

PARISH OAK



JANUARY 2017

Parish Oak Activity Calendar

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th
10am <i>St George's: Communion</i>			<i>The Oak, Smannell: Quiz Night</i>			
8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th
9.30am <i>Christ Church: Matins</i>		3pm <i>Smannell & Enham School: Messy Church</i>	7.15pm <i>Cedar Print Room, Enham: Enham Alamein Parish Council Meeting</i>			
10.30am <i>Christ Church: Family Service</i>						
3pm <i>Alexandra House, Enham: Evening Service</i>						
15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st
10am <i>St George's: Communion</i>			<i>The Oak, Smannell: Quiz Night</i>			2pm and 7.30pm <i>Landale Wilson Hall, Enham: The Wizard of Oz</i>
						<i>Enham Country & Western Club</i>
22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th
10am <i>Christ Church: Communion</i>						
29 th	30 th	31 st				
10.30am <i>St Thomas' Church: Benefice Service</i>						

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The Church

Parish Priest	Rev. Val Gagen	748065
Pastrow team Priest-in-charge	Rev. Alex Randle-Bissell	512161
Pastrow Team Administrator	Jude Appleby	07999 352585
Churchwarden - Smannell	Irene Wilson	359950
Churchwarden - Enham	Emma Kinchenton	0783 7736681
PCC Treasurer	Noel Pope	352968
PCC Secretary	Vacancy	
Gift Aid Secretary	Rod Bowker	357201
Parish Magazine Editor	Peter Calcraft	512262

Local Services

Smannell & Enham (CE) School		323201
Enham Club, Landale Wilson Hall		352098
Enham Parish Council	Chairman: Leslie Francis	335678
Smannell Parish Council	Chairman: Rod Bowker	357201
Test Valley Borough Council		368000
Enham Service Station		352651
Enham Shop and Post Office		335678
Enham Trust		345800
Andover Leisure Centre		323355
The Oak (Public House)		363075

Emergencies

Hospitals Andover Memorial		358811
Royal Hampshire County		01962 863535
NHS 111		111
Neighbourhood Watch	Richard Budge (Smannell)	351129
	Meg Chant (Little London)	355167
	Tim & Leslie (Enham)	335678
Police	999 or 101 or 0845 045 45 45	
RSPCA		08705 555 999
Samaritans		0845 7909 090
Social Services - Andover		387400

Utilities

Southern Water	0330 3030368
Southern Electric - Emergencies	0800 0727282
British Gas - Emergencies	0800 111 999

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EDITORIAL

Here comes 2017!

It will be no surprise that this year will be full of surprises! The year will be full of unknowns as our government unravels the full meaning of Brexit during the negotiations with their EU counterparts. There will undoubtedly be new trading and immigration regulations that will affect all of us for the future.

Now an environment of change can be unsettling, but some people actually thrive in such a state of uncertainty. It can be a chance to rethink the way we do things and indeed the way we live. Why do things because we always have in the past if there might actually be a better way of doing them in the future?

My 37-year-old daughter had never run a mile in her life up to last summer, but then unexpectedly received a present from her husband of one of these watches that times your running and actually encourages you to better your last performance. Four months later a miracle has happened in our larger family. Now we have a slimmer, fitter daughter who prides herself on her ability to outrun her 2 brothers and her teenage children and who thinks nothing now of running up to 10 kilometres four or five times a week! Not only has she seen a major change in her own lifestyle, but her success has led to major changes for the two other sibling families and for her husband also. This weekend we had a family Christmas get-together and remarkably the conversation was full of running half marathons and bike rides from London to Brighton and running for charitable causes. Such a remarkable change not just in one person but now in 3 families spread across the UK.

So what does 2017 have in store for you and me? The only thing I can safely predict is that all our lives are in for considerable changes as we go through the year.

Surely it would be better if we don't let these changes unsettle us, but that we grasp the opportunity to move forward positively into the year ahead. Fear of the future can lead to further concern and ultimately to chaos. A positive outlook on the other hand, can bring about change that makes a real difference not only to our own lives, but to others that live beside us in the community.

So here's to change! May it be a positive force in all of our lives.

Peter Calcraft



CHURCH IN SMANNEL & ENHAM



Ramblings from the Rectory ...

January is the month of new starts and new beginnings.

Perhaps now is the time to take up that project you have always thought about, whether it is joining an art class and learning to paint, or starting a regular membership at a gym.

You could even take up a craft and join our craft group once a month on a Wednesday afternoon.

Or you could join our monthly house group which is on a Thursday afternoon. We are looking at different types of praying and in November we talked about praying with the labyrinth. In October we explored sensing prayer, and in December we enjoyed a Christmas social together.

Let me know if you are interested in any of these.

But I wonder, do we all make New Year resolutions? And if we do, how long do they last?

Perhaps our New Year resolutions could be something that it might be a little easier to achieve, like trying to be kinder to each other perhaps. If we all tried to be a little kinder to each other, the world might truly be a happier place.

There is something John Wesley once said which I would like to share with you.

'Do all the good you can.
By all the means you can.
In all the ways you can.
In all the places you can.
At all the times you can.

To all the people you can.
As long as ever you can.'

So perhaps now is the time to help with a donation to the Andover Foodbank with either saucepans, frying pans, tin openers, all-purpose cleaner, laundry washing powder or liquid, or rice ... or to volunteer at the local Christian bookshop, the Vine, one afternoon a week?

Or you could hunt out all your unwanted hats, scarves, gloves and socks for the Street Pastors to give to the homeless, and take them to the Methodist church on a Thursday or Saturday morning.

Or you could donate to keep open a facility for the homeless at the Bridge during the very cold weather by writing a cheque to 'The Valley Church' who are running this venture.

There are so many things going on locally where your help could be valuable, but do ask me if you would like some more ideas. Perhaps 2017 could be the year when we each of us try to take up something new that will do good to others?

Now there's a challenge ... let me know how you get on!

With love and blessings and every good wish for the New Year, God bless,

Val

Rev. Val Gagen
01264 748065

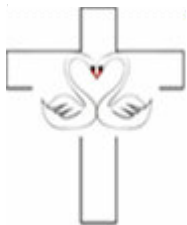
PARISH REGISTER

Funeral

Marjorie June Todd on Wednesday 23rd November 2016. Funeral and interment at Christ Church, Smannell.

I shall not forget you.

Look, I have engraved you on the palm of my hands (Isaiah 49 v15-16)



To love, to learn, to live ... to leave a legacy

SMANNELL & ENHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Every year we seem to arrive at Christmas at a great pace and wonder, as the number of rehearsals and events grow, how on earth we're going to fit it all in! And yet by the time you read this in January another school Christmas season will have passed.

Highlights, as ever, include our productions. I'm sure you can't resist the aah factor of our youngest children in Robins and Puffins who performed the 'Wriggly Nativity' this year.

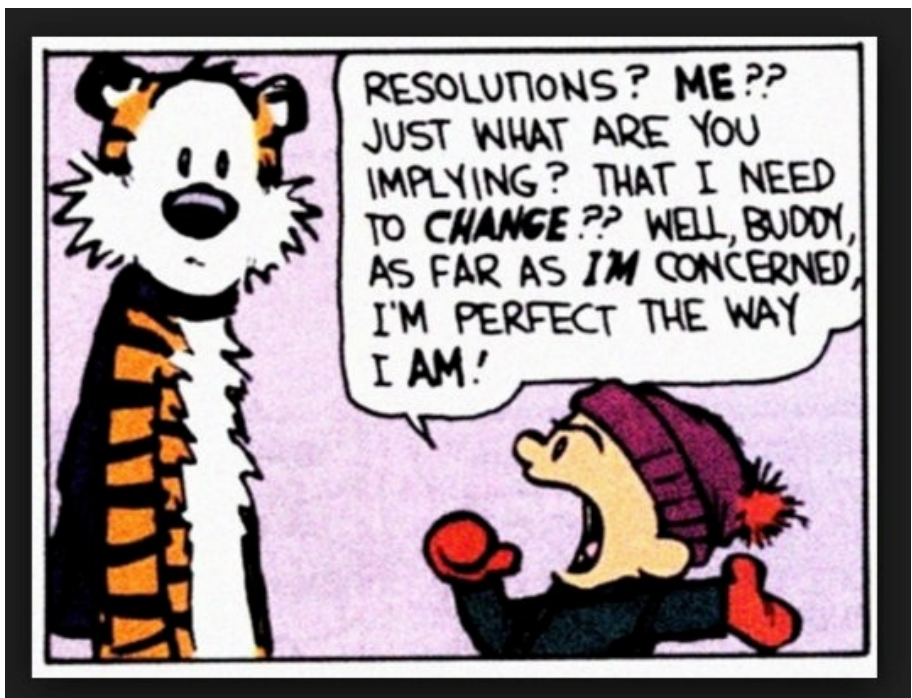


Our older children in Kingfishers and Swallows class created a 'Christmas Cracker' of entertainment. Just like a real cracker it was designed to bring a bit of brightness and magic to the dark winter days. It had an international flavour with a traditional Swedish story, recollection of World War 1 trenches with Silent Night in German featuring soloists, as well as beautiful part-singing in Italian.

We may well have bumped into each other in the evening at either Little London or Enham. We really enjoy joining in with these events and 'helping' the Christmas lights being switched on.

Of course Christmas isn't just about the entertainment, we are very aware of the importance of the real reason for Christmas. Our school worship features a set of five appropriately coloured advent candles that we enjoy lighting. A special part of our year is our Christmas Carol concert at Christ Church in which we focus on and reflect on the Christmas story. A new addition to us this year has been the growing Messy Church which is proving to be a popular addition to the school calendar.

Peter Shaw
Head Teacher



ENHAM ALAMEIN SHOP and POST OFFICE

Happy New Year wishes to all our customers.

We are open every day until 9pm over the festive season except for Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Thank you to everyone for your support and we hope to see you in 2017.

Kind regards

Leslie & Tim

ENHAM ALAMEIN PARISH COUNCIL

Can we wish everyone a happy New Year and just to bring a personal wish that everyone in the village would please think about getting involved in the community where you live.

Our next Parish Council meeting will be at 7.15pm on Wednesday 11th January 2017 at the Cedar Print Room in Enham.

Leslie Francis

Chair, Enham Alamein Parish Council

Andover Community Theatre present

THE
WIZARD
OF
OZ

*Based on the stories of L. Frank Baum and the music of
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Landale Wilson Hall

Saturday 21st January

2pm Shorter Matinee and 7.30pm Evening Performance

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Heath Gunn Interim CEO

01264 345800

Hello everyone,

As we prepare for the New Year, a time for reflection and revaluation, I'd like to let you know about a couple of things happening here at Enham Trust.

In February, we're launching our second Make a Will campaign – giving you the opportunity to create a Will, or update your existing Will, for a small donation to the Trust. If you'd like some more information, please give us a call or visit: www.enhamtrust.org.uk/makeawill

I'd like also to let you know about the ongoing work we do here at the Trust; supporting thousands of disabled people across the country to have greater independence, choice, and control.

At Enham Trust, everything we do here is driven by our overarching ethos; 'the Power of Yes', something we live and will continue to inform our work far into the future, as we expand and refine our services to ensure we can support more and more people in their journey to greater social and economic independence.

For those of you who don't know what 'the Power of Yes' means to us, it's about enabling our disabled customers to have choice and control over daily decisions that directly affect them; providing each and every individual with the tools, skills, and support they need to say 'yes!' to every opportunity they're faced with.

This is the starting point of our interaction with customers, and is of course different for everyone we support. It may be that someone wants to get into sustained employment and would like work experience in a specific field, or that they would like to gain the daily living skills they need to live more independently at home.

Throughout our rich history, spanning almost 100 years, we are proud to have supported over 250,000 disabled people and this is something of which we are immensely proud.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity, on behalf of everyone here at Enham Trust, to wish you all a very happy New Year.

More information can be found on our website: www.enhamtrust.org.uk

Best wishes,

Heath Gunn, Interim CEO

GREAT FOOTSTEPS AND FOOTPRINTS

"We all do think of doing something in life; be it significant or not, do something positive. If you pursue great footsteps, you leave great footprints". This is a quote taken from the book 'Distinctive Footprints of Life: Where are You Headed To?' by the author and philosopher Ernest Yeboah.



Well, Liz Hall is someone who epitomises the phrase "A Truly Remarkable Woman" and she has lived in our community for nearly 50 years. Liz has certainly left a great footprint in many ways through her life and we will explore for the next 2 issues of the Parish Oak her contributions in the development of the charity Mencap and the work of Mencap with learning disabilities here in Andover: the changes she has helped to bring across the UK in the way that we care for those with mental health difficulties. Finally we will describe her love for cricket and her care for the local community here in Smannell and Enham.

Liz Hall was born in Hove in Sussex on March 13th in 1926. Still at a young age Liz moved with her family to live in Ascot in Berkshire.

Her father, Adrian Fossbroke-Briggs, was a soldier in the first World War and won the Military Cross when he was only 17 or 18. He was promoted to the level of Major in the Royal Horse Artillery, but before the end of the War he was wounded and left his military career with a permanent injury. He went on to work for the government in London and was given the task of forming the Racehorse Betting Control Board which was created in 1928 and later became known as the Tote. This was the first legalised form of gambling at horse races.

Major Briggs died a hero in 1935, when he shepherded passengers from a crashed aeroplane to safety. He had just returned to the plane to check that everyone was out when the plane burst aflame with a mighty explosion, killing instantly both him and a colleague.

The aircraft was taking a group of wealthy businessmen to view the King's inspection of the Fleet at Portsmouth. The tragedy was later proved to be caused by the actions of an intoxicated pilot.

Although there was initially generous support from several of the wealthy survivors of the plane crash, Liz's mother was left to raise the 3 daughters with very little long-term income.

The family were staunch worshippers with the Church of England, but Mrs Briggs managed to get Liz a place at the Catholic School, St Mary's, in Ascot. Liz was the only non-Catholic pupil at the school, but she thrived at her first school experience!

It had always been her father's wish to see the girls educated at the Royal School in Bath. This was a military girls' school and each year 5 places were awarded to girls whose military fathers had been killed and could get sponsorship from charitable sources.

Liz's mother wrote numerous letters to the Ladies of England and Liz was eventually invited to be interviewed by a panel of the society high and mighty in London. As Liz recalls "I and my sister were paid for by the Ladies of England. We had to walk into an enormous room in the middle of London with a row of ladies all sitting with their backs to the windows, so we couldn't see their faces properly. We had to walk in with my mother and face their questions. All three of us were sponsored to go to Bath. My mother had no money at all."

When World War II began, the pupils of the Royal School were evacuated to Lord Bath's magnificent home at Longleat, as the school in Bath was taken over by the government, and the Admiralty's Hydrographic Department was installed at the Lansdown premises.

Liz remained at the school, in its new setting of Longleat, until the summer of 1944 when she was accepted to study for a degree in Social Work at the Liverpool University. It wasn't until 1946 when Liz finally went to Liverpool however, as first she worked in Ascot and then in London to earn money to fund her university course and her stay in digs at Liverpool.

Liverpool had been ravaged by the bombing of the war and the streets and people were in desperate straits during her stay in the city. Liz still has vivid memories of the houses she visited during the practical part of her Social Work course; memories of the children dressed in rags, starving for lack of food and covered in fleas.

Train trips back to Ascot were in carriages full of soldiers moving out to the war front in France as the war came to an end, but still the trains ground to a halt as there were bombing attacks overhead and the trains were hopelessly late in reaching their destination.

Liz had left home to go to Bath as a young child – now she was returning to Ascot as an adult, but it was to a different world devastated by war and to a community still bereft of men ... men who would never return from the fields of Europe.

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF A COUNTRY VICAR

When I was at theological college, one of the tutors asked me to read a book called, 'The Life and Work of a Priest' by John Pritchard. It is a good read, but should perhaps be called 'The Life and Nervous Breakdown of a Priest' as the role of a vicar, especially a rural one is not for the faint-hearted. I was asked to give you a flavour of a typical week as your Priest-in-Charge so here we go..!



Rev. Alexander Randle-Bissell

Monday

I always start my mornings in prayer, either I follow the Anglican lectionary or I do an Ignatian meditation.

After prayer, I'm out visiting parishioners all day and well into the evening. This can be in a variety of contexts such as at home, in care homes, at one of the hospitals in the area and often for many different reasons; illness, loneliness, bereavement, even conflict resolution between families. With such a wide-ranging benefice encompassing what will eventually be eleven churches, there are always overwhelming pastoral needs, and it is an enormous privilege to be able to journey with people in very challenging circumstances.

Tuesday

I supervise Val, your parish priest's work in Smannell and Enham and we meet weekly for Bible study, prayer and to discuss parish matters. Afterwards, I am preparing to give a speech at a debate on Saturday so have driven to Sarum College in Salisbury to use their library. I then have a funeral in Basingstoke which are always very emotionally draining times. Conducting a funeral is a very special responsibility, as there is always a need to commend that person to God's care and to celebrate their life. Sometimes, I have been with people towards the end of their lives, or have known them well, so there is often a very real emotional attachment, but there is also a need to be professional and allow others to have space and time to grieve.

Wednesday

After some imaginative preparation, I go to a number of nursery and primary schools to do a collective worship (assembly). I am an active governor at Hatherden school so spend extra time there developing links with the church – at the moment we are rehearsing for our crib service on Christmas Eve, two performances of a play I have written called 'Strictly Come X-Factor!' Having been a deputy head of a large secondary school this presents me with an enormous challenge ... how on earth do you keep a large number of 2 to 11-year-olds engaged for 20 minutes each week? Plenty of fun and games mixed with lively songs and a look at how it all relates to a Bible passage works ... mostly!

Thursday

Time today preparing my sermons for the next week. I like to spend time over at least four days reflecting and praying about the Bible passages and what message I have discerned we as a congregation need to hear. I have been preaching for about seven years now and still think of myself as just a beginner.

PCC meeting in the evening, one of six I will chair or attend, sometimes two on one night! My days and evenings are often taken up with meetings of various kinds of groups; treasurers, pastoral care, home communion, church wardens, service leaders, baptism and confirmation, wedding and funeral visits, etc., and I rarely get home before 9.30pm.

Friday

A day off spent with family, my wife Bev and two children Jacob and Brontë, our lab Noah and cat Jessie.

Saturday

Speaking at an environmental conference. I serve on the Diocesan Environmental Group and often speak at various environmental events. Then I am off to chair a meeting of our strategy group. This year has been spent in lots of meetings, consulting with lots of people and beginning to build a sustainable infra-structure across what will be one of the largest benefices in the diocese. Please see the pastoral letter I have written, available at any of our churches, to see the exciting plans we have for the next few years!

Then I am dashing back to conduct a wedding – we are lucky to have such special churches and we have conducted over 35 weddings and blessings during 2016!

Sunday

After a Sunday service, there will be baptisms (an enormous amount throughout 2016, well over 60) and then more pastoral visits with often a service to attend or lead in the evening, or just planning for the next week to start again!

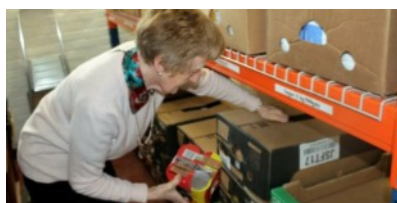
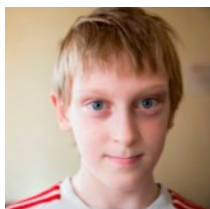
I hope this has given you just a flavour of a typical week. However, I would relish the opportunity to meet with you, so please do get in touch and we can meet over a cup of tea! (01264 512161)

Blessings

Alex

Note from the Editor: We plan to bring a regular "Week in the Life..." article during 2017. My thanks to Alex for starting the year off for the magazine!

HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS



We want to make sure that no one in our local community has to go hungry, but we need your help to make this happen. Your gift of financial support, time, business partnership and food can make a real difference.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE CHRISTMAS.

This is the time of year when thieves are at their busiest! Make sure your Christmas is not spoilt by taking extra care.

Do not leave presents under the Christmas tree where they can be seen from a window.

If you go out of the house leave some lights, and perhaps the radio, on and ensure that all windows and doors are locked.

Do not open your door to strangers, keep the door on the safety chain.

When shopping:

Make sure your handbag is closed and carry it close to your side.

Never leave a bag unattended in a trolley even for a few seconds.

Keep wallets in an inside pocket.

When entering your PIN number at a cash point make sure that NO ONE can see it.

Never disclose your PIN to ANYONE including the bank and the police.

Do not leave purchases and presents in your vehicle. Make sure they are not on display by storing them in the boot and make sure the car is left locked.

Try not to carry large amounts of cash, pay instead by Debit Card.

Have a Happy Christmas

Richard Budge
Neighbourhood Co-ordinator

Parish Oak Advertising Rates

The Parish Oak is a monthly magazine that has an excellent avid readership and covers all households in Smannell, Little London, Enham Alamein, Finkley and Upper Enham.

Full page (12 issues per year) £ 140

Half page £ 90

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**Submission Deadline
for the January Parish Oak issue:**

Friday 20th January, 2017

Contact: editor@parishoak.co.uk/Tel: 01264 512262

Notices

Thank You

A great thank you to all those who have decorated our churches for Christmas.

Benefice Service

On the 29th January there will be a special United Benefice Service at St Thomas' Church, Charlton at 10.30am, to introduce a theme of Prayer in the Team for 2017. This will replace all normal services in the Pastrow team held on this particular day.

Cake Stand

£130 was raised for the churches in Smannell and Enham through the sale of cakes on the village green at Enham on the 9th December.

Valentine's Lunch

On Saturday 11th February 2017 at 12 o'clock there will be a Valentine's Lunch with a twist at Jubilee House to raise funds for the parish churches. The price will be £15 per person. Ladies, please wear something red.

Please contact Pete Bowker on 357201.

HOSPICE COFFEE MORNING

I have today received the following from Sarah Redhead:

"I was delighted to receive the donation of £365.30 from your event. You must be very pleased to have raised over £360 and I am sure you will also be pleased to hear that our takings that morning amounted to £338.75, making a grand total of £704.05 ... My records only go back to 2002 but from those I can see that you have raised in excess of £5,500 towards Hospice Funds which is a really significant and valuable contribution to our charity."

This was my last Coffee Morning - is there a reader who would care to take on the responsibility? The village has been closely associated with fundraising for the Hospice since before it was built and it is a shame if that connection comes to an end. If anyone would like to 'pick up the torch' I would be grateful if they would contact me on 01264 357487.

My thanks to you all - for contributing in so many ways over the years.

Margaret Smith

SERVICES IN SMANNELL WITH ENHAM ALAMEIN PARISH *JANUARY 2017*

Sunday 1st January ***CIRCUMCISION of JESUS***
10.00am *St George's, Enham* *Holy Communion*

Sunday 8th January ***BAPTISM of CHRIST***
9.30am *Christ Church, Smannell* *Matins*
10.30am *Christ Church, Smannell* *Family Service*
3.00pm *Alexandra House, Enham* *Evening Service*

Sunday 15th January ***EPIPHANY 2***
10.00am *St George's, Enham* *Holy Communion*

Sunday 22nd January ***EPIPHANY 3***
10.00am *Christ Church, Smannell* *Holy Communion*

Sunday 29th January ***EPIPHANY 4***
10.30am *St Thomas' Church, Charlton* *Benefice Service*

Sunday 5th February ***FOURTH before LENT***
10.00am *St George's, Enham* *Holy Communion*

Enquiries for baptisms and wedding to the Priest in Charge, Rev. Val Gagen, at vestry hour at Charlton Church on Wednesdays from 5.30-6.30pm.

Note that the last vestry hour will be on the 18th January.

After that date, enquiries for baptisms and weddings should be made in the first instance to Jude (the Benefice Administrator) on 07999 352585 [Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am to 1pm.

Enquiries for funerals and anything else, please ring Val on 01264 748065.

Andover Film Club

for moving pictures

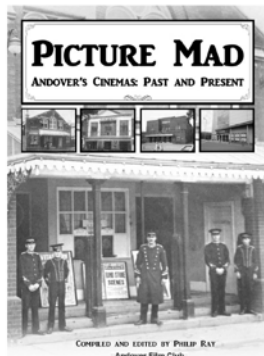
Do you enjoy great films and live near Andover? We show on the 2nd Monday of the month and in the comfort of the local ODEON cinema.

Recently we've screened *Room*, *Grandma*, *Taxi Tehran*, *Carol*, *Gemma Boverly* and *Au revoir les enfants*

Non-members welcome. Admission £6.50

Find out more from:

www.andoverfilmclub.org info@andoverfilmclub.org



Out now: PICTURE MAD, our book on the history of Andover's cinemas. Available to buy at Andover Museum or amazon.co.uk. The Savoy, the Rex, the Odeon and more.

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IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT ME IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

LETTER: **20 ALAMEIN ROAD, ENHAM ALAMEIN SP11 6HR**

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How to contact your Member of Parliament



Kit Malthouse



kit.malthouse.mp@parliament.uk



01264 401401



Or write to me at my Constituency

Office:

2 Church Close, Andover, SP10 1DP

I hold regular surgeries for all constituents in North West Hampshire

Your Local Test Valley Borough Councillors

If you have any ideas, issues, problems or concerns that you wish to raise, then please feel free to contact us, using the details below.

Alex, Phil & Tracey



Cllr Alex Brook

cllrabrook@testvalley.org.uk

07801 936474



Cllr Phil North

cllrpnorth@testvalley.org.uk

07732 423023

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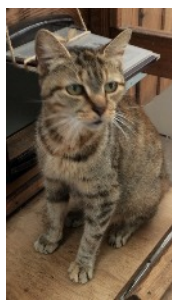
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Fund-raising & volunteers 0773-242196 or
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We still have a number of kittens waiting for homes and as the evenings get lighter, the 2017 kittens will begin to appear. We cannot stress enough how important it is to get cats neutered and micro-chipped and avoid sad stories like the one of Betsy below. If you need financial help with neutering please contact us on the 0345 number.

Thank you for all the donations of food that we receive via our bin at Pets at Home.



We are unable to do much fundraising as we have no one to organize it. If you think you could help please contact us. It is a job that requires driving and hands-on involvement and mostly takes place on Saturdays.

Betsy is a young stray who came into care heavily pregnant. Three of her six kittens sadly died and the others have been re-homed but Betsy is still waiting. She is very friendly but as we don't know her background she would be best placed as an only cat. Olivia and her sister Jess are nine months old. They are a little timid but very friendly and would like to find a home together. Here is Olivia in her pen enjoying an early Christmas but she would prefer to be in a forever home.



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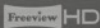
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