

The Ampfield Messenger



*The Parish Magazine of St. Mark's
Church Ampfield*

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The Parish Church of St Mark, Ampfield

Our vision: To be channels of God's love in the world

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Contributions to this magazine are always welcome, however it may be necessary to edit or shorten articles. Note that the views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editor or the Parochial Church Council. Advertisements in this publication do not carry the endorsement of the editor or the Parochial Church Council.

Online and In-Person Worship

Since early July, church buildings have been able to open for services of public worship providing suitable social distancing and safety precautions are taken. However, in practice, in a benefice with 4 church buildings, limited space due to social distancing, and not being sure what anyone wanted, returning to the church buildings is not simple as it sounds.

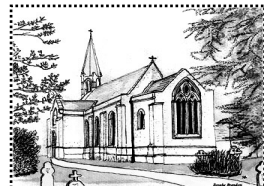
To help us with our decision making we sent out a survey asking what you thought about returning to church. We were amazed to get over 70 responses. Thank you for caring and for sharing your views! You've encouraged us and given us a lot to work with.

Based on the results, Diocesan advice, and what we feel is sensible, we're starting to open up, gradually, while continuing to stream live online (on the benefice website and on YouTube). Initially, this means streaming a Communion service from All Saints (except 1st Sunday which continues to be Worship For All from home): practically, we can make All Saints 'COVID-secure' and it's got a broadband connection, so we can stream live! We're also offering 'Communion to go' after the service from another church in the benefice. If you would like to attend a Sunday service in person, please email joinin@acnb-church.org by the Thursday before.

We'll keep 'gradually opening' and learn what works, and what doesn't. Please bear with us as we work through what it means to worship in person and online. If you have further suggestions, or questions, please do email us at joinin@acnb-church.org. We're all on this journey together!

See p.6 for more details of the survey.

Abbie



Letter from Vicar Victoria

It appears that lockdown is over. Yesterday I was out driving on the motorway, it was busy and there were an awful lot of caravans. The School term has ended, and everyone is off on holiday. This is good news for our economy, many hotels restaurants, cafes and other places of hospitality have suffered terribly in these last few months. And it is good news for all those families who had carefully planned holidays for the children once school had finished and for hardworking parents. Of course, holidays abroad are not being taken as planned or have been cancelled, so a staycation it is – look out Devon and Cornwall here we come!

It is not all over of course, and the fact that we are wearing masks in shops and even in church reminds us that the threat is still there, that we should still be careful. We must remember to wash our hands all the time if we have been out, to use a hand sanitiser if soap and water are not available to avoid crowded places – to socially distance and not meet up in groups of unrelated houses..... I know it is hard but for the sake of the weaker among us, we must be careful.

But for me the fear is more about how we might forget the good things that came out of lockdown – the peace, the time spent with God, prayer and meditation. That we forget how when feeling lonely or sad we began to count our blessings instead. We began to appreciate the little things instead. We relied on each other a little more to get our shopping or prescriptions, in a strange way our communities got stronger despite the fact that we were isolated. When out walking we smiled at each other, checked the other was ok, managing.

I don't want to go back to the world that is too busy to care, a world on such a time schedule that we can't stop to read the Bible, to spend quiet time in prayer. A world that doesn't care for its neighbour.

Let's not wish lockdown away too soon and let's not forget the lessons we learnt. Let us not go back to old lives and old ways but let us move forward to new ways of doing things with a renewed Spirit and a renewed resolve to care more for our neighbour than ourselves. God knows our world needs a little more love, now more than ever.

Victoria



Holy Communion will take place **on Tuesdays** at 10.30am, weather permitting, at St Mark in the glade....bring your own camping chair and coffee if you can, dogs are welcome!

The Benefice survey on how people would like to return to church

A bit more detail on the survey results

We were pleased to have a few responses from people who normally attend a church outside the benefice or don't have a regular church but have joined us online, as well as the majority who worship within the benefice.

Here's a bit about what you, collectively, said:

- Roughly a quarter of you are ready to go back to church: nearly half are more likely to go back sometime later this year. For the remainder, it will depend on the rules.
- Only 5% of you thought we should open the churches immediately, with nearly half wanting a gradual opening over the summer, a quarter wanting to wait until September, and 20% suggest waiting until restrictions are lifted.
- Where we might have more people wanting to come than seats, there was no clear winner, although some form of booking or rota was accepted (making sure we allow for those not online).
- Lots of you make use of our online offerings and you would like many of them (especially worship) to continue.
- Nearly a third of you would like to join in with live services: we're trying to make that work.
- You also gave us over thirty written responses, with helpful and constructive suggestions: again, thank you!

Abbie

In response to Covid-19

AMPFIELD
NEIGHBOURS

working with

unity

The Test Valley Borough Council Volunteer Support Group

A group of Ampfield residents have come together to help as volunteers working with Unity during the Covid-19 pandemic. Unity is the Test Valley Borough Council Volunteer Support Group.

If you live in Ampfield and need help with collecting prescriptions or shopping
contact

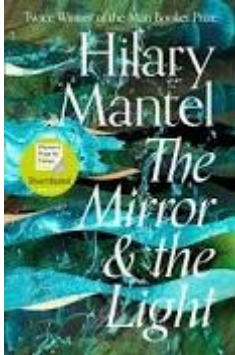
**Unity on the Test Valley Community Helpline -
0330 400 4116**

or

UnityC-19@unityonline.org.uk

BOOK REVIEWS

The Mirror & the Light ***Hilary Mantel* (pub. 4th Estate)**



I was hooked after the first couple of pages, which described how Anne Boleyn's head, and the rest of her body, were disposed of after her execution. It was written so elegantly and subtly. The reader was spared the more gory details. Thomas Cromwell's own execution at the end of the book received the same treatment.

The pages in between (nearly 900 of them, but almost a snip compared with War and Peace), provide a magisterial account of Henry VIII's Court, seen through the eyes of Cromwell. There is little humour. A sinister menace pervades throughout; Henry's influence is corrosive. He emerges as an insecure, self-centred and obnoxious character; the more pain he suffered from a long-term leg injury, which never healed, the more unpredictable and tyrannical he became.

Cromwell guides him skilfully through all his travails: those who plotted for reinstatement of the "old religion", particularly the Machiavellian Bishop of Winchester; the continuing peripheral threat posed by his daughter Mary (her mother was his first wife Katherine of Aragon) as a potential focal point for dissident Catholics; the aristocratic families, especially the Howards and Seymours, who resented being largely sidelined because of Cromwell's influence; the diplomatic intrigues of the French and Spanish kings and the Pope's ambassador; uprisings in Scotland and the north of England; and the omnipresent episodes of plague.


Henry is most at peace after marrying Jane Seymour, who provides a son and heir, but tragically dies in doing so. He is still contented for a short while afterwards, but mindful of an invasion threat from Catholic Europe, he seeks an alliance with the Protestant Germans. His disastrous marriage to Anne of Cleves ensues.

Jane and Anne are the two most likeable characters in the book. Jane, surrounded by intrigue, accepts her lot stoically. But Anne is very different. She is a class act, a woman of considerable standing and guile, who gives Henry no reason to doubt her loyalty, despite his complete ambivalence towards her.

Cromwell sees all; knows all. He has enough “dirt” to ensure Henry punishes the Howards, Seymours and the Bishop, with the loss of their lives. He fails to do so, fatally. Whilst ill, the three move against him by laying false accusations of treason. Henry supports them. The man who started life as an abused blacksmith’s son from Putney is left on his own.

The book is an outstanding work. The depth and scope range of Hilary Mantel’s Research is breathtaking. The focus is fairly narrow, but those with an interest in royalty and history will find it rewarding. The book also resonates with today’s times.

Alan

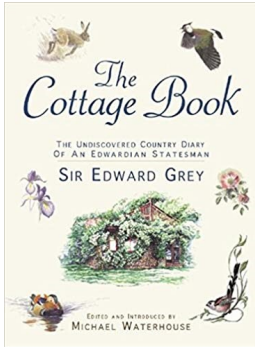


***Read a good book lately? Or
a damp squib? Send us your
reviews to share with readers
of the Messenger***



The Cottage Book - The Undiscovered Country Diary of an Edwardian Statesman

Sir Edward Grey



This is more of a recommendation than a review. Edward Grey was the Britain's longest serving Foreign Secretary at the beginning of the 20th century. He was also a famous fisherman and wrote *Fly Fishing* which is a classic in the world of trouting. *The Cottage Book* is not about fishing but describes the countryside through which the river he loved, the Itchen, flows.

During that period just before WW1 he had a cottage at Itchen Abbas which he and his wife loved and visited often. This book is his record or journal of visits they made to the cottage and their observations on the natural flora and fauna of the valley. It records a way of life far distant, bucolic perhaps but absolutely charming in every way. Not only will it delight you but will described a particularly lovely stretch of the River Itchen (between Chilland, Avington and Itchen Abbas), which in many ways is not much changed and is easily accessible for ambles along its banks on fine spring and summer evenings or early mornings. Read this book before and after such walks. If you enjoy it I refer you to his *The Charm of Birds* (1927) a lovely work on birdsong.

The version I read is published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson and contains contemporary photographs, charming etchings and watercolours. It can be had through the library or bought second hand at low cost through www.AbeBooks.co.uk.

Tip: Carry on along the bank towards Ovington and rest a while with a snifter of choice at The Bush.

Robert

The Chapel Wood puzzle of the month

Question:

This is very important piece of information associated with the August Chapel Wood working party. What is it? Answer on P.19



To bid a man live quietly is to bid him live happily...'

(Pascal, Pensees)

Friends of Chapel Wood – August 2020

As the government advice on people getting back together again changed, we found ourselves wondering whether it might, after all, be possible to organise the July working party. The first thing to do was the risk assessment but, with careful planning, the requirement for social distancing proved relatively straight forward and being in the fresh air helped. We needed to pre-allocate tasks, in order to make sure we were spread across the woodland and we had to ask Friends to bring their own tools.

In many respects, knowing what we were going to do beforehand, and bringing the tools, worked very well and seemed to make for a more relaxing start. We chose a variety of tasks, which helped the social distancing. For the first time in six months, we did a litter pick and we made a start on cleaning some of the signage. We needed to check on the fencing, which is not as easy as it sounds as it involves walking around the perimeter, often into deep woodland, climbing over fallen trees.

Since we last met, many of the footpaths had become very overgrown, making progress difficult, and needed to be cleared. In addition, the rear of the burial ground had also become a jungle and the hedging was well overdue an appointment with the shears. Probably, the most difficult job was digging out our seasonal stream, which feeds the pond. This had got buried under four months growth of brambles, ferns and other Assorted woodland flora. We were pleased to find it was still flowing freely.



It was really delightful be back in the woodland again. The weather was kind, a really lovely summer's day but the real bonus is to meet up with all the other friends after what seemed like an age of lockdown. We had coffee around the bonfire site, where as luck would have it, we had installed some socially distanced seating last time we met. Well planned or what! We had to be a bit careful with the refreshments, given the circumstances, but everyone brought their own mugs and drinks and it worked fine. Grub had to be restricted to stuff that was individually packaged but happily most chocolate bars come that way anyway.

All in all, it was a grand morning and we are looking forward to meeting again next month. There is always so much to do at this time of year. We are always happy if anyone walking by would like to join us for coffee. We stop at around 11:15 by the bonfire but bring your own mug.



Graham

From Paris back streets to Ampfield lanes

When I left our cottage with the intention of buying materials for a small building project I hadn't expected to return home with four old French mopeds along with an array of photocopied workshop manuals. My very understanding wife has accepted that I have a fascination with old machinery and my latest acquisitions were more of a surprise to me than to her.

The mopeds were found in an old shed looking unloved but there was something about them that piqued my interest. I ferried them one at a time to a workshop where I rented one corner and when they were all there I began to look at each in more detail. One of the mopeds was of particular interest, I think it was its chunky design and once cream paintwork that was the attraction. I poured two stroke mixture used in my chain saw into the tank and pedalled furiously and to my delight and amazement it spluttered into life. If all could be started so easily this was going to be a breeze – the optimism of the enthusiast!

Of the other three one had a seized engine, another the rear sprocket had stripped and the other had a number of key components missing. The last one was the most modern circa 1970 (the others were manufactured during mid to late 1950s) and was immediately sold on eBay. Before starting work in earnest on the bikes I read more about the company that manufactured them, Motobecane. It was based in Paris and originally produced small motorbikes before focusing on the



manufacture of Mobylette mopeds. The machines are simple and but cleverly engineered. They made so many variations of these 49cc machines and during the sixties they were a common sight on British and American roads.

However, Mobylette was unable to meet stringent American emission and safety laws and with the loss of this market they ceased trading.

When I started work on the mopeds I selected the one with the seized engine, I felt that this would be a good place to learn the secrets of these intriguing little machines. I probably made every rooky mistake in the book and endeavoured to separate the engine without the correct tools. I broke what appeared to me to be a key component but I was fortunate to be introduced to a chap in Bristol who kept an extensive stock of parts. I explained my situation omitting details of the cause of the breakage - without asking any awkward questions he found a secondhand replacement which he kindly gave to me – what is it they say about the kindness of strangers.

On the moped grapevine I heard of a club, the East Anglia Autocycle Club who produced an informative magazine which held all manner of articles. One of the regular contributors ran a spares company and it was with his help that I sourced a number of hard to get bits. The club was particularly helpful when it came to registering the completed mopeds, navigating the bureaucratic labarynth to achieve this seemingly simple operation is truly baffling. It took me several years to restore all the mopeds but all are completed and have been sold on to other enthusiasts to enjoy. It was the restoration that was the real interest. I wonder what the factory workers who assembled these little machines would think if they learned that some sixty plus years later they are still going strong and for a short while they were running on the lanes of Ampfield.

John



Pandemic points to the need for social care reform

The great destroyer: a pandemic virus has come among us. In the last weeks before 'lockdown' I met 102 year old when filming. As a baby she survived the 1918 Influenza pandemic that killed 50 million: 2.5% of the earth. She lived through three other Pandemics: 1957, 1968 and 2009. Now at the closing of her life she faced another: COVID-19. Neither of us knew what this virus would bring but it looked terrible. It is.

I have complex disabilities and live in a care home. The first months of this wave of infection have been deeply disturbing for everyone living here. COVID-19 spreads easily in care facilities. That's not entirely surprising. But it is certain that the damage to the care sector which has been accumulating month by month for decades has made the spread worse. Our ageing population has demanded a social care fix for the last 20 years. The dark and painful harvest of this virus among those in the social care sector demands that even as the pandemic rolls around the world: we must have social care reform.

Because there was evidence that COVID-19 might be amongst us in the place I live, for nine weeks of the first lockdown period I didn't venture beyond my desk and my room. Every resident was isolated from every other. Difficult as that was, we have been carried through this first breaking storm: all alive. COVID-19 is not nearly finished stalking the earth. That makes me look at crowded trains to the coast, and packed shops with great concern, perhaps even fear.

This home is unusual because it delivers a lot of health, rather than social care, and because residents are working age. Even allowing for that the effectiveness of the team here wasn't simple luck. A commitment to good infection control is cultural here, also based on news reports from China, pre-preparation had been underway since early in the year to stockpile PPE and make plans. Social Care is falling apart. It's a sign of societal failure. Commit to reform it, and lobby your MP. You are one simple slip away from needing support.

Ian

He with body waged a fight,
But body won; it walks upright.

Then he struggled with the heart;
Innocence and peace depart.

Then he struggled with the mind;
His proud heart he left behind.

Now his wars on God begin;
At stroke of midnight God shall win.

W. B. Yeats

PCC Meeting on Zoom

Monday 10th August

7.30pm

From our correspondent in Spain

Have you ever heard Flamenco Rock? The Spanish say it is a fusion of traditional flamenco and rock and roll. Last week I went to a very professional open-air venue in Malaga to see a band called Fuel Funk Fusion. A band that were loud and brash and was full of foot stomping fan swirling flamenco and in this case Fleetwood Mac!



A café in Malaga

The girl singer was a minute Spanish version of Kyle Minogue except she had a huge voice and a white rock star flamenco dress that twirled and mesmerised as she flicked her fans in time with the powerful rhythms. The audience in their socially distance setting had two metres between each group, and all complemented by singing and light waving. But dancing not allowed in the audience or even standing up.

The security guards were inconspicuous but firm. Very un-Latino like. In front of us there was a family by two metres? The husband wife and 5/6-year-old daughter they were grooving in their seats along to the songs they obviously knew.

Other groups bigger and smaller all two metres apart continued the joy of getting out, maybe for the first time in months and laughing and singing responsibly. Very un-Latino style and a joy to watch.

Oh yes! The toilets. In the men's, social distancing was still apparent. Every second urinal taped over – thought you might like to know that. The whole evening was lovely. When asked to go I was slightly worried, trepidatious even. My friend and her Spanish friends were delightful and made great efforts to make me feel comfortable.



They were hospitable and caring. Would I go again? Yes. Undeniably. The Spanish certainly know how to party. A small side note. The Covid

infection has gone up dramatically since tourists have come back. Possibly a second lockdown?

Adios and best wishes from a beautiful sunny Spain.

Gerard

Answer to Chapel Wood puzzle of the month

It is the track followed by Derek and Jemma as they walked around the perimeter fences checking for repairs. Recorded on his phone. It was really great to see Derek back with us again.

He promises to do the bit between the red blob and the green blob next time!!

“How Great Thou Art” - extracts from my BCM assignment

“How Great Thou Art!” This hymn has long been a favourite of mine, it now has huge significance for me too.

Victoria asked if I would do the BCM Worship Leaders course, but it was short notice and it was a Tuesday evening, when I have a regular activity, so I said “next time.” The “next time” came and again it was on a Tuesday. Oh dear, I thought, well let’s just do it and get it out of the way!!

In preparation for the first day, we were asked to consider our hopes and future ministry. Having given this a lot of thought I promised myself that I would be honest, as God knows what is in my heart anyway. Honestly, I felt as though I was “shoe-horning” this course into my life, rather than being fully committed. The first day arrived. At the appropriate moment we were asked to share our thoughts about why we were there. With my heart pounding I expressed my fears about “struggling.” One of the other group members immediately said,

“You’re not struggling, just overwhelmed.”

At that moment I felt so humbled, so filled with the Holy Spirit that I was almost moved to tears. By the end of the day, I realised that far from “shoe-horning” in something that I needed “to do,” the Lord was showing me that he had actually created the space for an experience which would enhance not just my worship, but my life.

*Then shall I bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!*

“Music in worship” was one of the sessions and my journal entry reads:

“I absolutely adore music - it has the power to lift my soul with so much joy, I feel I could burst! I can physically feel the Holy Spirit “
““move within me.”

One of my earliest church memories is standing next to my dad, with my hymn book open at the right page, but not knowing the words, so singing a nursery rhyme to the tune instead. Looking back now I realise I was actually so young I couldn't read!

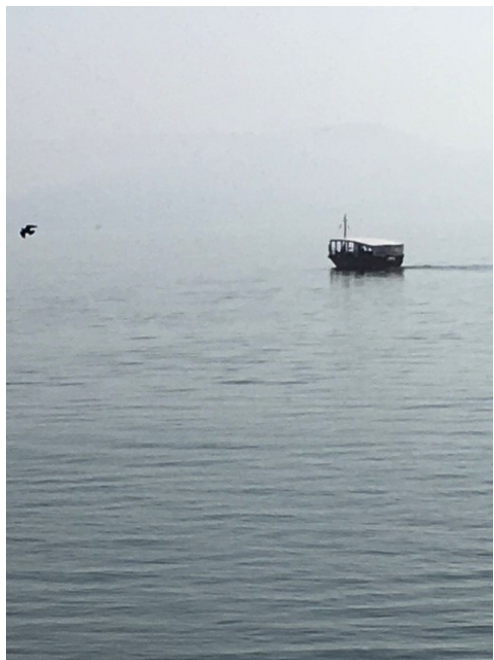
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee....

During the BCM experience I was lucky enough to have a trip to the Holy Land. I appreciate this wasn't a requirement of the training (!) but the two events certainly enhanced each other. During the trip I had been singing "How Great Thou Art," quietly to myself; it seemed so incredibly appropriate. One morning we took a boat trip, on the Sea Of Galilee. The experience was powerful, beautiful, emotional and extraordinary, for all sorts of reasons; I felt very close to God, out there, on a boat, first with the silence and then group singing and praying. Just when I thought it couldn't get any more amazing the music to "How Great Thou Art" was played, which prompted another sing-a-long: perfect!

Our final day on BCM was very much about reflection and working in our small groups and then, to finish, we had an informal act of worship, and, as if God had orchestrated it just for me, the final hymn was, "How Great Thou Art!"
The tears flowed.

*O Lord My God! When I in
awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy
hand hath made....*

Jo Hooper



PORTCHESTER CASTLE AND ITS CHURCH

I first became acquainted with Portchester Castle when participating in a Maypole dancing (remember that?) event whilst at junior school in Gosport. I returned later on a history trip. The location has continued to fascinate ever since. Against its long unbroken Roman walls - reputedly the best preserved in Northern Europe - it is easy to imagine the noise and activity of Romans unloading their troops and cargo for onward transmission to Silchester in North Hampshire, and beyond. The Castle transcends almost 2,000 years of British history. At one time, it served as a Palace for the ill-fated Richard II, Henry V sailed from there en route to Agincourt and King John and Henry VII were visitors. It now offers one of the best views of Portsmouth's iconic Spinaker Tower.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH fits snugly within the Castle wall in the south east corner. It was built in the 12th century, and was originally part of an Augustinian priory. However, the Priory was relocated to nearby Southwick, on the other side of Portsdown Hill, after about 30 years. Much of the church's original internal construction, though, remains in place. Its main features are a very fine Romanesque font, a number of early, splendidly decorative, Gothic carvings and a vast nave. In the grounds are the graves of the great maritime painter, WL Wyllie RA, and Thomas Goble RN who was a master mariner on board *HMS Victory* at Trafalgar.

Moreover, the church is obviously part of the community. It serves as a local café and plays host to a number of highly regarded flower shows. The parishioners have also made a number of wall tapestries and embroidered kneelers, many with a military theme, as might be expected from its location.

English Heritage has now mounted an important, permanent, exhibition in the Castle's magnificent keep on its role in accommodating over 2,000 Caribbean prisoners-of-war in 1796/97. They were captured in fighting between England and France on the islands of St.Lucia, St.Vincent and Grenada in May 1796. Many of them were former enslaved people or free-born people of mixed race who had been enlisted into the French army following the end of slavery declared after the French Revolution. Their subsequent fortunes were mixed. The white prisoners were released into the community, though they remained POWs and never returned home. However, they were fortunate. The black prisoners were considered "too savage" to receive similar treatment. Some were eventually repatriated to the French, only to find themselves on a remote island, and then re-enlisted into the Army. Even then, their travails continued. They were required to fight in the freezing winter climates of Poland and Russia. A number returned to the Caribbean from Portchester as British soldiers. However, when the French reinvaded, they were left defenceless. Rather than being captured, they withdrew into an old castle and blew themselves up.

There is a detailed presentation of the exhibition, with many fine photographs, on the Portchester Castle website. The exhibition makes a meaningful contribution to the history, courage and fortitude of black people in both Hampshire and the country as a whole.

Alan

Portchester Castle will open on 1st August. You will need to book your timed tickets in advance and tickets are available to book now. There are limits on visitor numbers and you won't be able to visit without your booking confirmation. If you're a Member, your ticket will be free, but you still need to book in advance.

Dogs of Ampfield

Nutmeg

Nutmeg was found on a rubbish dump in Romania where she was heavily chained up. When her rescuers prised the chain over her head, she gave them her paw. She still loves people and especially children. She waits at our gate for the children coming out of school to say hello. She is the most loving and characterful of all the four rescue dogs we have had over the years. She is selective about other dogs but has some real friends in Knapp Lane.



Lyn



Nigel Babb 07714 009901

Recipe of the Month

A Latvian Forager's Feast

This is a dish we often ate in my childhood. Mushrooming is highly regarded in Latvia. One often sees whole families going off into the woods with their baskets. The more varieties of different mushrooms you can add to this dish the better.

Ingredients

Mushrooms

Bacon

Milk

Dill

Onions

Flour

Soured cream

Butter

Method

Slice the mushrooms. Chop the onions and bacon into small pieces. Melt the butter in a frying pan add the onions and bacon until slightly coloured. Add the mushrooms.

When everything is cooked through sprinkle a little flour and stir everything together. Add a little milk and the soured cream. Chop up the dill, salt and pepper and add to the mushrooms. This is lovely to serve just on its own with new potatoes or as a sauce with meat.

Agne



THE WHITE HORSE RE- OPENS

A village hub

Slowly some sort of normality is returning to life.

Having said that, the sight of masked figures and Social Distancing Traffic Lanes hardly represents Normality as we knew it. One event which has given relief to parched Villagers is the re- opening of the "White Horse". John and Gaye and their team are standing by to meet customers' requirements.

Village Pub Landlords find themselves the focal point for information regarding the village and it's history from visitors and also from afar by people who are often seeking details relating to families who once lived here. Recently there was a request from Holland from a family who tend the graves of Our fallen dead. This request was passed to me via Graham and Rob.

The family looked after the plot of a Young Ampfield man, Ian Campbell, aged only 19 years, who was killed liberating their village. The Campbell's were close friends of my parents and we kids grew up together as we all arrived in the village about the same time. My Folks opened the Store and Bakery. The Campbell's lived in Pound Lane, down by the railway arch in what then was the site of the Loggers Camp.

When the houses were built in Green Pond Lane, after the War, Mr and Mrs Campbell, their daughter Isabell and son Inness, all moved in there. John Campbell came from Aberfeldy in Perthshire, Flora , his wife hailed from Portree on Skye. They had come down from Scotland in 1933 with the team who were clearing the Standing timber which had been sold off in the Faber estate sale. All of the Children attended school at some time and I was there for a while with Inness.

We then both finished our education at Clarks college in Southampton. John, who was a magnificent tree feller, had also trained as a Baker, so he helped my parents part-time. He was also a Sergeant in Ampfield Home Guard given his previous Service experience. John had soldiered in the Black Watch in the First World War and was immensely proud when Ian enlisted in his old regiment.

Tragically Ian was killed in November 1944 near the Dutch village of Baarlo. He is buried in CWGC Venray and remembered on our Village War Memorial. Ian's death devastated his parents who never overcame their loss. John and Flora's grave is in St Mark churchyard, not far from my parents. Unfortunately, I believe, all of the family have passed away but they are fondly remembered by many. I have been able to furnish the Dutch family and their group with as much detail as I have to hand . I have many friends in the Netherlands and never cease to admire the way these groups attend to the final resting places of Our Young Men.

We have not experienced being under the Heel of an Invader for many years. They have!

Steve

Fire Brigade called to Chapel Wood

On Monday 3rd August locals walking in Chapel Wood discovered a bonfire abandoned by youngsters. After attempts to put it out failed firefighters were called and the fire extinguished. The Messenger's intrepid reporter was quickly on the scene with camera.

The wood is exceptionally dry at the moment and fires such as these can travel rapidly underground if not thoroughly dampened.

**PLEASE KEEP AN EYE
OUT FOR FIRE!**



Castaway of the Month

Let's Get Together - Hayley Mills

From the film *The Parent Trap*, my friend Jane and I used to play this back to back - we wanted to BE Hayley Mills!



The Lady is a Tramp - Ella Fitzgerald and Frank Sinatra

Sunday lunches at home, always Frank and Ella. I can smell the roast beef.

Love Me Do - The Beatles

I first heard this at the Boys' and Girls' exhibition at Olympia with my brother. I was wearing a dolly rocker dress and black boots. The beginning of a teenage passion. George was the one for me.

Moonlight Sonata - Beethoven

My husband Rob used to play this to me when we were 'courting'. It worked. Still does, though he plays the third movement more slowly now...



Stand and Deliver - Adam and the Ants

Girls Just Want to Have Fun - Cyndi Lauper

Our children, Matthew and Lizzie, loved these and it always makes me smile when I hear them and remember their teenage years.

At Last - Etta James

Wonderful! Sends shivers down my spine. Beyoncé (controversially, as many thought Etta should have been asked) sang this at Barak Obama's inauguration ball while Barak & Michelle did their first dance - watch on YouTube. Stunning! Oh, how hopeful we all were then.

Verdi's Requiem

It was a toss up between Traviata and this beautiful requiem. The Kyrie is transporting. Verdi saw me through my PhD studies - I love opera and a good Requiem.

Book

Anyone who knows me will not be surprised that it is E.F. Benson's books about Mapp and Lucia. There are six and if I could have them in the omnibus edition that would be perfect. I read them all every year and practically know them by heart, but the joy never fades.

Luxury

A king sized bed with a memory foam mattress and gorgeous 400+ count Egyptian cotton bedding. Happy to rough it any other way but I need my sleep. Bedding is a bit of a 'thing' with me.

If I can only take one record

It has to be the Moonlight ...

Chris

Ampfield Amblers

We are still walking!

At the moment days vary, contact Gwen Silvester on 01794 367881 or silvestergwen@yahoo.co.uk for details

Regular days to restart in September



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

A time to be humble

If there is one thing that this pandemic has taught us it is humility. Everything today is on tap, ready to be accessed at a stroke. Gone are the days of booking to make international phone calls for instance. Ready meals and takeaways are easily available if we do not want to slave over a hot stove. Huge choices of films or sport on the tv if we are prepared to pay a little more. A time of plenty for a huge proportion of us although, of course, there is also hardship everywhere.

Suddenly finding ourselves effectively locked in, with the hardships of finance, shortages of food and other essentials, holidays on hold or cancelled and for many of us, loneliness. It has hit us all hard. It brings home to us how much we take for granted and how alone we can feel when we are told what to do. Very much a new and frightening experience with a long recuperation process. We find ourselves very much depending on the help of good Samaritans to get us through.

There have been some wonderful efforts locally, especially with the online church services, which have been put together really well and full credit to all those involved. We all miss the church so much but how amazing it is that so many more people have followed the services on line. Food for thought as to what comes in the future.

It comes as a real shock when, as a species, our secure little everyday world can be turned upside down with something like this and we realise that, at a stroke, it can all be changed and may never be quite the same again. We see how easily things can turn against us. Some things are just bigger than us. We should all have more respect for each other after this and thank goodness for the unfailing love of God to keep us all sane.

Ron

A prayer for times when we rely so much on the internet ...

God bless all my family wherever they may be,
Keep them warm and safe from harm for they're so close to me.

And God, there is one more thing I wish that you could do;
Hope you don't mind me asking, please bless my computer too.

Now I know that it's unusual to bless a motherboard,
But listen just a second while I explain it to you, Lord.

You see, that little metal box holds more than odds and ends;
Inside those small compartments rest so many of my friends.

I know so much about them by the kindness that they give,
And this little scrap of metal takes me in to where they live.

By faith is how I know them, much the same as you.
We share in what life brings us and from that our friendships grew.

Please take an extra minute from your duties up above,
To bless those in my address book that's filled with so much love.

Wherever else this prayer may reach to each and every friend,
Bless each e-mail in the box and each person who hits "send".

When you update your heavenly list on your own great CD Rom
Bless everyone who says this prayer sent up to GOD.com

Jennie

Information

This week Mark & Abbie will be again spearheading Holiday Breakfasts every Wednesday in August from 8.30-9.30 at All Saints. Many local families rely on free school meals which stop during the long school holidays, and many more have been affected by loss of income in recent months. With thanks for a grant from Baddesley Friends, we will again be offering a free (this year 'takeaway') breakfast for families and individuals, please keep the Team and our visitors in your prayers.

Sundays services will be 'live' from All Saints, online and in Church, if you would like to join a live service please email joinin@acnb-church.org There will be Communion to Go available from 11am until 12 noon at St Mark and Communion in the Glade of St. Mark on **Tuesdays** at 10.30am. You can also book online for private prayer in our churches, go to the Events Calendar at acnb-church.org to book slots. Details of recorded morning prayer and sermons are available there too.

If you need any Zoom meeting links, would like to join in with readings or intercessions, would like prayers said for you or someone you know, or would just like to comment, please email or joinin@acnb-church.org.

Romsey News and Information Group

The original Facebook Group for Romsey.

Romsey Garden, Nursery & Plants, Info. Sharing etc.

Good source of local plant delivery and availability, seeds and growing information.

Nextdoor.co.uk

Neighbourhood hub for connecting with local services.

Recommended online suppliers:

Donald Russell (meat): hello@donaldrussell.co.uk; www.donaldrussell.com

Regal Fish: info@regalfish.co.uk; www.regalfish.co.uk

Local Representatives

Member of Parliament: Caroline Nokes; Phone: 01794 521155

County Councillor: Alan Dowden; Phone 02380 266458

TVBC Councillor: Martin Hatley; Phone: 02380 254040

Ampfield Parish Council: Chair Bryan Nanson; Phone: 02380 267760

Contributing to the Messenger

Contributions to this magazine are always welcome, however it may be necessary to edit or shorten articles.

Copy should reach the editors by the 15th of the month please.

As a guide, one page = approx. 325 words (less if you would like to include a photo).

Email to: cl.kerr@btinternet.com (tel. 01794 367104)

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AMPFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Bookings taken for private parties
and receptions. Clubs and other
organisations are welcome.

Good parking.

**For bookings ring
Martin Hatley**

Tel: 023 8025 4040/07970 501050
Email:- villagehall@ampfield.org.uk

* **Good Roots Garden Services** *

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