NO. 35: JUNE 2021



#### St Huberts, Idsworth, Hampshire.

p9

	n	

•	<b>Make Beautiful Botanical</b>	Tiles	With	Louise
	easy to follow method.			p!

- Do our Not So Easy Quiz
- And Crossword. p7
- A Flower Painting Day with Nigel Ingram p3
- Pick up some local produce at the Farmers Market
- Hugh Muses Over Lockdown DIY. p10
- Page Turning, Nail Biting.
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- Put them together?
   Visit small churches in troubled times.

  p9

#### **FACE**

- Feed it with our easy Halloumi Traybake and Cottage Cheese & Peach Salad. p11
- Laugh a little with Barry's wry poetry p3

#### **SPACE**

- For Vegetables, Flowers & Wildlife;
   Matthews garden advice is on
- The Parish Council is looking after yours. p2

**8**q

- In the diary for the N. Mundham Gala. p4
- Out and about in our beautiful churches. p7
- San Francisco; The Final Frontier?p8
- Explore rural Hampshire; our walk is on p6

#### Should you need medical help as Lockdown eases.

- For NHS COVID-19 vaccination advice click here.
- If you need other medical help you can contact your GP practice.
- If it's urgent please use the NHS 111 online service or call 111.
- If it's a serious or life-threatening emergency, call 999.
- If you are told to go to hospital, it is important that you do go.

#### Louise and Mick.

#### Some Further Links.

- N. Mundham Parish Council COVID-19 web page. <a href="https://northmundham.org/coronavirus-covid-19/">https://northmundham.org/coronavirus-covid-19/</a>
- <u>Chichester at Home</u> have put together a list of local businesses offering delivery of fresh produce, groceries, meals and home/garden items.
- If you need help, or if you want to volunteer, West Sussex County Council are also running a 'Community Hub' which you can access through this link: <a href="Community Hub">Community Hub</a> or via a direct link at the top of the WSCC Home Page.

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#### NORTH MUNDHAM PARISH COUNCIL



### North Mundham Parish Council Report For June 2021.

In my last note I mentioned that the playing field committee were looking at ways to strengthen the defences of the car park and playing field against intruders, to reconcile the problem of keeping out those who should not be there while allowing easy access for legitimate users. You will see that, as a first step, covers have been fitted over the latches to the height barriers to make it more difficult to get at the padlocks, and some additional chains have been fitted to the gates. For the future a number of options are being explored, including strengthening the height barriers still further, and fitting removable locked bollards at the gateways onto the field.

We have received notice of a planning application which is out of the ordinary, to erect a mobile phone mast on the road verge close to the village school. At the moment this is in the form of an initial "Application to determine if prior approval is required for the proposal of 20.0m Phase 8 Monopole C/W wrapround Cabinet at base and associated ancillary works." The details are listed as application 21/01481/PA16A. There are a number of potentially conflicting concerns here. The intention of the mast is to improve the future coverage of the 5G mobile phone network. However, there may also be concerns about the visual intrusion of the mast, and its location close to the school and playing field. The parish council has therefore responded saying that we consider that these aspects would best be handled by a planning application, which would give objectors the opportunity to voice their concerns.

For those of you who want to follow this application in more detail, there is a document on the District Council's planning website for this application headed 'Site Specific Supplementary Information' which gives some background information about why the site was selected. At the time I write this note, we do not know whether our suggestion for a full planning application will be followed. If it is, the parish council will have to consider whether and how to respond, balancing the positive and negative aspects of the proposal. I am conscious that our response might not reflect the concerns of every individual, and so it is important that anyone who has an opinion should respond individually to ensure their views are on record.

In my last note, I explained that there is still some uncertainty about how we will hold meetings and what restrictions might apply. This is still the case, but we will explain how we are able to convene each meeting when we publish the agenda, which you can find on the parish council website and on our notice boards. However, we are also aware that we need to arrange for some work on the notice board by the bus shelter opposite the Walnut Tree. If you find it is missing for a while, it is because it is away for repair.

Tim Russell, Chairman. 01243 781052. t.russell@northmundham.org

#### NB Some useful emergency contact details are :-

For planning issues, the Planning Authority is Chichester District Council. Their general contact number is 01243 785166. For contact out of hours call 01243 785339. For planning use 01243 534734.

For reporting all sorts of footpath or road defects, you can also use Love West Sussex at <a href="https://love.westsussex.gov.uk/reports/home">https://love.westsussex.gov.uk/reports/home</a>

But for street lights of any kind, including traffic lights and illuminated bollards, use: <a href="http://www.lightsoninwestsussex.co.uk/Public/ReportFault.aspx">http://www.lightsoninwestsussex.co.uk/Public/ReportFault.aspx</a>

Your Parish Councillors can be found at; <a href="https://northmundham.org/council/parish-councilors/">https://northmundham.org/council/parish-councilors/</a>

Links to local walks in the parish can be found on:

https://northmundham.org/community/footpaths-and-bridleways-in-and-around-the-parish/

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# What's Happening?



The Awards Winning Farmers Market returns to East Street this month on Friday 4 and 18 June. Fill your cupboards with locally grown, caught and made produce! Besides being fresh and tasty, all produce will help support our local economy and lowers the environmental impact.

All stallholders are required to process, grow, rear, bake, and/or preserve all their produce and be based within 50 miles of Chichester.

NB Covid Ambassadors will be on hand to help with queueing and encourage social distancing. When visiting the markets, please keep yourself and others safe by observing social distancing and regularly washing or sanitising your hands.

ROSE GREEN CENTRE of ART & CRAFT

#### FLOWER PAINTING

A One-day Course

for Beginners and Experienced Painters

on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2021

10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

with Nigel Ingramy NDD, ATC, MA, PhD

#### SIGN UP NOW!



£36 per person

Individual guidance and tuition will be given throughout the day.

#### Aims:

- To develop and deepen knowledge of colour relations and observation skills;
- To improve colour-mixing skills and confidence;
- To co-ordinate perspective and depth relationships to size of paper;
- To improve awareness of spaces between elements of flower images and background shapes.

#### FREE PARKING

A friendly environment for developing and honing your skills! All welcome!

Tea and Coffee will be available.

#### Essential materials for you to bring:

- Good cartridge or water-colour paper.
- The paper should be the size with which you are comfortable when working, i.e. up to A3 size (32.5 x 46cm);
- If painting, paper to be secured to a backing-board using gummed or paper strip:
- Acrylic, pastel or water colours:
- A range of good pencils (3B to 6B):
- A sketch-book:
- A packed lunch!

For further details please phone, or call into 22-24 Rose Green Rd., Rose Green, near Bognor Regis Telephone: 01243 262059

#### **Daffodils**

I wandered lonely as a cloud That floats on high o'er vales and hills, When all at once I felt a twinge, And cursed; I had forgot my pills. Beside the lake, beneath the trees, I sat me down with aching knees.

The waves before me danced, but still I really needed that one pill, I think I fell into a trance
For I saw pills in sprightly dance.
Ten thousand saw I at a glance.
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Bouncing and turning in the breeze.

Now oft, when on my couch I lie, In vacant or in aching mood, They flash upon that inward eye Which is the bliss of solitude. And then my heart with pleasure fills And dances with my myriad pills.

#### Spring is sprung,

The grass is riz.

I wonder where

My deckchair is.

Gardening is not my forte.

I much prefer a glass of port.

Mowing the lawn

Leaves me forlorn.

Pulling weeds and digging soil Is really not my kind of toil.

So I am glad when there's a breeze

To cool my aching tired knees, My aching back, hay-fever sneeze, And scrunched up hungry belly.

`Cos then I'll go and watch the telly.

Barry S.

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# What's Happening?



## Mundham & District Gala and Flower Show 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021

It's nearly here - just six weeks to go!

Have you been planting and sewing (and sowing), and looking through those recipe books?

I expect like so many of us you have been clearing out long forgotten cupboards – if so, bring the accumulated items along – don't forget - your rubbish is someone else's treasure. During the next month we shall have details of where to take those pre-loved items, sadly we can't take the large items that we have in the past, those days may come back but it's difficult logistically at the moment, however, we shall welcome the usual bric-a-brac. There are so many unknowns still - are we unlocking on 21<sup>st</sup> June or are we not? I don't envy those who have to make that decision. In Chichester. The infection rate has been steadily dropping and many of us have had the vaccine, so, rather like Buttons and Cinderella – Mundham and Runcton people – you shall go to the Gala and you WILL have fun.

The committee and I look forward to seeing you there. And if you haven't already got one please do pick up a schedule and start planning your day, and your entries – look out for the new classes as well as your favourites. The schedules are available in the usual locations - The Farm Shop, Manor Nursery, Kirklands, The Walnut Tree, Brickkiln Garden Centre and many other places. I have had a few enquiries from people wanting to have a pitch at the Gala to raise money for their own organisations or to sell their crafts. I know many fêtes and similar events do this but it has always been our policy that all money taken on the day goes into Gala funds and if there is a surplus of funds after expenses have been met then that is donated to local charities and organisations.

So hopefully by now the date is firmly in your diary and to get involved or any other questions you may have, please do contact any of the Committee members, Clive J, Clive B, Annie, Joanna, Sarah or – ring me Celia O'Shea – on 01243 788969 celia@firethorn.me.uk and I'll put you in touch with the right person.

Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/Mundham-Gala-339312513353472

Twitter - twitter.com/Mundham Gala@mundhamgala

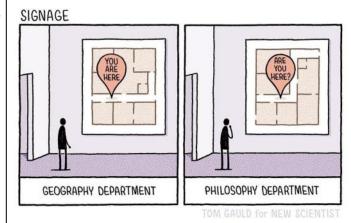
Celia O'Shea

Three men: an American, a Japanese and an Australian were sitting in the sauna. Suddenly there was a beeping sound. The American pressed his forearm and the beep stopped. The others looked at him questioningly. "That was my pager," he said. "I have a microchip under the skin of my arm."

A few minutes later a phone rang. The Japanese fellow lifted his palm to his ear. When he finished he explained, "That was my mobile phone I have a microchip in my hand."

The Australian, Bruce felt decidedly low-tech. So as not to be outdone, he decided he had to do something just as impressive. He stepped out of the sauna and went to toilet. He returns with a piece of toilet paper hanging from behind.

The others raised their eyebrows. "Will you look at that" says Bruce, "I'm getting a fax."



Sometimes your joy is the source of your smile, but sometimes your smile can be the source of your joy.

Thich Nhat Hanh

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#### PRESSED BOTANICAL TILES.

A fabulous easy way to manufacture your own unique tiles

#### You will need

Sprigs of plants

Greaseproof paper

Any soft inexpensive clay, such as school clay ( not air-drying clay )

Plastic roller used for sugarcraft

Kitchen knife

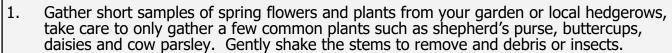
Plaster of Paris

A stirring stick

Round nosed pliers#I.mm thick galvanized wire and wire cutters

Emery board

Artist's pastels and fine paint brush



- Arrange your botanical specimens so they form a pleasing naturalised design, echoing the manner in which they grow in the wild. This individual collection should be around 2. 15cm across or less.
- Place a piece of greaseproof paper on your table or kitchen surface. Then take a piece 3. of clay and roll it out on top of the greaseproof paper so it is around 1 cm. thick and a centimetre or two wider than your flower collection
- 4. Position your botanical specimens on the clay and press each stem gently into the clay with your fingers so they stay in place. Put another piece of greaseproof paper on top of the flowers, then use the roller over the top to ensurethey sink into the clay and become flush with its surface. Carefully peel away the greaseproof paper ( on top ) and the stems, there should be a clear imprint.
- 5. Cut the clay mould to size using a kitchen knife and use the trimmings to make little vertical 'walls' around it, around 2 cm tall. This is to contain the plaster of Paris while it solidifies on top of the clay mould.
- Press and smooth your clay walls so that they are sealed to the base mould and to one 6. another. This will create a shallow open clay 'box' with the mould as its base in which to pour the plaster of Paris.
- Prepare the plaster of Paris. For a tile around 10 cm X 10 cm. You'll need 100g of dry 7. plaster with 50ml water. Multiply this up according to the size of your mould. Mix the powder and water with a wooden stick to make a smooth creamy mixture.
- Pour the plaster mix onto the mould, ensuring it spreads into each corner. Carefully 8. shake the greaseproof paper underneath the mould to level the surface.
- 9. While the tile is drying, make a hanging loop for the back. At both ends of a length of wire, create a loop, wrapping the end around itself several times to ensure both loops are strong.
- When the tile has set for half an hour or so, insert the looped ends of the wire, near 10. each of the uppermost corners, so the loops embed in the back of the plaster.
- Leave the tile to solidify overnight, then carefully peel 11. away the walls and lift the tile from its clay mould. Use an emery board to smooth any rough edges or imperfections.
- If you wish to add colour, work chosen pastels on a piece of spare paper to form a small pile of powder and apply to petals, leaves and stems with a paintbrush. Leave to





#### Explore Hampshire: Cheriton & Hinton Ampner 6 Mile Circular.

A gentle six mile walk P beautiful heritor from the **Hampshire** village of Cheriton, passing along rolling chalk downland—the site of a historic Civil War battle and on to delightful National Trust Hinton Ampner House. § Cheriton has a pristine chalk stream; the source of the River Itchen. Take some time to look into it's crystal waters and maybe brown trout see а shelterina under the . bank. There are great views galore as well as refreshment of options along the way.



#### Directions.

From the Post Office (GR: SU583285, W3W consoled.intruded.obey) pass along Wayfarers Walk onto rolling downland, the location, in 1644, of one of the battles of the English Civil War; The Battle of Cheriton. Look for notice boards along the walk which give details of the battle. Just before Cheriton Wood you could take a small deviation north of about 600m which will bring you to the believed site of the battle, commemorated by a plaque in a farm field. Return to the track following Cheriton Wood on your left, a place where the Roundhead defenders hid. The path leaves the shelter of the wood crossing a field to the right and following a hedgerow towards Old Park Wood. Just before the wood the path turns sharply south-west towards Mariners Farm and Bramdean.





At the A272 cross the road with great care as the A272 can be very busy and follow along the path to your left till you reach The Fox Inn.

Now take the path to the right of the pub and continue to the end of the lane where the walk continues to the right of a thatched building and shortly crosses a field to the left of a small clump of trees. Continue on due west along the track till reaching NT Hinton Ampner House where you may want to look around the grounds and garden and/or have some refreshments.



Adjacent to the house there is a peaceful church whose grounds are the perfect place to rest weary feet. Once rested, leave NT Hinton Ampner northwards, using the drive, and come to the A272 where the path turns left along the grass verge towards The Hinton Arms. Take great care as the A272 can be very busy.

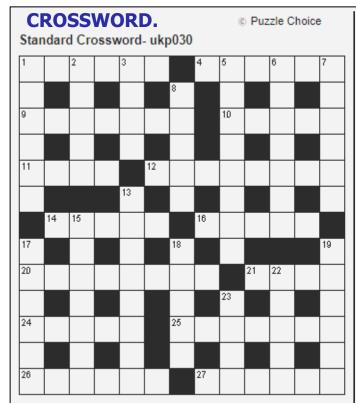
The path now carries on north directly opposite the Hinton Arms; beware, the sign can be hidden by trees. Take great care crossing the A272. Follow the river footpath to the road and turn right to pick up another footpath going north till coming to Lower Lamborough Lane. Go left here and on reaching the road continue right for about 200 metres, when you will arrive back at Cheriton green and Post Office. Remember to have a look in the Itchen for those elusive brown trout.



The 'gpx' track can be downloaded from Viewranger as 'Cheriton & Hinton Ampner 6 Mile Circular'.

Ordnance Survey maps are Landranger 185 or Explorer 132.

Mick



#### Across

- 1. Plov (6)
- 4. Requiring secret knowledge (6)
- 9. Disapproves (7)
- 10. Angry (5)
- 11. Land measure (4)
- 12. Perplexing (8)
- 14. Disney cartoon character (5)
- 16. Mournful poem (5)
- 20. Scorn (8)
- 21. Fencing sword (4)
- 24. Female relative (5)
- 25. Pills (7)
- 26. Unmarried (6)
- 27. Precious stones (6)

#### Down

- 1. Worldwide (6)
- 2. US military officer (5)
- 3. Unit of length (4)
- 5. Precipitation (8)
- 6. Astounding (7)
- 7. Come out into view (6)
- 8. Ordinary (5)
- 13. Celestial (8)
- 15. Lamp (7)
- 17. Parts of a play (6)
- 18. Catches sight of (5)
- 19. Creatures (6)
- 22. Fragment (5)
- 23. Woodwind instrument (4)

#### **HOW ABOUT VISITING A CHURCH?**

Celia found the article below online in an initiative supported by The Art Society and encouraging people to go and look at our churches; especially to take along young people who may have never been inside an English church and might be surprised at what they will find.

Special Trails of Discovery have been set up throughout the country; . This one talks about Widdecombe Fair and Uncle Tom Cobley. Of course there are also lots of wonderful churches locally that would repay a visit

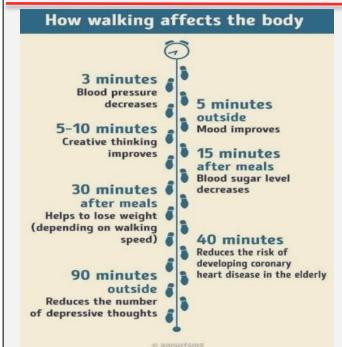
#### **Tom Cobley And His Friends.**

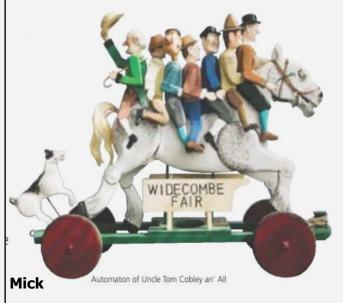
The ancient church of St Pancras in Widecombe-inthe-Moor features a wooden model of Tom Cobley and his friends riding a grey mare on their way to Widecombe Fair dating back to at least 1850 along with a song about the occasion.

#### These are the words of the first verse:

Tom Pearce, Tom Pearce,
lend me your grey mare,
All along, down a-long, out a-long, lea.
I want for to go to Widecombe Fayre,
With Bill Brewer, Jan Stewer, Peter Gurney,
Peter Davy, Daniel Whiddon, Harry Hawke,
Old Uncle Tom Cobley and all,
Old Uncle Tom Cobley and all.

More details can be found on the Art Society <u>Trails of Discovery website</u>, and a new map of trails can now be viewed on the <u>National Churches Trust</u> <u>website</u>.





Gardening: How to look after your garden in May/June.

Now May has arrived there are a variety of different jobs to do in your garden. This is because, with the summer weather slowly approaching, it is important to look after your garden. For example, one job to do is to frequently mow your lawn. You will want to do this at least twice a week depending on the weather, and you may want to leave some areas of the garden uncut for the wildlife. Too add to this, when trimming hedges, make sure to check to see if there are any birds nesting in the area to avoid disturbance. But you may want to not trim your hedges until September. This month is also a good time to repair your lawn. You can do this by placing turf just after preparing the bare soil by levelling off with top soil or compost. After this you will also need to water the turf regularly and avoid foot traffic. This will enable your lawn to repair within a couple of weeks. Furthermore, another job you can do in the garden this month is to carry on weeding. This is because if you can get on top of your weeds, there will be less weeding to do in the summer.

This month you can also plant a wide range of vegetables in the vegetable garden. Vegetables such as Broad Beans, Runner Beans, Peas, Onions, Carrots, Leeks, Pumpkins, Courgettes, and Peas can all be grown outside this month, to provide you a selection of tasty crops. When planting make sure to watch out for pests such as snails and slugs who can eat and destroy a wide range of plants in your garden. To avoid this, you can use slug repellent to control the pests.

May is also a great time to sow flower seeds such as sunflowers, cornflowers, dill, salvias and zinnias to blossom your garden full of colour. Make sure to also water regularly with the rain slowly disappearing. As well as this, a good tip for this month when sowing is to help keep a level temperature and the soil moist, you can cover the soil with a clear piece of plastic. Also, to help the wildlife, you can grow plants for pollinators. Plants such as lavender, borage, chives, oregano, and rosemary are rich in pollen and can be planted in a sunny spot to help attract pollinators, such as honey bees and wasps.

**Matthew Wiggs:** Mobile: 07771 857432,

Email: mwiggs@btinternet.com

#### Travelogue.

Are You Goin' To San Francisco? Be sure to wear your thermal underwear!

It may escape (excuse the coming pun) those brought up on a diet of American movies that the choice of location for Alcatraz prison in San Francisco bay is not just because it is on an island



but that the water around it is rather cold. The city is on a peninsula washed by Arctic currents.

Swimming to escape 'is not an option'.

We arrived in San Francisco one February feeling decidedly underdressed as we stepped out of the air conditioned hire car into the freezing parking garage. First stop; Macey's for some warm clothing.

Our B&B had a decidedly eccentric, almost European, vibe with coffee and croissants for breakfast every morning plus the company of a Manx

Despite the cold; easy going San Francisco had it's own quirky and friendly welcome.

For example, our hosts recommended a fish restaurant - well of course- however this one was renowned for some of the oldest, surliest waiters in town -just imagine Walter Matthau on an offday, and it was so dim inside that I don't recall even seeing the fish; it tasted great.

We could spend all day in bookshops, so a 24/7 Barnes and Noble just round the corner, together with the legendary City Lights bookstore was our idea of paradise. Chinatown also drew us in, it felt so 'Chinese'. And again the food...



Then there are the streetcars; just check your destination and hop on. SF has green travel sorted.

This easy way of doing things was normal.

A mounted policewoman we met near The Golden Gate bridge took time to talk and to listen. A far cry from the 'Dirty Harry' image peddled by movies.

best views Alcatraz, looking like a ship moored in the bay, can be had from Coit Tower. This little visited memorial was funded by Lillie Coit a patron of the local fire service and it

Standing there; couldn't help but wonder that their might be a link between the mix of cultures, the cities own fragilities from fire and earthquake and the warmth, eclecticism and originality of this special







Mick

place.

## Quiz.

#### Answers on p12.

- 1. In which century was Harvard University established?
- 2. Who married Slovenian model Melania Knauss in 2005?
- 3. In the 2001 film Shrek, which actress is the voice of Princess Fiona?
- 4. Which Chinese city has the world's busiest container port?
- 5. RICE is considered a mnemonic for first-aid treatment for soft tissue injuries, the acronym is for Rest, Ice, Compression and what else?
- 6. What is the official language of the Flemish Community?
- 7. What six letter winemaking term means the airspace between the wine and the top of bottle it is in?
- 8. Which company is the largest chocolate manufacturer in North America?
- 9. What are Heysham 2, Hinkley Point B and Dungeness B?
- 10. How many red stripes are there on the American flag?
- 11. The French call it 'la Manche'; what name do we call it?
- 12. His first name is Steffano and he is an Italian fashion designer born in 1962; what is his last name?
- 13. Whose first business venture was a magazine called Student, before setting up a mail-order record business?
- 14. Queen Maud Land, a region of Antarctica, is a dependent territory of which country?
- 15. Which world known figure died just five days after Princess Diana?
- 16. Who was the third President of the United States?
- 17. What can a polyglot do?
- 18. Who was Chancellor of Germany from 1998 to 2005?
- 19. What was the tallest building in the world from 1311 to 1549?
- 20. And what was the tallest building in London until 1962?

## Reflection

## A Small Church In a Lonely Field.

What of the role of small churches and their landscapes during our post covid pandemic world?

Where do these churches fit in our times of confessional social media frenzy?

Persons of faith may already know what churches are for them but what of others who do not often cross their thresholds?

Can churches mean more than religious history, artifacts, spoils of war, gold, ancient render, stained glass, joyous wedding venues and sad funerals.

Is there something else to explore across that lonely field, across a river, a hillside, or down a cliff path. The harder it is to get to , perhaps the more beautiful it will be.

We are all trying to adapt to lives post covid, to sociability, questions on what normality may look and feel like: yet apart from government dates that still may change, a variant that may yet evolve again, not much is certain for the remainder of 2021, our world has been shaken and many have suffered.

So how do we deal with the uncertainty of the future? Maybe by discovering small churches that have always been there through wars and famine. Some churches are immoveable, like mountain ranges formed in prehistory, consideration must be made on how to reach them: the journey part of the visit: sanctuary after a pilgrimage.

Some churches go back 1000 years: those were there before us and will see us out and beyond. Some are in gardens or castle grounds, some ruins. Some revere nature and art as we did during lockdown.

Some are sited near a healing well, offering hope for those troubled in mind or body.

Was life so different in 2020/21? Friends and loved ones were lost and separated from family, many suffered financial difficulty and lost their jobs and homes: boundaries in all our lives shrank to the minimum. Church walls have heard sad words, embroidered cushions soaked up tears. For centuries they have heard us.

Sit in a quiet pew in sunlight, switch off your phone and soak in stillness that is a small church across a lonely field. Listen to your breathing, your heartbeat, feel your pulse and know how alive we are.

A small church does not need a password or passport, go explore across that field: journey some space for your soul.

#### **Jackie Lovell**

## **Hugh's Lockdown Traumas.**

There's no doubt that the past year has proved difficult, traumatic, oppressive even for all those anxious to escape from the worry and masked mundanity of an existence regulated by the threat of Covid. On the other hand, as if to prove the old 'ill wind' adage, the pandemic has actually benefited and enriched the lives of some like one particular acquaintance who, for the sake of anonymity, I'll refer to as Eric. Seizing on successive lockdowns as a unique opportunity, Eric at last found the time to pursue his passion for collecting historic pencils. His quest was partially successful in that he secured the mangled remains of one reputedly used by William Shakespeare. Unfortunately, the Bard had chewed the end so thoroughly that it is no longer possible to verify whether it is a 2B or not 2B.

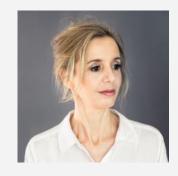
My own experience of lockdown has encompassed many iterations and stark contrasts. From Melbourne, correctly determined to take the virus very seriously, where, for a while, the enforced restrictions caused some aspects of life to resemble a state of benign martial law, to the much more lackadaisical English approach, one seemingly content to rely too heavily on voluntary compliance. Of course, each version has involved restrictions over travel and, because my suitcases took the news pretty badly, I'm now having to cope with a whole cupboard full of emotional baggage.

One of the consequences of remaining in a tight little bubble, with no sliding off to the pub for a swift half with one's mates, has been the remorseless focus on D-I-Y and home improvements. When one's horizons are largely restricted to the same four walls, the ugly patches of uneven plaster, unfilled nail holes and cracked panes of glass, there's a tendency to become just a tad obsessive. After all, if no one else could give two hoots about the state of your dado rail are you really justified in obsessing over relevant YouTube repair tutorials? What I do know is that I have become a lot closer to my stepladder. Well, I never knew my real ladder, so this seems an entirely natural development.

However, it was my birthday cake that caused me the greatest nightmare. In my imagination it looked delicious. Then, when I blew out the serried ranks of candles, all the guests who were never there shrank back in horror. And me? No, I'm fine!

# **Book Review. Rosamund Lupton: Three Hours.**





Rosamund Lupton is a well-respected prizewinning author and yet, this widely acclaimed novel, Three Hours, being released just before Covid-19 was breaking upon us did not seem to gain the attention of her previous highly rated works.

Her elegant writing immediately lays bare the jeopardy at the heart of the story and then hides that danger from us in plain sight. It is staring us in the face, we know more and more about it as the story proceeds and yet we cannot see it.

The book opens with a group of teen-age schoolchildren and their teacher rehearsing Macbeth in the theatre of a highly respected private school on a frosty day. Elsewhere in the school mayhem is breaking loose. It is not till close to the end of the book that the full nature of the danger is made evident and, of course, we know that we have three hours, we just do not know how it will end.

This is however more than a story about terror and our deepest fears for those we love, though it explores all of this. At another level, the hidden nature of the danger facing the school is an allegory for hidden danger which we face in western society and which is hiding in plain sight. It is part of our human psychology to perceive danger and to go to great lengths to protect ourselves from it. The news media feed the fires of fear and prejudices over issues such as radical Islamists, China, Covid-19, dangers real and perceived. Yet the narrative explores more subtle, hidden dangers and how these publicised fears can obscure our own reason.

Nevertheless, whether you read this book to raise your awareness of these hidden dangers or purely for the totally unexpected explosive ending, it will be 3 -or more- hours that will stay with you for a long while.

Mick

#### Recipe: <u>Summer Halloumi Bake.</u>

#### Vegetarian/Vegan

Jackie.

This simple, tasty traybake can be prepared with whatever vegetables you have to hand. Quantities can be easily adjusted dependant on appetite/number of servings.

#### Ingredients: 4 Servings.

- Packet of Halloumi. 250g. (vegan if desired)
- 3-4 medium potatoes, quartered.
- 2 medium carrots rough chopped.
- 8 juicy vine tomatoes or a 400g tin of chopped tomatoes.
- 2 medium onions, quartered.
- 4 good size mushrooms, quartered; any edible type is fine.
- A handful of a combination of fresh herbs e.g. mint, chives, oregano, rosemary, thyme; or dried herbs.
- 1 Large garlic clove peeled and crushed.
- Pulp and juice of half a lemon; A generous dash of olive oil, fresh or dried ginger.
- Any combination of honey, chutney, French mustard, soy sauce.
- A stock cube of choice.

#### Method.

- 1) Carefully open the halloumi and reserve the liquid.
- 2) Finely slice up the halloumi and put aside.
- 3) Parboil potatoes and carrots with 1/2 stock cube for about 8 minutes.
- 4) Preheat the oven to 190 deg. C. (170 fan oven) or gas mark 6.
- 5) Put olive oil into a suitable baking tray and place in the top of the oven for 2 minutes or so before the potatoes and carrots are ready.
- 6) Drain the potatoes and carrots; reserving some of the cooking water.
- 7) Carefully remove the baking tray from the oven and evenly spread in the potatoes and carrots along with the crushed garlic. Do this gradually to prevent the hot oil from spitting.
- 8) Put the tray back in the oven for about 15 minutes.
- 9) In a small bowl mix up a roux with the lemon juice/pulp with the halloumi liquid, a couple of tablespoons of reserved cooking water and any generous combination of honey, chutney, French mustard, soy sauce to your taste.
- 10) Remove the baking tray from the oven, distribute the mushrooms, tomatoes and onion over the potatoes and carrot, then pour over the vegetables the roux from 9), season to taste, grate/sprinkle ginger evenly, then distribute the halloumi slices over the top and return to the oven at 180C/160C Fan for 10-12 minutes.

#### **RECIPE: COTTAGE CHEESE AND PEACH SALAD**

- Half a cos lettuce
- 3 tablespoons French Dressing
- 350g/12oz cottage cheese
- 5 tablespoons mayonnaise or soured cream
- 100g/4oz salted cashew nuts

Garnish – 1 medium can peaches – well drained 4 black olives (stoned) or 4 grapes

- 1. Wash lettuce and shake dry.
- 2. Tear into bite-size pieces and toss with French dressing.
- 3. Use to cover the base of 4 individual serving plates.
- 4. Put cottage cheese into bowl and combine with mayonnaise or soured cream and the nuts.
- 5. Pile equal amounts on plates and garnish with peach slices and olives or grapes.

Helena Millen



#### **Crossword Solution from p7. Quiz Answers from p 9.**

#### Solution - ukp030

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1. Seventeenth (1636)	1. The English Channel
2. Donald Trump	2. Gabbana (of Dolce and
	Gabbana fame)
3. Cameron Diaz	3. Richard Branson
4. Shanghai	4. Norway
5. Elevation	5. Mother Theresa
6. Dutch	6. Thomas Jefferson
7. Ullage	7. Speak multiple languages
8. Hershey	8. Gerhard Schroder
9. Nuclear Power Stations	9. Lincoln Cathedral
10. 7	10. St. Paul's Cathedral

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PΙ	St Huberts, Idsworth	By P <sub>1</sub> s28 <sub>1</sub> ack - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=354120
P6	Cheriton Village	Colin Smith / River Itchen at Cheriton. Wikimedia.
P6	Battle Monument	© Battlefields Trust
P6	Hinton Ampner House	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinton_Ampner
P6	Hinton Ampner Garden	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinton Ampner
P8	Alcatraz	https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/41/Alcatraz Island Lighthouse.jpg
P8	Coit Tower	https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Coit_Tower_in_San_Francisco,_California.jpg
P10	Book cover & photo.	© Rosamund Lupton.

This magazine has been put together to put people in touch with one another in the village, to encourage the swapping of plants, recipes, books, Exchange & Mart, hints, ideas and things to do. 'Letters to the Editor' would be very welcome. We seek to encourage people's input to the magazine. Help us fill the following issues and make your voice part of our local life.

#### **Editor's Notes for Published Material**

If you wish to advertise an event which takes place during the first two weeks of the month, it needs to be in the previous month's magazine. If it goes in the magazine of the month it will take place, it won't reach all the readers in time. We want to advertise your events very much so please make sure we can. Thank you.

COPY: 400-600 words as a target please, short articles very welcome: Small is beautiful! Copy should be emailed to editors by 25th of the month to allow for distribution by the first week of the following month.

Any font acceptable, Tahoma or Calibri 11 pt. preferred. We alter it to fit the available space.

NB Letters can be longer. -See Disclaimer.

NB2 All provided images should be royalty free since all images in the magazine are published as royalty-free.

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We are happy to publish letters as 'name and address supplied' but will not include anything sent anonymously that is clearly defamatory or hurtful to a specific individual or group.

The Editorial Team

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