

Chilbolton and Wherwell Community Magazine

cw.magazine@hotmail.co.uk

December 2023 and January 2024

And so, another year passes all too quickly, and it is time for our Christmas and New Year double issue. As usual there are a wide range of Christmas services in our churches and many local Christmas activities to attend. New events in the diary include several at Black Chalk Winery which goes from strength to strength – we have news on this year’s harvest. The Wherwell History Group is also thriving, you can read about a new Facebook group. In response to widespread interest in the restoration of the Freelands house and estate, we feature an update on how the work has gone. Wishing all our readers a Merry Christmas!

Andrew Keevil

Thank you to our contributors this month, and to our production team Stephen MacDonald, Anna Cockram and Andrew Keevil. Thanks also, to our distribution coordinator Ed Tredwell and our distribution helpers. Also, to Tim Whiteside, our ‘What’s On’ Coordinator, and Stephen MacDonald our chairman and advertising manager.



Church Matters

The Downs Benefice is currently awaiting the appointment of a new Rector.



However, our services and Church Life continue as normal. If you have any requests, needs or queries, please contact the Benefice Office (details below).

Benefice Administrators

Caroline McAulay

‘The Downs Benefice’ Office, The Rectory, Church Lane, Littleton,
Winchester SO22 6QY

Church Flowers - December 2023

Wherwell	16 th Christmas (Golden theme)	Altar: Melanie Rae Pulpit: Celia Fielder Windows: Susan Ansell Jo Baughen Sabine Healing Font & Tomb: Phyllis Harding
Chilbolton	15 th Carol Service / Christmas	Festive arranging – all helpers and arrangers welcome

Church Services December 2023

	<i>St Mary the Less, Chilbolton</i>	<i>St Mary's, Crawley</i>	<i>St Catherine's Littleton</i>	<i>St Stephen's Sparsholt</i>	<i>St Peter & Holy Cross, Wherwell</i>
<i>This information is correct at the time of going to press but please check on the website (www.downsbenefice.org) for up-to-date information.</i>					
Sunday 3rd December – The First Sunday of Advent					
Holy Communion		10am			
Morning Prayer	10am				
Posada			10am		
Advent Carol Service <i>(following Advent Fayre)</i>					5.30pm
Sunday 10th December – The Second Sunday of Advent					
Family Communion			10am		
Carol Service				6pm	10am
Autumn Meditations					6pm
Wednesday 13th December					
Arqiva Carol Service		Time tbc			
Thursday 14th December					
Wherwell School Carol Service					6pm
Sunday 17th December – The Third Sunday of Advent					
Holy Communion (BCP)				8am	
Carol Service	4pm	6pm	6pm		
Sunday 24th December – Christmas Eve					
Holy Communion (BCP)					8am
Crib Service	With Wherwell		4pm	4pm	4pm
Midnight Service				11.30pm	
Monday 25th December – CHRISTMAS DAY					
Christmas Family Communion			10am		

	<i>St Mary the Less, Chilbolton</i>	<i>St Mary's, Crawley</i>	<i>St Catherine's Littleton</i>	<i>St Stephen's Sparsholt</i>	<i>St Peter & Holy Cross, Wherwell</i>
Christmas Family Service	10am	10am		10am	10am
Sunday 31st December – <i>The First Sunday of Christmas</i>					
Patronal Festival Service (Sung BCP Holy Communion)				10am	

Dear Friends,

The run-up to Christmas is an exciting time of year for a child, one of wonder at the lights and decorations, and the anticipation of eagerly awaited gifts as Advent calendars are opened each day.

This Christmas let us remember those who are struggling to make ends meet and those for whom Christmas remains out of their budget. Maybe we can do a little to make Christmas better for these families by contributing to the worthwhile cause of the Food Bank.

But what about Christmas in other parts of the world? As I write this in time for the magazine deadline, the war in Ukraine continues and the conflict in Israel and Gaza is escalating. As Christmas approaches our thoughts turn to Bethlehem, the place of Jesus' birth, and to the good news the angel brought to shepherds on the hillside that first Christmas night, 'Behold I bring you good news of great joy for all people, for today a Saviour has been born to you and he is Christ the Lord.' How much our world needs that message of good news and great joy today!

As we make preparations for Christmas, as we watch what is happening in Israel and Gaza and as we listen to personal stories from there, it is poignant to reflect that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, walked the land of Israel, beside the shores of Galilee, through the towns and countryside, bringing a message of reconciliation, hope and love to the people he met. He knew suffering, he walked the streets of Jerusalem carrying his cross, but he also knew peace with God and the hope that lay before him. I recently visited a care home where one of the residents asked me if I thought prayer does any good? If you have ever been through a difficult time and people have been praying for you, you will know the answer to his question. God hears the prayers of the distressed and suffering, he suffers with those who suffer today. Sometimes, when we feel powerless, the only thing that is left for us to do is to pray.

2000 years on, we continue to celebrate Jesus' birth because he is the bringer of peace and reconciliation between ourselves and God. Please join with me in praying for peacemakers in our world and that somehow we will

see peace in 2024. The Christmas message remains unchanged, 'Peace on earth, goodwill to all people, on whom his favour rests.'

Our ministry team join with me in wishing you the peace and joy of Christmas and God's blessings in 2024.

Charlotte Nash, LLM

Light looked down and saw the darkness.
'I will go there', said Light.
Peace looked down and saw war.
'I will go there', said Peace.
Love looked down and saw hatred.
'I will go there', said Love.

So he,
the Lord of Light,
the Prince of Peace,
the King of Love
came down and crept in
beside us.

Revd John Bell, Iona Community

St Mary-the-Less, Chilbolton



Come and sing Christmas Carols and listen to the telling of the
Christmas Story at

**Chilbolton
Candlelit Carol Service
on Sunday 17th December at 4pm**

Followed by wine, soft drinks and mince pies.

All welcome



FATHER CHRISTMAS

IS COMING TO SEE THE CHILDREN AT WHERWELL CHRISTMAS FAYRE

on Sunday 3 December 2023

3.00 pm to 5.00 pm

in the Village Hall, Church Street, Wherwell

There will be mulled wine, waffles, cakes, tombola, gifts,

and **CHILDREN'S LANTERN MAKING** and...

bring cash, please! No card payments

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN CHURCH STREET

in aid of the Church of St Peter and Holy Cross Church, Wherwell

To be followed by the children's lantern procession to the
church for the 5.30 pm

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

BY CANDLELIGHT



Children are encouraged to dress up in Nativity costume
for the Procession and the Service

Don't forget - it's the



**Coffee Morning
at Chibolton Village Hall.**

A Cup of Cheer and a biscuit...
Bring family & friends to support your Village Hall
all for £150 each on

**Saturday 16th December
10.30 to 12.00 a.m.**

Including 100 Club Draw Raffle, & Secondhand Books

Chilbolton Parish Council

We are now well into Winter and preparing for the Great Christmas Festival – a special time for families and friends.

The Parish Council wishes every resident and their families a very Happy Christmas and a Safe and Healthy New Year 2024.

Things are a little quieter on the Chilbolton Cow Common and the cattle will have left for their Winter grazing. It is always such a pleasure for me to see them as I spent much of my childhood on my grandparent's dairy farm just outside Pietermaritzburg when my father was away during WW2.

For me a happy time with Zulu herdsmen and beautiful Jersey cows but for my parents a time of war with many close relations fighting far away in North Africa, Italy and France. On the 11th a small group attended the short tribute at the War Memorial Playing field to remember the men of Chilbolton who gave their lives for us.

We will remember them.

Moving on to parish matters. Please contact the parish clerk if you have a disabled blue badge. If you send a photo of the badge though to her, you will be given in strict confidence the gate code for the limited parking on Cow Common for times in Summer when the gate is locked. You can park there when you visit although there is limited parking and a space is not guaranteed. With patience and kindness, visits to our lovely common should be easier for those with disabilities.

Most of the work on the TunnelTech plant is now completed and we hope that there will be a reduction in the smell emitted from the site. We will monitor the position and see what the outcome is.

The new playground equipment is now installed and being used by local children. Thank you to the playing field team who managed this project from start to completion and successfully applied for a grant for 50% of the cost from Test Valley Borough Council.

Tony Ewer. Chairman Chilbolton Parish Council

Wherwell Parish Council

Report from the meeting held on 14thth Nov 2023

The Parish Council met in the Colonel Jenkins Memorial Hall, with County and Borough Councillor Drew and two members of the public in attendance.

The minutes of the April meeting were agreed & signed. **Finances** were presented by the Responsible Finance Officer. The PC signed cheques due and adopted the latest Local Authority pay scales.

Regarding planning the PC were informed of planning applications that have been approved by TVBC including various tree works, a new barn and green house at Freelands and a rural workers' cottage at the Priory. They noted

that following a local consultation meeting, the PC had objected to the application for a solar farm on land west of Winchester Road. Councillors then discussed new applications and supported three tree works notices; the conversion of New Barn to a Wedding venue; and the erection of a garage, and conversion of an outbuilding to tourist accommodation at the Old Railway Cottages in Fullerton.

Reporting on Special projects and Councillors' portfolios:

Emergency Hub – it was reported that all the wiring is now in place to connect the emergency generator to the supply at the playing fields pavilion. It was agreed that separate electric water heaters should be installed in the kitchen and toilets. With the Emergency Hub now operational, the Emergency Plan will be published on the PC website.

Wherwell Playing Fields – the playing fields have never looked better thanks to the work by volunteer groundsmen, notably from Shooters Football Club.

Wherwell Primary School the refurbishment of the library, which was part funded by a WPC grant this year have made the library the main hub for the school both for children and visiting parents. It is a great success and welcoming environment, and one of the most worthwhile grants made by the PC. The PC has received a beautiful handwritten thankyou letter from the children at Wherwell Primary school for the grant.

HCC and Borough Cllr Drew presented his reports to the PC, highlighting:

Traffic - TVBC want to try to slow traffic through the village, and out along the road towards Longparish where a national 60mph limit is inappropriate. This will be picked up in the spring.

Bins - recent changes in central government rules/regulations on recycling will mean that TVBC will have to review plans for building a new recycling plant and this is likely to delay its plans for new bin collections.

Meals on Wheels are available at £8.50 for 2 courses to anyone with a long-term health condition who may struggle to shop for or prepare food for themselves - details on HCC website.

Transport - proposed changes to HCC School and Transport Policies will be the subject of public consultations until Wednesday 6 December

Planning - concerning the planning application for a solar farm, this is likely to go to a full planning committee, residents are encouraged to make their views known by responding on line, and attending the planning meeting.

Regarding other matters:

Fireworks – Concern was voiced by all Councillors at the number of very large fireworks let off in the village for Guy Fawkes. There are particular dangers, with a lot of thatched properties, as well as the noise problem for pets and livestock. Residents should be reminded of their personal liability, should

their fireworks cause any damage or fire. WPC will remind users in future in advance of Bonfire night and New Year to be careful and considerate.

Councillors also discussed – the need for active Biodiversity and Green initiatives; revising their communications plans in order to inform local residents more quickly and effectively; and the benefits of a Neighbourhood Plan.

The next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday 9th January at the new regular time of 6:30 pm, which local residents are welcome to attend and bring any comments or concerns.

Sean Hutton, Chair

Test Villages U3A

Thursday 7th December Christmas Social

A fun afternoon including an Entertainer, Quiz and Festive food and drinks. **Tickets £5** contact Mary Coleman mescoleman@gmail.com

Our meeting in December will be a **‘members’ only** event.

Thursday 4th January. Jennifer Harbrow presents **“Ralph Dutton, The Man, The House, The Garden”**.

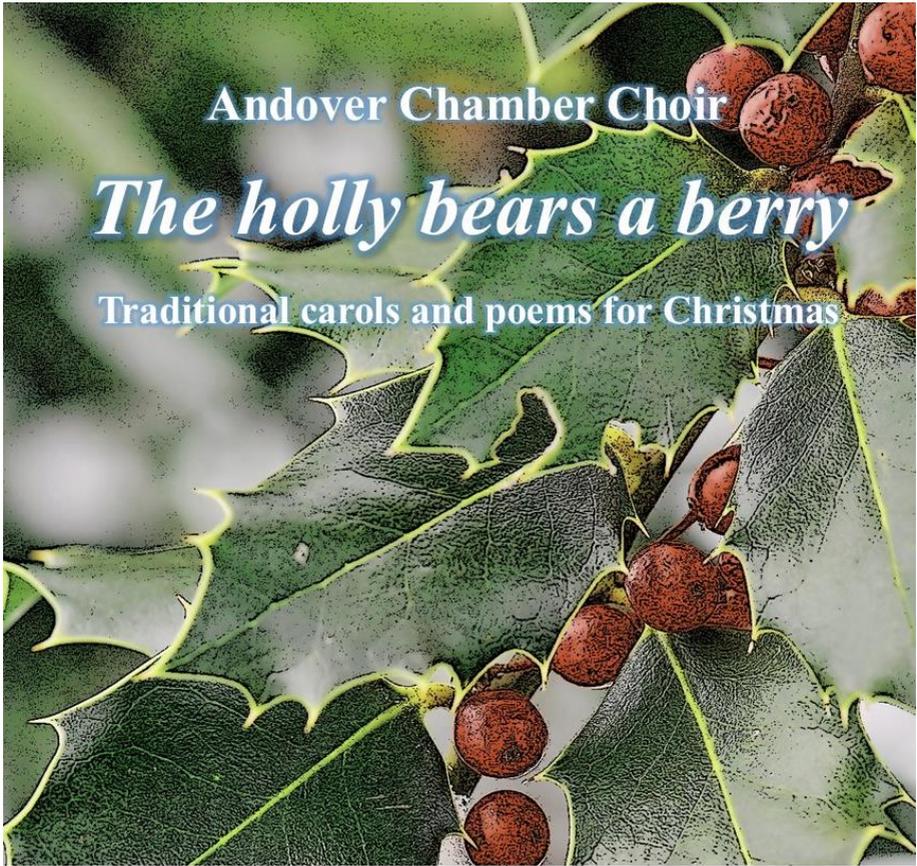
Jennifer has worked at Hinton Ampner for the last five years following a career change from mental health nursing to horticulture when she realised her passion for plants, love of being outdoors and working with people. It fitted perfectly with gardening in the National Trust.

Ralph Dutton 8th and last [Baron Sherborne](#) was one of the leading taste-makers of his generation. He helped create the perception that English architecture and design was at its height in the 18th century; and in his own house and garden at Hinton Ampner, he showed how to make that taste supremely effective in our own time.

The house and gardens he created he left on his death to the [National Trust](#). Jennifer is passionate about her job and loves sharing her enthusiasm about the house and garden created by Ralph Dutton with others.

Meetings start at **14.00** (doors open at 13.40) in **Chilbolton Village Hall**. New members are welcome to attend our meetings

Find out more about our Test Villages group at u3asites.org.uk/test-villages



Andover Chamber Choir

The holly bears a berry

Traditional carols and poems for Christmas

7:00 p.m. Saturday 16th December 2023

St Mary's Church, Andover

**Tickets £12 (incl. refreshments) on the door or £10 in advance
from The Lights, Newbury Building Society, Andover,
or from choir members. Under 16s free.**



In aid of Andover Food Bank.

www.andoverchamberchoir.org.uk

**ANDOVER
CHAMBER
CHOIR**

A first look at the new Freelands

In November, the Magazine was invited by John de Villiers, Freelands' recently appointed General Manager, to tour the newly restored home and estate. It is exactly three years since the Magazine's last visit, when the house had just been purchased by the Rich family of Buffalo, New York.

At the time, the house was in a semi-derelict state and its half-mile stretch of the Test had deteriorated to what the Environment Agency classified as an 'unfavourable' condition, having widened and become shallow, with a poor flow and declining habitats for fish and wildlife. On the neighbouring 20-acre woodland, 200 poplar trees had been planted in 1980 to provide matchwood for Bryant and May in Southampton. They were never used for this purpose due to the declining demand for matches and were slowly decaying, as well as crowding out native species such as oak, willow, hazel and hawthorn.



The house

In the intervening three years a remarkable transformation has taken place to both house and estate. The main house at Freelands has been restored and tastefully improved from its original 1878 design as a fishing lodge for the Pleydell-Bouverie family (whose ancestral home is Longford Castle on the Avon, south of Salisbury). The craftsmanship on display throughout the house is simply stunning, with external highlights being the French-inspired

round corner tower and the mullioned stone bay windows to the rear of the property. The interior has been decorated and furnished in the style of a Victorian sporting lodge by interior architect and designer Paul Ainsworth.

The two principal ground-floor rooms are the back hall: a large, stone-floored room overlooking the river, which is designed to provide a welcoming place for guests to relax after returning from a day's fishing; and the drawing room: a beautiful formal lounge featuring bay windows on both the south and west elevations. Upstairs are seven large bedrooms, all with ensuite bathrooms. Every piece of furniture throughout the house has been purchased at auction, giving each room an individual ambience and creating an overall feeling of understated elegance.



The river and lake

The river itself has benefitted from a major restoration scheme to narrow and re-wiggle the stream. The profile of the bank has been altered by creating gravel berms planted with marginal species. Between these and the line of the previous bank, narrow wetlands have been added to form a habitat for



water vole and other riverine fauna. The overall result is that the stream itself now has both slower and faster sections - an environment attractive to fish. Meanwhile, a new lake has been dug and is already maturing into a popular staging post for native and migrating bird species.

How is the house to be used?

Since planning permission was granted three years ago, there has been no more hotly debated topic (in Wherwell, at least) than how Freelands is actually going to be used. The answer, according to John, is straightforward. Freelands will be used by the owners and their network of, friends, family and associates for both pleasure and relaxation. Readers may know that Bob Rich's passion is fly fishing. He had visited the UK on numerous occasions for this purpose prior to purchasing Freelands and has written several books on the subject, one of which, *Looking Through Water*, is projected to become a feature film.

It may also be reassuring to villagers to hear that the building currently under construction in the garden, close to the house, is strictly for the benefit of the guests and will contain a modest swimming pool, sauna, steam room and gym.

Who looks after the house?

John has two main responsibilities. The first is to look after the owners and guests when visiting and the second is to ensure the house is impeccably maintained. John is joined by his wife Olivia, whom he met whilst managing a prestigious wildlife lodge in the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania. John has several years of experience in hospitality and trained as a chef with Gordon Ramsay. Before joining Freelands, he worked for two years as general manager of the exclusive Isle of Mull Hotel and Spa. John and Olivia have two very young boys and are happily ensconced at Freelands Cottages in Fullerton Road, with a very short commute to work.

Asset to the village

Taking into consideration the size of the challenge, it is hard not to admire the work that has taken place to restore Freelands and revitalise an important stretch of the Test. When glimpsed through the iron railings the new house is hugely impressive, and you have to ask how many villages in Britain have seen the building of a new lake within their boundary in the last fifty years that can be enjoyed, albeit at a short distance, by passers-by?

All in all, and bearing in mind the alternative uses that were being proposed by other interested parties, Wherwell and Chilbolton can be proud of its striking new addition.

Stephen MacDonald

Christmas Services – 2023

<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Service</i>
Sun	3 rd	10am	Li	Posada
Sun	3 rd	5.30pm	Wh	Advent Carol Service (<i>following Fayre</i>)
Sun	10 th	10am	Wh	Carol Service
Sun	10 th	6pm	Sp	Carol Service
Wed	13 th	Tbc	Cr	Arqiva Carol Service
Thur	14 th	6pm	Wh	Wherwell School Carol Service
Sun	17 th	4pm	Ch	Carol Service
Sun	17 th	6pm	Cr	Carol Service
Sun	17 th	6pm	Li	Carol Service
Sun	24 th	4pm	Li	Crib Service
Sun	24 th	4pm	Sp	Crib Service
Sun	24 th	4pm	Wh	Crib Service (<i>with Chilbolton</i>)
Sun	24 th	11.30pm	Sp	Midnight Service
Sun	25 th	10am	Ch	Family Christmas Service
Sun	25 th	10am	Cr	Family Christmas Service
Sun	25 th	10am	Li	Family Christmas Holy Communion
Sun	25 th	10am	Sp	Family Christmas Service
Sun	25 th	10am	Wh	Family Christmas Service
Sun	31 st	10am	Sp	Patronal Festival (<i>Sung Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer</i>)

Autumn Meditations at Wherwell Church

We now have one Meditation left in our Autumn series, and this will be on the life and work of Leonard Cheshire, the well-known RAF pilot and philanthropist. Do come along and hear all about him on Sunday 10 December at 6 pm in the Church as usual. The meditation will be followed by refreshments.

AUDITIONS

Announcing auditions and timings for Stockbridge Amateur Dramatics Society's next production to be performed in April 2024:

BRONTË

BY POLLY TEALE

AGAINST A BACKDROP OF DRINK &
DRUGS, THE SISTERS WRITE...



Reading of the play

Thursday 7th December, 7.30pm, Stockbridge Town Hall (Downstairs)

Auditions

Thursday 14th December, 8pm, Stockbridge Town Hall (Upstairs)

Extra Audition slot if required

Sunday 17th December, 2pm, Stockbridge Town Hall (Upstairs)

Rehearsals

January to April - times and dates to be decided by Director and Cast

Performance Dates

Thursday 11th, Friday 12th and Saturday 13th April 2024

All are welcome, whether you are interested in being a member of the cast or crew, or would just enjoy a couple of hours reading a really great play!

SADS

Stockbridge Practice News – November 2023



Covid and Flu vaccinations

We finished giving covid vaccinations at the end of October. Over 2500 patients have been vaccinated. We still have flu vaccinations available – please call the surgery to book an appointment.

Hampshire COVID helpline

If you are eligible and haven't yet received the covid vaccination you can contact the Hampshire Covid Helpline on 0300 561 0018. The line is open 9am-5pm, Monday -Friday and 9am-1pm on Saturdays & Sundays.

Saturdays

Stockbridge Surgery is open on Saturday mornings for patients collecting medication and routine booked appointments. We are not contracted to provide a service on Saturday mornings and only have a skeleton staff working. Please call 111 for urgent healthcare at the weekend.

Hospital transport and appointments

From 1 November patients can book their own hospital transport to get to appointments. This is only for eligible patients. Patients can book up to 20 days in advance and must book at least 2 days in advance. Bookings can be made by logging onto <https://managemybooking.scas.nhs.uk/patientzone> or calling 0300 123 9833.

Blood test results

If you have the NHS App you should be able to see test results from 18 October 2023. Please check the NHS App before contacting the surgery regarding test results.

Looking ahead

If you will run out of medication over on 25, 26 or 27 December, please ensure you request medication by Monday 18 December.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Charpentier Messe de Minuit
Corelli Christmas Concerto
*Vaughan Williams Fantasia on
Christmas Carols*
Finzi In Terra Pax

Saturday 2 December 2023 7.30pm
St Mary's Church Andover

ANDOVER CHORAL SOCIETY
WESTMINSTER CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
PROFESSIONAL SOLOISTS

Tickets £15 available from Sue Woodley
07709 987531 or Email: sue.Woodley-47@mail.com



Registered Charity No 1104982



Come to the Movies!

CHILBOLTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Proudly Present

'I Wanna Dance With Somebody' (12A)

**Starring Naomi Ackie, Stanley Tucci
and Ashton Saunders**

**A joyous and emotional celebration of the life and
music of Whitney Houston, tracking her journey
from obscurity to super stardom**

On

Friday, 1st December, 2023

Doors open 6.30 pm

Film commences 7.30 pm

Tickets £6.00 - In advance

Or £7.00 - On the door (subject to availability)

Tea/coffee and biscuits

Wine, beer, orange juice and choc ices
will be on sale

**To book your ticket, please ring
Beryl Lawrence on 01264 860618
or E-mail dlaw@davidlawrenceassociates.co.uk**

Diary Dates

Warm Hub lunch at CVH	Every Monday	12 noon
Monday Movers	Every Monday	1.45 pm
Wherwell Fit Step	Every Monday	6.00 - 7.00 pm
Weekly Bingo WHG Club	Every Monday	7.30 pm
Wherwell Keep Fit class	Every Tuesday	9.15 - 10.00 am
Short Mat Bowls at CVH	Every Tuesday	2.00 - 4.00 pm
West Down working party	Every Tuesday	2.00 - 4.00 pm
Chilbolton Badminton Club at CVH	Every Wednesday	7.30 pm
Qi Gong class at WVH	Every Thursday	10.00 am
December		
1 Parents & Community drop in	Wherwell School	2.30 pm
1 Black Chalk Night	Black Chalk	5.00 - 9.00
1 Chilbolton Film Night	CVH	6.30 for 7.30 pm
1 Karaoke	WHGC	8.30 pm
2 Wherwell Coffee morning	WVH	10.30 - 12.00 pm
2 Xmas concert	St Mary's Andover	7.30 pm
3 Wherwell Xmas Fayre	WVH	3.00 - 5.00 pm
3 Wherwell Carol Service	Wherwell Church	5.30 pm
4 Planning & CPC	CVH	6.00 - 8.30 pm
6 AD hoc advert deadline		
6 Stockbridge Cinema:	S'bridge Town Hall	4.30 & 7.30 pm
7 SADs Auditions	S'bridge Town Hall	7.30 pm
7 U3A Xmas Social	CVH	2.00 pm
8 Karaoke	WHGC	8.30 pm
9 Stockbridge Cinema:	S'bridge Town Hall	5.00, 7.30 pm
9 Janet's Bingo	WHGC	7.30 pm
10 Sparkle Xmas	Black Chalk	3.00 - 6.00 pm
10 Autumn Meditations	Wherwell Church	6.00 pm
10 February copy deadline		
14 SADs Auditions	S'bridge Town Hall	8.00 pm
15 Black Chalk Night	Black Chalk	5.00 - 9.00 pm
15 Karaoke	WHGC	8.30 pm
16 Chilbolton Coffee morning	CVH	10.30 - 12.00 pm
16 Christmas draw	WHGC	9.00 pm
16 Chamber Choir Carols	St Mary's Andover	7.00 pm
17 Chilbolton Candlelit Service	Chilbolton Church	4.00 pm
17 Festive Quiz	WHGC	7.30 for 8 pm
18 Planning	CVH	6.00 - 6.30 pm
23 Xmas Quiz	WHGC	7.30 for 8 pm

January

4	U3a talk: Ralph Dutton	CVH	1.40 for 2.00 pm
5	Chilbolton Film Night?	CVH	6.30 for 7.00 pm
6	<i>AD hoc advert deadline</i>		
6	Wherwell Coffee Morning	WVH	10.30 - 12 pm
8	Planning & CPC	CVH	6.00 - 8.30 pm
10	<i>February copy deadline</i>		
11	Stockbridge patient group	S'bridge Surgery	2.00 - 4.00 pm
13	Janet's Bingo	WHGC	7.30 pm
16	Horticultural AGM	CVH	7.45 pm
19	History Talk	On- Line	8.00 pm
20	Chilbolton Coffee Morning	CVH	10.30 - 12.00 pm
22	Planning	CVH	6.00 - 6.30 pm
27	Simon's Quiz	WHGC	7.30 for 8.00 pm

February

3	Wherwell Coffee morning	WVH	10.30 - 12 pm
5	Planning & CPC	CVH	6.00 - 8.30 pm

Wherwell Village Hall... Going to the DOGS !



PUPPY CLASSES
Wednesday Evenings
6pm to 8pm

OBEDIENCE TRAINING/
BEHAVIOUR COUNSELING
Thursday Evenings
6pm to 8pm

For Friendly Advice and
More Information Contact
Ray: 07824 512484

WHAT'S ON IN THE AREA – Dec and Jan

Fri 8 th Dec 0300 500 0595	Record-breaking global sensation Leona Lewis is performing at the BIC (Bournemouth International Centre) – Christmas with Love - 6:30pm
Sun 17 th Dec 01962 621100	All the Stars Looked Down Winchester Consort will return to perform Christmas and seasonal music conducted by the renowned composer, John Rutter at the stunning Winchester College Chapel. 18:30 – 22:30
Tue 12 th Dec 01962 840440	A fantastic return to Winchester for Tenors Un Limited to perform their Christmas show. The gents will sing a selection of your Christmas favourites, O Holy Night, Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah at the Theatre Royal - 19:30
Mon 18 th Dec 01962 840440	Santa's Christmas Wish - Following last year's hugely successful sell-out performance -theatre Royal Winchester 6:30
Wed 27 th Dec 023 8061 3989	The Rat Pack Christmas in Vegas! – If you're a Sinatra fan, this is the closest you'll get to the real thing (a trip out to ease those blues after boxing day?) HOTEL DEAL - includes meal for 2, Tickets and Bed & Breakfast £169 per couple. The Concorde Club & Ellington Lodge, Eastleigh.
Sat 6 th Jan 01962 840440	Enjoy the UK's leading live music tribute to George Harrison , celebrating his best-loved hits from The Beatles, his solo career, and The Traveling Wilburys. 7:30 – 10pm Theatre Royal Winch'
Fri 12 th Jan 01264 368368	Think Floyd 2024 - This extraordinary band, dubbed the Definitive Pink Floyd Experience, are renowned for their stunning celebration of the music of one of the world's greatest bands 7:30pm at the Andover Lights
Tue 23 rd Jan 01256 844244	Classic Rock Show at the Anvil in Basingstoke - performances from the likes of Queen, Led Zeppelin, The Eagles, Rainbow, Lynryd Skynryd, The Who, AC/DC, Boston, Pink Floyd, Meat Loaf, Eric Clapton, Van Halen, Aerosmith, Fleetwood Mac, Toto plus much, much more.7pm
Fri 26 th Jan 01264 368368	ABBA Forever is one of the UK's leading international tribute shows and theatre audiences from across Great Britain and Sweden have long enjoyed this superb recreation of possibly the world's greatest... 7:30pm at the Andover Lights

Farmers' Markets

Romsey - First Sunday of every month 10am - 3pm

Winchester - Second and last Sunday of every month 9am -2pm

Andover - Third Sunday of every month (March to December)

Plus... Andover Market for All Seasons – every Friday 8:30am - 1pm

Successful Harvest at Black Chalk

There was a real buzz at the bottom of Fullerton Road in October as the annual grape harvest at Black Chalk hit full swing.

As magazine readers may recall, the majority of Black Chalk vineyards are planted with the Champagne varieties. Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier and Chardonnay are the main grapes, with smaller amounts of Pinot Gris and Pinot Precoce, as well various clones of each variety, all offering slightly different characteristics.

Harvest involves close collaboration between the vineyard team and the winery team. There is constant dialogue throughout the season, forecasting the yield at harvest so the winery team can plan how many grapes they will receive, in what order they will pick them,



and which varietal clones are looking like standout performers. As harvest edges closer, grape samples are taken, so that levels of acidity, sugar and aromatic development can be monitored. These measurements inform the dates on which the grapes are picked.

Picking is a big logistical operation. The winery team aim for an ideal daily number of press runs, i.e. loading the Coquard press, squeezing the juice out, then emptying and cleaning the press. Different grapes are ready to pick at different times, depending on when they reach the sugar and acid levels and aromatic development that the winery team are looking for. But there are only so many hands to help harvest. Planning which days they pick, how many people are picking, and ensuring the grapes make their way to the winery as fast as possible is critical. Black Chalk use a combination professional picking teams, staff and wine club member volunteers to ensure an efficient harvest.



Picking crates are laid out the night before in the blocks of grapes to be picked. As the pickers fill buckets with grapes, these buckets are emptied into larger picking crates, which are then loaded on to a trailer pulled by a tractor. The grapes are then driven to the winery, where the winery team unload them into the press. The press takes a maximum volume of 4 tonnes, so careful planning is required to ensure up to 4 tonnes of grapes are delivered in a short window so the press can be loaded quickly.



Winemaker Jacob Ledley had the following to say about the 2023 season. “Spring was frost free with an average bud burst. A warm start to the season allowed good growth and some excellent flowering conditions. However, a poor and wet July created the usual challenges with canopy management and high disease pressure. August wasn’t a huge amount better but the start of September provided a heat wave that helped relieve the pressure and push the fruit along.

Picking started on the 4th October and we finished on 14th October - eleven fast days, finishing just prior to frosts and rain from the 15th October. We saw some textbook numbers on fruit into the winery and everything was very clean.

I feel 2023 is shaping up to be a very good year for English wine and Black Chalk. Producers that overcropped may have found it tricky into the second half of October as the weather changed but with our warm vineyard sites we were able to pick the perfect moment to harvest and have it safe before the turn.”

Look out for the following Black Chalk events in December. Visit <https://www.blackchalkwine.co.uk/whats-on> for full details and how to book, where required.

Black Chalk Friday Night Lates

Burgers by @OFM Food Truck
Friday 1st December

Fried Chicken by @SonofaBun Truck
Friday 15th December

5:00pm - 9:00pm (Burgers 'til 8)

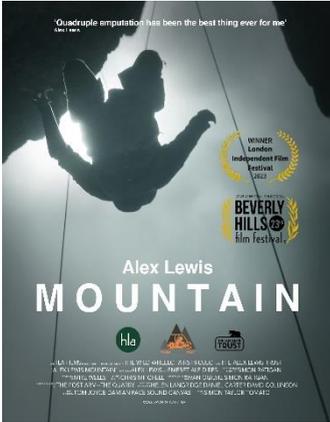
"SPARKLE" - Christmas Yoga, Fizz & Canapés

Hosted by @Jojoga_Yoga

Sunday 10th December

3:00pm - 6:00pm

Stockbridge Cinema – December Films



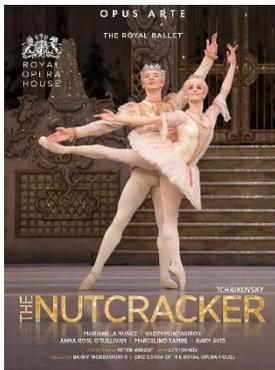
Wednesday 6 December

4.30pm and 7.30 pm

Alex Lewis Mountain

The film follows Stockbridge resident Alex Lewis, six years after he lost his arms and legs to septicaemia, as he sets out to prove that anything is possible – by climbing the highest mountain in Ethiopia with an off-road, solar-powered mobility handcycle. This award-winning documentary takes audiences from the A&E department to the design and tech labs of the University of Southampton to the spectacular scenery of the Ethiopian Highlands

for Alex's 14-day expedition. After each screening there will be a 30-minute Q&A session with Alex Lewis, Director Simon Ratigan, and Executive Producer David Collinson. *All proceeds from ticket sales for this event are being donated to the Alex Lewis Trust.*



Saturday 9 December

5.00 pm and 7.30 pm

The Nutcracker (U)

A recorded live event from 2018 of Peter Wright's enchanting interpretation of The Nutcracker for The Royal Ballet. Presented in a festive period setting, this charming and magical production features Marianela Nuñez as the exquisite Sugar Plum Fairy and Vadim Muntagiroy as her charming Prince. Vivid designs and spellbinding stage effects, which include authentic Christmas tree decorations that magically come to life, and

Tchaikovsky's sumptuous, iconic score combine to create the quintessential Christmas ballet – an opulent treat for the senses for audiences of all ages.

Information common to the above two December films:

Showing at Stockbridge Town Hall SO20 6HE. Tickets can be purchased online from 1st November (**£10.00** incl £0.50p booking fee per ticket) via www.stockbridgecinema.org.uk or by telephone from TicketSource 0333 666 3366 (£2.00 charge per telephone booking in addition to the online ticket price). Please visit our website for full details of our films.

Wherwell History Group - Facebook Group

NOW with over 160 members



Wherwell & Chilbolton History

November marked two years since the launch of our new website and archive catalogue at: www.wherwellhistory.com

Our new website has been visited over 8,000 times by people worldwide. In our demographics, the top six countries are UK (6,400), USA (772), Australia (150), China (93), Canada (71) and Germany (47) and the top six towns are London (2042), Andover (1025), not-set (927), Southampton (170), Salisbury (165) and Winchester (154).

Our catalogue comprises:

102 posts on various topics and reference material (including back copies of this Community Magazine), 1051 catalogue items (including 290 for the Wall Hanging in Chilbolton Village Hall) and 1928 media items (mostly photos and documents – no videos yet!).

Despite these encouraging statistics, the major disappointment has been only 2 comments in 2 years! Hence, we have launched a new Facebook group at: www.facebook.com/groups/962211084892488

Already, in only 8 weeks, our group has attracted many posts / comments and encouraged people to visit and search our online catalogue. Please take a look.

If you are a Facebook user, maybe you have a favourite photo or an interesting news cutting you can post. Otherwise, maybe ask a question or leave a comment on an interesting post.

Thank you.

Ernie Wilkins and Andrew Flanagan
Joint Administrators

Wherwell History Group – Winter Season



January 19th, 2024 at
8.00pm
The Corner Shop Killings
(The Murder of
Elizabeth Ridgley)

Our 3rd online (Zoom) Talk by Paul Stickler

In 1919, when Britain was trying to rebuild itself after the First World War, a 54-year-old woman, Elizabeth Ridgley, was alone in her shop in Hitchin, accompanied by her Irish terrier when she was brutally attacked with a four-pound weight. Her dog received the same treatment and both were left for dead. The killer then ransacked the property, stole cash and left blood scattered throughout the shop and the living area. He then made good his escape through the backdoor and disappeared into a very cold and snowy night.

What made this case so interesting was that the local Hertfordshire police, who were alerted to her death two days later, quickly arrived at the conclusion that Mrs Ridgley had somehow died as a result of a tragic accident. The explanation as to how her dog died was even more bizarre.

So, who killed Mrs Ridgley? Was it John Healy - an Irish war veteran, a man with an extremely violent past who lived 200yds from the shop? Did the long line of prosecution witnesses all conspire to convict the passing visitor to the town merely because he was Irish? Paul has uncovered a story with a mystery man and several twists and turns. Come and decide for yourselves!

February 16th, 2024 at 8.00pm

The Great Exhibition of 1851 and its Legacy

Online (Zoom) talk by David Morton

History Group events are free to members.

Guests are welcome (£5 per event)

To make a booking, enquire about membership or download our programme for 2024, please visit our new website at www.wherwellhistory.com

Simon's 'Festive' Sunday Quiz

17th December 2023

7.30 for 8.00pm ~ ~ ~ Admission £2.50



Cash Prizes

Teams of up to 6

Light Buffet included

Tables **MUST** be reserved **IN ADVANCE**
-- phone Jo (07515 384 915)

Janet's Bingo – everyone welcome

every Monday -&- Saturday 9th December

8pm start – doors open from 7.30pm



Saturday 16th December
GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW
starts at 9pm with over 25 prizes
Tickets on sale from 1st December

December 1 st , 8 th , 15 th	Fridays (from 8.30pm) Karaoke Nights <i>Spread Christmas cheer – sing out loud & clear</i>
December 23 rd	Evening of fun & games with 'Christmas' Quiz
December 24 th	CLOSED Sunday (Christmas Eve)
December 25 th	CLOSED Monday (Christmas Day)
December 31 st	New Year's Eve
SAVE THE DATE	Saturday 10th February 2024 - LIVE MUSIC NIGHT Raid your dressing up box & relive the 70's & 80's

at **Wherwell Home Guard Club**

The Old Hill, Wherwell, SP11 7JB, 01264 860 314

Newly decorated Meeting Room & Kitchen available for hire.
Seats 60, Licensed Bar optional. Enquires to Sue on 07557 051 041.

Peak Electrics

Thank you and goodbye!

After more than 15 years, it is now time for me to hang up my test meter, hose down the tools and retire. From the end of the year Peak Electrics will cease trading.

A few health issues earlier this year prompted me to make this decision; perhaps a little sooner than I had planned and, unfortunately, I have no one to pass the business onto.

I can therefore only advise my dear customers and friends to look on the following websites for alternative accredited electricians in the area:

Government Competent Person Scheme:

www.electricalcompetentperson.co.uk

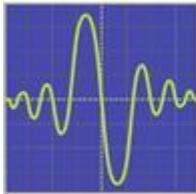
Trading Standards 'Buy With Confidence':

www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk/find-a-business/

Gwen and I will be remaining in the village, will continue to provide the sound system for the church fete, and will be happy to offer any electrical advice.

I would like to thank all my lovely customers over the years for their custom and cups of tea! It has been a pleasure working for you all and I wish you and your families a merry Christmas and prosperous new year.

Steve Picco



**Peak
Electrics**

A Successful Chilbolton Village Hall Quiz Night

On a wet Saturday night, and notwithstanding the possible distraction of the Rugby World Cup Final, the first Chilbolton Village Hall Quiz Night in some years was held.

Eleven teams comprising the older, younger and the somewhere in the middle, 82 in total, sat down for 8 rounds of quick fire questions on themes ranging from Awesome Athletes to Decades of Music and much in between, ably managed by our quizmasters, James and Geoff.

Some easier questions, some tough, but in the end the result came down to a tie-break, the team nearest to the correct answer to: 'How long does it take

the International Space Station to orbit the earth ?” (answer, apparently 90 minutes) with Team Bookends the winners of the Chilbolton Village Hall Quiz Challenge Trophy.

A good time was had. Many thanks go to all those that attended, raising just over £500 for the Village Hall which has faced steep increases in its running costs over the last year.

As with all events there are many worthy of thanks, in particular: Nicky Bond and Julia for the catering, Wendy Fakes for managing the raffle, Kate Ballard for organising the design and printing of the posters, Debbie Richardson for managing the food service and also with Jayne Walukiewicz the washing-up, Richard Richardson for the bar and Michael Gilbert for helping set up and dismantle the staging.

Howard Barrie

Chilbolton and Wherwell Gardening Club

AGM followed by:



“Guess the Vegetable”

Chilbolton Village Hall

7.45pm Tuesday 16th January

A fun tasting session to encourage your identification of commonly grown garden veg.

We hope this will give inspiration to cope with too many courgettes etc that you may have grown on your plot.

Recipes will be available.

Raffle, refreshments non-members £3 donation

Perhaps (1916)

by Vera Brittain

Perhaps some day the sun will shine again,
And I shall see that still the skies are blue.
And feel once more I do not live in vain,
Although bereft of You.

Perhaps the golden meadows at my feet
Will make the sunny hours of Spring seem gay.
And I shall find the white May blossoms sweet,
Though You have passed away.

Perhaps the summer woods will shimmer bright,
And crimson roses once again be fair,
And autumn harvest fields a rich delight,
Although You are not there.

Perhaps some day I shall not shrink in pain
To see the passing of the dying year,
And listen to Christmas songs again,
Although You cannot hear.

But, though kind Time may many joys renew,
There is one greatest joy I shall not know
Again, because my heart for loss of You
Was broken, long ago.



Vera Brittain



Vera Brittain was born in Staffordshire. Her family moved frequently during her childhood and her brother Edward was her closest friend. Through her brother she met his friend Roland Leighton and they began a relationship in 1914. She began studying English Literature at the University of Oxford but delayed her degree to work as a nurse for the Voluntary Aid Detachment – a unit of civilians providing nursing care – for most of the First World War. Meanwhile, Leighton and her brother Edward successfully applied to serve in the British Army. Brittain wrote to Leighton throughout the next year and they became engaged while he was on leave in August 1915. In December 1915, while Brittain was working as a nurse in London, Leighton was killed. Her brother was also killed in 1918, only months before the war ended.

Struggling with these personal tragedies after the war, Vera Brittain immersed herself further into writing. Her first poetry collection, *Verses of a V.A.D.*, had been published in 1918. However, her most enduring work was a memoir, *Testament of Youth*, which was published in 1933. This book, now considered a classic of feminist literature and an important historical testimony, was followed by further memoirs and, after her death, Brittain's diaries. Her writing, even in fiction, was heavily influenced by the events of her life. From the 1930s Brittain became a committed pacifist and she took a stand against national involvement in the Second World War. She died in London in 1970, and her ashes were scattered on her brother Edward's grave in Italy.

May this give us hope in times of suffering and sorrow



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Wherwell School Remembrance

Every year Wherwell School children make their way to the war memorial to pay their respects and remember the many who lost their lives in war. But this year, unfortunately, our current wet weather conditions interfered with the usual plans.



At the point a decision was to be made, it was pouring with rain! So, it was decided that just our oldest children, House Martins and Sparrowhawks, would brave the elements and set off. How changeable our weather is!!! Typically, not much later out came the sun -



so sorry to the children left disappointed!

The children were an absolute delight and full of respect demonstrating our core values that we work so hard on in school. Many thanks to the volunteers who came along to walk the children and help direct the traffic and to

Andrew Kent for leading the service so sensitively. The children left at school also spent time thinking about Remembrance.

We always greatly appreciate the generosity of our parent community in helping out in so many different ways. We were astonished on one Monday when we found how immaculate the grounds were – free from leaves and debris. It must have taken Mr Faye



a long time to clear and it was such a help especially as we don't currently have a caretaker.

Just to show you what some of our children get up to at school, Robins had a visit from Charlotte from 'Perform for Schools.' An exciting morning was had by all our little ones taking part in acting and story telling activities. We explored a forest, became different characters and even met a naughty witch! During our Forest School Sessions, Robins have enjoyed using paper cutters to cut different shapes out of a variety of leaves from our school field.



On the other hand, Puffins had a fantastic time at Milestones Museum looking at old toys and playing some traditional games such as hopscotch and dominoes. The experience really helped to bring their learning alive. The children then brought in their own toys to talk about and we heard some great stories about why these were their favourite toys. To extend their experiences further we explored the book "Lost in the Toy

Museum with great enthusiasm.

Seven boys from House Martins took part in a football tournament at Wallop with other schools in the Test Valley Cluster. The boys showed great determination and resilience and came 4th out of the 6 schools that took part.



Dates for December:

1st Parents and Community Drop in
14th Carol Service Wherwell Church 6 pm

We greatly appreciate your support and help and look forward to sharing our school community with you!
(adminoffice@wherwell.hants.sch.uk)

A big thank you and wishing you all 'A Very Happy Christmas!'

Mandy Ovenden

Feed the Andover Food Bank

Recently I was talking to a mother with a baby in a buggy at the Food Bank. She was quite distressed and explained that she had never been to the Food Bank before but recently the baby had been quite ill and Andover Hospital immediately referred him by ambulance to Winchester Hospital. Thankfully the baby was well enough to be discharged the next day but no transport was available and the mother had to pay £60 to get a taxi back to Andover. This resulted in her not having enough money for food for her family for the rest of the week. Thankfully she was referred to the food bank.

Christmas Appeal

No doubt this year there will be many parents wondering how they can afford to celebrate Christmas. Last year the Food Bank distributed over 1000 children's Christmas gift boxes and 700 food hampers. Donations of suitable children's gifts, food and essential household items as well as financial donations will be very much appreciated. Full details can be found on www.andoverfoodbank.org.uk. Due to demand please ignore the stated deadline.

Financial donations can be texted on **70085 to GIFTBOX plus the amount you wish to donate e.g. GIFTBOX 20 to donate £20**. Cost will be the donation amount plus one standard rate message.

SOME SUGGESTIONS OF FOOD ITEMS TO DONATE FOR CHRISTMAS

Please check the best before dates on all packs of food and sweets

- Tinned ham
- Tinned vegetables
- Pickle, chutney, stuffing, gravy, bread sauce
- Crisps, cheese biscuits
- Christmas pudding, cake, mince pies, custard
- Selection boxes
- Soft drinks, low sugar fruit juice, squash
- Hot chocolate

ESSENTIAL ITEMS ALWAYS NEEDED

- Snacks, sandwich fillings,
- Gravy granules, stock cubes, sauce mixes, ketchup, brown sauce, mixed herbs.
- Tinned soup, fish, meat, vegetables, fruit and custard.

- Long life milk, fruit juice
- Disinfectant, anti-bacterial cleaning items for kitchens, bathrooms and toilets.
- Toilet paper, soap, deodorants, tissues, children and adult tooth brushes and toothpaste.
- Washing up liquid, washing powder or liquid
- Bin bags, scourers, dishcloths, dusters
- Sandwich bags, cling film and tin foil.

Donations can be dropped off in the box outside Chilbolton Village Store and I am very pleased that Jane and Rachel have offered to have a collection box in the Lion's Den which adjoins the White Lion.

Alternatively phone me on and I will be happy to collect donations.

With best wishes for a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year.

Jane Andrews: 07730 412 393 or 860635

email: flyjohnndrews@aol.com

Do you need to see a doctor?

Thursday 11 January 2024 14:00 to 16:00 Chilbolton Village Hall

Please join members of the Stockbridge Surgery Patient Participation Group as we look to help inform on the safe and reliable routes to medical information; what services are available on self-referral without the need to see a GP; and the benefits of the NHS App.

We will provide a short presentation as well as hands on help for any attendees with loading and access the NHS App (internet connections permitting). Please remember to bring your iPad, laptops and smart phones.

Please note there will be no medical staff attending and therefore no medical advice can be provided.

To help us with planning we would appreciate it if you could please click the link below to book your free slot for the event.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/do-you-need-to-see-a-doctor-tickets-756203032627>

Any questions please drop messages into the Eventbrite link and we will get back to you. There is no obligation and do please come along even if you are unable to access Eventbrite.

We look forward to seeing you.



Recipe of the month



Coffee Cardamom Zabaglione With Affogato *Serves 4*

Ingredients:

*8 cardamom pods
8 free range egg yolks
50g golden caster sugar
2 tbsp cold strong espresso coffee
4 tbsp Tia Maria*

Affogato

*4 scoops of good vanilla ice cream
4 shots of hot espresso coffee
dark chocolate shavings*

Method:

1. Remove the shells from the cardamom pods and crush the black seeds in a pestle and mortar.
2. Put the egg yolks in a bowl with sugar and add cardamom seeds.
3. Beat with an electric hand whisk for a few minutes until mixture is pale and creamy.
4. Whisk in the cold coffee and Tia Maria.
5. Pour mixture into a heatproof bowl and set it over a pan of hot water.
6. Place pan on a low heat and whisk the mixture for about 10 mins until it thickens and doubles in volume. (*Don't let the water in the pan boil or zabaglione will curdle*).
7. Take 4 nice glasses, place a scoop of ice cream in each and add a shot of hot espresso.
8. Spoon zabaglione on top and sprinkle with shavings of dark chocolate.
9. Serve at once and enjoy!

Note from editor:

Please send in your recipes to cw.magazine@hotmail.co.uk. If not published in the same month as submitted, they will appear in later issues ☺