JULY 2026

BENTWORTH, LASHAM, AND SHALDEN PARISH MAGAZINE

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

Dear Friends

Trusting God in All Things

British Weather!

We like to be in control of things, don't we? We often think we know how things ought to be done properly, and if we were in charge, we are sure we could make everything run smoothly! Perhaps one lesson the weather continually teaches us is that some things are simply beyond anyone's control.

This year, we sweltered through record-breaking temperatures in May, only to find ourselves drenched by early June rain and buffeted by strong winds when we might have expected blue skies and warm summer days. By the end of the month, the sunshine had returned, reminding us once again how quickly conditions can change. The Met Office's long-range forecast predicts further heatwaves this summer, but ultimately, we can only accept the weather we are given.

Much of life is like that. We cannot control every circumstance, and often the only choice we have is how we prepare for and respond to whatever comes our way.

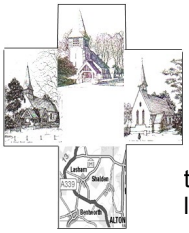
For Christians, there is great comfort in knowing that, however difficult our circumstances may be, we are never beyond God's love and care. The promise in the Bible that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus brings hope and reassurance in every season of life.

St Paul asks the question, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" He answers with a powerful affirmation: neither trouble nor hardship, persecution nor danger, neither death nor life, neither things present nor things to come, nor any power in all creation, "shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:35–39).

We are not left to face life's uncertainties alone, for God is with us. What an encouraging thought: the God who created and sustains all things is present with us each day.

As we face "whatever the weather" and whatever circumstances come our way, may we learn to trust the One who holds the winds in His hands and who holds us securely in His love.

Blessings Revd David Chattell



THE VILLAGER

the editor

Please send copy for the **August** Magazine to the Editor or your Village Correspondent **by noon on Tuesday 14th July.**

There are two new adverts this month, so do please keep looking through the yellow advert pages. I am sure you'll find businesses your looking for.

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Medstead Voluntary Care Group

Transport for Medstead Residents
for essential Health care appointments

Please note new No. from July 2026

Call 07427078663

Can You Help?
Drivers & Co-ordinators needed to
maintain this important Service

Registered Charity No. 1075326
supported by Good Neighbours Network

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUNE

26 Broadlands@ The Garden Festival Church House, Medstead Pages 23 & 28
26 Broadlands: Summer Wine Tasting Wivelrod Barns 6.15pm Page 28
26 Benefice Curry, Comedy & Christianity The Spice Bank 6.30pm
27 Dolls House Day at the Assembly Rooms 10.00am – 4pm
27 Alton Choral Society Summer Concert Methodist Church 7pm Page 29
27 Waverley Singers: Crowning Glory St Lawrence Church 7pm

JULY

1 Roedowns WI: Dogs for Autism Medstead Village Hall 7.30pm
4 St Lawrence Monthly Market the Parish Centre 9 - 12noon
4 **Bentworth Fete** St Mary's School field & Jubilee Hall 2 – 5pm Page 30
5 **Shalden Fete** Shalden Park Farm 2pm Page 31
7 Cardiac Health: Open Garden Colemore House, GU34 3RX 6-8pm Page 17
10 Alton Walking Church for Men meets Rose & Crown Farringdon 6pm Page 39
11 Library: Start of the Summer Reading Challenge Pages 20 & 32
11 **Medstead Fete** Medstead Village Green 12 – 4pm Page 33
11 Luminosa: Mass in Blue St Peter's Church, Petersfield 7pm Pages 17 & 34
12 Benefice and GAP Tea Old Park Farm GU34 4AP 2.30pm Page 39
14 Villager deadline for the August magazine by noon please
15 Shalden Parish Council meeting Village Hall 7.30pm
18 Alton Repair Cafe Assembly Rooms 10.30- 12.30pm Page 35
18 Medstead Gardeners' Club: Summer Show Medstead Village Hall
23 Curtis Museum: Thursday Craft Club – Soap Knapping Page 16
26 Beech Fest Page 37
30 Curtis Museum: Thursday Craft Club – Stratigraphy Jars Page 16

AUGUST

5 Roedowns WI: Portsmouth Harbour tour
6 "Holiday at Home" Anna Chaplaincy Methodist Church 10am – 4pm Page 38

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BENTWORTH

BENTWORTH CARE GROUP **Jackie Crawford**

The members on duty for medical appointments in July are:

Robert Good 07714 246 735; Jackie Crawford 01420 561281;
Fred Moir 01420 562380

We are also happy to do shopping or pick up prescriptions for those unable to do so themselves.
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THE MUCK IN COFFEE MORNING

Do come and join the happy throng for coffee / tea biscuits and sometimes cake 10.30 – 11.30am every Monday in the Barn at Parsonage Farm. At the beginning of June we celebrated Mary Green's birthday.

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 (07887 821 326) or Ken Thomas (07769 947 033) in the first instance. We look forward to meeting you.

BENTWORTH GARDEN CLUB **Maryanne McEvoy**

This time I can offer news of the Garden Club visits in both May and June.

We have had such a topsy turvey time weather wise but us gardeners keep going!

The first visit of the season was on Tuesday 26th May, we went to Weller Place Farm, we had a great turn out of members despite the extremely hot weather!

Caroline and Johnny gave us a quick introduction to how the garden has evolved over the last 35years. They are the third generation to be here on this working farm. It has truly been reconfigured, buildings repurposed and a stunning garden created.

Walls have been built and many trees and hedges planted. Caroline said of the garden that much of it has been created by trial and error. We can all relate to that! Much grown from seed and cuttings, the result is fabulous herbaceous borders that were brimming with healthy plants arranged in such style.

They did mention that one of the garden plants that they inherited is a splendid fig tree. It is still flourishing and they suggested that if anyone in Bentworth has a fig tree it is highly likely that it came from this parent tree!

We finished our walk at the large garden pond, with the evening sun it really was a picture, and a joy to be enjoying the good weather.

Our next visit was on 9th June, we went to Manor Farm, Brown Candover. This garden has the most wonderful bucolic setting. Again we were blessed with good weather, the fields and mature trees in this landscape looked beautiful in the evening sunshine.

Clare Gilmore greeted us and kindly let us explore the large garden. From the house the garden sloped gently, mainly laid to lawns, punctuated by architectural yew blocks, giving rhythm and formality to the large space. The many herbaceous borders are planted simply, repartition giving such harmony to a garden on this scale. The perennials looking so healthy showed us perhaps local farmyard manure had worked wonders! Lovely brick walls covered in climbers looked vibrant in the evening light.

Our next club get together will be the ANNUAL COACH OUTING on TUESDAY 14th JULY. We will be visiting two outstanding gardens in DORSET.

KNOLL GARDENS in WIMBORNE is a working nursery specialising in grasses which are planted out in a garden style, this really helps to compare various types.

We will also be going to COMPTON ACRES in POOLE, this 10 acre garden is privately owned and is quite unique. It has different areas; Japanese garden, Italian, rock and water garden and lots more.

As they say on their website ~ 'Horticultural paradise'.

So all this ~ coach, and entry to both gardens all for £20

If there is still availability non-members are welcome.

Hoping you'll join us, please contact Maxine Wood 01420 564113

Or by email: maxine.wood@yahoo.co.uk

See you at BENTWORTH FETE on SATURDAY 4th JULY from 2pm where the club will be having a small plant and produce stall.

See you there

The Garden Club will be running a combined Plant & Produce Stall at this year's Village Fete.

If you enjoy baking, preserving, or making homemade treats, we'd love your help! We're looking for contributions of all kinds, from homemade marmalade and jams to cheese biscuits, cakes, and everything in between.

If you'd like to donate something, please let

Poo Madge (07340 904 200) or **Emma Goodwin (07780 706 053)** know.

Any contribution, big or small, would be very much appreciated.

Thank you for your support!.

We do not need any more plants!

BENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Scott Neville
Chair Bentworth Parish Council

Your Parish Council Needs You!

I would like to give a huge thank you to Neal Day and David Eyre-Brook who've recently stepped down from Bentworth Parish Council. They survived late night emails, planning paperwork, and more pothole discussions than any human should reasonably endure. Their efforts have genuinely made a difference, and we're grateful for every moment they gave.

Now it's your turn.

We're on the lookout for new parish councillors — people who care about the village, have ideas to share, or simply want to keep Bentworth the wonderful place it is. No experience is required. No secret handshake. Just enthusiasm, common sense and a bit of community spirit.

We normally meet 10 times a year on the first Tuesday of most months; full training is provided! If you would like to find out more please do contact either

myself: scott@bentworthparishcouncil.org

or our Clerk, Louisa:

clerk@bentworthparishcouncil.org.

We are more than happy to field any questions you may have.

* * *

LASHAM

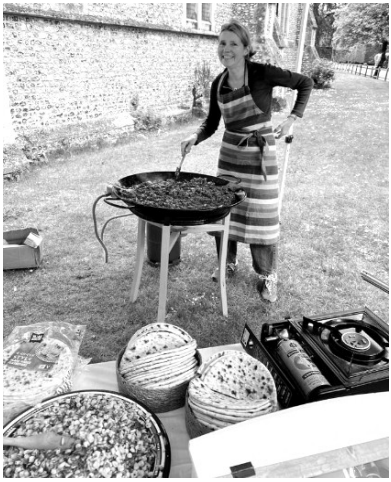
ST MARY'S COMMUNITY SPACE OPENS FOR BUSINESS

Jane Slater

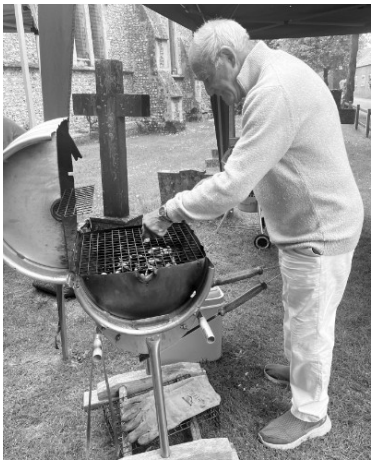
Following the very successful reordering of St Mary's in Lasham the villagers came together to take a look at and celebrate this wonderful new community space on a chilly Sunday afternoon.

Despite the fact that the rain drops literally started to fall just as the event started, the community spirit was not dampened, and those who had not seen the space were surprised by the new light, warm and welcoming room, beautifully decorated by Gina with local flowers and hedgerow cuttings.

There was soon a hubbub of conversation and laughter as the fizz started to flow and the guests were treated to very tasty chipotle chicken from Catherine's big pan along with all the trimmings and



delicious sausages from Tony's BBQ.



Frances and Richard continued to uncork fizz and crack open beer as the afternoon progressed, and as more neighbours appeared throughout the afternoon it was easy to forget that we were in a church at all.

It has been a long time since the pub closed and with no meeting place and a long cold winter it's been easy to lose touch with the friends who we share this special village with. Charlie Shaylor worked very hard during his time here at bringing us all together and it was therefore very fitting that the party was held on what would have been his 83rd birthday. I think he would have been so pleased to see us having such a jolly time and I am quite sure he was looking down on us and probably saying 'and now you have to keep it going' which we fully intend to do with a varied program of events that includes talks, quiz nights, craft workshops and film nights.

These will be non-religious community events to give the church building another purpose to bring lots of interesting activities within walking distance.

A huge thank you to Frances and Richard, Tony and Sandra, Catherine and Gina. The event raised over £500 for the building's ongoing maintenance.

If you are interested in using the space or have an idea for a community event please contact Frances Parris or Jane Slater.

LASHAM COFFEE MORNING

Anthea Del Mar

The church is proving to be an excellent venue for our coffee mornings, and this month our hosts were Antonia and Maurice. Lots of brownies (of course), biscuits and delicious coffee cake.

And star guests!

Steve and Angie Clark were visiting from the woolly north and came to join us which was a great bonus. Living further North obviously suits them and they didn't look a day older.

On July 6th Katie and Simon Hancock will be hosting, then nothing in August.

* * *

SHALDEN

St PETER & St PAUL GUILD OF MARTHA **Kirsty Ennever**

July

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

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

SHALDEN CHURCH

Peter Rankin

We were delighted to have the recently installed Dean of Winchester Cathedral preside and preach at our service on June 7 as his first venture out into the parishes in the diocese

He was made very welcome of course and enjoyed chatting with our congregation over coffee and cake afterwards.

He also encouraged the parish to visit the cathedral where we would be made welcome too.

Thanks to all who helped prepare for this service

UNVEILING OF COMMEMORATIVE BENCH FOR MICHAEL CAMPBELL

Ian Champness

Over 30 Shalden families donated to a commemorative bench in memory of Michael Campbell, a fitting tribute to Michael who did so much to support the Church and the village he loved.

The bench was ‘unveiled’ by Linda Campbell surrounded by all her family on a very hot Sunday in May.

More than 40 contributors raised a glass of bubbly in memory of Michael, his kindness and generosity and a much-loved member of Shalden village.

* * *

CHARITY

AN AWFULLY BIG ADVENTURE Part 2

Jacqui Austin

The battery on Lyubov was quite, quite dead. It had not appreciated the repeated stop/start inching towards the border.

The border between Poland and Ukraine is, thankfully quite short… a matter of metres only. However, when you are a little, grey-haired, old, retired lady, having to push a 3-tonne automatic any distance at all is a little daunting! (Oh, ok, so the hair is not grey, thanks to my hairdresser!) I set my shoulder to the job, and hoped that sheer determination would overcome inertia. To my utter relief, the Ukrainian family who had been waiting behind us in their car, clearly took pity, leapt out and between us, with a deal of laughter and oomph we managed to get Lyubov through all the various barriers.

As we were the last vehicle to get through the border post, all the other members of the convoy were helplessly watching us from the Ukrainian side. Of course, the customs and security biometrics would not work first time for Helen or for me, but eventually, with help from the cheerful Ukrainian family, we were pushed through into Ukraine. Like bees to a honey pot, large numbers of the convoy came to see what was going on. The bonnet was raised, jump leads were attached to no avail, men slid under the engine, spanners were wielded, and finally, jump leads were attached once more. This time, Lyubov clearly got the message that the Ukraine curfew waited for no man, and she sprang into life, allowing us all to move in convoy across the country, into Lviv.

We were struck by two things, as we entered the country.

Firstly, the British and Ukrainian flags being waved at us from the side of the road and the numerous people who stood watching and smiling at us, waving their thanks, and secondly, the fact that as we drove along in our convoy, cars on the opposite side of the road from us would stop and wait until we had all gone past.

As this was my first trip to Ukraine with humanitarian aid – though it will not be the last – Helen had insisted that I not drive. She felt I should be able to look around and soak up the country as we sped through. I was more than happy to do so,

It was exhilarating for us all to be moving as one. Danish, Swedish, Scottish, Welsh and English vehicles, taking aid for those affected by the war, including an orphanage and an animal sanctuary, all heading east, as the glorious day became a very, very dark night. Finally, I felt that I was making a difference to the lives of those who were still in Ukraine.

Many of our fellow P4P drivers were farmers and armed forces veterans. The former were sources of these 4x4 workhorses that we were driving over, the latter understood military life, and the importance of both aid and vehicles on the front line.

They all clearly enjoyed meeting with comrades in (f)arms, and commented on the comradery that they had found on this journey. The vets would certainly have experienced moving as one in a convoy when in the military.

We finally arrived in Lviv, in the pitch dark, where we literally parked up, grabbed our bags and ran to the minibuses waiting to take us to our hotel. Here I learned the benefits of packing the back seat oneself, as a very, very heavy battery charger which had been simply placed on top of everything else after our aborted attempts to restart Lyubov at the border, fell onto my knee upon my opening the door. Once the pain had subsided, I tried to replace it in the vehicle, only to find it was so heavy that I literally could not lift it off the ground. Fortunately, no serious damage was done, though a little hobbling was required that evening.

A quick dinner of sandwiches later, and everyone headed for bed. Dreams of a well-deserved sleep, in preparation for several very busy sessions the following day, floated around our heads, and we sank into our beds, until a city-wide alert, combined with an air-raid app siren woke us both at 3:45am.

Our air-raid app let us know which parts of Ukraine were being targeted

Struggling awake, I grabbed hotel slippers and their dressing gown, while Helen called something through to me from her side of the room. I didn't hear her properly and we began the descent of the staircases, right down into the bomb shelter in the basement of the hotel… which turned out to be their wine cellar! Very nice!

At that point, I noticed that I was the only person in a bright white towelling dressing gown and slip-on slippers, and my brain finally deciphered what Helen had mentioned to me in the room: Put on leggings and a jumper!

This little chap suddenly appeared the morning after our overnight stay in Poland!

He is a Domovyk (Ukrainian: Домовик) and is a good luck spirit

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

FREE WATER BOTTLE REFILLS IN TOWN CENTRE

A new way of reducing plastics by using a sticker in shop windows has been set up by Alton Town Council to encourage people to refill their water bottles for free instead of buying a plastic one, while helping people stay hydrated.

Councillor Barbara Tansey, Town Mayor, said:

"By displaying these 'Free water bottle refill' signs, our local cafés, shops and restaurants are making it easier for people to choose refill over single-use plastic.

It's a simple idea that can make a real difference – helping residents and visitors to stay hydrated whilst reducing waste and supporting our town's commitment to tackling climate change. We are grateful to the businesses taking part and helping towards a cleaner, more sustainable town centre."

* * *

EVENTS

THE CURTIS MUSEUM

Jill Line

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

CURTIS MUSEUM 2026

Forthcoming events:

We have plenty going on during the

Festival of Archaeology - 18th July - 1st August.

The Time Detective Agency Fact Trail

Step into the shoes of a Time Detective and uncover the clues hidden in the past! Join us at the Curtis Museum for an exciting, interactive family event where young explorers and grown-ups work together to solve historical mysteries through play, puzzles and discovery. Packed with creative activities and archaeological challenges, The Time Detective Agency invites families to investigate, build and dig their way through history. What's in store?

3D Pot Puzzles

Become a finds specialist and reconstruct broken pots using three-dimensional puzzles, just like real archaeologists do in the lab. All materials provided

Explore real archaeological techniques in a fun, creative way

Create your own layered stratigraphy jar to take home

Perfect for curious minds, young explorers, and budding archaeologists!

Thursday Craft Club – Soap Knapping 23rd July. Step back into the Stone Age this Thursday at Craft Club and discover how early humans shaped tools from flint and stone! Using bars of soap instead of sharp flint, children can safely try their hand at "knapping" - carefully carving and shaping their own prehistoric-style tool to take home.

This hands-on activity explores one of the oldest skills in human history and is inspired by real Stone Age artefacts in the Curtis Museum collection. Perfect for curious young archaeologists, crafty makers, and anyone who enjoys getting creative with history.

What to expect:

- Learn how prehistoric people made tools and weapons
- Create your own soap "stone tool" to take home
- A fun, hands-on introduction to archaeology and ancient craftsmanship
- All materials provided
- Craft Club costs £2 per child, and your 5th craft is free.

Thursday Craft Club – Stratigraphy Jars. 30th July. Become an archaeologist for the day and discover how layers of soil can reveal clues about the past! At this week's Craft Club, children will create their own colourful "stratigraphy jar" using different layers of sand, soil, and materials to explore how archaeologists read the ground like a history book.

Inspired by real archaeological digs, this hands-on activity introduces the fascinating idea of stratigraphy - the study of layers that helps archaeologists understand what happened long ago and when.

What to expect:

Learn how archaeologists uncover history layer by layer.

There will also be **Dig Pits** for children to explore, and a **Fossil Handling Box** - an opportunity to handle replica fossils and learn about real ones.

Soap Knapping

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July's Object of the Month from the vaults is a **Farnham Pottery Jug.**

Nicci Shepherd

Cardiac Health in Alton are delighted to be able to offer a fantastic range of Open Gardens for people to explore as part of their 50th anniversary fundraising events in 2026.

Colemore House, GU34 3RX are opening their extensive garden for Cardiac Health, on **Tuesday 7 July, from 6-8pm.** The garden is a joy to explore, with 'rooms' that showcase creative planting and hard and soft landscaping. The garden is known for its roses, rill, mirror pool and arboretum. Visitors will be able to enjoy a garden tour and complimentary glass of wine, please book in advance at:

https://cardiachealth.org.uk/events/open-garden-colemore-house-garden-alton/

LUMINOSA

Mary Desmond

returns to St Peter's Church this summer with a jazz-infused choral spectacular

A highlight of the local musical calendar, Luminosa returns to St Peter's Church, Petersfield, on Saturday 11 July 2026 for their annual summer concert. This year, the 90-voice choir presents Will Todd's vibrant Mass in Blue, alongside Bob Chilcott's A Little Jazz Mass.

Both works blend the sacred and the soulful in an energising fusion of jazz, blues, and choral brilliance.

The concert features special guest performances from renowned soprano Joanna Forbes L'Estrange, who will perform alongside Luminosa, celebrated for performances of her own works including Twenty-first Century Woman and A Season to Sing - the latter premiered by Luminosa in London last spring.

The evening will be powered by a live jazz band, led by acclaimed composer and jazz musician Alexander L'Estrange. In addition to accompanying the choir, he will also perform his own jazz set, featuring Joanna Forbes L'Estrange as guest soloist, bringing the kind of energy and spontaneity only world-class musicians can create.

Joanna Forbes L'Estrange, Singer, Choral Composer said:

"I am thrilled to be back working alongside Luminosa after the successful premiere of A Season to Sing last year. Mass in Blue is one of those rare choral works that lifts the spirit and electrifies the room — and I can't wait to bring it to life alongside Luminosa this summer."

Tickets are £17.50 for adults and £10 for children (under 12), available on the door or in advance at luminosamusic.com. Early booking is recommended.

CLUBS

ALTON

THE ROTARY CLUB OF ALTON

Roy Roberts

On the Beat

The challenges of crime and policing in and around Alton were outlined to a meeting of local Rotary members recently by a member of the community police team. Jess Hornsby is a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) – or 'local bobby' – and part of the police team covering the area around Alton.

She explained that one of the team's objectives was the prevention of crime at a local level and ensuring that crime levels were accurately reported. She said that one of the issues the team had to deal with was the volume of unreported crime in the area.

Jess spoke to members in her heavy stab protection vest equipped with body cameras for evidence-gathering.

The community police team work with other force teams when necessary, including a response team covering a larger area, a road traffic team, an armed response team and volunteer special constables. They also work with a country watch team specialising in rural crime who are equipped with heat-sensing drones for searching remote areas for missing people.

The Hampshire force has more than a hundred PCSOs like Jess. She said that she had returned to the job after a career break because it offered a fascinating challenge. She works shifts, but can be emailed at jessica.hornsby@hampshire.police.uk for advice on local crime and policing issues.

- Find out more about Alton Rotary at www.altonrotaryclub.uk or call Mike Sanders on 0708 093953.

ASA

Vanessa MacMahon

Forthcoming Lectures:

The next meeting will be on <u>Tuesday 8th September 2026</u> *Banksy - Fraud or Genius*

Presented by Pepe Martinez 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.

MEDSTEAD

HAMPSHIRE FEDERATION OF WI – ROEDOWNS

Diana Constantine

In May we held our AGM and supper. After official business, it was a good opportunity to chat while enjoying some very nice food on a lovely sunny evening.

We are delighted that Jill Kerr shall remain as our President for a further year, and also two members have joined the committee. Marion Barrett stood down from the committee, having given many years of her time including being our President. A thank you gift was presented to her.

Our June meeting was an evening self guided tour and quiz around part of Winchester.

An interesting opportunity to see land marks which would usually be unnoticed, while enjoying a quieter time of day in the city.

All finished off with a visit to the pub !

Forthcoming meetings

1st July Dogs for Autism **2nd September** Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust.

5th August Portsmouth Harbour tour **7th October** Hampshire Wick – candle maker

11th July Medstead Fete – Second hand items stall

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 **Caroline Daniels**

'A garden is not a place it is a journey' Monty Don

Our June meeting had the subject of 'Sustainable and Wildlife gardening for our Changing Climate' with Beverly Exall. She has had a long career in horticulture. She is passionate about the environment and wildlife. Beverly goes into schools as well as being a speaker on this subject in many venues. Our climate is changing and there is a 7% increase in rain but also summers with drought. The UK is expected to be frost free by 2100! She shared some great ways to help wildlife by using the 'chop and drop' method when cutting back to put plants debris back into soil rather than composting, using bird boxes, hedgehog houses and make bug hotels to promote wildlife. Just a large bowl or small pond in a container can help enormously to provide habitats for insects and water for animals. Digging beds is not a good way forward but layering with compost each year on top is better. Plant wildflowers and let an area thrive with nettles for butterflies to feed on and breed. No mow May has helped but we need to do more. It was an excellent evening and the information was inspiring.

A photo from our very successful plant sale in May.

Medstead Gardener's Club Programme 2026

www.medsteadgardenersclub.org

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

July	Saturday 11th	Medstead Fete-Medstead Village Green
July	***Saturday 18th***	Summer Show-Medstead Village Hall
August		No Meeting
Sept	Tuesday 1st	Planting for Autumn Colour Antony Powell
Oct	Tuesday 6th	Ferns and Grasses Chris Bird
Nov	Tuesday 3rd	Getting the most from Your Garden Special guest speaker
Dec	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 July- July is a good month to plant out young plants grown from seed. Grow lettuce, sow carrots as last month to sow with radishes and French beans. All to be harvested in autumn. Harvest fruit as it ripens including raspberries, gooseberries and blueberries before bird's feast on them. Sow cottage garden plants to flower next summer. Keep dead-heading flowers as they die back to promote more to come through the summer and early autumn. Start to enjoy produce from your garden as nature gives us the start of our harvest.

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NORTH HANTS NATIONAL TRUST CENTRE (NHNTC) **Hugh Bethell**

Visit to Kenwood House

Thirty members of the NHNTC enjoyed a fascinating and highly informative day visiting this historic neoclassical gem. Its elegant symmetrical facade and sweeping grounds occupy a large area of parkland on the edge of Hampstead Heath. Designed in the 18th century it was remodelled by Robert Adams as the home of the Earl of Mansfield. The crown jewel of the house is the magnificent Library, with its ornate, gilded ceilings and semi-circular alcoves that evoke the grandeur of a classical Italian villa.

The contents are just as magnificent with the walls hung with the huge art collection left it by the Guinness family. We were treated with a lecture tour of the house by enthusiastic and knowledgeable guides who showed us "wonderful things"! Portraits by Rembrandt, Vermeer, Gainsborough, Reynolds, Romney, Frans Hals, Van Dyke – an arts lover's heaven!

Outside we were able to wander around the tranquil, landscaped English Heritage gardens that perfectly frame distant views of the London skyline. We could enjoy the flower gardens, woodland paths, and serene ponds which provide a peaceful escape from the bustling city below

Finally, a few words about William Murray, first Earl of Mansfield and Britain's Lord Chief Justice for 30 years. He played a pivotal role in the abolition of the slave trade. In the landmark 1772 Somerset case, Mansfield famously declared slavery "so odious" that it could not exist under English common law. The daughter of his nephew was just as famous. Dido Belle, was the offspring of the nephew's affair with an enslaved African woman. She was adopted by Mansfield and became the first British aristocrat of colour – you may have seen the 2013 film "Belle" which tells the story of her upbringing at Kenwood.

Dido Belle with her cousin
~~~~~~

CLUB CONTACTS

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

Medstead Players: Tania McCullough chairman@medsteadplayers.co.uk

or Secretary Julia Halls 07747 665 968 ; or publicity@medsteadplayers.co.uk

Medstead Tennis: www.medsteadtennisclub.org.uk

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

REGULAR FEATURES

Tim Gordon-Jones

I inspected the colonies last week and was disappointed to see that only two Supers were ready to harvest. I was expecting at least three. When they are ready to take off they should be as full as possible (with honey) and it should be mostly capped, i.e. 'dry'. I will take as little as 80% full and at least 70% or more of that capped, but anything less than that will be left on the hive for the bees to finish off. The fullness is determined by 'hefting', which is just weighing by hand, after it has been unstuck from the rest of the hive. A full Super will weigh about 20kg (44lbs), and at arm's length, so quite an effort, when full. The amount of honeycomb that is capped is a visual inspection and it may be necessary to lift some of the frames out to assess this. The frames in the middle of the Super will be capped first and the ones on the outside will be capped last. The bees know when it is sufficiently dry and will cover each cell with a wax cap. It is very important to have dry honey as a high moisture content will be susceptible to bacterial growth and unintentional fermentation. In fact, it is illegal to sell honey with a moisture content higher than 20%. I always test this with a Hygrometer/Refractometer before I jar it up.

I now have four Supers in the house ready for the next step – extraction. However, I won't start this until I get a few more Supers from the hives. At the moment the weather is still fairly wet so will affect the drying process, as well as access to the hives. I am trying a few different designs of excluders as the Porter escapes do not appear to be working very well, see my previous article where I've described how the bees are cleverly circumventing these. Let's hope the weather improves over the coming weeks. I will post a notice on the village WhatsApp 'Shalden Neighbourly News' when honey is on sale. As I said last month, I plan to have some available for the village Fete in July.

I was very happy to hear so many compliments to my Bee talk at the village Garden Club last weekend. I do find it a fascinating subject, but there are so many 'interesting facts' it's difficult to make it entertaining. If anyone is interested in starting to keep bees I would be happy to help in any way I can. If anyone sees a swarm now I am even less inclined to collect than before unless they are causing a nuisance. Remember the old saying – "A swarm in May is worth a load of hay. A swarm in June, a silver spoon. But a swarm in July ain't worth a fly". This is because in July they are less likely to produce much honey as it is near the end of the honey season. They will need honey to survive the winter.

On a final note if anyone thinks they may have seen an Asian Hornet please try to capture or kill it, or see where it came from or going to. Take a photograph of it, if safe, and report it to the Asian Hornet web site

https://www.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/citizen-science/asian-hornet or look up 'Yellow Legged Hornet'. If you manage to capture a live one that will be a real bonus as the experts will fit it with a tracking device to discover where the nest is so it can be destroyed. Please don't put yourself in any danger though.

Broadlands
Equine Therapy & RDA
EST. 1955

Kim Otttridge

Pony News

We have a new pony – Jigsaw has arrived!

We are delighted to have welcomed Jigsaw to Broadlands. We had been searching for a slightly larger pony, and our patience has certainly paid off.

Jigsaw is very relaxed and appears to have settled into the yard remarkably quickly. For the first couple of weeks, he was turned out in adjacent fields to the rest of the herd, but he has now joined Rocky in the field and they seem very happy together. Over the coming weeks, we will gradually introduce him to the other horses he will eventually be turned out with.

He is wonderfully calm in the stable and enjoys plenty of fuss and cuddles. Paige and Freya have already started working with Jigsaw and are absolutely delighted with him.

Upcoming Events –

We hope you can join us for our Summer Wine Tasting and enjoy Tea and Cake as part of the Garden Festival, at Church House, Medstead.

(*Full poster on page 28)*

We Hope to See You There!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of Broadlands Equine Therapy & RDA.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us:

office@broadlandsgrouprda.org.uk

COUNTRY MATTERS **July 2026** **Julian Lewis**

Farmers can Sing even if the Government wants to make them redundant from farming.

We enjoyed some wonderful warm weather in May but the start of summer has brought rain – 68.5mm (2.8 ins) in the first 9 days. This is good for grass growth and the crops. It may have arrived too late to produce bumper yields – the heat of May resulted in leaf 1 – the flag leaf - being much smaller than usual which means less photosynthesis and therefore lower yields.

During the hottest days of May we were in Northern France where the temperatures were similar to the UK. What was noticeable in the approx. 450 miles of travelling (known as roadside farming) that we did was the state of the French countryside compared to the UK. The French farming was still apparently going full tilt with just about every acre either cropped or in grass to produce maximum yields and output no doubt incentivised by EU schemes. The contrast with the UK where many acres are "retired" into environmental schemes funded by the UK Government was huge. Despite a similar population size to France and a much smaller land mass the UK is cutting back on food production. There are many voices saying this is crazy including some from the Government but the fact remains that UK policy is to grow less and import food which is produced to welfare, environmental and food safety standards which would be illegal in this country. I am unable to understand why our own governments – of whatever colour – penalise our own agricultural systems and growers thus endangering the welfare and food security of the nation.

I have mentioned the global concerns about the disruption to fertiliser manufacturing in the middle east due to the current conflict. Yvette Cooper – the UK Foreign Secretary - is recently quoted as saying "The world is sleepwalking into a global food crisis". Fertiliser needs to be produced 12 months of the year to ensure that there are sufficient supplies for the crops at critical times in the growing season. Because of the disruption fertiliser production is down and prices for product that is available is climbing rapidly.

Do not underestimate the need for fertilisers – crops grown without fertiliser will produce about 40 - 50% of the yield of fertilised crops and the resultant crops will be of poorer quality – wheat unsuitable for breadmaking, potatoes that are small and unsuitable for chips, baking etc, grass (which is a crop) will yield a small fraction of fertilised land so milk yields will plummet etc etc. Fertiliser is very expensive – currently above £550 tonne for nitrogen – and farmers who are notoriously tight with their money do not waste the commodity by inefficiently using it. If there were more efficient production methods they would be already employed. Current practices to improve fertiliser usage efficiency include:

- Soil sampling many times within a field to ascertain where fertiliser is required and then applying by variable rate spreaders so that the application matches the crop needs
- Satellite images through the growing season to monitor the crop colour and adjust the application to crop needs
- The fertiliser is only applied at times when the crop has a requirement – in the spring growing season
- Frequent checking of the spreading machinery so that it is working accurately
- Operator training
- Plant tissue analysis to check if the nutrient levels within the plant are correct
- The use of farmyard manure to reduce the reliance upon manufactured material – but there are fewer farm animals now so less is produced

- The use of pasteurised human waste which is a good source of some nutrients and much better than dumping the poo at sea as used to happen

A new tax raising measure comes into force on January 1st next year which will make UK food production even less viable. Known as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). It is a tax that will be applied to all fertiliser imported to the UK. The UK produces very little fertiliser these days – we were almost self sufficient 30 years ago – and therefore nearly all fertiliser used on farms will have this extra levy applied which of course increases growing costs and therefore the cost of home-produced food. Imported food will be grown using fertiliser that does not have this levy applied which of course makes the food cheaper to produce and is therefore more price competitive compared to UK produce. Bonkers.

The UK Government strategy of "others will feed us" and "food is not being taken seriously" was discussed recently at the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs committee of MPs. The prediction is that the UK will be facing food inflation of 10% by the end of 2026 and probably increasing more rapidly in future years. Unfortunately, some of the UK's best land will have been built upon by the time any attempt to change direction is made and as importantly the farming infrastructure and support systems will have disappeared.

If farmers are not required to feed the nation at least they can entertain. Jeremy Clarkson was involved in setting up the Hawkstone Farmers Choir which was used to support his beer brand but also farmers who are suffering from poor mental health. The vocal talents of the choir are so high that they recently won the 2026 "Britain's Got Talent" ITV talent show. If you have access to Amazon Prime tv the latest series of Clarkson's Farm is available to view – good entertainment with some important messages about farmers, farm staff and farming.

HAMPSHIRE FARMERS MARKETS

	Alton Saturday July 11th 10am - 2pm
Saturday, July 4	Southsea Food Festival • 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Sunday, July 5	Romsey Farmers' Market • 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Sunday, July 5	Petersfield Farmers' Market • 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Sunday, July 12	Winchester Farmers' Market • 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Sunday, July 12	Whiteley Farmers' Market • 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Saturday, July 18	Emsworth Farmers' Market • 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Sunday, July 19	Alresford Farmers' Market • 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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	

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - ALTON LIBRARY

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

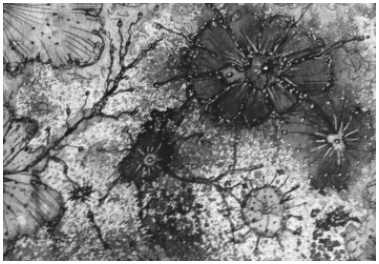
Sign up at Alton Library during opening hours:

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

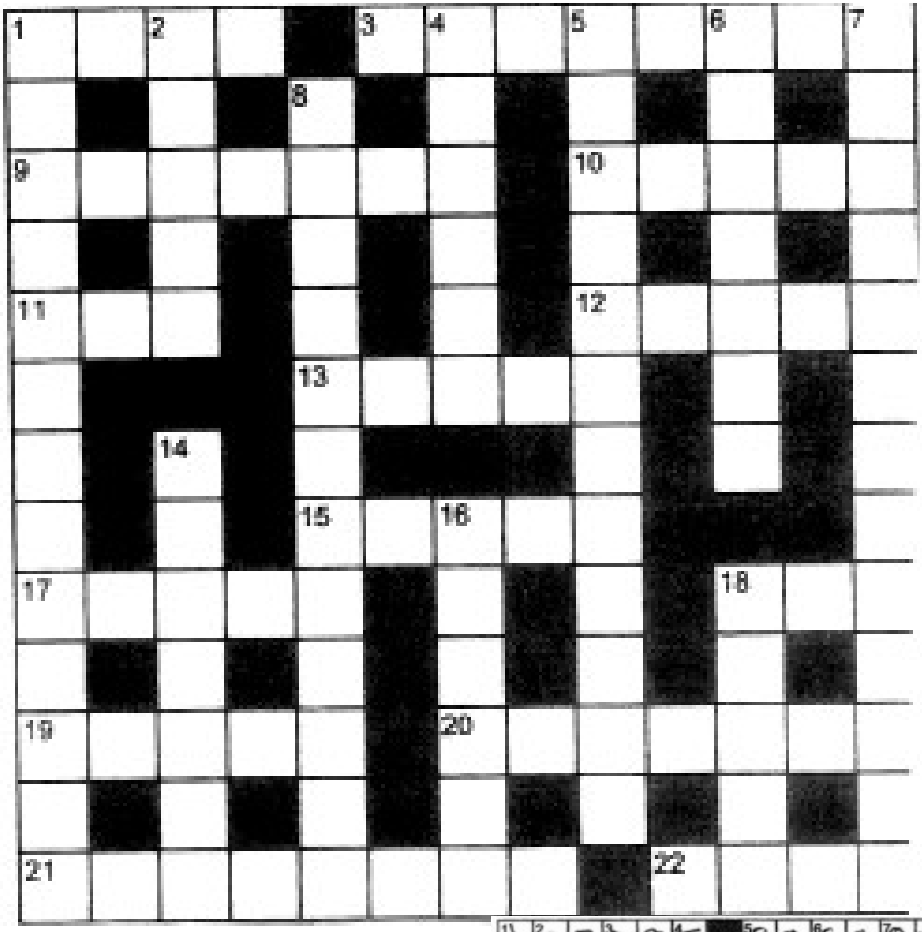
There are also adult courses running:

Saturday July 25th 10 – 12.30pm

Serene Summer Blooms Workshop with Jacky



CROSSWORD



Clues Across

1. Bend (4)
3. Wide foot pedals (8)
9. Mimic (7)
10. Tribal emblem (5)
11. Insane (3)
12. Moral (5)
13. ---- Khan, cricketer
15. Japanese rice dish
17. Pick-me-up (5)
18. Spasm (3)
19. Large Sea (5)
20. Canadian Province (7)
21. More honest (8)
22. Sheep (4)

Clues Down

1. Collections (13)
2. Managed (5)
4. Prefer (6)
5. Prove to be correct
6. Locks (7)
7. Half - awake (13)
8. Agreement (12)
14. Care (7)
16. Tried (6)
18. Hurl (5)

THE GARDEN FESTIVAL
ART & MUSIC IN THE GARDEN
FRIDAY 26TH JUNE 2026
2–5.30pm
ART in the Garden
Local artists;
Tranquil gardens;
Tea & cake Broadlands RDA.
Entry by donation.
Broadlands
Equine Therapy & RDA
6–8pm
Art, Music, Wine, Canapes
Pianist, Cellist,
Otium Wine, Charlies Pantry
Ticket event. £12
Tickets & Further information:
www.garden-festival.co.uk
CHURCH HOUSE, TRINITY HILL.
MEDSTEAD, GU34 5LT

COME AND JOIN SIMON FROM THE NAKED GRAPE IN
TASTING SOME FINE SUMMER WINES
Broadlands
SUMMER WINE TASTING
FRIDAY 26TH JUNE
6.15 PM FOR 6:30 PM START
WILVEROD BARNS, GU34 4AS
£30 PER PERSON INC A CHEESE BOARD
LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE
TICKETS AVAILABLE VIA OUR WEBSITE
WWW.BROADLANDSGROUPRDA.ORG.UK/EVENTS

Alton Choral Society
Summer Concert
Saturday 27th June, 7pm
Alton Methodist Church
Featuring:-
Famous Opera Choruses and Arias
Tickets £12 adults, children under 16 free
Available through www.altonchoral.org.uk
or on the door
In aid of Alton Foodbank

BENTWORTH FETE

2026

Saturday 4th July | 2pm–5pm

Opening at 2pm with performances from St Mary's pupils

ST MARY'S SCHOOL FIELD AND JUBILEE HALL

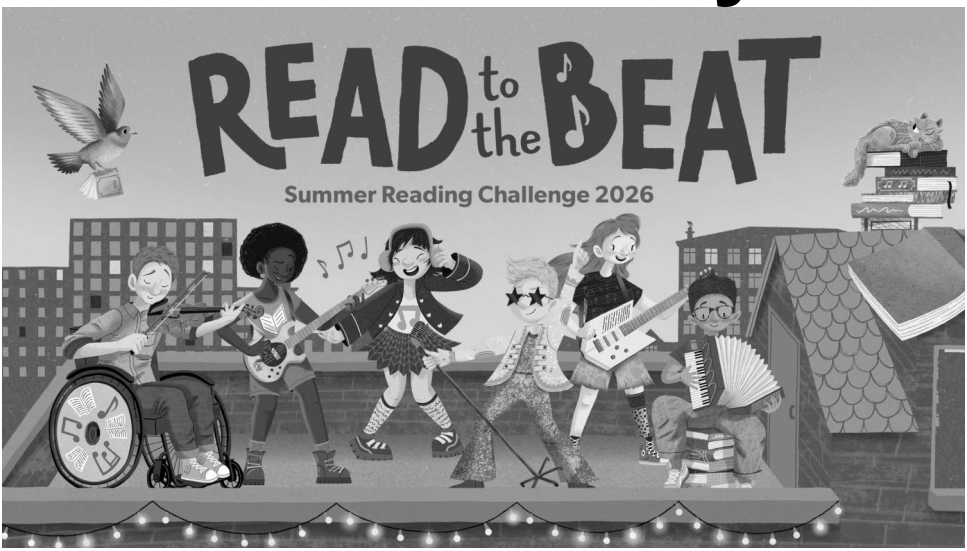
A traditional village fête supporting local groups and charities

WHAT'S ON:

COCONUT SHY · TOMBOLA
GRAND RAFFLE WITH FANTASTIC PRIZES
LOCAL CRAFTS, STALLS & PRODUCE
CHILDREN'S GAMES & ACTIVITIES
FUN DOG SHOW & RACES – ENTER ON THE DAY
BBQ · BEER TENT · PIMM'S BAR
TEAS & HOMEMADE CAKES
ICE CREAMS · CHOCOLATE STALL
BOTTLE STALL

Shalden Village
Stalls & Activities include:
Dog Show Bottle Stall Ice Cream
Bouncy Castle Shalden Honey
Teas
BBQ
Books
Fete
Plants
Pimms
Raffle
Classic Cars Cakes & Preserves
Skittles Plate Smashing Gifts
Coconut & Teddy Bear Shy Splat the Rat
Sunday July 5th 2pm
Shalden Park Farm
All proceeds to Local Charities

Alton library



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:

Monday: 9.30-1.30
Tuesday: 9.30-5
Thursday: 9.30-5
Friday: 9.30-5
Saturday: 9.30-5

Illustrations © Harry Woodgate 2026. Read to the Beat © The Reading Agency 2026, registered charity number 1085443 England and Wales.

Help needed! Can you give a couple of hours?

Before the event:

* Putting up the advertising banners

* Putting up the Marquees

* Coordinating the entertainment schedule

On the day:

* Putting out traffic cones and signs

* Moving chairs and tables

* Helping on a stall

* Taking photos for social media

* Overseeing the arena events

After the event:

* Taking down marquees

*Tidying up the village green

*Collecting the advertising banners

* Helping collect rubbish

THE FETE IS ONLY POSSIBLE THROUGH THE POWER OF VOLUNTEERS.

IF YOU CAN HELP, PLEASE EMAIL: MEDSTEAD.VILLAGE.TRUST@GMAIL.COM

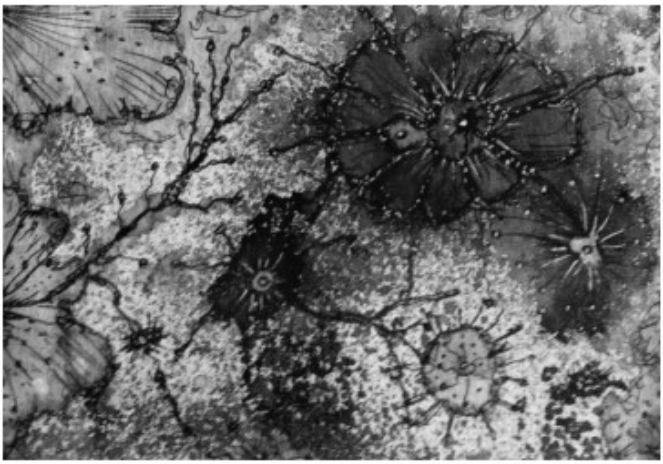
Medstead Village Trust RCN, 1216898

LUMINOSA
OUTSTANDING CHOIRS
WILL TODD
MASS IN BLUE
BOB CHILCOTT
LITTLE JAZZ MASS
WITH
ALEXANDER L'ESTRANGE'S BAND
CALL ME AL, AND SOLOIST
JOANNA FORBES L'ESTRANGE
ST PETER'S CHURCH, PETERSFIELD
11TH JULY 2026, 7.00PM,
TICKETS: £17.50 (CHILDREN £10)
WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/LUMINOSA-MUSIC
BOX OFFICE: BOXOFFICE@LUMINOSAMUSIC.COM
BOOK TICKETS
PROUD TO SUPPORT
Dogs for Autism
LUMINOSAMUSIC.COM

Alton
REPAIR
CAFE
FREE REPAIRS
RC
One item per person please • Donations welcome –
we can only operate with the kind support of our users.
3rd Saturday of every month at Alton
Assembly Rooms 10.30am-12.30pm
16th May, 20th Jun, 18th Jul, 19th Sep, 17th Oct, 21st Nov.
Visit: altonclimatenetwork.org.uk
email: altonrepaircafe21@gmail.com

ADULT Learning IN LIBRARIES

Hampshire County Council
Library Service



Serene Summer Blooms Workshop with Jacky

Alton Library

Saturday 25 July 10am - 12:30pm

£28.50 Tuition plus £6 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

BEECH
FEST26
Remember the Feeling
TIME TRAVELLING BAND
Sunday 26 July
Beech Village Green
beechvillage.org.uk

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

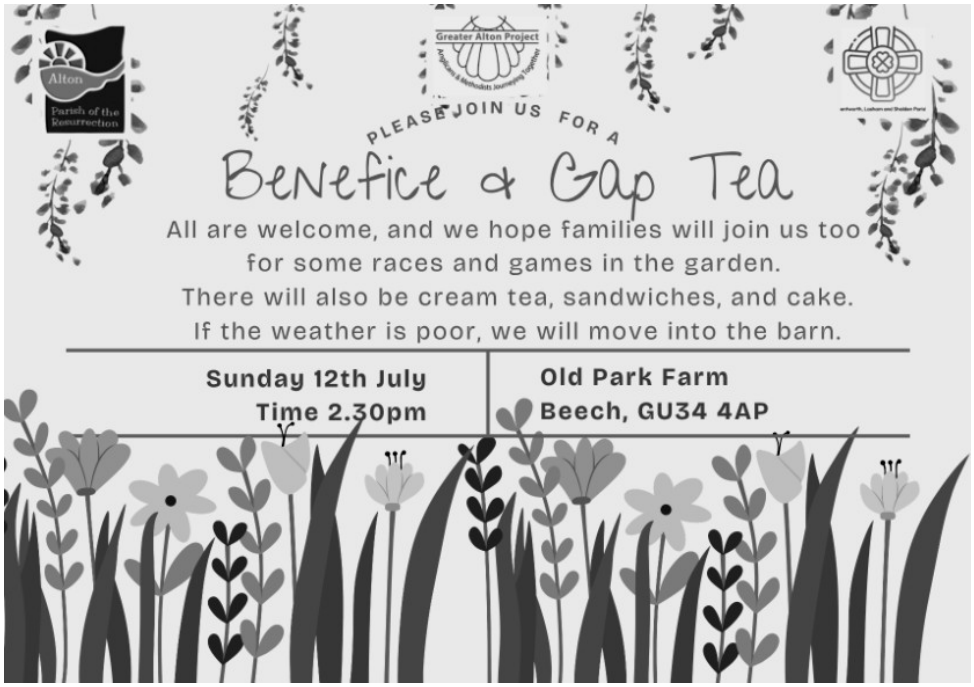
6th August | 10am - 4pm
at Alton Methodist Church

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

Alton
Parish of the Resurrection
Benhworth, Lashorn and Shelden Parish
Greater Alton Project
Anglicans & Methodists Journeying Together
ALTON WALKING CHURCH FOR MEN
Good company & a fine walk. The next outing of Alton Walking Church for Men is on Friday 10th July 6.00pm meeting at The Rose & Crown in Farringdon. A prayer, a short homily and an invigorating walk! To book a place for you [and a friend?] contact Robin on familykemp@tiscali.co.uk or 07957 653403.


Alton
Parish of the Resurrection
Greater Alton Project
Anglicans & Methodists Journeying Together
PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
Benefice & Gap Tea
All are welcome, and we hope families will join us too
for some races and games in the garden.
There will also be cream tea, sandwiches, and cake.
If the weather is poor, we will move into the barn.
Sunday 12th July
Time 2.30pm
Old Park Farm
Beech, GU34 4AP

SERVICES FOR JULY 2026

	BENTWORTH	LASHAM	MEDSTEAD	SHALDEN
5th JULY – THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY			**Proper 9**	**Green**
Holy Communion (CW)		10.00a.m.		
Parish Communion (CW)			11.00a.m.	
12th JULY – THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY			**Proper 10**	**Green**
Holy Communion (CW)			8.00a.m.	
Holy Communion (CW)	10.00a.m.			
19th JULY – THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY			**Proper 11**	**Green**
Holy Communion (CW)		11.00a.m.		
Parish Communion (CW)			11.00a.m.	
Evensong				6.00p.m.
26th JULY - THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY			**Proper 12**	**Green**
Holy Communion (CW)	10.00a.m.			
Cafe Church (in the hall)			11.00 a.m.	

POTR Services for July 2026

5th July

8am BPC Communion St Lawrence
9.30am Family Service St Lawrence
10.30am POTR Altogether Communion Service St Lawrence

12th July

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

19th July

9.30am Communion Service Holy Rood
10.30am Communion Service All Saints
10.30am Family M'g Worship St Lawrence
3.30pm Choral Evensong St Lawrence

26th July

9.15am Communion Service St Peter's
10.30am Communion Service St Lawrence
6pm Informal Evening Worship St Lawrence

Every Wednesday 10am
Holy Communion All Saints