

SEPTEMBER 2025

BENTWORTH, LASHAM, AND SHALDEN PARISH MAGAZINE

St. Mary's Bentworth; St. Mary's Lasham;

St. Peter and St. Paul Shalden

Dear Friends,

New shoes, new pencil cases, new bus passes and new uniforms are gathered, as a new term begins for all those in education. At the start of this new academic year, I wonder how many 'new starts' we might have had? Those who start in Year R and go on to university will have seventeen academic year starts in their lives.

There is something very special about starting a new school or college, entering a new class, fresh and ready to learn. Fresh starts are welcome, another day and another chance and opportunity to gain new knowledge and understanding!

The curriculum is set, lesson plans have been prepared and pupils will soon soak in the new material, we hope! But, of course, the classroom is not the only place of learning; some say they trained in the university of life, since life itself teaches us so much about the world around us, our place and role within our own settings. It is through interaction with others, that we learn about the values of life of care, love, self-control and more. As Christians, who follow the Christian faith, we are open to learn more about God, about how our faith helps us understand our lives and our place in the world. In the scriptures we find that God encourages learning, and that we should deepen our knowledge of the precious things of our faith.

We might feel we have previously failed or perhaps plateaued in learning, that we are now static. But God offers us a new start every day, "great is his faithfulness, his mercies are new every morning." Each day is his gift to us, a new start.

St Paul taught that God, who has begun his work in us will complete it and prayed that the 'eyes of our understanding would be enlightened' so that believers grasp the deeper truths of God's call and wonder of our salvation through Jesus.

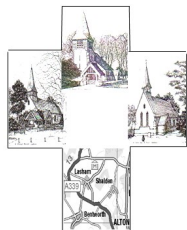
We are running an Alpha course this term and would love to welcome you to join on September 24th.

We'll begin with an introductory session called, "Is there more to life than this?" and look at topics such as, 'Who was Jesus?', 'Why did Jesus die?' and explore what it means to have faith, to pray, why the bible is important and other aspects of Christian life. Please see the advert for details.

Every blessing to you, as we begin a new term, a new season, whether in the classroom or just taking each day as another fresh start,

may God bless us in our walk with him.

David



THE VILLAGER

the editor

Please send copy for the **October** Magazine to your Village Correspondent, or the Editor to **villager@candj.me.uk**, by noon on **Wednesday 17th September**.

There is still lots going on in Alton and our villages, both in September and October. Do look at all the events that are happening.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUGUST

- To 13 Sept. Library Summer Reading Challenge: Story Garden Page 18
- 23 Music for Malawi for ACAN's Gumbi Project White Hart Holybourne 4–9pm
- 24 Cardiac Rehab: Open Garden: The Thatched Cottage, Upper Farringdon
- 25 Open Garden: The Thatched Cottage GU34 3EG in aid of Cardiac Rehab
- 31 Picnic in the Park, Alton, music by The Stringalongs 2 – 4pm

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Medstead Gardener's Club: Simon Akeroyd *Grow Your own Groceries*
- 3 Roedowns WI: The Fill Up Shop Wiltshire Room, Village Hall 7.30pm
- 4 Alton Camera Club start Autumn season Holybourne Village Hall 7.30pm

- 6 Shalden Garden Club meeting At the Village Hall (Annual competition judging)
- 6 Craft Swap St Lawrence Hall (Parish Centre) 2 -4 pm Pages 9 & 28
- 9 Alton Art Society: Douglas Skeggs *Prague - The City of the Winter Queen*
- 10 Shalden Parish Concil Meeting Villager Hall 7.30pm
- 11 Medstead WI: jigsaw puzzle afternoon
- 11 Allen Gallery talk: Mike Grey *How the Victorians Died*, 7.30pm Page 11
- 13 Ride & Stride raising funds for Historic Churhes (including ours)
- 13 Benefice Away Day Jubilee Hall Bentworth 9.30am - 5pm Page 29
- 13 Alton Heritage day Assembly Rooms 10am – 3pm Page 9
- 13 Curtis Museum: Anglo Saxon Living History 11am – 3pm Page 12
- 20 Screen by the Green: National Theatre Live: Inter Alia (15) 2pm & 7pm Pages 12 & 13
- 20 Cardiac Rehab Night of Live Music Alton Maltings Page 12
- 24 Alpha Course starts All Saints church hall 10.45am Pages 8 & 30
- 24 Alpha Course starts All Saints church hall 7pm Pages 8 & 30
- 26 Library Course starts: Oil Painting for Beginners 10am – 2pm Page 24
- 26 St Mary's Bentworth Wine and Nibbles in the hub 6pm Pages 4 & 23

OCTOBER

- 1 Roedowns WI: Think you know tea ? Wiltshire Room, Village Hall 7.30pm
- 4 Shalden Garden Club meeting: Annual Garden Club Lunch at the Village Hall
- 4 Library Course starts: Expressive Watercolours 10am – 12pm Page 24
- 4 Library Course starts: Art for Wellbeing 2 – 4pm Page 24
- 5 St Peter & St Paul Harvest Festival 6pm
- 5 Shalden Harvest Supper Village Hall 7pm Page 5
- 6 Bereavement Journey starts new course Alton Maltings 7.30–9.30pm Pages 9 & 31
- 7 Medstead Gardener's Club: Ben Pope *Making the most of your Garden*
- 7 Alton Organ Society Recital by William Fox 8pm Page 10
- 11 Deer Management Fundraiser for St Mary's Lasham in the church 5pm Page 25
- 13 NHNTC: Recruitment event - Special free tour of the Regency Exhibition at The Vyne
- 14 Alton Art Society: Siân Walters *The Guggenheim Museum*

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BENTWORTH

BENTWORTH CARE GROUP

Jackie Crawford

The members on duty for medical appointments in September are:

Diana Willis 07958 912 260; Melanie Day 07412 938 583;
Robert Good 07714 246 735; Emma Goodwin 07780 706 053.

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

THE MUCK IN COFFEE MORNING

We meet every Monday morning 10.30 – 11.30am, for coffee / tea and biscuits – only £1. At Parsonage Farm Barn, thanks to Emma and David Wiggin. Come and join us.



WINE AND NIBBLES

Tina Ilsley

Friday 26th September 6pm

Join us at St Mary's Bentworth for an evening of Drinks and Nibbles.

A chance to meet with friends and neighbours, catch up and relax in our beautiful new space!

BENTWORTH GARDEN CLUB

Maryanne McEvoy

We were lucky to have Ian Strachan come on our annual outing and bring his camera!

It's very easy to forget to take a group picture which really marks a moment in time. Here we are on the steps of Osterley House.



Happy gardening everyone

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LASHAM

DEER MANAGEMENT IN THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE

Saturday 11th October @ 5pm

St Mary's Church, Lasham

BUY YOUR TICKET AT:

<https://app.tickettailor.com/events/stmaryschurchlasham/1805146>

All proceeds to St Mary's Church, Lasham

See more information on the poster on page 25

SHALDEN

WELCOME!

'Rosalind and Mark Ommanney are delighted to announce the birth of their granddaughter,

Cassia Rose Acworth Newman, on 24th of July weighing 7lbs 6oz, born to Cat and Ed Newman.

Baby, parents and grandparents are all doing well!



**The 'Combined Harvesters' invite you to attend
the annual village Harvest Supper
on Sunday 5th October, 7pm
at Shalden Village Hall**

Includes a welcome drink, hot supper and coffee

Please bring your own wine and glasses

Harvest hamper raffle on the night!

TICKETS FOR SALE ONLY AHEAD OF THE EVENT FROM:

SILVIA BLAKE: 07968566412 silvia.blake@outlook.com

TICKET PRICES: ADULTS £8 / CHILDREN £4



St PETER & St PAUL GUILD OF MARTHA

September

6 Jane Shirvell / Lin Baxter
13 Karen Saponaro / Lynne Hignett
206 Michele Rankin / Kirsty Ennever
27 Rozanne Wilson / Rosalind Ommanney

Kirsty Ennever

October

4 Jane Shirvell / Lin Baxter
11 Karen Saponaro / Lynne Hignett
18 Michele Rankin / Kirsty Ennever
25 Rozanne Wilson / Rosalind Ommanney

JANE TRAPAUD

Loraine Champness



June 2022

Following on from the news that Jane became unwell in June, (The Villager, July edition) she very sadly passed away peacefully at home on Monday 4th August with her family around her.

She moved from Shalden in 2022 but remained in touch with the village and returned quite a few times to see her friends. In spite of the various trials she had endured, she always seemed so positive and happy – and many people, myself included, gained a great deal of pleasure from meeting up with her when she walked round the lanes of Shalden that she loved so much. She will be very much missed.

Gill Wiles

On behalf of my brother Paul and myself I would like to say a heartfelt thank you for all the kind messages of condolence that we received (and are still receiving) following the death of our mother, Jane Trapaud.

She and our late father, Michael, moved to Shalden to take up their first marital home in 1951 and she was a part of the village for over 70 years before ill health meant a move to Dorset and a new life where family was close at hand.

We truly appreciate your thoughts and prayers and it is comforting to know that the community where she lived for such a very long time still holds her so dear.

Ian Holliday

Jane was a lovely person who rarely had a critical word for anyone. She was unfailingly cheerful and never complained about anything - even when her health was failing in her final weeks. Like many of her generation, she was fiercely independent and it was rare that she would accept help. It used to amuse me that she loved being the first to hear and share new 'village news'. How she found these things out so quickly baffles me - but it was never malicious. She seemed to have an endless source of energy and was a bit like a bird, often popping out of her gate when you walked past to have a chat.

She was a delight to have as a neighbour. It was a privilege to have known her: even if it was for a mere 1/4 of her life! To me, she was a role model and real inspiration on how to live life. She will be sorely missed.

Mark Ommanney

My very first memories of Jane probably go back to 1957 (about as far back as my memories go!). Charlie Dawkins, who lived at Shalden Lodge, had sold Mike and Jane the land in Southwood Road in, I think, 1952 on which to build their house and my father, John, carried out the legal work so the families all knew each other well. Jane was always involved in events in the village, whether it was the Flower Show (the forerunner of the fête), fund-raising in the Village Hall, the Women's Institute, the Harvest Supper ... in fact just about everything.

She has always had the most remarkable memory and on our return to Shalden in 2007, she reminded me that Stancombe Lane used to be so narrow that when my sister rode her horse up it, she was brushing the vegetation on both sides! She could also remember the names of all the families, and where they lived in the village, going back to the 1950s; what a wonderful source of information she was. But it wasn't just her memory that was quite amazing, her fitness was equally impressive. Right up until she moved from Shalden, she would go for walks round the village, scaling the various stiles along the way like a teenager. I'm sure we would all wish for a constitution like Jane's and we will miss her cheery laugh and her wonderful company. She lived a long and fulfilling life – a life well lived.

MEMORIES OF JANE

Jenny and Bernard Dunk: Jane was the first person to welcome us to Shalden and to make sure we were soon involved in village life

She was a lovely neighbour and friend who was always ready for a chat

We have missed seeing her walking through the village whatever the weather and so sad to hear of her death

Cathy Boyes: I think it was meeting Jane and Mike back in 2005 which made me realise we had moved to an exceptionally friendly, welcoming and community-spirited village when we moved to Shalden. Quite soon after we moved in, they welcomed us, and then appeared on my doorstep with the offer of runner bean plants! Jane was always so friendly, open-minded and interested in other people and how they were doing, even as she had her own challenges with ageing and failing eyesight. We will miss her very much.

David and Valerie Menzies: Memories of our good friend Jane Trapaud.

We have known Jane since 1991 and I remember working together on the lottery bid money for the village hall extension.

The large box of cheese rolls, flasks of coffee and biscuits for the Bradley shoot beaters every two weeks in the season and then joining the beating line, undeterred by brambles, bracken and nettles.

Always busy either PCC, Village Hall, Garden Club, Wi, Fireworks often in loyal support of Mike her husband.

And after she moved to Parkstone meeting us at the station each year in spite of her poor eyesight and coming back to wave us off.



AUGUST SHALDEN GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Ian Wigg

Saturday 2nd August saw the August meeting in 2025 of the Shalden Garden Club hosted by Joy and myself at The Thatched Cottage

There was an unexpected turnout for the meeting considering the fact that many people are still away.

Ian Champness, in Peter Rankin's absence, gave an update as to the Village Fete results which again was a spectacular success both in numbers attended and money raised.

A sincere thank you to all who were kind enough to join us and for the many kind comments in regards to our garden which, as I warned previously, isn't in any way or form manicured.

The next meeting will be on 6th September at our usual venue in the Village Hall. and both Joy and myself are looking forward to welcoming you all to our humble abode.

The meeting dates for the rest of the year are as follows:

6th September – At the Village Hall

4th October – Annual Garden Club Lunch at the Village Hall.

RIDE AND STRIDE

Wai-Man O'Connell

Help us raise money for the preservation of the region's historic churches and chapels of all denomination.

Join us for the annual '**Ride and Stride**' for the Heritage of Churches on the second Saturday in September, the **13th September**.

For more information email Wai-Man O'Connell at wmomailbox-shalden@yahoo.com

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The CHURCH

AUTUMN ALPHA 2025

Have you ever asked yourself 'What's the point of it all?' 'Why are we here?' 'What's the Meaning of Life?' If you have, then Alpha is for you. An Alpha course gives you an opportunity to ask questions, have fun, learn about the Christian faith and make new friends.

This course is also a great opportunity for people of faith to explore the foundations of their faith more deeply.

What you can expect?

Each session provides a very informal and friendly setting where we share food together and watch a DVD about the particular theme for the evening. There will also be an opportunity to discuss, in small groups, some of the issues raised for you by the film and to ask questions and share ideas with one another in a confidential setting. No one is going to tell you what to think or believe

Come along on Wednesday 24th September to find out more. Why not invite a friend along too?

Please share this information and contact altonplusalpha@gmail.com to book or for more information.

THE BEREAVEMENT JOURNEY.

Wendy Burnhams

Are you grieving the death of a loved one or struggling with the long-term effects of loss? The Bereavement Journey is a seven week programme of short videos and focussed conversations, providing a safe space for you to process your bereavement and discern your next steps. Topics include attachment; separation and loss; difficult feelings; rites of passage; the impact and pain of bereavement; coping with others; coping with change; moving forward; and an optional session on questions of faith.

Monday evenings. 7.30pm - 9.30pm ,

6th October - 17th November at The Alton Maltings Centre.

Suggested voluntary contribution £20 (for the whole course).

To book your place, or to find out more about it,

please email bereavement@potr-alton.co.uk

or phone Wendy Burnhams 07514 280 362

CRAFT SWAP

St Lawrence Eco-Church Team

St Lawrence Church Parish Centre, Alton, Saturday 6th September 2-4pm

We are once again holding one of our very successful Craft Swaps, this time on Saturday 6th September at the Parish Centre. Start looking out all those craft, knitting and sewing materials you have never got round to using, ready to donate for the day. And come along on 6th to take away anything you might find useful. All we ask in return is that, if you are able, you make a monetary donation, which will be given to a local charity.

You can bring along any unwanted items on the day or you can leave donations of goods in St Lawrence, All Saints and the Methodist churches in Alton, St Peter's, Beech, The Church of the Holyrood in Holybourne, St Mary's churches in Bentworth and Lasham and St Peter and St Paul's in Shalden. **Labelled boxes** will be available to receive them from Saturday 9th August. We are happy to receive fabric, haberdashery, wool, craft and pattern books, paints, canvas, beads, rubber stamps... If it is craft-related, we will take it!

Please spread the word amongst your friends and encourage them to come along. Any left-over materials at the end of the event will go to St Lawrence School, Alton, Parish of the Resurrection Youth Work or local charity shops.

We look forward to seeing you.

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EVENTS

ALTON HERITAGE DAY

Jill Line

Saturday 13th September

In the Assembly Rooms, 10am to 3pm. Courtesy of Dementia Friendly Alton.

Saturday 13th September is the date of Alton's first **Heritage Day**. This will be a part of the national 'Heritage Open Days' that are held in September each year and give people a chance to 'try out new experiences' which are **FREE** to explore. According to the heritageopendays.org.uk web site – these events are part of 'England's largest festival of history and culture'.

Thanks to the generosity of Dementia-friendly Alton, we will have the use of the Assembly Rooms and we have invited local clubs, groups, societies and businesses to join in and have a table where they can share their history with everyone.

The national theme this year is **Architecture** but we also hope to feature the history of our brewing industry as well.

Alton has a rich and varied history of which we are proud and that we need to preserve and publicise while at the same time supporting the valuable work being done by Dementia Friendly (for whom donations will be very welcome). Do join us between 10.00am and 3.00pm. Refreshments will be available.

For more information, contact janehurst1@gmail.com.



THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST LAWRENCE ALTON ORGAN SOCIETY 59TH SEASON

The 59th (yes – 59th!) season of organ recitals starts on October 7th 2025 and we are delighted to welcome William Fox to give the first recital.

William Fox is the Director of Music at St Albans Cathedral, where he directs the Cathedral Choirs and oversees all aspects of the Cathedral's musical life. He is also Musical Director of the St Albans Bach Choir.

Previously, William spent six years working at St Paul's Cathedral, London, first as Sub Organist and latterly as Assistant Director of Music. William began his musical education as a chorister at York Minster, before holding organ scholarships at Wells and Hereford Cathedrals.

William also teaches at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and gives recitals throughout the UK. In 2021 and 2022 he performed the complete organ works of Johann Sebastian Bach in a series of 30 recitals at St Paul's.



His recording of the organ works of Cecilia McDowall was released in 2021, gaining 5 * reviews in *Choir and Organ* and *The Organ*. As a continuo and orchestral organist William has recently appeared with the Gabrieli Consort and Players, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, the City of London Sinfonia and the Cardinal's Musick.

William's programme includes works by British composers John Stainer, William Byrd, Percy Whitlock and Francis Potts as well as Johann Sebastian Bach and Nadia Boulanger.

Refreshments are available from 7.30pm & the recital starts at 8.00pm. Tickets cost £12; season memberships cost £70 for all 8 recitals, all payable at the door.

We look forward to welcoming you on October 7th.

THE CURTIS MUSEUM AND ALLEN GALLERY

Jill Line

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

SUMMER EXHIBITION:

Ancient Woodland: A celebration of place.

A major exhibition of works by local artists **Mary Waltham** and **Jacqueline Amies**. (Continues until 20 September).

Inspired by and rooted in the ancient woodlands of our locality, the exhibition invites visitors to the Allen Gallery to be curious about these rare and special areas to which we are fortunate enough to have access.

According to the Woodland Trust *"Ancient woods are our richest and most complex terrestrial habitat in the UK and they are home to more threatened species than any other. Centuries of undisturbed soils and accumulated decaying wood have created the perfect place for communities of fungi and invertebrates and specialist species of insects, birds and mammals."* (Woodland Trust 2024)

Workshops & Events: A programme of activities, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, accompanies the exhibition, exploring some of the themes presented. There will be opportunities to learn more about some of the stories behind the Allen Gallery's permanent collections and some surprising connections with rural woodland sites and raw materials. The artists will be holding a "Meet and Greet" session on Saturday 20th September, 2pm - 4pm.

Further details on the Gallery website www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery

Adult Well-being Workshops.

FREE but booking essential

Celebrating the Season with Ceramics

Join Creative Designer & Author Becki Clark for a day embracing seasonal creative mindfulness with ceramics. Becki will introduce air dry clay and how to use seasonal inspiration to craft your own clay nature pressing & jewellery dish perfect for gifting to friends or family in the festive season. After lunch, you'll have a chance to explore combining marbling with ceramics, embracing the mindfulness of creating marbled patterns before crafting your own marbled ceramic coasters. Finally, Becki will demonstrate how to decorate ceramics with paint working in a folk art style to decorate your own ceramic piece to take home. The session is designed for complete beginners and you'll enjoy a day embracing seasonal inspiration to get creative in a like-minded group.

Date: Friday 26 September Time: 10:00am – 4:00pm Age: 18+

Celebratory Collage

Michele is an illustrator with a background in education and community projects, specialising in creating collages using recycled materials to create a narrative. She depicts everyday images with quirky twists, which hopefully stimulate viewers to question or imagine....or simply smile. Over the course of the workshops you will explore how collaging can be used to process and record memorable moments in time to support wellbeing, from simple gestures to more significant events. The aim is to share how this illustrative technique can take away the 'intimidation' of a blank page but present a creative challenge through its use of limited materials within a structured and supported framework. You will also learn about artists who work in this medium, as well as the benefits of being a 'maker'. Open to all levels of artistic ability, each unit will focus on a different method to record a personal narrative, in a supportive and non-threatening way, using easily resourced materials.

Date: Tuesday 30 September Time: 10:00am – 4:00pm Age: 18+

TALK sponsored by the Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery

***How the Victorians Died.* by Mike Grey. 11 September, 7.30. FREE.**

COMING SOON TO THE ALLEN GALLERY- **CERAMICUS.**

CURTIS MUSEUM

Anglo-Saxon Living History for Alton Heritage Day

We'll be joined by some Anglo-Saxon re-enactors on Alton's first Heritage Day.

Come and learn about life in the Saxon period.

Saturday 13th September, 11am - 3pm. FREE, donations welcome.

Saxons vs 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.

2nd September - 24th October, 10am - 4.30pm.

Dotty the Dodo's Autumn Fact Hunt - a free Family Trail. Dotty has hidden some more facts from the natural world around the Museum. Can you find them all and earn your Dotty the Dodo sticker?

2nd September - 29th November.



Nicci Shepherd

Cardiac Rehab host a night of live music in Alton

Local musicians from BandX and Blue-Eyed Soul will be jointly headlining a night of live music to raise money for local charity Cardiac Rehab at Alton Maltings on **Friday 26 September**.

Both bands will be performing a mix of popular covers and some original songs, and the evening promises to provide a great night out for anyone who enjoys live rock, soul and blues.

Cardiac Rehab are a local charity committed to providing specialist exercise programmes and health education to improve the health, fitness and well-being of people with, or at risk of developing heart disease. Money raised from the event will help the charity support more local people who could benefit from preventative exercise or rehabilitation.

Four Marks' Triple FFF brewery are providing their craft ale as part of a well-stocked bar also offering cider, wine, prosecco, and soft drinks.

Advance tickets just £15 from <https://cardiac-rehab.co.uk/product-category/event-tickets/>

THE SCREEN BY THE GREEN, BEECH

Joanna Curtis

From Classroom to Courtroom at the Screen by the Green

This September, the Screen by the Green in Beech presents the ideal autumn curriculum with two masterful dramas.

First up on **Friday 12th September** at 7:30pm: **Mr Burton** (12A) - the heartwarming true story of how an inspiring Welsh teacher transformed troubled schoolboy Richard Jenkins into legendary actor Richard Burton. With captivating performances from Harry Lawtey, Toby Jones and Lesley Manville, it's an uplifting tale of mentorship and transformation.

Then **Saturday 20th September** brings National Theatre Live's **Inter Alia** (15) starring Rosamund Pike as a brilliant Crown Court judge juggling career and family. Two showings: 2pm and 7pm.

From classroom to courtroom: perfect autumn viewing as the new term begins!

Advance Tickets: Mr Burton £7, Inter Alia £12

Cabaret seating • Licensed bar • Free parking

Book: beechvillage.org.uk/events

Beech Village Hall, 1 Wellhouse Road, Beech, Alton GU34 4AQ

Friday 12th September

Mr. Burton (12A)

7:30pm (Doors 7pm)

Beech Village Hall

Bookings: beechvillage.org.uk/events

Saturday 20th September

National Theatre Live: Inter Alia (15)

7pm (Doors 6:30pm)

Beech Village Hall

Bookings: beechvillage.org.uk/events

* * *

CLUBS

ALTON

ASA

Forthcoming Lectures:

Tuesday 9th September: Douglas Skeggs *Prague - The City of the Winter Queen*

Prague is one of the great treasure houses of Europe. Reduced to a near ruin under the communists, it has now been restored to its former glory

Tuesday 14th October: Siân Walters

Bilbao and the Gehry

Architecture of Frank

Bilbao is now the Basque Country's most important city thanks in no small part to the impact of the Guggenheim Museum, completed in 1997 to huge critical and popular acclaim and described by the celebrated late architect Philip Johnson as "the greatest building of our time".

The Guggenheim Museum in



Both lecture to be held at Martin Read Hall at Alton College 7:30pm (doors open 6:45pm)

MEDSTEAD

HAMPSHIRE FEDERATION OF WI – ROEDOWNS

Diana Constantine

In June our WI participated in St Andrews church 800 years celebration and we produced a display to depict our group and activities. We used our imagination along with creativity to utilise the font and surroundings and we were very pleased with the results.





Our August meeting was a visit to Chawton House and gardens, it was a beautiful summers day and perfect for a relaxing and interesting visit.



Several of us admitted having never been before, despite it being so local and as it is now a RHS partnership property many of us shall be returning !

A welcome drink together in the courtyard tea room ended a lovely afternoon.

Forthcoming meetings

- 3rd September Fill up shop
- 1st October. Think you know tea ?
- 5th November. Hampshire Search and Rescue.
- 3rd December. Christmas wreath/ table decorations.

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 with gift voucher prize at each meeting. Visitors and new members are very welcome.

Contact: Secretary on roedownssec@hampshirewi.org.uk. Or
Jill Kerr 01420 564116.



MEDSTEAD GARDENERS CLUB

Caroline Daniels

'There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments' Janet Kilburn Philips

On Saturday 19th July the MGC Summer Show took place. It was full of wonderful exhibits.

Many people came to view the displays of vegetables, fruit, flowers and plants with art work and handicrafts.

There was a tearoom selling delicious cakes made by the members.



Also in July we had stalls at the Medstead Summer Fete. The 'Guess the Bottle' game went really well. We also had a plant stall with many different plants and people bought plants and got advice on gardening.



Jobs for September in the garden -

Lift gladioli corms to store. Plant wallflowers, pansies and other spring bedding plants. Plant spring bulbs. Divide and replant congested clumps of perennials. Trim hedges now birds have finished nesting. Collect seeds from favourite flowers to plant in Spring. Pick apples and pears before they become windfalls with damage.

September	2nd	Simon Akeroyd Grow Your own Groceries-His Work
October	7th	Ben Pope Making the Most of your Garden
November	4th	Helier Bowling Building a Show Garden
December	2nd	AGM and Christmas Social (members only)

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month (Except Jan & Aug)
at Medstead Village Hall. Doors open at 7.00pm with event starting at 7.30pm.

Refreshments available, Monthly Competition & Raffle

**Free tour of The Vyne Regency Exhibition
organised by the North Hants National Trust Centre (NHNTC)**



The NHNTC is the local branch of the National Trust. We provide monthly talks through the winter, monthly visits to interesting venues through the summer and additional meetings for cream teas and a Christmas lunch – all for just £8 per person per year.

We are holding a recruiting event at **The Vyne at 3pm on Monday 13th October**. This will be a taster session in the form of free tour of their Regency Exhibition with the added treat of tea and cakes.

We have a limited number of places so if you are interested please sign up by visiting our website – <https://NHNTC.com> and complete the form headed: Monday 13th October 2025 at 3:00pm

Recruitment event - Special free tour of the Regency Exhibition at The Vyne

CLUB CONTACTS

Medstead Bowls: Secretary Gill Moore 01420 563139 gillianmoore@yahoo.co.uk

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



Tim Gordon-Jones

The second Honey harvest of the year is now on. As stated last month there is a record amount of ten Supers to process and I will be extracting honey from the comb in the frames this weekend.

This is a team effort, especially as the roles involve an uncapping station, and a spinner. It is best overseen by a co-ordinator who ensures the other roles have few bottle necks and can supplement when necessary. The uncapping station is where the frames are removed from the Super and the wax capping is removed from the honeycomb, exposing the honey in the cells underneath. The removal can be carried out using several different methods, but we've found it is best done using an uncapping fork to lift the wax off without too much damage to the honeycomb itself. This fork is just a hand-held tool about the same size as the width of a normal fork, with smaller elongated prongs. Once the cappings have been removed from both sides of the frame, the frames are put into a stainless steel 'Spinner'. The cappings go into a tray with holes in where honey can drip down into a collector below. The spinner takes four frames at a time and is spun manually, but not too fast or the honey comb may come out of the frames. Once no more honey is issuing from the frames, they are the turned round so the other side can be done. The spinner usually takes about 12 frames worth of honey before it gets full, then the honey is transferred to a filter and tub. Once the tub is full it is allowed to settle for a week or so before jarring and labelling.

Last month I forgot to mention I collected two swarms, from a friend in the village who had a nest in his roof. Both swarms were distributed to new homes via the Basingstoke Bee Club, of which I am a member. These are usually new Beekeepers or ones who have lost one of their own colonies. Keep an eye out for the 'Honey for Sale' pot at the end of our drive.

COUNTRY MATTERS - Harvest is (almost) over

Julian Lewis

There has been little rain in the last month and the rainfall since the end of January has been minimal – just 220 mm (8.9 ins). If February is excluded just 121 mm (4.9 ins) have fallen in the last 5 months and August is little different with the weather forecast indicating continuing dryness until September at least. The rainfall so far in August has been just 8 mm (0.3 ins). The annual rolling rainfall has now dropped to 959mm (38.8 ins). Sadly, I am old enough to remember the last time that the UK experienced such a dry spell – 1976 – when I was working on a farm prior to going to College. When it did start raining it did not stop! It was very difficult to harvest the autumn crops – potato and sugar beet that year.

The local harvest is almost complete as I write this article on 13th August – just a few acres of spring barley plus the spring and winter sown bean crops. The beans may be difficult to harvest because the pods are very brittle due to the dry weather and will shatter when harvested with many of the beans spilling to the ground which cannot be harvested. Additionally, because of the lack of rain the stems are very short and the pods are very close to the ground where large flints are lying on the soil surface. If stones are picked up during the cutting process they can badly damage the machine if they enter the threshing mechanism - a big and potentially expensive problem. To reduce the losses the beans may be cut at night and the early morning when the stems and pods are less brittle.

There are also some crops of forage maize being grown locally which will be cut and chopped before being transported to the anaerobic digester (AD) plant at Herriard to

produce electricity. The crop is ensiled to prevent a deterioration in quality before being used during the next 12 months to fuel the (AD) process. The AD digestate – material that is left after the crop is used to produce electricity – will probably be returned to the fields around here as a fertiliser. The AD plants work 24 hrs a day 7 days a week producing electricity using mostly automated machinery and systems. It is crucial to keep a correct balance of inputs (feedstock) so that the bacteria thrive and produce methane for the electricity generation – a highly skilled job.

Some farmers may sow cover crops in the next few weeks – there is certainly time after the early end to harvest – which are intended to improve the soil structure, lock in any nitrogen left from the previous crop and also “fix” or (naturally produce more nitrogen) through the leguminous process which uses naturally occurring bacteria for the process. The seed is not cheap and if it does not rain the seed is unlikely to germinate and is therefore wasted.

For those of you who enjoy the warmth and heat of summer 2025 make the most of it – the day length is noticeably shorter and the trees are beginning to shed leaves with autumnal colours – but even that has compensations because of the beautiful hues.

HAMPSHIRE FARMERS MARKETS

Alton Saturday 13th September

Sunday 7th	Petersfield	Sunday 7th	Romsey
Sunday 14th	Winchester	Saturday 20th	Emsworth
Sunday 21st	Alresford	Sunday 21st	Southsea
Saturday 27th	Ringwood	Sunday 28th	Winchester

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 1.30pm	9.30am to 5pm	Closed	9.30am to 5pm	9.30am to 5pm	9.30am to 5pm

Summer Reading Challenge 2025 continues until September 13th

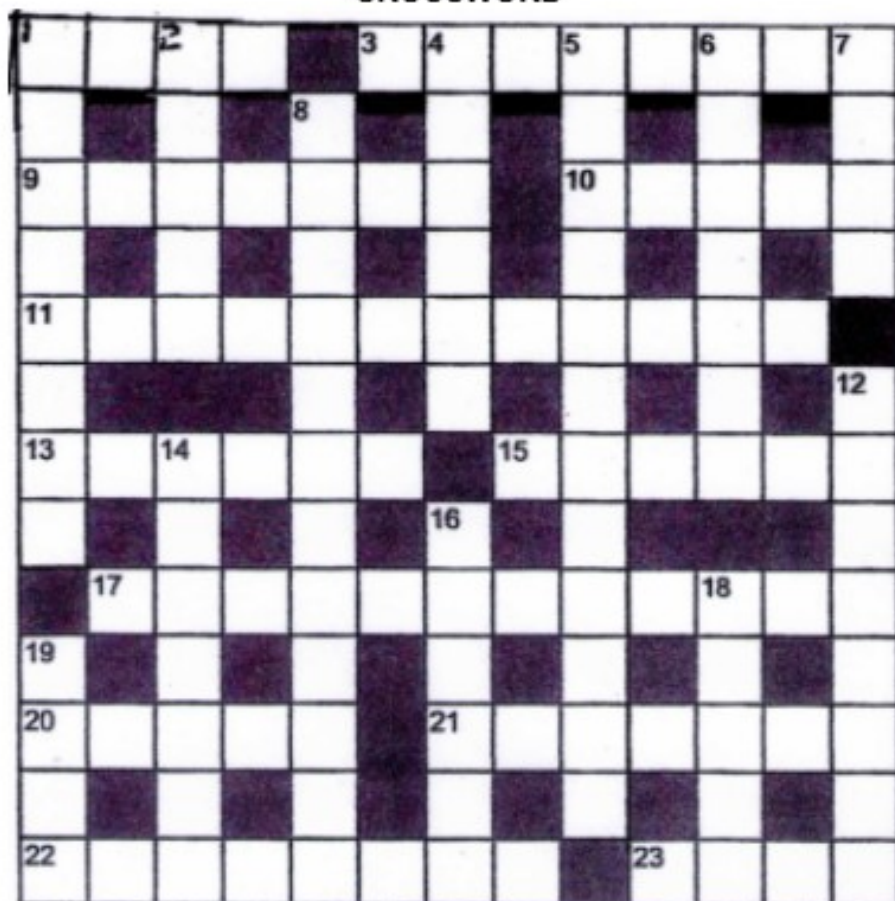
This year it is called **Story Garden**: Adventures in nature and the great outdoors
Read library books over the summer to earn stickers, a certificate and medal.

Do look at **page 24** where there are 3 opportunities to do a painting course

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. Mosque Leader
3. Law breaker
9. Tool
10. Slightly drunk
11. Polluted
13. Bird of prey
15. Secret
17. Complete destruction
20. Silently understood
21. Repeat
22. Sermonised
23. Obtains

Clues Down

1. Unsure of oneself
2. Ditto
4. Ardent
5. Mathematically estimated
6. Use up
7. Sunbeams
8. Hostilely aggressive
12. Beautiful women (sl)
14. Verve
16. Manly
18. Angry
19. Pace





Join Alton Choral Society

Happiness is singing in a Choir!

ACS is a friendly choir welcoming singers of all abilities and voice types.

We perform regularly and raise much needed funds for local charities

Singing in a choir is also proven to improve health & wellbeing

We perform music from a broad range of musical genres and there is no audition. Rehearsals take place on Wednesday evenings from 7.45pm in The Salvation Army Hall in The Market Square Alton

For more information please contact us:

Email: welcome@altonchoral.org.uk

Visit our website: www.altonchoral.org.uk

Call: 07715 771489



EVENTS

Screen by the Green

Fri 12 Sep



BAFTA WINNER
TOBY JONES

HARRY LAWTEY

ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE
LESLEY MANVILLE

MR. BURTON



beechvillage.org.uk/events



Friday 12th September

Mr. Burton (12A)

7:30pm (Doors 7pm)

Beech Village Hall

Bookings: beechvillage.org.uk/events

**National
Theatre
Live**

**Sat 20
Sep**



INTER ALIA

Screen by the Green

beechvillage.org.uk



Saturday 20th September

National Theatre Live: Inter Alia (15)

7pm (Doors 6:30pm)

Beech Village Hall

Bookings: beechvillage.org.uk/events

Wine & NIBBLES

JOIN US AT ST. MARY'S,
BENTWORTH FOR AN EVENING OF
DRINKS & NIBBLES. A CHANCE TO
MEET WITH FRIENDS &
NEIGHBOURS, CATCH UP & RELAX
IN OUR BEAUTIFUL NEW SPACE!

FRIDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER
6PM



ADULT Learning
IN LIBRARIES



Hampshire County Council
Library Service



Making Creative Connections: Oil Painting for Beginners

Alton Library

Fridays 26 September - 24 October 10am - 12pm

FREE tuition, £15 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





ADULT Learning
IN LIBRARIES



Hampshire County Council
Library Service



Expressive Watercolours at Alton Library

Saturdays 4 October - 1 November 10am - 12pm

Free tuition, £10 materials payable to tutor
 Booking is essential, please visit
<https://shop.hants.gov.uk/collections/library-courses> to book your place. If you have issues booking online please contact branch staff or call 02392 232957

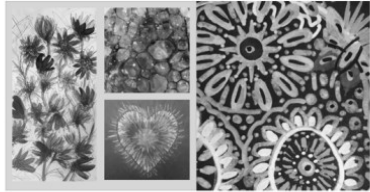




ADULT Learning
IN LIBRARIES



Hampshire County Council
Library Service



Art for Wellbeing at Alton Library

Saturdays 4 October - 1 November 2pm - 4pm

Free tuition, £10 materials fee
 Booking is essential, please visit
shop.hants.gov.uk/collections/library-courses to book your place. If you have issues booking online please contact branch staff or call 02392 232957



DEER

MANAGEMENT



**IN THE ENGLISH
COUNTRYSIDE**

Saturday 11th October @ 5pm
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://app.tickettailor.com/events/stmaryschurchlasham/1805146>

All proceeds to St Mary's Church, Lasham



SHALDEN CHURCH



HARVEST FESTIVAL

6 pm 5th OCTOBER



MEDSTEAD GARDENERS' CLUB 2025

September 2nd Grow your own Groceries

Simon Akeroyd

October 7th Making the most of your Garden

Ben Pope

November 4th Building a Show Garden

Helier Bowling

Membership is £12pp from February to December

2025 – new members' welcome

www.medsteadgardenersclub.org

**We meet on the first Tuesday of the month
(Except Jan)**

**at Medstead Village Hall. Doors open at 7.00pm
with event starting at 7.30pm.**

Refreshments available, Monthly Competition & Raffle

Alton Choral Society

Music For An Autumn Afternoon

The concert is in aid of Alton Food Bank

Saturday 25th October, 4pm
St Lawrence Church Alton

*Featuring a variety of choral music and solos
from Brahms' 'Liebeslieder' to My Fair Lady*

Tickets £12 available from Ticket Source or on the
door . Under 16s free.*



**See: www.altonchoral.org.uk for booking link
or phone: 01420 85994 for more information*





ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



Craft Swap

Saturday 6th September - 2-4pm

**St Lawrence Hall (Parish Centre),
Vicarage Hill, Alton, GU34 2BW**

**Bring your arts and crafts 'leftover supplies' and
take what you need... free and open to all!**

*Wool, haberdashery, papercraft, paints, craft books and magazines,
dress, knitting or crochet patterns, fabric, rubber stamps, beads,
jewellery, stickers, craft storage and more!*

*Donations can be left in the marked boxes at St Lawrence, All Saints and the Methodist
churches in Alton, St Peter's Church, Beech, the Church of the Holy Rood, Holybourne,
St Mary's Churches in Bentworth and Lasham and St Peter and St Paul's Church in
Shalden from **Saturday 9th August**.*

*Monetary donations welcome on the day and all profits to go to a local
charity.*

Parish of the Resurrection, Alton

W: www.potr-alton.co.uk T: 01420 513881 E: office@potr-alton.co.uk



Saturday 13th September



Benefice Home and Away Day

THE CONFIDENT WITNESS

This year's stimulating and enjoyable
Benefice Home and Away Day will be
at the Jubilee Hall in Bentworth on

9.30am – 5.00pm

Guest Speaker: Reverend Yann Dubreuil
Everyone welcome

Coffee on arrival; bring your own lunch;
cream tea provided. Just give your name to a
churchwarden to book your place

An open space

to
unpack
life's

big
questions

for anyone
who's

curious

about the

Christian faith

All Saints Church Hall

Starting 24th September 2025

Morning session with tea and bicsuits at
10.45am

Evening session with free hot meal at 7pm

Everyone is welcome!

Sign up altonplusalpha@gmail.com

Try Alpha.





Grief is hard.
Death can impact
all of life.

The Bereavement
Journey
a place to talk

7 Sessions of films
and discussion
for *anyone* bereaved *anytime*

Topics include:

- Attachment, separation and loss
- The pain and responses of grief
- Anger and guilt
- Coping with others' reactions
- Delayed and suppressed grief
- Adjusting to change
- Moving forward healthily
- Faith questions – a Christian perspective (optional)

To find out more visit:
thebereavementjourney.org

Running soon:

Monday evenings
7.30pm - 9.30pm
6th Oct - 17th Nov
Alton Maltings Centre.

Suggested voluntary contribution
£20 (for the whole course).

To book your place, or to find out
more about it, email
bereavement@potr-alton.co.uk
or phone 07514280362

SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

BENTWORTH LASHAM MEDSTEAD SHALDEN

7th SEPTEMBER –THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY P 18 Green

Holy Communion (CW)		10.00a.m.	
Holy Communion (CW)			10.00a.m.
Parish Communion (CW)		11.00a.m.	

14th SEPTEMBER- THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY P 19 Gr een

HOLY CROSS DAY

Holy Communion (BPC)		8.00a.m.	
Holy Communion (CW)	10.00a.m.		

21st SEPTEMBER – THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY P 20 Gr

MATTHEW, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

Holy Communion (CW)		11.00a.m.	
Parish Communion (CW)		11.00a.m.	6.00p.m.
Evensong			

28th SEPTEMBER - THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY P 21 Green

Holy Communion (CW)	10.00a.m.		
Cafe Church (in the church hall)		11.00am	

POTR Services for September 2025

7th September

8am BCP Holy Communion	St Lawrence
10.30am POTR Altogether	St Lawrence
Eco Church Service	

14th September

9.15am Communion Service	St Peter's
9.30am Morning Worship	Holy Rood
10.30am Communion Service	St Lawrence
12.15pm Baptism	St Lawrence
3pm Afternoon Worship	All Saints
6pm Evening Prayer for vacancy	St Lawrence

21st September

9.30am Communion Service	Holy Rood
10.30am Communion Service	All Saints
10.30am Morning Worship	St Lawrence
6pm Choral Evensong	St Lawrence

28th September Harvest Weekend

9.15am Communion Service	St Peter's
10.30am Communion Service	St Lawrence
10.30am Baptism	St Lawrence
11.30am Baptism	St Lawrence
4pm LEGO church	Holy Rood
6pm Evening Worship	St Lawrence

Every Wednesday : Holy Communion

10am All Saints Church