidence for the attribution of any detectable changes in tropical cyclone activity" to human influence – ie cyclones and hurricanes have always occurred and their strength and frequency have not changed when viewed as average data over decades. Similarly, the number of recorded Tornados has actually dropped and the number of strong tornadoes has dramatically reduced.

Human settlements increase localised temperatures. Many temperature monitoring stations are close to urban settlements and therefore are recording higher temperatures but not from global warming but human activity within towns and cities. Sometimes the sensors are positioned next to roads with concrete and tarmac reflecting the heat to give false readings but these are used to build a (false) picture of global temperatures.

Polar bears! The numbers have increased in recent decades from 10000 in the 1950s to 39000 today. Polar bears have thrived in warmer global periods than we have now.

Hopefully as we approach 2026 we can be less concerned that the end of the world is nigh and be reassured that there have always been fluctuations in our climate and that maybe some of the weather stories in the media – terrible though they are – have always happened.

Modern media has the ability to report these events and show them in a way that was not possible even 40 years ago. There is a strong body of opinion from many highly qualified scientists that the doom scenario as portrayed by some is not inevitable. Look at the long term averages rather than one off events.

There has been a lot of fruit produced in our surrounding countryside this year - I hope that some of you have used the opportunity to make sloe gin to enjoy over the holiday period!

HAMPSHIRE FARMERS MARKETS

Alton Saturday 13th December

| Sunday 7th | Petersfield |
|---------------|-------------|
| Sunday 14th | Winchester |
| Saturday 20th | Ringwood |
| Sunday 21st | Southsea |



| Romsey |
|-----------|
| Emsworth |
| Alresford |
| Romsey |
| |

Markets open 10am until 2pm except Winchester which opens at 9am.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - ALTON LIBRARY

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------|-----------|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 9.30am to | 9.30am to | Closed | 9.30am to | 9.30am to | 9.30am to |
| 1.30pm | 5pm | | 5pm | 5pm | 5pm |

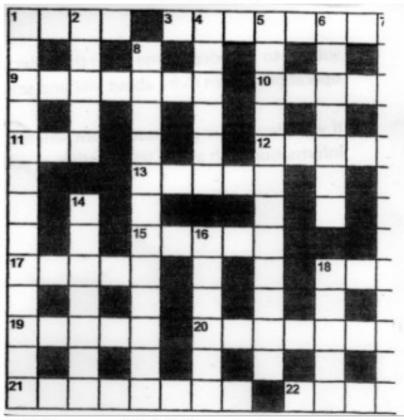
There is still time to join the Gilded Blooms: Wreath and Watercolour Workshop on Saturday 13th December 10am – 1pm. Do look at the info on page 35, or as at the Library.

BUS TIMETABLE run by Cresta Coaches of Alresford (01962 773236) only on Tuesdays and Fridays (NOT Saturdays) - **SERVICE 208**

| Alton High Street | 9.35 | 11.35 | 13.35 |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Beech Well House Road | 9.43 | 11.43 | 13.43 |
| Medstead War Memorial | 9.49 | 11.49 | 13.49 |
| Bentworth The Star | 9.55 | 11.55 | 13.55 |
| Alton High Street | 10.09 | 12.09 | |



CROSSWORD

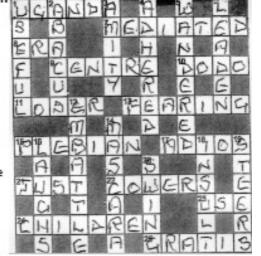


Clues Across

- 1. Finished
- 3. Haphazardly
- 9. Profess
- 10.Outshine
- 11.Groove
- 12.Soil
- 13.Next
- 15.Idiot
- 17.Angry
- 18.Nocturnal mammal 18.Numbers game
- 19. Ringworm
- 20. Taught
- 21. Belief
- 22. Ape

Clues Down

- 1. Timely
- 2. Heron
- 4. Newest
- 5. Favouring
- 8. Agreements
- 7. Lacking Zeal
- 8. Corporation
- 14.Cadet
- 16.Rural



EVENTS





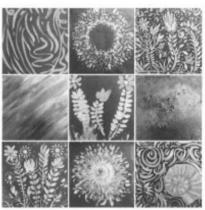


Saturday 6th December

National Theatre Live: The Fifth Step (15) 2pm and 7pm (Doors 1:30pm and 6:30pm) Bookings: beechvillage.org.uk/events







Gilded Blooms: Wreath and Watercolour Workshop Alton Library

Saturday 13 December 10am - 1pm

£28.50 tuition, plus £8 materials fee

Booking is essential, please visit

https://shop.hants.gov.uk/collections/learning-in-libraries to book your place. If you have issues booking online please contact branch staff or call 02392 232957



Screen by the Green **BLACK BAG Sat 27** Dec beechvillage.org.uk

Saturday 27th December

(15) Black Bag 7:30pm (Doors 7pm)

Bookings: beechvillage.org.uk/events

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

DEER **MANAGEMENT**

IN THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE

Saturday 17th January @ 6:30pm St Mary's Church, Lasham

FUNDRAISING EVENT

HOSTED BY:



Ticket Price: £10.50

Includes: Venison Burger & Brew

(tea, coffee, soft drink)



TOPICS INCLUDED:

Deer Species • Why Herd Management Venison Outlook

HAD Police Volunteer

BUY YOUR TICKET AT:

https://buytickets.at/stmaryschurchlasham/1940555

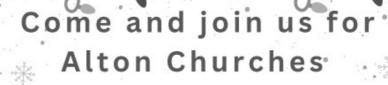
All proceeds to St Mary's Church, Lasham











POP-UP CAROLS

On a green space near

you 2025

Everyone is welcome



| www.harvestchurch.uk | www.resurrectionbenefice.org | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | | |

| Tuesday 10th | 7.00pm | Lingfield Close, Racecourse Estate |
|----------------|--------|--------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 10th | 7.30pm | The Butts Green |
| Tuesday 10th | 8.30pm | Alton Sports Centre |
| Wednesday 11th | 6.30pm | Hop Fields Estate |
| Thursday 12th | 6.30pm | Charrington Close, Rivermead Garder- |
| Friday 13th | 4.00pm | Lawns Care Home |
| Friday 13th | 5.30pm | Beech Village Hall |
| Friday 13th | 7.00pm | Ridgeway (between Lingfield Close ar |
| | | Fontwell Drive) |
| Monday 16th | 7.00pm | Vyne Close, Greenfields Estate |
| Tuesday 17th | 6.30pm | Selbourne Park |
| Tuesday 17th | 7.00pm | Holland Park |
| Thursday 19th | 2.00pm | Brendon Care |
| Thursday 19th | 6.30pm | Sandringham Close |
| Thursday 19th | 7.00pm | Barleyfields, nr Holybourne |
| Saturday 21st | 5.00pm | Lipscombe Rise |
| Monday 23rd | 7.00pm | The White Hart Pub, Holybourne |
| | | |







St Lawrence Church, Alton, GU34 2BW Sunday 14th December 2025 4pm

The Children's Society

Donations to
The Children's Society







Christmas Services 2025 BLS

Sunday 30th November

5pm BLS Altogether Service of Light St Mary's Church, Bentworth

Sunday 7th December

10am Communion Service St Mary's Church, Lasham 10am Communion Service St Peter & St Paul's Church, Shalden

Sunday 14th December

10am Advent Communion Service St Mary's Church, Bentworth

Saturday 20th December

5pm Carol Service St Mary's Church, Lasham

Sunday 21st December

10am Carol Service St Mary's Church, Bentworth

5pm Carol Service St Peter & St Paul's Church, Shalden

Christmas Eve

11.15pm Midnight Communion St Mary's Church, Bentworth

Christmas Day

10am Christmas Communion St Peter & St Paul's Church, Shalden

11am Christmas Communion St Mary's Church, Lasham www.resurrectionbenefice.org Benefice Office: office@potr-alton.co.uk

PARISH OF THE RESURECTION

Services for December 2025

7th December

8am BCP Holy Communion St Lawrence 10.30am POTR Alltogether St Lawrence 6pm Carol Service Holy Rood

14th December

9.15am Communion & Carols St Peter's

9.30am Morning Worship Holy Rood
10.30am Communion Service St Lawrence
3pm Carol Service All Saints
4pm Christingle St Lawrence
6pm Evening Prayer for vacancy St Lawrence

21st December

9.15am Communion Service St Peter's

10.30am Communion & Carols

St Lawrence

10.30am Communion Service All Saints

Wednesdays 10am Holy Communion All Saints (Not 31st December)

6pm 9 Lessons & Carols

24th December

3pm Crib Service Holy Rood 4pm Crib Service St Lawrence

10.00pm Midnight Communion

Holy Rood

11.15pm Midnight Communion

St Lawrence

25th December

8am BCP Holy Communion St Lawrence

9.15am Christmas Communion

St Peter's

9.30am Christmas Communion

Holy Rood

10.30am Family Christmas Communion
St Lawrence

11am Traditional Christmas
Communion All Saints

28th Dec

St Lawrence

10.30am GAP Communion St Lawrence





SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2025

BENTWORTH LASHAM MEDSTEAD SHALDEN

| 30th NOVEMBER – THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT | | | | |
|--|----------|---------|--|--|
| Parish Communion (CW) | | 11.00am | | |
| BLS Service of Light | 5.00p.m. | | | |

7th December - THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Purple

Holy Communion (CW) Holy Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW)



10.00a.m.

11.00a.m.

10.00a.m.

12th December St Andrew's Medstead Carol Singing in the Churchyard 6.30pm

14th December - THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Holy Communion (BCP) Advent Communion (CW)

10.00a.m.

8.00a.m.

Purple

20th December St Mary's Lasham Carol Service 5.00pm

21st December -THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Carol Service

Carol Service **Carol Service**

10.00a.m.

Purple

5.00p.m

5.00p.m

24th December - CHRISTMAS EVE

Christingle

Midnight Communion

Midnight Mass

11.15p.m.

4.00p.m.

11.30p.m.



25th December - CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas Communion Christmas Communion

Christmas Communion



11.00a.m.

11.00a.m.

28th December FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Cafe Church in the Hall

| 11.00a.m. |