

AUGUST 2026

BENTWORTH, LASHAM, AND SHALDEN PARISH MAGAZINE

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

Dear Friends

The holiday season is here! August, in my mind at least, is always associated with holidays. It conjures up for me memories of my childhood holidays - shivering as I gingerly inched my way into the icy grey British sea, or nerve-wracking expeditions with a caravan along narrow Highland roads amongst mist clad hills.

Each year as I plan my holiday it crosses my mind to wonder, what are holidays for?

It fascinates me the variety of people's chosen ways of spending their holidays. Whilst some folk venture into new places seeking new adventures, others prefer to visit the same place every year to lie contentedly in the sunshine all day and every day.

I find it interesting to think about God's plan for His people's holidays, as described in the Old Testament section of the Bible. Each year His people were instructed to leave their homes, farms and businesses to travel on foot across the length and breadth of the country to visit the temple in Jerusalem. They travelled in large community groups and the journey might take many days. Along the way they would have time to catch-up with families and friends, they would see different sights, experience different landscapes and have a complete break from their normal routine.

We enjoyed each of these when we recently spent a few days in Yorkshire with our eldest son, and I came home feeling completely refreshed.

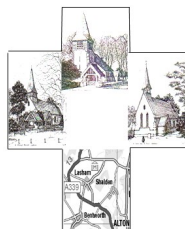
But God had another reason for advocating these holidays, they were times for His people to remember what He'd done for them. During the Passover holiday they remembered how God had rescued them from slavery in Egypt, during Pentecost they remembered His goodness in providing a the harvest, and during the Feast of Booths they remembered God's care and provision for them during their time in the wilderness after leaving Egypt.

This year I thought I would spend my summer holiday remembering. I'm going to visit places that were an important part of my parents' and grandparents' lives to remind me of their loving kindness, and to remember God's goodness in blessing me with such a happy childhood and loving family.

I realise that for many folk, August is not about going away but is a time for staying at home with less happening than usual because of other people's holidays. Yet perhaps this quieter period could still be a time for remembering - remembering God's goodness and kindness shown in so many different ways over the years?

With hope that August is a fruitful time for you, however you choose to spend it,

Revd Wendy Burnhams



THE VILLAGER

the editor

Please send copy for the **September** Magazine to the Editor or your Village Correspondent **by noon on Tuesday 11th August.**

As we complete this in July it is still very warm, perhaps by August it will be back to our usual cool British Summer – wherever you are, enjoy the Summer season, and holidays if you are having one.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JULY

26 Beech Fest

30 Curtis Museum: Thursday Craft Club – Stratigraphy Jars

AUGUST

1 Film Night at the Curtis - "Early Man" (PG) 3pm - 5pm.

5 Roedowns WI: Portsmouth Harbour tour

6 "Holiday at Home" Anna Chaplaincy Methodist Church 10am – 4pm Page 45

8 Alton Farmers' Market Alton High Street 10am - 2pm

8 Church House Medstead Open Garden for NGS 2 – 5.30pm Pages 25 & 39

9 Church House Medstead Open Garden for NGS 2 - 5pm

11 Villager deadline for the September magazine by noon please

11 Licensing of the Revd Tim Gomm St Lawrence Church 7pm

12 Forget Me Not Service All Saints Church 2.30pm

13 Library: Paddington's Holiday 3-5yrs drop-in 2 – 3.30pm Page 40

13 Medstead WI: Fiona Burchall a fantastic story teller Village Hall 2pm

14 Broadlands: Tea at Three with the ponies at the Equine Centre Page 39

22 Alton Lions Classic Car Show Alton High Street 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Page 32

SEPTEMBER

1 Medstead Garden Club: Antony Powell *Planting for Autumn Colour* 7.30pm

2 Roedowns WI: Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust the Wiltshire Room 7.30pm

2 Alton Camera Club start of new season meetings, Holybourne 7.30pm

4 BLS Welcome drinks St Mary's church Bentworth 6.30pm Page 43

8 ,Broadlands: Tour of Nicky Henderson's Racing Yard 10am Page 41

8 ASA talk: Pepe Martinez *Banksy - Fraud or Genius* Alton College 7.30pm

12 Music Recital St Andrew's Church 6pm Page 44

17 Broadlands: Talk by Suzy Dymond -White at Wivelrod 6.30 – 8pm Page 41

30 Broadlands: Singing with Dan St Mary's Bentworth 6.15 - 8.30pm Page 41

OCTOBER

6 Start of the 60th season of organ recitals: Dr David Hill MBE St Lawrence 8pm

7 Cardiac Health Annual Lecture Shaun Wallace Alton Maltings 7pm Page 24

7 Roedowns WI: Hampshire Wick – candle maker the Wiltshire Room 7.30pm

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BENTWORTH

BENTWORTH CARE GROUP

Jackie Crawford

The members on duty for medical appointments in August are:

Susie Greenwood 07971 223 976; Sarah Whitley 07876 238 144;

Norah Pepper 07539 356 265.

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

THE MUCK IN COFFEE MORNING

Monday morning is always a buzz of conversation, and catching up with news. Do come and join us 10.30 – 11.30am at Parsonage Farm Barn, for Coffee / Tea, biscuits and much chatter, only £1. We don't meet on Bank Holidays - 31st August.



WELCOME TO BENTWORTH

Fred Moir

My sincere apologies to Carol Paris for only recently realising that her move into Mole End had taken place.

Carol has come from Oxfordshire, looking for a property with outside space to accommodate animals. Her search brought her here and Carol is well settled now. Keeping hens is her next project.

We wish you well Carol in our lovely friendly village.

BENTWORTH GARDEN CLUB



Maryanne McEvoy

On Saturday 4th July we manned our plant stall at Bentworth Fete. The weather was just right, sunny but not scorching. It was windy but that keeps the bunting fluttering!

Thanks to Emma, Sherry and Poo we had a super lot of plants to sell. And we are grateful to any other gardeners who brought plants to sell.

Poo had the brainwave that we could also sell produce.

We had quite an array of jams, jellies and chutneys etc.

Of course I couldn't resist the cakes, all home-made by Bentworth bakers, delicious.



We sold so much, but at the end I'm happy to report that Jo Ayres was keen to take any spare plants for the school. This is a win-win, no more watering for the club members and lots of lovely plants for the children to grow on in the school garden.

A great day for all.

Happy gardening (well maybe I should say happy watering)



everyone.

THE COMMUNITY HUB

Sarah Whitley

I'm on the "hunt" for a few more wonderful volunteers to help with opening and closing the Church/Community Hub.

Before you start imagining a full-time job... relax! It only involves opening and locking up the building for **10 days a year** (and they're **not consecutive**). One week and then other week later on.

I already have a fantastic team of volunteers who will hopefully confirm that it's a quick and easy job—not a test of endurance! It would be lovely to have a few more people on board because, as the saying goes, **many hands make light work** (and make Sarah much happier!).

If you could spare a little time to help, it would make a huge difference. Just 10 days spread across the year is a small commitment that really helps keep the Hub running smoothly.

About to begin the task of putting together a new rota together for next year, so if you're willing to lend a hand, please give me a call on **07876 238 144**.

Thank you.

BENTWORTH FETE

The Fete took place on Saturday 4th of July, and was very successful. A full report will be in the September magazine, but this month, thanks to Richard Hill, and Ian Strachan, we have lots of photos.











Bentworth Cricket Club

Richard Hill
Bentworth Cricket Club welcomes new playing members to join the team for 2026 season. The club plays in Hampshire Cricket League at a competitive but friendly level. Matches are played every Saturday afternoon from the first weekend in May through to end of August. Indoor nets are held at Alton College on Tuesday evenings in the winter and spring months and outdoor nets at our beautiful ground during the summer.

The club also runs a number of fun and fund raising events to ensure we are a full part of village life.

If you are interested please contact Richard Hill (07887821326) or Ken Thomas (07769 947033) in the first instance.

We look forward to meeting you.

BENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Scott Neville

If your hedge has recently begun a bold campaign to colonise the pavement, verge, or half the road, now's a great time to remind it who's boss. Hampshire County Council's guidance is pretty clear: vegetation should be cut back **behind your boundary**, with enough spare room for the inevitable summer growth spurt. Overhanging branches need to leave at least **2.3 m above pavements**, **2.4 m above cycleways**, and a lofty **5.2 m above the road** — tall enough for everything from pedestrians to delivery vans to pass without needing to duck. And while nesting birds must be respected, trimming is allowed year-round as long as no active nests are disturbed.

Why does this matter? Because a few hedges around the parish have been getting a bit over-enthusiastic, making it tricky for drivers to see out of junctions or forcing walkers into the road like reluctant contestants in a rural obstacle course. So if your hedge is edging outwards, give it a haircut - it'll look smarter, and your neighbours (and their wing mirrors) will thank you.

* * *

LASHAM

LASHAM COFFEE MORNING

Simon Hancock

St Mary's Church provided a very welcome cool venue for the July coffee morning. Although quite a few residents were away this month there was a very good attendance with over 20 people enjoying coffee, tea and lots of cake and biscuits.

The event was hosted by Katie and Simon, special thanks to Lorraine and Sandra for providing a sticky toffee cake and lovely fruit cake.





There is no coffee morning in August but it will resume in September.



THE OLD RECTORY CENTENARY PICNIC

Jane Tobias & Sally Edwards

This year the village summer event was hosted by the Goor family in the garden of The Old Rectory.

The Old Rectory was built in 1926 and lived in by a series of Reverends up until 1973 when it became unoccupied.

In 1976 Maurice & Antonia Goor moved into The Old Rectory with their three sons

The Old Rectory had Virginia Creeper growing all over the front of the house which had to be pushed aside to get through the front door; luckily the building was dry inside. Maurice said that the house had a lovely feeling about it.

Antonia remembers spending at least four hours cleaning the nicotine off the walls of each room before being able to start painting!

In 1013 Maurice & Antonia Goor moved to Wingfield House and Joff and Hannah Goor moved in with their children.

The Old Rectory has seen many changes over the years making it the beautiful home that it is now.

2026 sees the celebration of the centenary of The Old Rectory AND fifty years of the Goor family enjoying the property as their family home.

Maurice Goor opened the event and the Vic Cracknell band kept everyone entertained.



The Centenary Picnic was blessed with glorious weather and villagers got into the spirit of the event by all taking part in the best dressed table competition





Many thanks to everyone for making it such a fabulous occasion; in particular the Marquee Team, stallholders and villagers for donating raffle prizes and attending!

Special thanks to the Goor family for use of The Old Rectory garden which made a beautiful setting.

* * *



SHALDEN

St PETER & St PAUL GUILD OF MARTHA

Kirsty Ennever

August

- 1 Jane Shirvell / Lin Baxter
- 8 Karen Saponaro / Lynne Hignett
- 15 Michele Rankin / Kirsty Ennever
- 22 Rozanne Wilson / Rosalind Ommanney
- 29 Debbie Todd/Silvia Blake

September

- 5 Jane Shirvell / Lin Baxter
- 12 Karen Saponaro / Lynne Hignett
- 19 Michele Rankin / Kirsty Ennever
- 26 Rozanne Wilson / Rosalind Ommanney

WELCOME RETURN

Loraine Champness

Not so much a welcome, but a welcome back to the village to Alistair Ennever, who has returned to Shalden with his wife Rosie and their young sons, Ollie and Obi. They moved into Glebe House in May, following Mike and Kirsty’s re-location to Glebe Cottage.

I understand the relative chaos of the packing cases is beginning to subside, and they are enjoying the pleasures of country life.

SHALDEN FETE

Shalden had a very successful Fete at the beginning of July. We look forward to their report and photos next month.

IVAN ALEKSIC

Loraine Champness

Long-time resident of Shalden, Ivan Aleksic has passed away in Basingstoke hospital. He had been unwell for some time, managing to fight off two serious infections, but he very sadly finally succumbed, on Wednesday 8th of July.

Ivan was born on 01/10/1937 in Belgrade, Serbia, the eldest of 3 children. Because of the war his early childhood was precarious, so much so that when he was very little, he had to go and live with his Grandmother as his Mother could no longer support him.

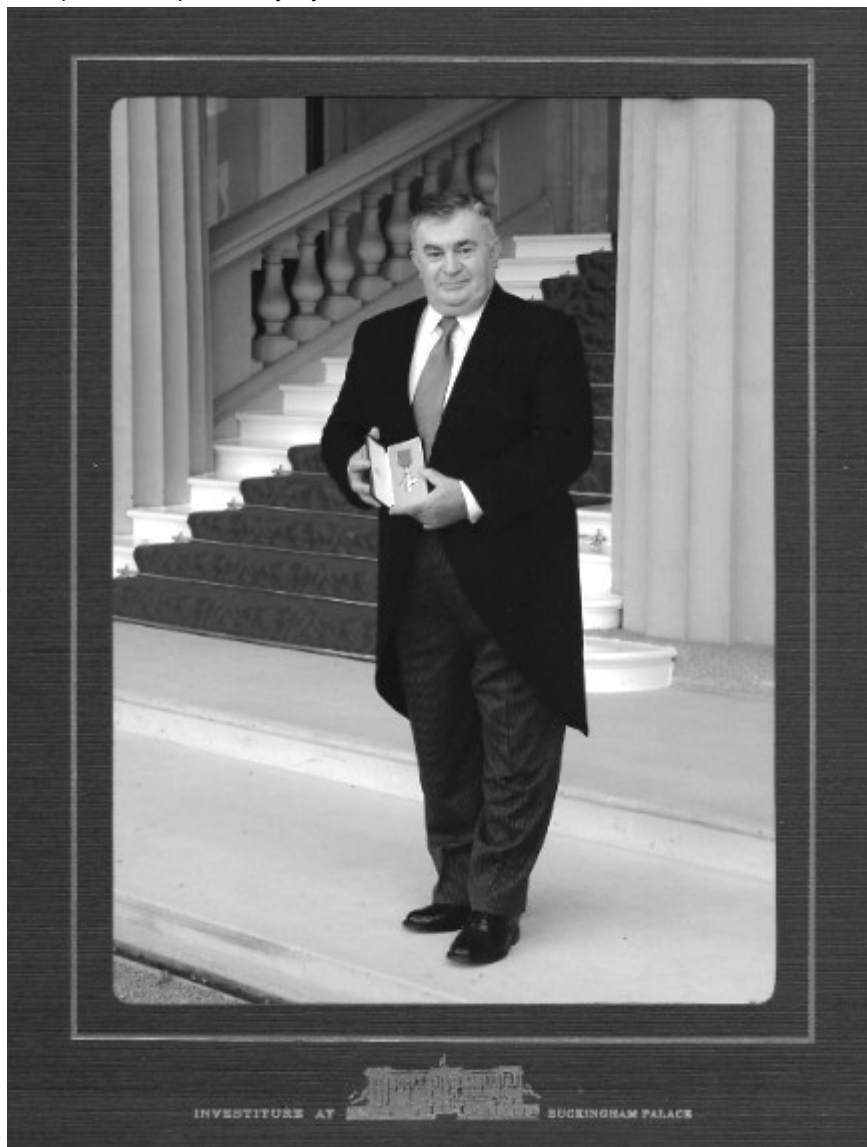
After the war as a young man, he fled the ongoing political unrest with the help of an underground organisation. This was a very dangerous undertaking - if they had been discovered they would all have been shot - but he was not prepared to compromise his freedom (both personal and political), by living under Communist rule. Because he had learnt French at school, he made his way to France, arriving in Paris, where he found a job working for a wine merchant.



Sometime later, he met his future wife Stoyanka, who had gone to Paris to attend a conference about democracy in Serbia, which Ivan was also attending. When it became obvious that their relationship was going to continue, he moved to England to be near her. They married just before Christmas in 1969 and settled in Old Basing. Between them, they set up a polyurethane moulding company called Yuthane Ltd with Stoyanka's brother. Their daughter, Divna was born in 1973 and when she was 7 they moved to Shalden, to their forever home.

He was very heavily involved in the Serbian Orthodox Church, becoming President of the Church Council in London. At that time there was no specific place for Orthodox Serbians to be buried and he became involved in rectifying this. He had a particular fondness for the orderliness of military cemeteries and this is reflected in the site that was eventually chosen at Brookwood.

His fierce appreciation of personal and political freedom stayed with him all his life. He spent a lot of time supporting democracy in Serbia, he often attended conferences and he fundraised to help bring about a more democratic process to Serbia. Because of all this work, in 2004 he was awarded an MBE for 'Services to Democracy in the Balkans'. His medal was presented personally by the late Queen, an occasion that he cherished with pride.



Any opportunity to discuss politics was seized upon with relish; he retained a love of war films all his life and he loved playing and watching tennis – Novak Djokovic was a particular favourite.

He loved living in Shalden and had many friends here. He particularly enjoyed the lunches he spent with Martin Nonhebel and Peter Wilson, when they would escape to a pub to discuss politics at length. They affectionately called themselves the 'alternative W.I.!'

He did not want to move from the village, and though his health declined in recent years he managed to stay in his own home, without the need to go into a care home, almost until the end.

Divna Aleksic

I shall miss Ivan – I've lived next door to the Aleksics for over 40 years and never had a cross word. He was a great character with wonderful stories, they don't make them like that any more! My sympathies go to Divna.

Rosemary Hartgill

We have known Ivan for many years here in the village, and in 2018, before Stoyanka, his wife died, we had the privilege of travelling down the Danube with them both to visit their home country, Serbia. Ivan proudly showed us some of the key sites in Belgrade.

In recent years Ivan has been in very poor health, but we will miss him badly.

Peter and Lissa Wilson

We first met Ivan and Stojanka when we moved to the village 19 years ago and moved into the newly-built 'Court', opposite 'Highbank', where they lived. Shortly afterwards they invited us to their Christmas party. This was such a kind gesture and gave us the opportunity of not only meeting our lovely new neighbours together with their family and friends but also so many other Shalden residents. Living opposite them we got to know them very well over the years – as we did their daughter, Divna. Ivan had a wonderful sense of humour and had many lovely stories which he remembered as though they were yesterday – he was as sharp as a pin.

Despite his declining health over recent years, he kept his sense of humour and interest in what was going on in the village. He was a super neighbour and we're certainly going to miss him.

Mark and Rosalind Ommanney

Ivan and his wife Stoyanka were such a lovely couple and showed us great kindness and friendship from the time we moved to Shalden as a young family in 2000. We got to know Ivan more in recent years and really enjoyed his company when we visited him at home. He was such an interesting man and always so cheerful and keen to hear news of the family as well as any village news. He showed such courage, never complaining when things became very difficult and painful for him. We shall all miss Ivan very much. Our thoughts are with his daughter, Divna, at this very sad time.

Jo Holliday

Dear Ivan, he was a wonderfully brave man and the kindest of friend to all. He was very involved in all village activities and a generous host when he and Stoyanka held their yearly 'Slava's'. Stoyanka and Ivan built a thriving business in Bordon. They both loved the classical concerts at The Anvil and elsewhere, also the AFA in Alton. Two of the loveliest people I have ever met. Ivan rest in peace.

Mary Hart

In Memory of Ivan Aleksic

Shalden has lost one of its true characters. Ivan Aleksic passed away recently after spending his final three months in Basingstoke Hospital. I visited him regularly throughout his time there, and it says everything about him that even among strangers, he became the nurses' favourite patient.

Ivan came to England the long way round. As a young man in Serbia, he lived through the aftermath of the Second World War, and when Communism took hold he made the difficult choice to flee, leaving behind his family, his friends, everything familiar, and travelled across Europe to France. He spoke often of his time in Paris, a young man alone, building a life from nothing. Eventually he made his way to England, where he built a successful business, married his beloved wife Stojanka, and they had a daughter, Divna.

When Sue and I moved to Shalden over ten years ago, Ivan and Stojanka were among the first to make us feel welcome, along with Jane and Mike Trapaud. That warmth never faded. After Stojanka died a few years ago, Ivan was on his own, and I'd pop over to sit with him for an hour or so. He was a larger than life character and had a wide circle of friends from every walk of life, a glass of good wine always close at hand, and strong opinions on everything from Brexit, football and tennis.

We talked about politics, about his years in Paris, about the state of the world. But behind the stories and the opinions was a man of real generosity and kindness, who'd lived a colourful, sometimes hard life but came through it with his warmth intact.

I'll miss our afternoon and sometimes evening chats together, his friendship, fun and laughter. He leaves behind his daughter Divna, and a village full of people whose lives he touched. Shalden won't be quite the same without Ivan.

Bernard & Sue Stewart

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The CHURCH



FORGET ME NOT

Wendy Burnhams

Forget Me Not Service 2.30pm, Wednesday August 12th at All Saints Church.

Everyone is warmly invited to join us in remembering those affected by dementia. Followed by tea and entertainment in All Saints Church Hall.

For more details contact:

Wendy Burnhams, 07514 280 362,

wendy@burnhamsfamily.co.uk



Please join us for drinks, meet with friends and neighbours, and welcome Rev. Tim Gomm and his wife, Karen.

We'd love to see everyone from the parishes of Shalden, Lasham and Bentworth for a relaxed and sociable evening.

6.30pm, Friday 4th September
St. Mary's Church, Bentworth

RSVP to Cathy at
cathy.dumelow@gmail.com

CHARITY

AN AWFULLY BIG ADVENTURE Part 3

Jacqui Austin

Although Helen had told me to ensure that my mobile phone had the recommended air-raid warning app on my phone, it had never occurred to me that I might actually need it! However, after just shy of an hour, we heard the all-clear and headed back to our rooms for the final three hours of sleep.

After our buffet breakfast, we stepped out to have a quick look at the area around the hotel. However, at 9am, there was a city-wide message, carried on loudspeakers, reminding everyone to stop what they were doing and spend a minute thinking of the fallen. Everywhere we looked, there was utter stillness. People who had been walking to work or the shops, church or back to their homes, simply stopped, bowed their heads and remained motionless, until the loudspeakers called out 'Slava Ukraine'. Then, as if everyone was stepping out of a picture, life began again.

We knew that we had a full day ahead of us, so clambered into the minibuses provided and the entire convoy was taken to the Field of Mars. This was a cemetery, set up at the start of hostilities. The field sized graveyard was full, another one not far away was already half full and the authorities had another site in mind for when it was completely full. In contrast to a British cemetery, it was colourful, with the blue and yellow Ukrainian National Flag flapping above almost every grave, often along with a black and red flag, that symbolised the earth and the blood shed on it. A picture of each person was above each grave. We walked along row after row, acknowledging family members who were sitting by their loved ones on small, permanent stools, or cleaning and tidying the graves. We were told that photography was permitted, but only if taken with the aim of acting as witnesses to the horror of this war. Men and women in their early 20s lay alongside their compatriots in their 30s and 40s.



Field of Mars - the first cemetery of the war, now full up

Many of the convoy's drivers returned to the minibuses in tears. I was one.

We were then taken to the headquarters of the local authority, and stood on the very steps that Zelenskyy had spoken from, just the previous week. Here, the Ukrainians were fulsome in their gratitude for our support, and for travelling such vast distances to bring aid. We were introduced to the head of the defence brigade, whose team had shot down 20 missiles as we had dozed in the hotel wine cellar. Not one had broken through. We were all very grateful, as you can imagine. Being a first-timer, I was presented with a plaque, given small UK and Ukrainian flags, a shoulder bag with the national colours and a very pretty box of rather delicious Ukrainian chocolates; they made it home... just! We met some of the people who were going to take the pickups off for their important roles and many of us signed one of the vehicles.



(Our Navara was already on its way to the other side of Ukraine, being driven by a very grateful Igor.) Each vehicle saves an average of ten lives, before it loses its own.

We were then given a choice of where we could go next. A farm tour, a drone factory tour or a tour of Lviv. Many of the farmers headed off to the farm, military veterans went to the drone factory, Helen and a couple of other P4P stalwarts headed for the Orphanage, the couple who had brought supplies for the local dog sanctuary went on their way there, and I joined a number of other people for a tour of Lviv.

There is a saying that Kyiv is the heart of Ukraine, but Lviv is its soul. Time and again, we were told that the war may be leading to many losing their lives, but it would never stop the Ukrainians from losing their love of life. As it was a gloriously sunny day, people were out and about, and clearly determined to live as normal a life as possible. There were buskers, shoppers, pavements were full of people enjoying afternoon coffees, school children were being shown around historic buildings, trams were tink-tinking their way around the city centre and our guide was trying to jam several hundred years of Lviv history into a mere three hours!

The city is fascinating, both for its location, between rivers that led to the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea, thus allowing a 'short cut' between the two, and for its connections to all the royal families of Europe, through marriage and invasion.

The buildings are beautiful, many being designed by Italian architects in previous centuries, although it was sad to see sandbags everywhere, vibration-proof panels up around churches and their precious stained-glass windows, and huge generators in the streets near public buildings ready for the next time a part of the energy providing infrastructure was cut off.

That evening, as we joined our Ukrainian hosts for a farewell meal, every single member of P4P convoy #27 felt a humble determination to find more pickups and to return.

Children from the Orphanage helped unload the van



So... anyone got a Toyota Hilux, Mitsubishi L200 or a Nissan Navara just lying around, doing nothing?

* * *

GENERAL INTEREST

COME AND SING WITH ALTON CHORAL SOCIETY

Patrick Busby

A brief early history and an invitation to join us

From Victorian choral union roots to wartime concerts and community music-making Alton Choral Society has its roots in the flourishing choral movement of Victorian Hampshire. By 1871 an Alton branch of the North Hants Choral Union was already bringing local singers together, and records from 1870–71 show that organised music-making in the town was well under way before the Society itself was reported as newly established in January 1872.

From the start, the Society reflected the life of the town. Supported by familiar Alton names from business, medicine and local church circles, it gave concerts in the Town Hall, Assembly Rooms and parish church, drawing on large choruses, visiting soloists and the great sacred works of Handel, Haydn, Mendelssohn and others. Women, too, became increasingly visible as performers, officers and conductors. By the First World War the Society was singing not only for pleasure but for charitable causes, and by the 1920s its winter rehearsals continued a proud local tradition that had begun more than fifty years before.

That same spirit of community music-making continues today.....

Alton Choral Society Today

Today, the Society presents four main concerts each year, including the sell-out *Wonder of Christmas* concert at Alton Maltings, *Music for an Autumn Afternoon*, *Reflective Music for Good Friday*, and *Music for a Summer's Evening*. In the last year alone, its concerts have raised more than £3,200 for local charities.

Its repertoire remains broad and welcoming, ranging from Bach, Fauré and Gilbert & Sullivan to popular musicals.



Whether you are an experienced singer or simply enjoy choral music, Alton Choral Society is always pleased to welcome new members. To find out more, please get in touch: Email: welcome@altonchoral.org.uk

Visit our website: www.altonchoral.org.uk

Call: 07715 771 489

* * *

EVENTS

CURTIS MUSEUM 2026

Jill Line

OPENING TIMES: Tuesday to Saturday 10am – 4.30pm 01420 82802
www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum

August/September

The Time Detective Agency Fact Trail runs throughout the Summer Holidays. Become a Time Detective!

There will be three Time Periods to detect - Ancient, Mediaeval and Modern.

Collect stamps to mark your progress for a summer packed with time-travelling adventures, **at 10 museums all across Hampshire!** (Check individual venue opening days in advance). Step into history and explore a different era each week as you train to become an official Time Detective Agent.

Take part in free family trails, hands-on crafts, and exciting challenges designed for curious minds of all ages!

Start your journey by completing your first activity and receive your very own TDA Trainee ID Card

Earn Mission Complete stickers at any participating venue

Collect 4 stickers to unlock an exclusive Time Detective Agency badge!

FREE event – no booking required!

Drop in, explore, and travel through time all summer long.

Film Night at the Curtis - "Early Man" (PG) Saturday 1st August, 3pm - 5pm.
£5 booking online in advance, £6 at the door.

During **September**, we're running an **Ancient Romans vs Ancient Britons** trail. Choose your side and design your weapons. **FREE**.

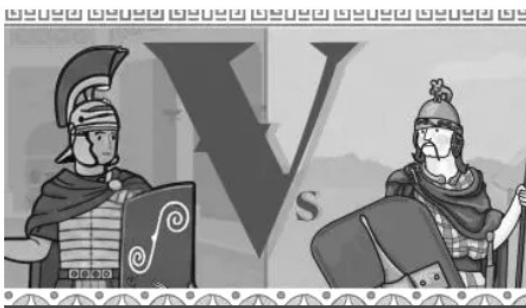
This activity runs throughout the autumn term.

Following the success of last year's **Heritage Open Day**, we're doing another HOD, this time with re-enactment group **Herigeas Hundas**,

Butser IX Legion, and **Experience the Iron Age** joining us to provide live demonstrations, show off medieval skills and trades, and possibly even

play some live medieval music.

Saturday 12th September



Nicci Shepherd

Shaun Wallace to support Cardiac Health as guest speaker at Annual Lecture

Cardiac Health is delighted to announce that renowned barrister, television quiz

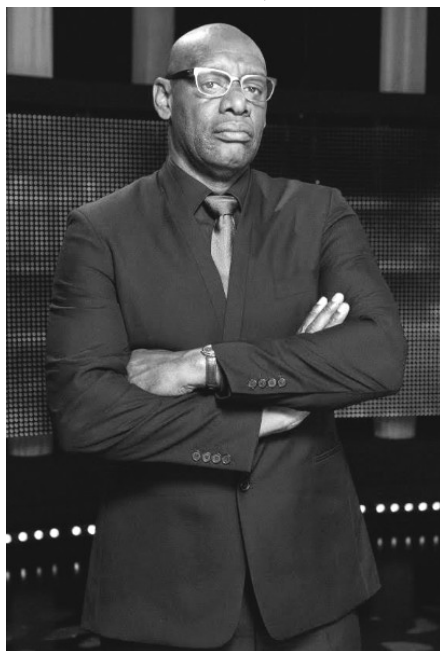
champion, author, and motivational speaker **Shaun Wallace** will be the guest speaker at **this year's Cardiac Health Annual Lecture at the Alton Maltings**

on Wednesday 7 October.

Best known to millions as "The Dark Destroyer" on ITV's *The Chase*, Shaun Wallace has built an extraordinary career defined by determination, discipline, and achievement. Called to the Bar in 1984, he has enjoyed a distinguished legal career as a Criminal Defence Barrister spanning more than three decades. Alongside his work in law, Shaun has become one of the UK's most recognisable quiz personalities, making history in 2004 as the first Black winner of *Mastermind* before going on to star in *The Chase*.

Shaun is widely respected not only for his professional success, but also for his commitment to charity and community causes. He has used his profile to support a wide range of organisations through fundraising, awareness campaigns, charity quizzes, and public speaking engagements.

Cardiac Health is honoured to welcome Shaun to this special event, where he will share his inspiring personal story of ambition, resilience, and perseverance while helping to shine a spotlight on the importance of cardiac health awareness and support for patients and families.



Guests will have the opportunity to meet Shaun after the lecture, when he will be signing and selling copies of his bestselling autobiography, Chasing the Dream, and posing for photographs. This promises to be an inspiring and memorable evening in support of Cardiac Health and its vital work to improve health in the community through exercise.

Tickets can be purchased from the Cardiac Health website: www.cardiachealth.org.uk/events

OPEN GARDEN FOR NGS Saturday & Sunday 8th & 9th August

Church House, Trinity Hill, Medstead, GU34 5LT

At just below 700ft this one acre garden is one of the highest in Hampshire and has a mixture of soils with some acid areas enjoyed by Camellias, Azaleas and Rhododendrons.

The one acre garden of sweeping mixed borders full of colour, contrasting features and textures complimented by sculptures and unusual mature trees including Juglans nigra, Acer Davidii and a white flowering Catalpa Bignonioides centrepiece as well as many unusual varieties of traditional British plants.

The garden also contains a semi-woodland area, a completely replanted formal rose garden and an enclosed well and patio screened by espaliered fruit trees.

The garden is largely flat with lawns but there is a gravel drive, uneven woodland paths and terrace with steps down to the second patio. Wheelchair access is possible to most areas.



The St Andrew's congregation provide and serve refreshments throughout the weekend.

Refreshments:

Tea, coffee & cake.

Refreshments in aid of St Andrews Church

Admission

Adult: £8.00 Child: £2.00

Opening times 14:00 - 17:30





ALTON ORGAN SOCIETY

Elsbeth Mackeggie Gurney

St Lawrence Alton Organ Society Celebrates 60 years!

October 6th 2026 sees the start of the 60th season of organ recitals given on the magnificent instrument in St Lawrence Church Alton.

In 1966 the organ was rebuilt and soon afterwards Cyril Diplock, who was Organist at St Lawrence for over 45 years, together with Peter Ashworth, his assistant, established the organ society. We believe the society

The first recital was given by the late Francis Jackson, Organist & Master of Music at York Minster for 36 years. Francis became the first Patron of the Society and remained as such until his death in 2022. He was joined by Dame Gillian Weir, the late David Sanger & our own Peter Ashworth, who sadly died in 2023. Dame Gillian Weir has given several recitals at St Lawrence as have our other current Patrons, Dr David Hill MBE & Martin Baker. We are delighted to welcome both David and Martin as recitalists during the 2026 – 27 season.

Since the inception of the society, St Lawrence has played host to the best organ recitalists from around the world; in addition to our patrons, wonderful recitals have been given across the years by, amongst others, Olivier Latry, Simon Preston, Katherine Dienes Williams, Carlo Curley and many others.

As well as well known recitals, the society engages young professionals – in the last couple of seasons, audiences have been delighted by the skill and musicianship displayed by George Herbert, John Challenger, Joshua Stephens, Ouriana Gassiou and Joshua Simoes who was the 2026 winner of the Musicians Company Award for Organists.

The instrument at St Lawrence was originally built in 1866 by Henry Speechly in 1866 and offers a traditional but unique sound. It is regarded as the finest parish church organ in the south of England and recitalists who revisit say playing it is like reconnecting with an old & trusted friend. A complete rebuild took place in 1966, carried out by Wood Wordsworth & Co of Leeds and a smaller restoration project happened in 1993, the work being done by Martin Cross. The organ is maintained by Harrison & Harrison & and a major restoration project is planned as the organ is beginning to show its age.

Details of all the recitals in our 60th season will given in future editions of The Villager – the first recital is on 6th October at 8pm & will be given by Dr David Hill MBE. We hope to see you there.

For more information see the website

www.altonorgansociety.co.uk

FUN FRIDAYS IN ALTON

FREE Family Fun Every Week in the Public Gardens, Alton

This summer, families are invited to enjoy a lively, laughter-filled hour each week with Fun Fridays in the Public Gardens – a series of free children's entertainment running every Friday during the summer holidays from 2:00pm to 3:00pm.

Organised by Alton Town Council, Fun Fridays are designed to bring joy, entertainment, and fresh air fun to local families for free.

Perfect for children under 8 years but everyone is welcome – just bring your imagination and plenty of energy! **If it rains Fun Fridays will take place in the Assembly Rooms.**

Each week will feature a different act or activity:

FRIDAY 7th AUGUST MINI EXPLORERS

Adventure awaits! Join the Mini Explorers for a nature-inspired session packed with discovery, games and outdoor play.
A perfect way for little ones to learn and explore the garden's wonders. Let the adventure begin.

FRIDAY 14th AUGUST YO-CHI

Yo-Chi is a creative wellbeing programme that combines Seasonal Yoga, Qigong, storytelling and mindfulness to support children's physical, mental, and emotional health.

FRIDAY 21st AUGUST HAMPSHIRE DANCE FITNESS

Dance, move, and groove! Zumba Kids with Hampshire Dance Fitness brings high-energy routines and funky beats for a fun fitness party.
Great for burning energy and building confidence – all while having a blast!

FRIDAY 28th AUGUST PROFESSOR POTTY

An amazing children's magician, Professor Potty is... potty! Cue lots of gasps and heaps of laughter!
A fast-paced, laugh-a-minute show filled with crazy tricks, slapstick fun and unexpected surprises!

For more information, please visit <https://www.alton.gov.uk/fun-fridays-2026/>

* * *

CLUBS

ALTON



ALTON CAMERA CLUB

Renee Smith

Although we've taken a break for the summer, Alton Camera Clubmembers are still out and about enjoying the fine weather and attending regular field trips. Recent outings haven taken us to Marwell Zoo.



*Meerkats
Adrian Corser*

*Tamarind Monkey
Jane Somerville*



*Sloth Silhouette
Olwen Parton*



the Trooping the Colour



Red Arrows Wendy Davies
and, most recently, Longstock Water Park.



Charles & Camilla Renee Smith



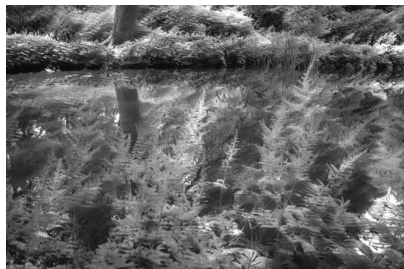
Houses of Parliament Jacqui Austin



Water with Pink Flowers Steve Emmerson



Lake with Orange Flowers Paul Saban



*Pink Ferns
Reflected
Lynne
Harles*



Butterfly Ann Pitman

As a club, we're anticipating the start of our 80th season of photography and we look forward to welcoming new and not-so-new members to an exciting photographic year ahead.

What can we offer?

The club is part of the Southern Counties Photographic Federation (SCPF) and has access to a wide range of judges and speakers, with presentations from experienced photographers.

Practical workshops are held throughout the season, with hands-on demonstrations and expert advice on various techniques and genres of photography including (but not limited to) portraiture, macro, astro, wildlife, landscape and street photography.

The opportunity to enter friendly club competitions every month, where digital images and prints are assessed by qualified judges who score and provide constructive feedback, ensures that your photography is continually improving and gaining recognition. We also enter images into regional SCPF competitions.

We have a thriving bi-monthly Field Trip programme with past trips including Alresford Show, a London Thames boat trip, Bournemouth and Windsor. We work closely with local initiatives including Broadlands Riding for the Disabled, Alton Operatic & Dramatic Society and Holybourne Theatre.

The 2026-27 programme has been finalised, and we have an exciting programme ahead.

In Autumn we welcome Tony Worobiec for a talk on The Beauty of Monochrome and Tony Cole will tell us How He Approaches his Photography. Daniel Bridge will introduce us to Abstract and Minimalism and Keith Betton will give a talk on Bird Photography: Falklands, South Georgia & Antarctica.

Our competition season kicks off with a challenge competition, 'Song Titles' at the end of September.

Our new season starts on Wednesday 2nd September. We meet every Wednesday from 7.30pm to 9.30/10pm at Holybourne Village Hall, GU34 4HD and offer a welcome to people of all ages and abilities whether you use a mobile phone, a digital or film camera. We normally repair to the village pub afterwards.

To allow potential members to sample our club before committing to membership, up to 3 club evenings may be attended prior to joining. A £5 fee will be levied for practical and speaker evenings; this is refundable against future membership.

For further information see our website www.altoncameraclub.org.uk.

Email: chair@altoncameraclub.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/altoncameraclub>

Instagram [@altoncameraclub](https://www.instagram.com/altoncameraclub)



ASA

Forthcoming Lectures:

Tuesday 8th September: Pepe Martinez *Banksy - Fraud or Genius*

The lecture will trace the story of Banksy's humble beginnings as a tagger on the streets of Bristol in the 1980's to one of the most recognisable names in the art world.

Vanessa MacMahon

This lecture will be held at Martin Read Hall at Alton College commencing at 7:30pm (doors open 6:45pm)

MEDSTEAD

HAMPSHIRE FEDERATION OF WI – MEDSTEAD

Gill Siddall

July Meeting report.

The main hall in Medstead Village Hall has unfortunately developed some faults with the roof and has been closed while the faults are remedied. This was a shame as air conditioning had recently been installed which would have been a treat in this intense heat. Instead of the planned meeting with a speaker, a social afternoon was planned in the Wiltshire Room and 19 hardy members attended and spent a very enjoyable time drinking tea or cold drinks and enjoying the company of fellow members.

At the meeting on August 13th members will be pleased to welcome back speaker Fiona Burchall, who is a fantastic story teller and has everyone completely engrossed as she spins her tales. Hopefully the temperatures will be lower by then although the hall will be cool.

New members and visitors are always welcome to the meetings on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 2pm in Medstead Village Hall.

HAMPSHIRE FEDERATION OF WI – ROEDOWNS

Diana Constantine

At Our July meeting we had visitors from the charity Dogs for Autism. Melinda spoke about the charity and its ethos being ‘ **Our vision is to train and provide assistance dogs, at no cost, to autistic people of any age, anywhere in the UK.**’

There are currently 11 dogs being trained, 28 active working partnerships and the cost to train a dog is £25,000. The dogs are trained to support autistic children and adults by undertaking specific tasks. The charity relies on the generosity of individuals and communities to help transform lives.

The star of the evening was Dora, a young chocolate brown Labrador who was with her trainer Jill.

Dora was very calm and well behaved and loved going around the room checking out all the members !

Forthcoming meetings

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 5th August | Portsmouth Harbour tour |
| 2nd September | Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust. |
| 7th October | Hampshire Wick – candle maker |



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@hampshirewi.org.uk or President Jill Kerr 01420 564116.

MEDSTEAD GARDENERS' CLUB

'Gardening adds life to your years and years to your life'

Caroline Daniels

Unknown



Some of the pots and flowers for sale at the Village Fete

Wow! What a hot summer we are having. Gardens have had a parched time.

August is a busy month for all gardeners and a really busy one for the garden club! We had the Medstead fete on 11th July and it was a really hot day. We sold an array of plants and planted pots alongside a stall with a tombola. It was well attended and the atmosphere on the village green was buzzing with an array of stalls and people having a good time.

The Garden Club Stall displaying a wonderful selection of plants and pots.



The Summer Show also takes place in July where members can show their exhibits of flowers, produce and handicrafts. Photos in September Edition

Medstead Gardener's Club Programme 2026

www.medsteadgardenersclub.org

Meetings at Medstead Village Hall. Doors open at 7pm with meetings starting at 7.30pm

Month	Date	Event
August		No Meeting
September	Tuesday 1st	Antony Powell Planting for Autumn Colour
October	Tuesday 6th	Chris Bird Ferns and Grasses
November	Tuesday 3rd	Special guest speaker Getting the most from Your Garden
December	Tuesday 1st	AGM and Christmas Social (Members Only)

Membership £12 per person Guests £3 per visit (Max 2 visits)

Some of the gardening jobs for August- August is a good month to collect seeds as they ripen on plants and shrubs. Keep deadheading dahlias and other perennials to encourage a constant display until the autumn. Camellias and rhododendrons will need lots of water as their flower buds are now forming for next spring. Penstemons can now have cuttings taken. Plant new strawberry runners into new beds. Pinch out tops of tomatoes as flowers now are unlikely to produce fruit. Order bulbs to plant out next month for spring. Enjoy harvesting crops of tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers from greenhouses. Shade greenhouses if weather is hot and water as needed. Laurel hedges will need trimming and prune wisteria. Remove suckers from base of roses and fruit trees. Turn compost to promote decomposition.

Enjoy this last month of Summer in your garden!



THE MEDSTEAD PLAYERS

Tania Norman



The Alton Lions Classic Car Show 2026 takes place on Saturday, 22nd August 2026 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm along Alton High Street. Hosted by the Alton Lions Club, this free public event features hundreds of vintage vehicles, live music, family entertainment, and charity stalls supporting St Michael's Hospice – Hospice at Home.

The theme for 2026 is "The French Connection" (Un festival de voitures classiques), which includes a dedicated showcase of around 20 French classic cars.

The Players have been asked if we would provide a soupçon of French atmosphere in the form of little vingettes from "Allo! Allo!" Part of the showcase will be set up as a café.

The suggestion was met with approval by the members and work has already started on "script" ideas. We will be discussing it further as part of the next social meeting on "script" ideas. We will be discussing it further as part of the next social meeting on (listen very carefully, I will say this only once) Tuesday 28 July at 7:00 pm in the Wiltshire Room.

This should be a bit of fun and all for a good cause, so please come along to the meeting if you are interested in taking part. The roles will be very small and probably mostly ad-libbed apart from the myriad of well known catch phrases.

**National Trust Supporter Group visit to Chichester Flower Festival
and Fishbourne Roman Palace**

o0o

On the wettest day of June so far, forty members of the **North Hampshire National Trust Centre** (NHNTC) boarded a coach – inauspiciously delayed by traffic problems – to visit the *Chichester Flower Festival*, a biennial event held in the cathedral. For this year's festival, there were 66 spectacular floral displays installed throughout the historic building.

The installations were designed by leading Sussex floral artist Caroline Daines around the theme '*Nature's Embrace*'. To bring those 66 massive displays to life, an army of over 100 volunteer flower arrangers worked behind the scenes using more than 50,000 individual blooms. The centrepiece in front of the high altar was particularly impressive – if difficult to view in its entirety on account of the crush of the 'spectators'. Additionally, the festival spilled out into the city centre for its 30th anniversary, with over 15 local businesses putting up extra bespoke floral installations along the high street.

Members made their own arrangements for lunch – many choosing the cathedral café – before the coach continued on its short journey to Fishbourne Roman Palace, where an enthusiastic guide – a classics graduate and former school teacher – provided fascinating details of the Palace...and it was a 'palace', not a 'villa', that was larger than Buckingham Palace. Mind you, half of it cannot be viewed, since it is now under the houses of the village!

The NHNTC is a supporter Group for the National Trust, generating a financial surplus from its activities to give to the Trust, largely through donations to *The Vyne*, near Basingstoke. Currently it is helping to fund the purchase of a new passenger buggy to ferry folk from the car park to the main building and its café, the Brewhouse. Activities include afternoon talks and social events in the winter at the Elizabeth Hall, Hook, and coach outings - not just to NT properties – in the summer. Non-members are most welcome at our events, as are new members for the modest annual subscription of £8.

Details of all our activities are to be found on our website at: www.nhntc.com

CLUB CONTACTS

Medstead Bowls: Dennis Church 01420 564475 dennis@windhamhill.plus.com

Medstead Players: Tania Norman 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

I inspected the Bees yesterday (Sunday), early in the morning to avoid the heat. They are coping very well with this hot weather. I often see them gathered on the landing board, fanning their wings to improve the air circulation in the hive and keep the brood cool. All colonies have managed to dry all the honey that was wet last month and made a lot more too. There are now six Supers in the house and four more on the hives, being excluded. 'Excluding' is a term used to describe the excluding, or evacuating, of bees from the Supers so it can be taken off and prepared for extraction. This is not a very easy job, as you can imagine the bees are not very keen on giving up their hard-earned treasure. I've bought some more excluders, which are small devices that acts as 'one-way' passages. These are placed on a board between the Super you want to take off and the rest of the hive. I'm trying a couple of different designs as the 'Porter escapes' I currently use are easy for the bees to defeat. It's incredible how ingenious these tiny animals are.

Most of the honey that was extracted in May has been sold, 40 jars just at the village Fete. However, by the time you read this there should be another batch. Keep your eye out for the 'Honey Pot' on top of Horsley's gate post. If you're not familiar with the process, this upturned terracotta flower pot indicates honey is on sale and available from the letter box, a bit further up our drive. Payment is on an honesty principle. Jars are still £6 and payment can be made in cash into the letter box, or via Paypal to 'timgj@hotmail.com'. I will also put out a WhatsApp message on the Shalden Neighbourly News chat room. If anyone wants to order ten or more jars, I'll be happy to deliver. Many people offer to return empty jars but it's just not worth my effort to remove labels and clean. I'm legally obliged to renew the lids. The jars I buy are 30% recycled anyway. I better sign off now and get those new jars ordered.

Bee Happy

Broadlands

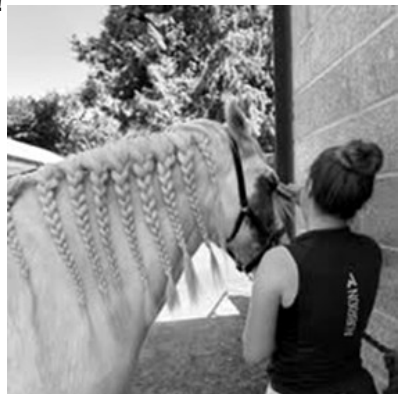
Equine Therapy & RDA



Kim Ottridge

Pony News 🐾

Hot Hot Hot!



Despite the heat, everyone has been looking forward to their sessions, and our volunteers and grooms have been absolutely amazing, working tirelessly to ensure both our ponies and participants stay safe and comfortable.



William, Creagy and Teddy were absolutely foot perfect, producing a superb performance to come home as Champion and Reserve Champion.

We're incredibly proud of this special partnership with **Fawley Farm Feeds** and grateful to everyone involved from wonderful riders, supportive parents, grooms and their attention to detail and wonderful pony taxis, for another memorable day.

Upcoming Events

[illegible][illegible]

Broadlands
Ignite Therapy & Rock
BROADLANDS COMMUNITY HALL



'Singing with Dan'
BACK DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND

DAN COOPER, OUR OWN LOCAL, GARTH MALZONE, BELIEVE THAT WE CAN ALL SING. DAN WILL CHOOSE TWO SONGS FOR US TO ENJOY. YOU WILL BE AMAZED JUST WHAT AN INCREDIBLE SOUND THE GREAT WALL MAKES

YOU DON'T NEED TO HAVE SINGING BEFORE
OR BE ABLE TO READ MUSIC

WEDS 30TH SEPTEMBER 6.15 P.M. - 8.30 P.M.
BENTWORTH COMMUNITY HALL, BENTWORTH CHURCH, GULF
BENTWORTH REPAIRS CENTRE, THE PENNY FARM TO BRIDG
TICKETS £20 TO INCLUDE: BUBBLES ON ARRIVAL
COFFEE & CAKE IN THE INTERVAL

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TICKETS
CONTACT: 01273 810000

Broadlands
Equine Therapy & RDA

**TOUR OF
NICKY
HENDERSON'S
racing yard**

DATE:
Tuesday 8th September 2020

TIME:
10.00 a.m.

PLACE:
Great Eastern, Luton

Tickets and age restricted

TOUR OF THE YARD
SEE INSIDE THE STABLES
THE HORSES IN TRAINING

TICKET PRICE: £60
Includes refreshments and a glass of beer

**ALL PROCEEDS TO
BROADLANDS
RIDING FOR THE DISABLED**

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us. *Bigger posters at the back*

COUNTRY MATTERS

Julian Lewis

The recent weather has been wonderful for sun worshippers but only until the rainfall figures are analysed can the extent of the dry spell be appreciated.

March rainfall - 31.5 mm 1.27 ins

April rainfall – 20 mm 0.81 ins

May rainfall – 28.50 mm 1.15 ins

June rainfall – 75.5 mm 3.05 ins

Total 155.5 mm - 6.29 ins of rain during the peak growing season. This is the second year of low rainfall and the crops that are being harvested now will be affected with small grains – a lack of moisture to swell them. This is a serious problem if this trend continues every year – a Mediterranean climate? Where are our water supplies to come from especially in the south of the UK. More housing and people require more water.

Fires in the countryside are a big danger and are very much in the news at present. They can be devastating to property but also wildlife. We have had dry summers before but the changing countryside with fewer grazing livestock to keep the vegetation short and the re wilding of many areas which result in huge volumes of vegetation create ideal conditions for huge blazes. The strategies of leaving wild areas can be a disaster if a fire begins because so much wildlife and habitat is destroyed and of course a huge danger to those trying to control the outbreak. The environmentalists seem one dimensional and do not look at the bigger picture.

Once the crops have been cut and the land cultivated fire breaks are created but even in an urban setting there is great danger so do be careful – it only takes a stray spark to do untold damage. When I was working in the outback of Australia each station had a truck laden with water and pumps permanently ready for any fires. A good support system existed so that all of the neighbours joined forces to fight outbreaks which were usually caused by lightening strikes. The station I worked on (90,000 acres) was next door to one owned by Rupert Murdoch which was about 365,000 acres. One night we had a call about a fire on his station and we ended up travelling for what seemed like hours to reach the fire – and then it rained so we turned around and went home again.

I have just returned from a few days in northern Scotland – Aberdeenshire and the Cairngorms – which looked just amazing. Green and beautiful with fantastic mountains and rivers. When I left yesterday, which is peak tourist season, there were very few people around. Driving south from Braemar to Blairgowrie through Glenshee, which is a distance of 34 miles yesterday lunchtime, I came across only 1 vehicle also travelling south. Imagine travelling from Bentworth to Chichester via South Harting but only coming across one other car travelling in the same direction for the whole journey?

Northern hemisphere crops are now being harvested and there are concerns about yields in many regions. Europe has had the dryness and scorching temperatures. China – although a huge country has had a lot of flooding in some usually productive agricultural areas. The Canadian and Australian wheat harvests are forecast to be down 5 million tonnes and 10 million tonnes respectively due to lower yields. The US wheat crop **area** is the lowest since 1982 with yields forecast to be low due to drought therefore total wheat production will be much lower. Russia and Ukraine both have falling agricultural output due to the war and even more so because of the practical difficulty in exporting the grains. In summary world food stocks and production are diminishing and yet the world population and demand increases. This year is forecast to be an El Nino year – are we heading for a global food shortage?

The UK Government policy has been to reduce UK agricultural output through

environmental schemes – good but need to be more strategically placed and on a smaller scale, building on our most productive land and allowing the importation of food that is produced to a low standard that would be illegal in this country thus undercutting UK producers.

Cheap food is cheap for a reason - we are what we eat!

HAMPSHIRE FARMERS MARKETS Alton Saturday 8th August

Sunday, August 2	Romsey Farmers' Market	• 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Sunday, August 2	Petersfield Farmers' Market	• 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Sunday, August 9	Winchester Farmers' Market	• 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Sunday, August 9	Whiteley Farmers' Market	• 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Saturday, August 15	Emsworth Farmers' Market	• 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Sunday, August 16	Alresford Farmers' Market	• 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Saturday, August 29	Ringwood Farmers' Market	• 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Sunday, August 30	Winchester Farmers' Market	• 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - ALTON LIBRARY

Paddington Bear August 13th for 3-5 year olds - see poster on page

Turn up the volume on reading this summer!

This summer, The Reading Agency invites children to discover the joy of reading through **Read to the Beat!** — the music-themed **Summer Reading Challenge 2026**.

With a fantastic collection of books inspired by music from around the world, children can explore stories, poetry, graphic novels, and non-fiction for all reading levels.

Best of all, books are **FREE** to borrow from the library.

As part of the National Year of Reading, libraries are encouraging families to make reading part of their summer adventures. Children can sign up at Alton library, set their reading goals, and enjoy rewards along the way.

The Summer Reading Challenge runs from Saturday 11 July - Saturday 12 September

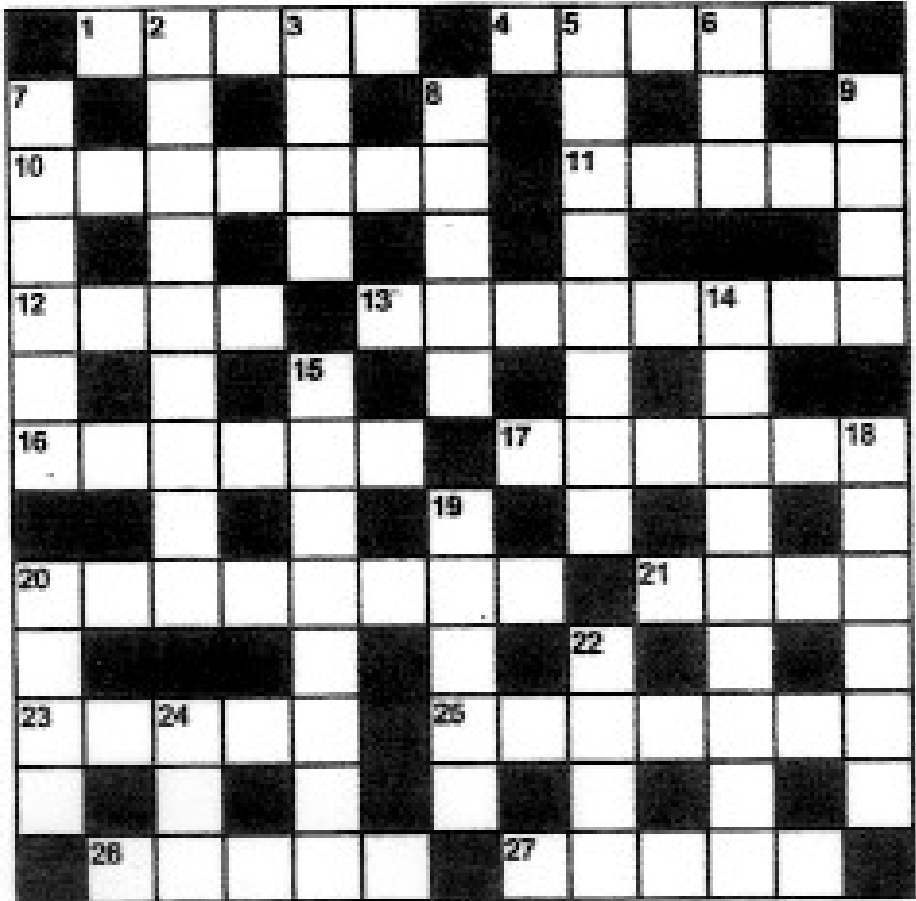
Sign up at Alton Library during opening hours:

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

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. Attire (5)
4. Indian class system (5)
10. French castle (7)
11. Night watch (5)
12. Old guitar (4)
13. Spice (8)
16. Athletic games (6)
17. Court game (6)
20. Allure (8)
21. Italian Wine Making Area (4)
23. Army Colour (5)
25. Old Roman warship (7)
26. Phase (5)
27. Salvagers (5)

Clues Down

2. Responses (9)
3. Leak (4)
5. Proceeds (8)
6. Pull (3)
7. Rebukes (6)
8. Sultry (5)
9. Open pie (4)
14. Monks habit ((9)
15. Tainting (8)
18. Old harpsichord (6)
19. Resigns (5)
20. Create (4)
22. Fibber (4)
24. Rearwards (3)



EVENTS



NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME
Garden Open For Charity

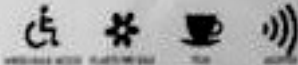
Church House

Trinity Hill, Medstead,
Alton, GU34 5LT

Saturday 8 August
2 - 5.30pm

Sunday 9 August
2 - 5pm

Adults £8 Children £2
Tea, coffee & cake



More information at ngs.org.uk

Tea at Three
with the Ponies

Broadlands
Equine Therapy & RDA
EST. 1955

Join us for a relaxing afternoon
meeting our gentle, friendly ponies.

Enjoy a delicious selection of sweet
and savoury treats, along with a cup
of tea or coffee, all set in our
peaceful surroundings. ♥

A perfect
afternoon
for all the
family! ♥



FUN FOR CHILDREN!



FRIDAY
14TH AUGUST



ADMISSION FREE
SMALL CHARGE
FOR REFRESHMENTS
EVERYONE WELCOME!
NO BOOKING REQUIRED



Broadlands
Equine Therapy & RDA EST. 1955



Hampshire
County Council

Library Service

Paddington's Holiday

Alton Library

Thursday 13 August
Drop-in between 2pm – 3.30pm



Join us for the story of Paddington's Holiday and Paddington themed activities. If you have your own Paddington Bear, please bring him along!

Suitable for ages 3 – 5 years. Parent/carers to stay.
£1 per child - collect craft pack from the enquiry desk.

  @hantslibraries

hants.gov.uk/library

Broadlands
Equine Therapy & RDA



TOUR OF NICKY HENDERSON'S *racing yard*



DATE:
Tuesday 8th September 2026



TIME:
10.00 a.m.



PLACE:
Seven Barrows, Lambourn



Tea/coffee and
cake provided



**TOUR OF THE YARD
AND A CHANCE TO SEE
THE HORSES IN TRAINING**



TICKET PRICE: £40
AVAILABLE AT
broadlandsgroupprda.org.uk/events



ALL PROCEEDS TO
BROADLANDS
RIDING FOR THE DISABLED



Broadlands
Equine Therapy & RDA



"A SHIFTED SENSE OF NORMAL"

*The personal reflections of
a prison governor, by Suzy Dymond-White*



THU 17 SEPT



WIVELROD BARN

**COST
£15**



TIME: 18:30 - 20:00



PLACE:
Wivelrod Barns, Wivelrod Rd, Wivelrod,
Alton GU34 4AS, UK

Her personal reflections give an insight
into the daily life of our country's
prisons and the characters that live
and work behind the bars of these
often unseen and unheard institutions.

THERAPY
Improving physical,
emotional and
social well-being

RIDING
Building confidence,
skills and
independence

COMMUNITY
A welcoming
environment for all
our participants

SUPPORT
Volunteers and
donors help us
change lives

Every step forward begins with support.
JOIN US IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE TODAY.



BROADLANDS
Lower Pauce Lane, Medstead,
Alton GU34 5PX



01420 375767



broadlandsgroupprda.org.uk



Broadlands, Equine Therapy
[@broadlandsquestriancentre](https://www.instagram.com/broadlandsquestriancentre)

Broadlands
Equine Therapy & RDA
CHARITY NO. 1170398



'Singing with Dan'

BACK DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND

DAN COOPER, OUR OWN LOCAL GARETH MALONE, BELIEVES
THAT WE CAN ALL SING! DAN WILL CHOOSE TWO SONGS
FOR US TO ENJOY. YOU WILL BE AMAZED JUST WHAT AN
INCREDIBLE SOUND THE GROUP WILL MAKE!

YOU DON'T NEED TO HAVE SUNG BEFORE
OR BE ABLE TO READ MUSIC

WEDS 30TH SEPTEMBER 6.15 P.M. - 8.30 P.M.

BENTWORTH COMMUNITY HUB, BENTWORTH CHURCH, GU34 1HL
NEWLY REFURBISHED & THE PERFECT PLACE TO SING!

**TICKETS £20 TO INCLUDE; BUBBLES ON ARRIVAL
COFFEE & CAKE IN THE INTERVAL**

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TICKETS:
WWW.BROADLANDSGROUPPRDA.ORG.UK/EVENTS

The 2026 Cardiac Health
Annual Lecture Guest Speaker

SHAUN WALLACE

The Dark Destroyer
from ITV's The Chase

Wed 7 October - 19:00

Alton Maltings - £30



50
YEARS



Registered charity No. 1013238

www.cardiachealth.org.uk

The Basingstoke & Alton Cardiac Rehabilitation Charity Ltd.



Please join us for drinks, meet with friends and neighbours, and welcome Rev. Tim Gomm and his wife, Karen.

We'd love to see everyone from the parishes of Shalden, Lasham and Bentworth for a relaxed and sociable evening.

6.30pm, Friday 4th September
St. Mary's Church, Bentworth

RSVP to Cathy at
cathy.dumelow@gmail.com



Alton Choral Society

Sing With Us!

**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 a broad range of music from Bach, Fauré, Gilbert & Sullivan
to Popular Musicals

Rehearsals take place on Wednesday evenings from 7.45pm in The Sal-
vation 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



A Concert for the GUMBI Malawi Solar Irrigation
Project & St Andrews

Music Recital

An Evening of Classical and Light Music



SATURDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2026
6 PM

St Andrews Church
Medstead

**Tickets £12.50 Include Finger Buffet and a Glass of Wine
or Soft Drinks Served after the concert**

Email:

Patrick.john.bush@gmail.com
scbluckshaw@gmail.com

Or call:

07715 771489
07799 475974



Holiday at Home "By The Seaside"

**ENJOY THE CHARM OF A COASTAL
GETAWAY WITHOUT LEAVING TOWN.**

**THE ANNA CHAPLAINCY TEAM WARMLY INVITES YOU
TO A FUN-FILLED DAY FOR OUR OLDER COMMUNITY
MEMBERS, FEATURING:**



- Themed activities & crafts
- Entertainment
- Traditional fish & chip lunch

**6th August | 10am - 4pm
at Alton Methodist Church**

**A wonderful opportunity to relax, socialise and
enjoy a seaside "holiday" close to home.**

No charge — donations welcome

**To book your place, please call Emily on
07535 209537**

annachaplainalton@gmail.com



**Anna
Chaplaincy**
for older people

Alton

SUMMER EVENTS

2026

Join us this summer for a variety of events for all ages.
All are welcome.

SUNDAY

2

AUGUST



PARISH FAMILY PICNIC

Join us for a fun-filled family picnic with rounders, races, and a friendly game of frisbee.

Please bring your own picnic and chairs.

Ice creams will be provided for everyone!

🕒 12 noon

📍 St Lawrence Churchyard



TUESDAY

11

AUGUST



LICENSING OF REV TIM GOMM

We welcome Revd Tim and his wife Karen to our Benefice.

Everyone is invited to this special service which will be followed by light refreshments.

🕒 7pm

📍 St Lawrence Church



WEDNESDAY

12

AUGUST



HOLY ROOD SUMMER LUNCH

All welcome to join us for a delicious summer lunch.

🕒 12 noon

📍 Holybourne Church



SATURDAY

5

SEPTEMBER



FAMILY ALTON WALKING CHURCH

We will enjoy a 3.5-mile walk, followed by tea, sandwiches, and cake at the Priory.

The cost is £7.50 per person.

All are welcome – we look forward to seeing you there!

🕒 2.30pm

📍 The Priory, Howard's Lane, Holybourne

Book your places on familykemp@tiscali.co.uk



Everyone Welcome

🌐 www.resurrectionbenefice.org

STEP-BACK AUGUST



SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST

- 8AM BCP Communion Service at St Lawrence Church
10.30AM POTR Altogether Communion Service at St Lawrence
10AM BLS Together Communion Service at
St Peter & St Paul's Church, Shalden



SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST

- 10.30AM POTR Altogether Communion Service at Beech Village Hall
10AM BLS Together Communion Service at
St Mary's, Bentworth



TUESDAY 11TH AUGUST

- 7PM Revd Tim Gomm's Licensing Service
at St Lawrence Church



SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST

- 10.30AM POTR Altogether Communion Service at All Saints Church
10AM BLS Together Communion Service at
St Mary's, Lasham



SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST

- 10.30AM POTR & BLS Altogether Communion Service at
Holy Rood Church, Holybourne



SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST

- 10AM POTR, BLS & GAP service at Alton Methodist Church



Come and worship together as we take time
to step back, reflect and rejoice.



SERVICES FOR AUGUST 2026

BENTWORTH LASHAM MEDSTEAD SHALDEN

2nd AUGUST – THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Proper 13 Green

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

9th AUGUST – THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Proper 14 Green

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

16th AUGUST – THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Proper 15 Green

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

23rd AUGUST - THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Proper 16 Green

Cafe Church (in the hall)			11.00 a.m.	
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30th AUGUST - THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Proper 17

Green			6.00 p.m.	
Evensong				

Parish of The Resurrection Services for August 2026

2nd August

8am BPC Communion	St Lawrence
10.30am POTR Altogether Communion	
Service	St Lawrence
12 noon Parish Picnic	St Lawrence Church yard

9th August

10.30am POTR Altogether Communion service Beech Village Hall

11th August Tuesday 7pm

Revd Tim Gomm's
Licensing Service St Lawrence

16th August

10.30am POTR Altogether Communion Service All Saints

23rd August

10.30am POTR & BLS Altogether Communion Service Holy Rood

30th August

10am GAP, POTR & BLS Altogether Communion Service Alton Methodist Church

No Wednesday Services during August