

CURDRIDGE

Village Magazine

December 2025



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*Curdridge Village magazine serves
the church & village communities
by circulating news which all
residents will find helpful*

December 2025

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Cover Photo.: Eadie Watmough - Age 9

Please do send pictures you have taken from around the village. Yours might even make the front cover; curdridgemagazine@gmail.com

THE COPY DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS:

November 15th

PARISH OFFICE

All Saints' Church, High Street, Botley SO32 2EA

Tel: 01489 782445

Email: office@bcd-churches.org.uk

The Parish Office can be contacted daily:

Monday - Friday 9.30am-12pm

**Appointments to book Baptisms and Weddings
can be arranged by contacting the Office.**



St. Peter's Church CURDRIDGE

**With All Saints', Botley & Holy Cross, Durley,
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CLERGY

Vicar:	<i>The Reverend Gregg Mensingh</i> The Rectory, 46 High Street, Botley, Southampton, SO30 2EA Tel: 01489 890994 Email: rector@bcd-churches.org.uk
Curate:	
Assistant Priests	
Home Communion	If you are long term sick and unable to get to church and would like Communion brought to you at home, then please contact the Parish Office, we are here to help. Tel: 01489 782445

CHURCH OFFICIALS

Parish Administrator:	Tel: 01489 782445 Email: office@bcd-churches.org.uk
PCC Secretary:	<i>Lisa Willshire</i> , Fairthorn Cottage, Chapel Lane, Curdridge, SO32 2BB Tel: 07732 525741
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LAY MINISTER

	<i>Janet Clarke</i> , 29 Freegrounds Road, Hedge End, SO30 0HS. Tel: 07792 721864
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THE WIDER CHURCH

Childrens Society Box Secretary:	<i>Mrs Ann Young</i> , 1 Woodview Park, Curdridge, SO30 2DN Tel: 01489 789745
Bell Captain:	<i>Mr R Milford</i> , 4 Ferrybridge Green, Hedge End, SO30 0JX Tel: 01489 787858

St Peter's Church relies upon voluntary giving for its running and upkeep. We support charities both at home and abroad.
If you would like to help by offering regular gifts or covenants, please ask the Treasurer or Churchwardens for details

REFLECTIONS & NOCTURNAL REFLECTION

GREGG MENSINGH

Dear Friends,

'It's better to give than to receive' we are told, and of course this is true. There are many people who think that human beings are not a particularly generous race, that we are rather better at receiving than giving. All around them they see how people try to get as much as they can from life, without giving all that much in return. The question on people's lips and in their hearts often seems to be 'what can I get?' rather than 'what can I give?' And it is true that ideas of sacrifice and service seem curiously quaint and naïve. Even churches sometimes find themselves wondering what they can get from the community around them before they ask themselves what they have to give.

I think the people who see only this lack of generosity are putting us down unnecessarily. In the right circumstances people are pretty good at giving of themselves. And most people at some stage in their lives will give something to somebody else that really costs them, particularly within families. I have often seen people in some way threaten their own comfort with their generosity. What more could we ask?

Actually, I suspect that many of us are oddly poor at receiving. If somebody is very generous to us, then we become a little suspicious. We wonder what the hidden agenda is and what we will owe in return. We fear that by receiving charity we appear weak and powerless.

Although on the whole it is better to give than to receive, receiving can be pretty good, if we manage to do it properly. Christmas, I believe, is more about receiving than about giving. This may seem an odd thing for me to say. I do not mean that is about what presents we receive and unwrap. Instead, it is about receiving the greatest gift of them all the fact that God Almighty became human and shared his life among

us. The God we believe in is not distant and remote; he is immediate and alongside us, intimately involved in creation. This is what Christmas is about: it is about receiving a gift so expansive and precious that the world cannot contain it; a gift so generous, it is beyond our comprehension. All we have to do is accept it graciously.

In one way or another, the enduring message of hope that Christmas brings will once again be present among us this year. As we come together for a variety of festive occasions — whether it be carol services, singing in our local pubs, or attending the crib services on Christmas Eve — we are reminded of the true spirit of Christmas.

Details of all these events can be found within the parish magazines, on the parish Christmas cards, and on the BCD churches website at www.bcd-churches.org.uk under the section "Activities and Events". It would be wonderful to see you there, sharing in these moments of joy and community.

Wishing you all a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year

Gregg
December 2025



Services in Botley, Curdridge and Durley - December 2025

Wednesday December 3 rd			
10.45 am – 12.30 pm	At a home	Conversations	<i>Gathering to explore Faith through conversation : we meet to encourage each other in faith and hope. Email office@bcd-churches.org.uk for details.</i>
Sunday December 7 th			
8.00 am	Botley Church	Holy Communion Service (Common Worship)	<i>And do stay after the service for coffee and a chat!</i> 
10.00 am	Botley Church Curdridge Church Durley Church	Parish Communion Service Parish Communion Service Parish Communion Service	
6.30 pm	Botley Church	Advent Carol Service	
Sunday December 14 th			
8.00 am	Botley Church	Holy Communion Service (Book of Common Prayer)	<i>Book of Common Prayer services use traditional language</i>
10.00 am	Botley Church Curdridge Church Durley Church	Parish Communion Service Parish Communion Service Parish Communion Service	
3.00pm	Botley Square	Carols in the Square	
6.30 pm		Zoom Evening Prayer online. This service can also be accessed by phone.	<i>If you don't already receive the link by email and would like to join this service, please phone the Church Office during the week (01489 782445) so that you can be sent the Zoom or telephone link.</i>
Sunday December 21 st			
8.00 am	Botley Church	Holy Communion Service (Common Worship)	<i>Common Worship services use more modern language</i>
10.00 am	Botley Church	Parish Communion Service	
3.30 pm	Durley Church	Carol Service (Nine lessons and Carols)	<i>Come and join us at one of our Carol Services - an opportunity to sing some well-loved carols in our village churches</i>
6.30 pm	Curdridge Church	Carol Service (Nine Lessons and Carols)	

Wednesday December 24th - Christmas Eve			
3.00 pm	Durley Church	Crib Service	 <i>The Crib Services are special services for children, their friends and families, as we wait with excitement for the birth of Baby Jesus</i>
5.00 pm 5.00 pm	Botley Church Curdridge Church	Crib Service Crib Service	
9.00 pm	Durley Church	First Communion Service of Christmas	<i>A lovely first service for Christmas – especially for those who can't get to the midnight service.</i>
11.30 pm	Botley Church	Midnight Communion Service	 <i>A candlelit service to welcome in Christmas Day and sing together "O Come All Ye Faithful", including that special verse for this day; "Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning."</i>
Thursday December 25th - Christmas Day			
8.00 am	Botley Church	Holy Communion Service (Common Worship)	<i>For early risers on Christmas morning. Stay afterwards for a piece of the Parish Christmas Cake</i>
10.00 am	Botley Church Curdridge Church Durley Church	Parish Communion Services in all three churches	 <i>Bring your families and friends to celebrate the birth of Christ. Stay afterwards for a festive drink and a piece of the Parish Christmas Cake.</i>
Sunday December 28th			
8.00 am	Botley Church	Holy Communion Service (Book of Common Prayer)	<i>Book of Common Prayer services use traditional language</i>
10.00am	Durley Church	United Parish Communion at Durley	
6.30 pm	Botley Church	Carol Service	 <i>Come and enjoy the last of our Carol Services this year. Hear festive readings by candlelight and sing some more of your favourite carols.</i>

Bible Readings December

Sunday 7th December

Isaiah 11. 1-10

2nd Sunday of Advent

Matthew 3. 1-12

Sunday 14th December

Isaiah 35. 1-10

3rd Sunday of Advent

Matthew 11. 2-11

Sunday 21st December

Isaiah 7. 10-16

4th Sunday of Advent

Matthew 1. 18-end

Thursday 25th December

Christmas Day Titus 3.4-7

Luke 2. (1-7) 8-20

Midnight

Isaiah 52. 7-10

John 1. 1-14

Sunday 28th December

Jeremiah 31. 15-17

The Holy Innocents

Matthew 2. 13-18

Village Bonfire and Fireworks Night

The weather forecast for Friday 7th November was not encouraging. Earlier in the previous week wind and rain looked in prospect for the evening. The good news was that it would be unseasonably warm for the month. On the day we began preparations when Larry and Chris erected their new lighting system which we were borrowing from the Reading Room.

This was one of the improvements we'd agreed in the evaluation from the previous year. Primarily we were concerned with safety but we also wanted the atmosphere to be welcoming. The new lighting fulfilled both these criteria.

The other arrangements included much flutter taping around the bonfire which had been built into a "tepee" shape by James. We also taped the safe distances from the firework's firing point and as much taping as possible around the many trip hazards such as graves and tree roots.

The new barbeque, the cricket club hotplate and a smaller home barbeque were sited and we erected a gazebo over the "kitchen". The mulled wine and children's drinks stall was placed adjacent to the BBQ.

We're grateful to Owtons for donating the burgers and sausages, The Cricketer's Pub for pre-cooking them, Stainers for the rolls and, most importantly, Curdridge Parish Council for funding all this as well as the fireworks.

We also employed two staff from securitynation who were tasked to give reassurance to the crowds as well as being qualified first aiders.

When visitors began to arrive just before 6.00pm it soon became clear that the weather was going to be kind as the drizzle held off. Simon lit the bonfire, parents collected sparklers for their children and the food and drink queues quickly formed.

At 6.30 the fireworks began and for 15 minutes or so the sky was filled with light and sound in a traditional display. Everyone sensibly watched from behind the tapes. The smell of burning filled the air, at least from where the firework crew were.

After that the breeze picked up a little and blew some sparks around but the fire was beginning to die down. The last of the refreshments were used and families began to leave for home. We judge it to have been a safely enjoyable evening to celebrate the village coming together. Thank you for the donations to the church roof repairs and thank you to all who helped.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

The January 2026 village magazine will focus on New Year Resolutions. Tell us about yours. Perhaps it's to get fit or take up new hobbies. Or even to help a neighbour or volunteering for a good cause. Send your thoughts to the editor by 15th December.

Remembrance Sunday

Our Sunday service on 9th November was dedicated to the national remembrance events. Of course the exact time and date of the armistice in 1918 was at 11.00am on 11th November. However the closest Sunday provides the opportunity for many if not most people to mark the sacrifices made in conflicts.

The uniformed organisations assembled outside their headquarters in the Recreation Ground and paraded to the church led by Tom the crucifer. At St. Peter's they formed up around the memorial and parents and other members of the congregation gathered on the other sides.



Reverend Anne Boggust introduced the service at 10.55 and the names of those commemorated on the memorial were recited. Miles, the trumpeter sounded the last post after which we marked the two minutes silence. The end was marked by Reveille on the trumpet.

Then the flags were paraded into the church and laid on the altar for the duration of the service. We followed the traditional form and sang well known hymns and the national anthem. The flags were dipped at the proper time. The Bible reading, the prayers and the sermon all focussed around the theme of eternal life for all people.

At the end the uniformed organisations led the congregation out of the church. Many described their warm feelings towards the occasion and hoped it was widely memorable especially for young people who are growing up in a very difficult world.

Portsmouth Diocese News

Our bishop took his seat in the House of Lords today as one of the 26 most senior bishops in the Church of England.

Bishop Jonathan was formally introduced to the upper chamber last month. He presented his summons from HM the King and swore his oath before taking his seat on the benches with his fellow bishops.

He is now one of the Lords Spiritual, whose presence in Parliament reflects our constitutional arrangement, with an established Church of England and its Supreme Governor as monarch and Head of State.

Bishop Jonathan will continue to be the lead for the Church of England on education policy and intends to work particularly on areas of legislation related to schools, children, and special educational needs.



The Rt Rev Dr Jonathan Frost, Bishop of Portsmouth, was presented in the chamber by the Bishop of Lincoln, the Rt Rev Stephen Conway, and the Bishop of Leicester, the Rt Rev Martyn Snow.

WALTHAM CHASE FLOWER CLUB



There is not a meeting in December, but we wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Our next meeting at Waltham Chase hall is on Wednesday 28th January 2026 for a talk by Patricia Elkington on 'Humour and Wisdom in the garden'. Everyone very welcome - visitors £6.50.

For more information please ring Marjorie 07771897147, or Sue 01329 833165.



Meon Valley Methodist

'Empowered by the Holy Spirit, to deepen the spiritual life of our fellowships and to encourage everyone to share the gospel'

Methodist Minister's Musings from Rev Phil Griffin

What's the longest you've had to wait for a present? I got a flying lesson for my 40th birthday. All I needed to do was book it online and turn up on the day. Well, I'm 43 now, and I'm still waiting for it to actually happen - it's been cancelled time and time again. But my most long-awaited gift has to be the Transformer, Ultra Magnus. For those of you not in the know, Ultra Magnus was a car transporter that could be transformed into a robot. Every Christmas, when I was little, my sister and I would go to Lewis' department store in Birmingham to visit Father Christmas; and in 1987, I saw Ultra Magnus on the shelf and immediately wanted him. That Christmas, I did not get him. It wasn't until 1994, when a neighbour gave me a box of assorted old toys that I found an Ultra Magnus, lurking at the bottom. In truth, by the time that I finally got him, I had completely forgotten that I had ever asked for him!

where I'm heading!) many times between about 1200BC and 400BC. They waited for - believe it or not - 400-1200 years to receive the gift they had been promised. But like me with Ultra Magnus, when Jesus actually arrived, most of the Israelites didn't realise that He was the One they had been waiting for. As St. John puts it: "Although He made the world, the world didn't recognize Him when He came. Even in His own land and among His own people, the Jews, He was not accepted. Only a few would welcome and receive Him". Fortunately, for those first believers, and for any of us today who put their trust in Jesus, He has a gift to offer: "To all who received Him, He gave the right to become children of God. All they needed to do was to trust Him to save them". This Christmas, welcome Jesus as King of your life, and know the joy and peace of being a child of God. May you all have a Merry Christmas and very happy New Year.

But that 7-year wait pales into insignificance when compared to the Israelites. They were promised a Messiah (or 'Christ', in Greek, not wishing to spoil

Kitnocks Estate Sale, 1947.

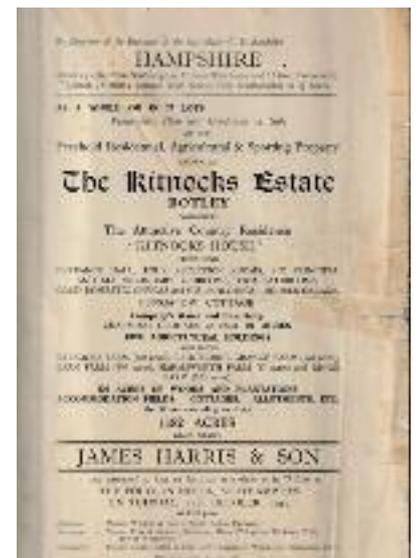
On October 14th, 1947, a Sale by Auction of 'The Kitnocks Estate, Botley' was held at the Polygon Hotel in Southampton. The former owner of the Estate, Major Charles F Randolph, had died earlier the same year and the property was now to be sold 'as a whole or in 27 lots.' The lots included numerous arable fields and enclosures, also 'accommodation land', 'valuable' and 'attractive' blocks of woodland and various cottages, old and 'modern'. They also included five whole farms. The entire estate amounted to some 1,182 acres.

The centre of the estate was of course Kitnocks House at the top of Kitnocks Hill, set in 'charming grounds of about 20 acres'. Among the farms was Kitnocks Farm, which is of course adjacent to the House, although in this case the auctioneers managed to correctly locate the Farm in Curdridge rather than in Botley. The other farms were: Fairthorne Grange Farm (on the Burridge road), Barn Farm and Ridge Farm in Curdridge (both now subsumed by the North Whiteley development) and Harmsworth Farm, also in Curdridge. The blocks of woodland included Bedlams, Hangmans and Suttons Copses - i.e. the daffodil and bluebell woods in Curdridge. In fact, there couldn't have been much of Curdridge that wasn't part of the Estate.

Most of the farms and cottages were already let to tenants, a number of whom are still familiar local family names - Barker, Oakley, Pink, Hillier, Churcher and Mears. In fact it was Brian Mears, my neighbour in Outlands Lane, who lent me the sale document for the Estate. The Mears family have lived in Curdridge since at least the 15th Century - their name appears on a list of tenants from that time. At the time of the Kitnocks Estate sale, Brian's grandfather Alfred was the tenant of one of the 'modern cottages' in Outlands Lane - one of the timbered, mock-tudor dwellings that had originally been built as staff quarters by Augusta Burrell of Fairthorne Manor in the early 1900s. The written notes on the sale document reveal that the property was purchased by Alfred's sons David and John, whose home address it already was, when they weren't way with the Navy. They were still living there when we first moved into Outlands Lane in 1993, and until they passed away.

Among the lots of land was a piece at the top of Kitnocks Hill - the plot still known as the Kitnocks Triangle, which now has houses on it. However, a 'reservation' in the sale document notes that Major Randolph had, in his Will, already gifted a small section of this land to Curdridge Parish Council to serve as a bus stop. This is where the bench on the crest of the hill sits now and where many will still remember catching the Hants & Dorset bus number 53 which ran between Fareham and Southampton - and vice-versa of course.

Kevan Bundell



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Rustles in the leaves

As autumn brings misty mornings and crisp evenings, one of our most familiar garden visitors - the European hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) - is preparing for its long winter sleep. These round, brown mammals, famously covered in around 7,000 yellow-tipped spines, are a much-loved feature of Britain's wildlife and an important part of our natural heritage.

Often called the gardener's best friend, hedgehogs are expert nocturnal foragers. They emerge at dusk to snuffle through long grass, flowerbeds, leaf litter, and vegetable patches in search of worms, beetles, slugs, and other invertebrates, making them natural pest controllers. Hedgehogs have a keen sense of smell and a remarkable ability to remember the location of abundant food sources.

Mostly active from April to October, they thrive in a variety of habitats, including woodland edges, farmland, parks, and suburban gardens, wherever shelter and food are plentiful. Solitary creatures for most of the year, they roam several miles each night in search of food and mates, coming together only during the breeding season in late spring and early summer.

By this time of year, hedgehogs are busy feeding as much as possible to build up fat reserves before hibernation begins. As temperatures drop in November, they retreat to sheltered spots such as under sheds, log piles, or dense shrubs, creating a nest of leaves and twigs known as a hibernaculum. Inside, their heartbeat slows dramatically, and their body temperature drops, allowing them to survive for months without food.

Sadly, the familiar hedgehog is now facing real challenges. Once a common sight in gardens across the UK, numbers have declined sharply over recent decades. Habitat loss, pesticide use, and busy roads have all taken their toll, leaving hedgehogs struggling to find safe places to feed and hibernate.

Fortunately, small actions at home can make a big difference. Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust recommends leaving areas of long grass, creating safe corridors between gardens, and

avoiding harmful chemicals all help provide the refuge hedgehogs need. Every connected green space can become part of a larger, life-saving network for this cherished species. With a bit of care and community effort, we can help ensure hedgehogs remain a welcome part of our gardens for generations to come.

Find out more about hedgehogs on the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust website: hiwwt.org.uk/wildlife-explorer/mammals/

Helen Skelton Smith

Communications Officer – PR & Media

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Helen.Skelton.Smith@hiwwt.org.uk



Hedgehog - credit Jon Hawkins - Surrey Hills Photography

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View of the Acropolis, Greece

Celebrating Christmas at St. Peter's



We invite you to share in and enjoy our Christmas Services

Christmas time in St. Peter's is a special time. The church dressed in its finery, offers a warm welcome to new & frequent visitors alike. A chance to celebrate Christmas with neighbours & family. We invite you to join in some, or indeed all, of the various events taking place from December through to Christingle in February.

Carols at the Cricketers

Wednesday 10th December at 7pm

Carol Service at St Peter's

Sunday 21st December at 6.30pm

Christmas Eve Crib Service at St. Peter's

Wednesday 24th December 5pm

Christmas Eve Midnight Mass

Durley 9pm and Botley 11.30pm

Christmas Day at St. Peter's

Communion Service followed by cake, mince pies and bubbly 10am

United BCD Celebration of Christmas

Sunday 28th December at Durley 10am

Carol Service

Sunday 28th at Botley 6.30pm





Epiphany at St. Peter's

Sunday 11 January 2026 at 10am

Communion Service to celebrate the visit of the Three Kings to the baby Jesus in Bethlehem

Christingle

Sunday 1st February 2026

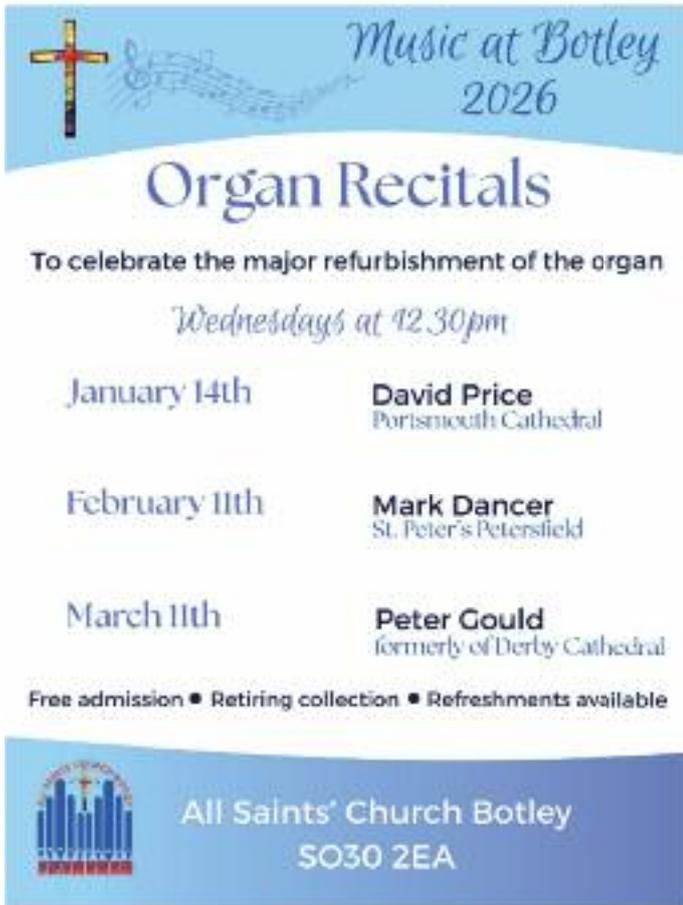
A beautiful candlelit Service at Botley 10am featuring decorated oranges and candles to symbolise Jesus's light in the world.

Collections taken at our services this Christmas will be for local charity Jack's Place, the national charity Shelter and internationally for UNHCR Sudan Appeal

Each year we put out a large crate inside the church, wrapped in festive paper. For four weeks there is an opportunity to not just donate food items as usual to the West Meon Food bank, but festive treats too.. The crate will be emptied on Monday 15th December and the items taken to the food bank. After that day the food bank is closed until January.

From everyone here at St. Peter's Curdridge, we wish you, your family, friends and neighbours, a peaceful, joyful and happy Christmas





**Music at Botley
2026**

Organ Recitals

To celebrate the major refurbishment of the organ

Wednesdays at 12.30pm

January 14th	David Price Portsmouth Cathedral
February 11th	Mark Dancer St. Peter's Petersfield
March 11th	Peter Gould formerly of Derby Cathedral

Free admission • Retiring collection • Refreshments available

 All Saints' Church Botley
SO30 2EA



Meon Valley Carers Group

For carers of someone with Dementia
Receive support, information and signposting
Meet and talk to others carers in similar situations

4th Tuesday of each month 2pm - 4pm
at The Paterson Centre, Church Road, Swanmore, SO32 2PA

The programme for these meetings is varied with speakers ranging from necessary, interesting, factual information to more lighthearted subjects.

Built into the group meetings are arts and crafts, musical afternoons and games suitable for those living with Dementia.

 You will be given a warm welcome! 

Tea coffee and biscuits provided
Free parking in the car park opposite the Paterson Centre

For more information, please contact
Allison McNally
tel: 07771 895370
e-mail: allison.mcnally1968@gmail.com





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At The End of the Day by Lucy Stubbington.

Available to buy on 27th November 2025 from Amazon, just in time for Christmas!

Debut children's author and illustrator, Lucy Stubbington has created an endearing rhyming story showing the beautiful bond between a little girl and her best four legged friend. Follow their days full of muddy paws, tempting treats AND tasty socks! This big soft lovable dog creates naughtiness whenever he goes. But at the end of the day, he always knows how much he is loved.

Lucy's distinctive use of bright painterly colours combined with the playful rhythm that flows through the story; will be sure to capture your little one's imagination. At The End of the Day is a wonderful way to encourage young minds with their reading development. The short but eventful rhyming couplets will appeal to a range of ages; from learning in the classroom to winding down for a cosy bedtime read.

A tale based on the resilience of friendship and love within a warm family home. Highlighting that sometimes it's ok to be a little cheeky!

Lucy Stubbington is based in Hampshire. As a mother of two young children, she takes much inspiration for her illustration and children's book writing from their chaotic yet loving family environment. Spending time playing, talking to her little girls and exploring young imaginations ignites wonderful ideas that Lucy enjoys developing through words and paint. Further editorial and homeware illustration by Lucy Stubbington can be found on her website at www.arosylife.co.uk.

This children's book has been published by Blossom Spring Publishing and is available to purchase on Amazon. Also available as an eBook. A perfect gift to find under the tree this Christmas!



Botley, Hedge End & District U3A

Our December Meeting is a members only meeting, but our January meeting will be held on Wednesday January 14th. at 1.30 p.m. in Botley Market Hall. New members and those of you who would just like to come along as a guest to find out a little more about our local u3a will be most welcome. Our speaker for this meeting is John Webster and his subject is "Grandma flew Spitfires". This sounds a fascinating subject, with a strong local connection.

We have a range of new Interest Groups which will hopefully be starting in the new year, including Backgammon, Bridge, Gentle / Chair Exercises and possibly a Guitar Group. These are in addition to our existing groups which range from Walking to Board Games, Mahjong to Genealogy, Archaeology to Wine Tasting.

For further information please have a look at our website (botley-hedge-end.u3asite.uk) or contact us direct on bhedistrictu3a@gmail.com

Curdridge Allotments

We have a few spare plots if anybody is interested in taking one. If you fancy trying your hand at growing some fruit or veg, please get in contact.

It won't cost you a lot of money and you can have some fun, give it a go!

Simon Fleming - Secretary
simonfleming@hotmail.com





Activities And Meetings



info@curdridgereadingroom.co.uk



07704 208703



www.curdridgereadingroom.co.uk



@curdridgereadingroom & @curdridgevillageevents

These facilities are run by the Curdridge Reading Room & Recreational Ground Charity. A registered charity in England & Wales (1153056). The Trustees usually meet on the first Tuesday of the month. The first 30 minutes are open for local residents to come and voice any questions or concerns they may have about the facilities. Please contact the Facilities Coordinator to arrange your visit.



Curdridge Parish Council

Meet at the Reading Room on the third Thursday or every month
www.curdridge-pc.gov.uk | clerk@curdridge-pc.gov.uk | 07961 213750



Monday Evenings 6.30 to 7.30
Zumba with Hayley
07766 100007



Tuesday s & Thursday
10am to 12pm
www.bwmsshed.club



Wednesday Mornings 9.30 to 10.30
Breathe Pilates with Amelia
breathepilates.ab@gmail.com



Thursday Afternoon
2.00 to 4.00
Acrylic Art Workshop for
Beginners
MrsFayeKnight@hotmail.com



Friday Mornings 8.00 to 1.00
Pop-Up Cafe
Once a month on a Friday evening
5.00 to 7.30
Drinks Night



Dog Agility with Rik
Tuesdays & Saturdays
Classes from 9.00 to 3.30
4abagility@gmail.com
07506 872352



Mondays & Fridays
Classes from 4.00 to 8.00
Saturdays
Classes from 9.00 to 2.00
j.vowles74@gmail.com
07766 141964



Shamanic Drumming Circle hosted by Aura of Angels
Tuesday 4th February from 7.30pm to 9pm
auraofangelswithsarah@gmail.com



Tai Chi with Linda
Friday Mornings
Intermediate from 10.00 to 11.00
Beginners from 11.00 to 12.00
info@thetotalcareclinic.co.uk



Kundalini Yoga with Philippa Rose
5th February from 7pm to 8pm
www.philippa-rose.co.uk



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www.curdridgedrama.co.uk



Get Printing Workshops and Home Ed Art Workshops
with Creative Art Studio.
Typically Mondays or Fridays.
www.creativestudiobranding.blogspot.com

The Reading Rooms are available to hire for day or evening use for meetings, classes, workshops and private functions. Visit www.curdridgereadingroom.co.uk/hiring for full details.



NEWS from CURDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

www.curdridge-pc.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES ~ November 2025

Speeding and Road Safety

The new radar speed indicators (speed limit reminder devices) I mentioned last time are now in place. This means we have three units along Botley Road, one on Wangfield Lane, one on Lockhams Road and one on Curdridge Lane. There is another pole on the hill of Wangfield Lane. We have consent for a site in Curbridge, though we lost the pole during north Whiteley development.

Thanks are due to Don Davies and Dave Wright, who installed the new units, and who keep them all running. Don and Dave supply the resulting statistics to the Police, proving that there is indeed a speeding problem in our village.

Because of that and lobbying by the Council, the Police came with an evidential speed gun this month, and caught several people speeding. We are hoping that their success will encourage more checks.

Curdridge has an active Speedwatch group, and would monitor speeds more frequently if we had extra volunteers. Free training is available, and takes very little time, so please consider volunteering by emailing clerk@curdridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Awards for Curdridge

At the AGM of Hampshire Association of Local Councils, Curdridge Parish Council won first place in the award for Excellence in Community Engagement. Much credit must go to Jonathan Carkeet's work in engaging with villagers to build the Neighbourhood Plan, and to the new web-site and printed mailings, created with Smart Marketing and our clerk, Nicki Oliver.

The Curdridge Affordable Housing project won the Best Housing Solution Award in the Hampshire Countryside Awards 2025., held by CPRE Hampshire (The Countryside Charity). The judges said:

'Hastoe Housing is well known for its work in rural affordable housing, and has the strong support of CPRE Hampshire. There is

a clear need for social and other affordable housing in Hampshire villages to meet local need by helping those with a local connection to live in the village. Rural exception sites are a way of meeting this need, especially where they are taken forward with the support of the community. This scheme by Hastoe Housing in Curdridge is an excellent example, resulting from 15 years of hard work, determination and working with the Parish and District Councils, Action Hampshire and Rob Medway, the landowner. An excellent project.

Good to see how this project has been developed in concert between the Parish Council, Hastoe, Winchester City Council, Action Hampshire and – critically – the landowner, who has made this plot available in response to local needs. The scale of the challenges faced - and overcome – is reflected in the fact that the scheme has taken 15 years from concept to delivery. The project provides lessons in one important way of delivering affordable homes to a rural community, a key priority for CPRE Hampshire. Good to see that it has been showcased to other Hampshire Councils and more widely through a piece on BBC Politics South.'

Welcome to our new Councillor

It was worth waiting to secure applications to fill the councillor vacancy, as we ended up with two excellent applicants. Five of the six current councillors were able to get together to talk to each of them, and then had to make a very difficult choice. We invited David Briggs to fill the vacancy. Dave and his wife have lived in the village for twelve years, and are raising four children here. We are all delighted with the appointment, and look forward to working with Dave in the future.

Council Meetings

All parishioners are very welcome at our meetings, which are held in the Reading Rooms at 7pm. You can check the agenda on www.curdridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk/ to find what is to be discussed. There may be planning or other items that matter to you.

Eric Bodger (on behalf of Council Chair Jonathan Carkeet)

Planning Decisions and Appeals Notified by Winchester

Harmsworth Farm, Botley Road, Curbridge

New entrance gates, realigned driveway, change of use of driveway to residential Case No: 25/01111/FUL Case Officer: Cameron Finch. Application permitted (CPC No objections)

Calcot Mount Calcot Lane Curdridge

Change of use of land from agricultural field to commercial and extension of existing business premises within existing industrial estate. Case No: 25/01888/FUL Case Officer: Joe Toole. Application permitted (CPC No objections)

Silverlake. Row Ash, Botley Road, Shedfield, Southampton SO32 2HL

HCC application
Retrospective application for the erection of two site buildings at Silverlake Automotive Recycling Ltd. HCC Case No: HCC/2025/0485 / WR200. Case Officer: Jane Rarok. Committee Decision: Application permitted (CPC raised objections 20 Aug 25).

FUTURE MEETING DATES FOR CURDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL:

All parishioners are very welcome at our meetings, which are held monthly in the Reading Rooms. You can check the dates and agenda items on curdridge-pc.gov.uk/agendas/ to find what is being discussed. There may be planning or other items that matter to you. We hold a Full Council Meeting on the third Thursday of each month (except August). Only, when necessary, there may be a Planning meeting on the first Thursday, at which other urgent Council business can be conducted if required.

The next Full Council Meetings are on:

11 December 2025 and the third Thursday of months in 2026 in the Reading Rooms.

If urgent business arises, an extra meeting might possibly be required on 4 December and on the first Thursday of later months. Meeting agendas, including finalised date, time and venue for meetings, are made available on the Parish Council website www.curdridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk/ which will also report meeting cancellations when necessary. We make available a period at the start of each meeting for public comments. In addition, the chairman can invite members of the public to speak on specific items of business where this is appropriate.

Do you live in Curdridge and in need of transport to attend medical appointments shopping etc?

If so, please contact Anne, a Trustee from the Botley & Curdridge Foundation, on 01489 785096 and we will do our best to assist with taxi fares.

CONTACTS for CURDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Please report **FLY TIPPING** and **ROAD PROBLEMS** directly to HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL via the link 'Report Highways Issues' on our website homepage www.curdridge-pc.gov.uk or by telephoning **0300 555 1375**.

Parish Council Manager/Parish Clerk - Nicki Oliver

Heatherdene, Turkey Island, Shedfield, Southampton SO32 2JE **Telephone:** 07961 213750
Email: clerk@curdridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk **Website:** www.curdridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Chairman - Cllr Jonathan Carkeet

Email cldr.jonathan.carkeet@curdridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Vice Chairman - Cllr Philip Hedger

Email cldr.philip.hedger@curdridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Eric Bodger

Email cldr.eric.bodger@curdridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Sian Townsend

Email cldr.sian.townsend@curdridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Henrietta Taylor

Email cldr.henrietta.taylor@curdridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Laurence Burden

Email cldr.laurence.burden@curdridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

DISTRICT and COUNTY COUNCILLORS for CURDRIDGE

Malcolm Wallace (County Councillor)

Email Malcolm.Wallace@hants.gov.uk

Councillor Vivian Achwal (District Councillor)

92 Saffron Way, Whiteley, Hants, PO15 7LW

Email: vachwal@winchester.gov.uk **Tel:** 01489 570199

Mob: 07954 133386

Councillor Sudhakar Achwal (District Councillor)

92 Saffron Way, Whiteley PO15 7LW

Email: sachwal@winchester.gov.uk **Tel:** 01489 570199

Councillor Anne Small (District Councillor)

Email: asmall@winchester.gov.uk **Tel:** 07900 255518



Winchester
City Council

Bishop's Waltham Rotary Club

October 2025 News...



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

What a great response we had to this year's CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL sending a Christmas Gift to children in Ukraine, Moldova, Montenegro and Romania. We took in 465 boxes from around the local area and particularly want to thank all the Scouts, Guides, Voluntary organisations, Churches, Colleges, Schools and Communities in Bishop's Waltham, Waltham Chase, Swanmore, Shedfield, Shirrell Heath, Wickham, Curdridge, Hedge End, Chandlers Ford and Fareham who helped us reach such an amazing number. Your boxes have now been checked, packed and included in the total from around our Rotary district of 19,145 Shoeboxes which have now been packed into 1,278 Cartons and then loaded onto 112 pallets ready for dispatch in time for Christmas.



BISHOP'S WALTHAM SCOUTS, CUBS & BEAVERS

As part of Bishop's Waltham Rotary support to our local community a donation of £3,000 was made to Bishop's Waltham Scout Group who have an amazing membership of 185 attendees. The donation was for a new Cooker, Black out blinds and Acoustic panels for the ceiling to enable greater use of their facility at Hoe Road Recreation Ground.



NEW MEMBER

Our President Debbie Newnham welcomed new member Sue Natt, who has been a friend of Bishop's Waltham Rotary for many years helping and supporting at many events and we are now delighted she has joined as a Full Member.



CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

Santa has been in touch, and we now have the routes all set for where he will be visiting this year, along with Roger, his brightly lit musical steam train. In the table you can see where we will be, but if you want to see a full list of roads Santa will be visiting, between 6 and 8pm on our mobile routes, visit our website: www.bishopswalthamrotary.org.uk. You can also track Santa and Roger on their travels around the local area by following the "Where is Roger" link on the website.

Monday 8th December	Waltham Chase, North
Tuesday 9th December	Fair Oak, heading out from Savernake Way off Crowd Hill
Wednesday 10th December	Bishops Waltham New Town, starting at Elizabeth Way
Thursday 11th December	Fair Oak, starting in Dean Road off Allington lane
Friday 12th December	Bishop's Waltham the new Clover Way estate on Winchester Road
Saturday 13th December	Kingsman Drive, Boorley Green
Monday 15th December	Bishops Waltham visiting Rareridge lane and the Oak Road area
Tuesday 16th December	Fair Oak starting out at Stubbington Way
Wednesday 17th December	Bishops Waltham on the Pondside estate
Thursday 18th December	Horton Heath starting out at the community centre
Friday 19th December	Static at Hilliers Garden Centre Woodhouse Lane, Botley
Saturday 20th December	Static at Sainsburys, Bishop's Waltham
Sunday 21st December	Static at Hilliers Garden Centre Woodhouse Lane, Botley
Monday 22nd December	Static at Sainsburys, Bishop's Waltham

Like our Facebook page or take a look at our website for updates on what is going on, what we have been up to and how you can help us help others!

pr@bishopswalthamrotary.org.uk



MEON VALLEY LIONS CLUB

WICKHAM BEER FESTIVAL

The Meon Valley Lions Club served burgers and sausages at the Wickham Beer Festival where we had a brilliant reception from the revellers ... and to top it off we'd really like to thank the organisers of the Festival, for their kind donation. Without the public support none of this would be possible, so a big thank you to all the kind people who supported the October Beer Festival for making this possible.



LOCAL YOUTH DONATIONS

The Meon Valley Lions are constantly looking for good causes to support and recently donated funds to enable the Newton and Soberton Guides Company, to purchase new challenge books to obtain badges. The books contain numerous challenge badges, and the new books include the latest challenges, and how to earn them – good luck and let's see everyone wearing those uniforms sleeves with pride.



SANTA COLLECTIONS

Meon Valley Lions Club are busy organising the Santa Collections throughout December so look out for updates in our social media for routes and dates.



Waltham Priory Probus

On the 15th of October members had an enjoyable visit to Hilliers and were presented with an excellent talk on autumn and winter gardens by Rob Bayley. This was rounded off with a cream tea.

A classic lunch was held on the 19th October. The event began with an entertaining talk "The P&O Story, fun and facts" by Steve Herra. This was followed by an excellent three course lunch.

Members and their guests gathered for their monthly meeting at Brook House on the 4th November. After the meeting all were able to enjoy a wonderful presentation by our own member Kay Corke on "A History of Pantomime". Many thanks to Kay for her fascinating view into an entertainment institution that we have all enjoyed during our lives. Lunch followed.

Our present future programme of events, speakers and topics during 2025/6 is as follows:-
November 19th- Chinese lunch.

December 2nd - Christmas Party with Jennifer Parker Lumis.

January 13th 2026- Burns lunch with speaker Mike Read-"Wildlife of the Scottish Mainland".

February 3rd- Oliver Atkinson-"The Meonside Farm beaver reintroduction project".

Waltham Priory Probus is a mixed club of men and women. We are welcoming and friendly. We are able to accept some new members at present. As you see above we have some entertaining events and speakers lined up. If you would like to start each new month with some fun and entertainment followed by a lunch join us on the first Tuesday morning of every month in Botley. Please contact our secretary on phone number 01489789039 or email contact ailsajen15@gmail.com for details.

BOTLEY, CURDRIDGE & DURLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

SUE PERRY

At our October meeting we heard the fascinating “Curbridge Memories”, Mary Leahy’s memories of Curbridge farm life starting at the end of World War Two, accompanied by slides and some historical artefacts.

Mary Leahy was born in 1942 in Botley Rectory – in those pre-NHS days the vicar’s wife was the midwife. Mary’s father’s motorbike and sidecar provided the transport there and back. Mary was brought up at Ridge Farm, Ridge Lane, Curbridge (south of the old St Barnabas chapel), living with



her parents and her paternal grandparents.

Mary’s father was Richard Silvester. Originally from Droxford, he moved to Ridge Farm, Curbridge at age 18 when his parents took on its tenancy in 1927. Richard’s brother, Tom (aged 15), also moved with them. They rented from the Kitnocks Estate, until the estate was sold in 1947, when they bought the freehold of Ridge Farm. In 1948 “Woodside”, a 3-bed house, was built on the farm for Mary’s uncle Tom. Mary’s mother, Ena Silvester (nee Keele), was born in 1912; on the day RMS Titanic went down (which she was reminded about each year as a child with national and local memorials). Ena went to Curdrige School and had worked ‘in service’ at Kitnocks House.

When the Kitnocks Estate was sold in 1947 it included Kitnocks House with Bungalow Cottage and 20 acres; Barn Farm (200 acres); Fairthorne Grange Farm (125 acres); Ridge Farm (103 acres); Harmsworth Farm (47 acres); Cottages no’s 2,3,4,7,8,9,10,11 Kitnocks Estate; woodland copses – Bedlams, Blackmoor, Hangman’s, Hole, Ridge, and Silford. Mary’s paternal grandparents were Thomas (who lived to age 99) and Ada (a teacher for 12 years, who had to leave when she got married). Mary sadly did not know her maternal

grandparents as her grandfather was killed in a car accident before she was born and her grandmother died when Mary was young.

Ridge Farm was a mixed farm of around 99 acres, growing wheat, barley, oats and potatoes, and raising some cattle, pigs, and chickens. The two dairy cows provided milk and butter for the farmhouse, which had its own integral dairy. Ena raised chickens, largely for the extra income from their eggs, as many farmer’s wives did. The fields provided wild rabbit meat for home and the market (much in demand in the rationed 1940’s). Other meat for the home came from Lewry’s in Botley. An orchard provided fruit for homemade jams and cookery. Mary’s mother was adept at making homemade wines – her wheat wine proving sweet but very strong. There were also woodlands included with the farm. Lovely wild daffodils still bloom in the remaining woods. The farm buildings, ranging around the farmyard, included barns (for storage, machinery and livestock), pigsties, stable, and coalhouse. The yard and fields had a water supply as well as the house. A stream also ran through the fields. Mary remembers her father and grandfather walking the fields broadcasting seed by hand, and the use of stooks at harvest time (sheaves of grain stacked pyramid-style in the fields). Ridge Farmhouse had four bedrooms and a bathroom. The kitchen had a range and a Primus stove, walk-in larder, dairy, plenty of cupboard space, and a coper for heating water. Wood was the main source of heating. It was a Georgian style brick-built house which may have dated back to the days of the Window Tax as it had several blocked-up windows. Mary’s earliest memories were of the ending of WW2. The farm had an air raid shelter, and some incendiary bombs did fall on the fields. Mary’s father was in the Home Guard – in case of invasion they would have been part of the defence of the south coast. Land Army women worked on the farm – remembered for wearing trousers, something Mary’s mother and grandmother would never do. German POWs worked on the farm doing heavy work such as ditch digging. However, one was a trained carpenter and given work repairing gates, fences, and anything wooden. In return he made Mary a collection of wooden toys – a blackboard, a push-along butterfly (with moving wings), and a pull-along wooden dog (which Mary brought along to show us). These were very much appreciated by the young Mary at a time when commercial toys were in short supply.

Mary joined Botley School, her first day in a classroom marred by a girl who screamed and cried all day. Her class used slates and chalk, and chanted times tables. One day the only (outside) toilets flooded. Everyone was sent home on their own (no phones so parents could not be called). The river on Mary’s way home had also flooded. Her father, seeing this, crossed the fields to try and Mary off but, as the school was sent home early, they missed each other. Mary

BOTLEY, CURDRIDGE & DURLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

SUE PERRY

had to face the river alone; she had a struggle to get through – but she did (getting rather wet!). 1947 saw a winter of white snowy landscapes. Everything froze, although fortunately the farm had a well to water the livestock from. Water for the family to drink had to be brought from Botley until the thaw. Hedge End Secondary School (at the Shamblehurst site) followed at age eleven. Girls did cooking and needlework, boys did science and gardening. The secondary school ran a Walking Club. During the summer break, teachers took keen pupils on walking holidays in Cornwall and Wales, using youth hostels. Living on a farm these were the only holidays that Mary had, and she helped save for it with her Sunday paper round money.

Transport for Mary meant her bicycle. She cycled to school, although while at Botley she cycled up to King’s Farm and left her bike there – her parents wanting her to avoid the lorries around Botley Mill. Days out included cycling to Meon Beach. Her parents used a motorbike and sidecar when they went out. The farm had a tractor.

The young Mary enjoyed a lot of outdoor recreation. This included swimming in the river at Burrigge – a rather muddy experience! Mary’s friend lived nearby at the Horse and Jockey pub. During school holidays she and other school friends would post each other letters with their news. They never had a phone on the farm, although Mary’s uncle had one which could be used if really needed. When Mary joined the Guides at Curdridge one of her badges was for using a telephone – so she had to demonstrate she could use the public phone in Botley Square (how times have changed!). Piano lessons at Curdridge, and dancing lessons at Curdridge British Legion, were part of Mary’s informal education. Her parents enjoyed social activities at the British Legion too. Electric light was put in at home in 1948, but only downstairs – upstairs was Tilley lamps. The radio was much enjoyed; its valves being charged at Sciviers Garage in Botley. The weather forecast was a constant, along with the news, Children’s Hour, and series such as “Dick Barton”. Mary’s parents rented a television in the 1950’s – mainly, it seemed to Mary, to watch football on (in black and white of course). Being a busy farm, there were few books at home, but a Sunday paper was taken. Mary had books including Enid Blyton (crediting them with encouraging a love of reading), Rupert Annuals, and her comics. Once at secondary school, books could be borrowed from the school library.

Clothing in Mary’s childhood was mainly hand knitted and home sewn, although having a seamstress as a neighbour proved useful. Otherwise, clothing was bought from Maffey’s in Botley or on rare trips to Fareham.

Mary walked to church at St Barnabas (Anglican) chapel at Burrigge with her grandmother. It’s now a holiday home. Mary was christened there, but confirmed at the main church

at Sarisbury Green (after 6 classes with orange juice and biscuits for refreshment).

Leaving school at 15, Mary went straight to work as a dental receptionist with Mr Morgan in Botley Square and Bitterne. She started on £2 10s a week. With her first wage, Mary bought her mother a box of chocolates from Johnny Edwards shop in Botley. The teenage Mary would also help the dentist with the dental equipment during procedures. As an NHS practice everything was free then. Mary met her husband Trevor there and, at age 20, she married, and they moved to Hedge End.

Once her children were older, Mary took evening and correspondence courses to gain the qualifications she couldn’t do at school. She then went to King Alfred College in Winchester to do teacher training for infant schools and forged a successful teaching career.

Ridge Farm and Woodside were sold in 1979. Mary’s parents retired to Burrigge. The farm was bought by property speculators and left empty. They were probably encouraged by the South Hampshire Structure Plan of 1972 which described the area north of Park Gate as a “growth area”. The empty farmhouse was gradually robbed out by people wanting free building materials.

The area now is dominated by the north Whiteley housing development. Whiteley Way runs through what was the farm’s lands. Cornerstone School is the furthest part of the farm’s old boundary. Where Ridge Farmhouse was will, however, be left as an environmental open space – which is pleasing news.

We do not have a meeting in December as these were not well attended. Our next meeting will be on Friday 23rd January 2026 at 7pm, Botley Centre. We will hear “Time’s Up for Tynham” (the Dorset village abandoned in 1943) with Gordon Lewis. You will be very welcome.

Sue Perry, Secretary



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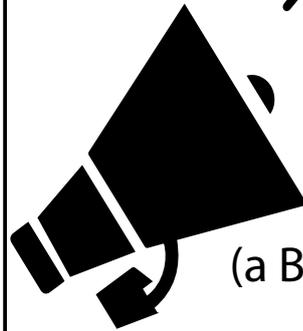
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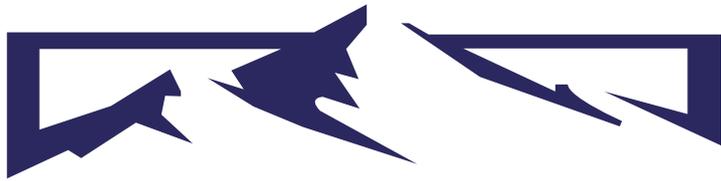
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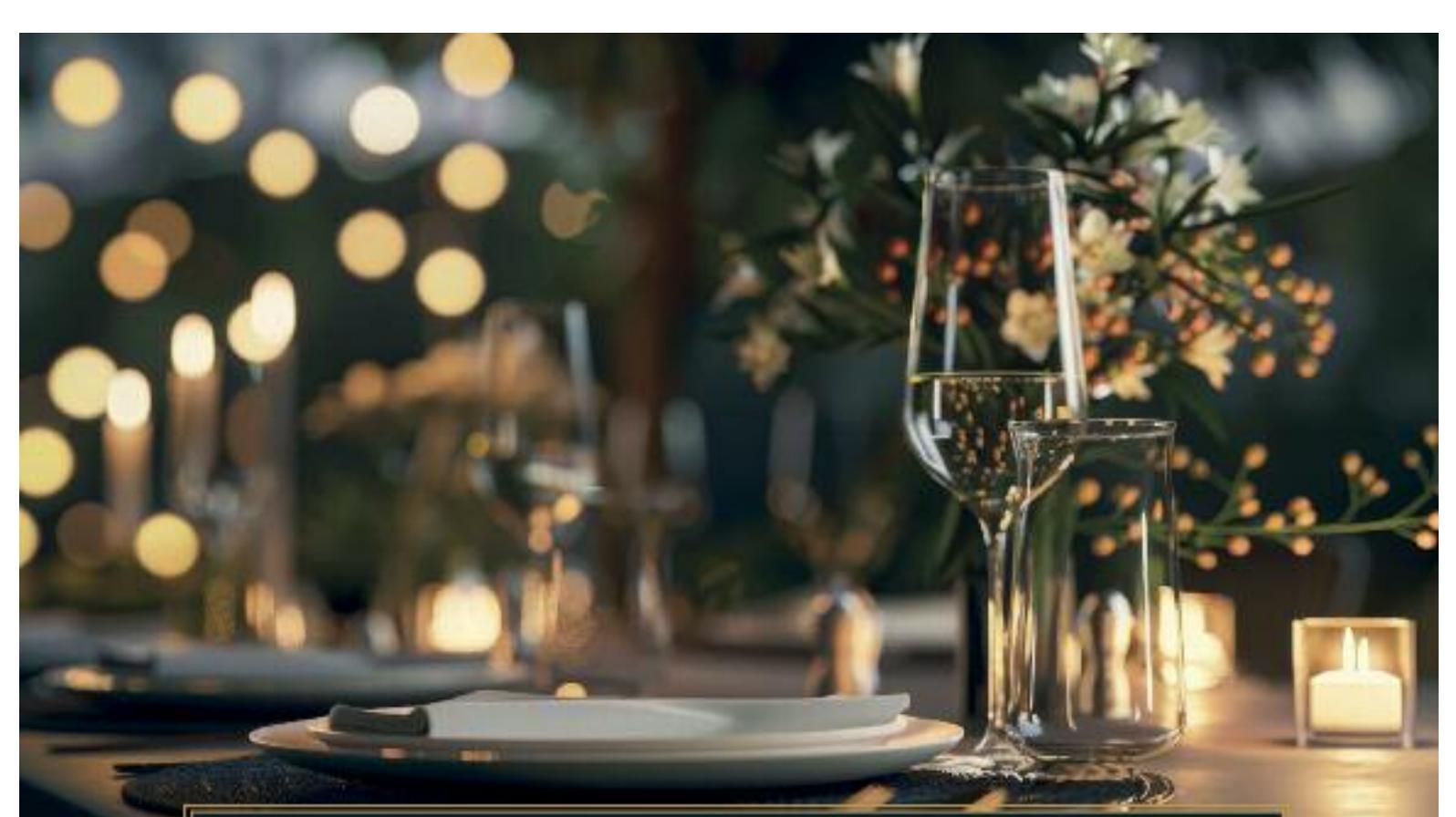
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