

May & June 2020



BISMONROPTIS

BISHOP'S SUTTON MONKWOOD ROPLEY WEST TISTED

THE VILLAGE LINK

Off-Line Edition

DIRECTORY

Priest-in-Charge	Rev. Clare Welham; Ropley Vicarage, Lyeway Lane, Ropley	773075
Bishops' Sutton		
Churchwarden	Joyce Lovering, Liderhill, Soames Lane, Ropley	773265
Churchwarden	Angela White, Whitehill Lodge, Appledown Lane, Bishop's Sutton	736483
Treasurer	Joyce Lovering, Liderhill, Soames Lane, Ropley	773265
Ropley		
Churchwarden	Norma Day; Tramonto, Lyeway Lane, Ropley	772267
Churchwarden	Sarah Earthy; Rosemullion, The Dene, Ropley	772450
Treasurer	Ken Ingle; Ashdown House, Church Street, Ropley	772230
FOSP	Alison Wood; Applewood House, The Dene, Ropley	773603
West Tisted		
Churchwardens	Helen & Ted Wood, 8 Wisteria Drive, Bordon helenc.wood@hotmail.com	01420-56817
Monkwood Mission Church		
Organist	Jean Laidlaw; Glendower, Petersfield Road, Monkwood	773428
EHDC	Charles Louisson; Maddocks Hill House, Ropley, SO24 0JA charles.louisson@easthants.gov.uk	07563-649416
Hants C.C.	Russell Oppenheimer; Mallards Mere, 15 Russell Way, Petersfield GU31 4LD Russelloppenheimer@hants.gov.uk	01730-624310 Or 07984-692367
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Rop Parish Clerk	Becky French; clerk@ropleyipc.org	01962-777427
B.S. Parish Clerk	Kenrick Fell; Southcote, Warnford Road, Corhampton SO32 3ND kenrickf3@gmail.com	
West Tisted	Parish Council Chairman: Mike Bottrill, Pond Cottage, West Tisted MikeBottrill@john-lewis.com	01730-828089
Local Police	To report a crime either dial 999 or 101 or report online on Hampshire Police web site	
Neighbourhood Watch Monkwood	Jeanne Biddle	01962-772497
Doctors		
Watercress Surgery	Mansfield Park, Lymington Bottom Rd, Medstead GU34 5EW	01420-562922
Boundaries Surgery	17 Winchester Rd, Four Marks GU34 5HG	01420-562153
Out-of-Hours/ NHS Direct Minor Injuries Unit	Petersfield Hospital, Swan Street, Petersfield	02382-310595
Community Care	Ropley	07502-953424-
Alresford & District Voluntary Care Gps	Barbara Griffiths	01962-734408
Veterinary	Cedar Group, - Alresford Four Marks & Alton	732535 01420-82163
The Courtyard	Community Village Shop & Post Office	773666

BISMONROPTIS: THE VILLAGE LINK

After very carefully considering all our options, the editors have taken the decision, sadly, to cancel the magazine for this edition at least. This decision has not been taken lightly. However, in view of the current and probable continuing restrictions on movement and non-essential journeys, combined with the necessary cancellation of all events for the time being, we have decided that this is the most reasonable option to take.

The MyRopley website editor has kindly agreed to include contributions that have already been sent to us, (including those from outside Ropley), and if you wish to contribute further items of interest, please email to me –annemilburn@sky.com or to editors@myropley.org.uk

Should you be reading this and know of someone who does not have access to the internet, please notify those people, by phone if possible, that the May/June magazine will not be published. Unless otherwise notified, please assume that ALL events scheduled for April and May have been cancelled. We will use the website to advise about June events nearer the time.

We trust we will be back in business for the July/August issue and look forward to that being a bumper edition!!

Kind regards to all,

Anne Milburn & John Hunt

NEW HELPLINE FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE

A new helpline has been launched for frail and vulnerable residents to call if they need help during the coronavirus pandemic.

East Hampshire District Council has joined forces with Hampshire County Council, voluntary groups and other district and boroughs across the county to set up the Coronavirus Hampshire Helpline.

The line can be used by residents who do not have support from families, friends or their local community, and who need urgent assistance with essential food or household supplies, collection of medication, or who are at risk of loneliness.

The number – **0333 370 4000** – will be manned seven days a week, from 9am-5pm.

It is available only for Hampshire residents. As well as providing advice and information the call centre will co-ordinate requests for practical help, passing them through to the appropriate local authority.

Will Parsons

HBC/EHDC Communications Officer

FORTHCOMING PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Due to Covid-19, the Parish Council has taken the decision to cancel the forthcoming APA, AGM & Ordinary meetings, which were scheduled for Tuesday 5th May.

The Parish Council will review the need for Ordinary Parish Council meetings on a monthly basis and will update the website. If you have any queries or wish to raise anything, please contact the Clerk Becky French on clerk@ropleypc.org or call 01962 777427.

Becky French

Clerk to Ropley Parish Council

WEST TISTED PARISH COUNCIL

As I write this update the Coronavirus lockdown is in full swing, so everything is quieter than normal, despite it being a lovely sunny Easter. Hopefully by the time BisMonRoptis is delivered we will be taking a step back albeit slowly, to normality.

I think we seem to have a wonderful spirit in looking out for our senior residents, who maybe are struggling with food supplies and a little loneliness. Several people have volunteered to assist and I think all are being looked after and have a contact if need be. However, if anybody does need help they are welcome to contact me.

There are also some more formal assistance helplines:-

Hampshire Community Officer 01730 234184.

Frail or Vulnerable helpline 03333 704000 or register yourself www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable or 08000288327.

On planning matters, at the time of writing Merryfield Farm has an application to remove the restriction of 6 months on their tower to 24 months and Woodside Farm has an application for lawful existing use for 20 odd residential caravans and mobile homes on their previous Summer campsite. Also Manor Farm have updated me on their intention to convert and rent out the old cow sheds immediately by the road at the old dairy, to horse stabling, whilst the shed block directly behind maybe will become a horse vets centre.

Finally with May fast approaching I cannot see we will be in a position to hold our Annual Parish Meeting, so this at the moment is on hold. Hopefully we will be able to re-arrange it later in the year, but in the interim if anybody has pressing matters please let me know.

Mike Bottrill

Chairman

12th April

DOING CHURCH DIFFERENTLY!

For the last four Sundays things have been rather different for those who normally attend one of our churches. In line with the Archbishop's recommendations and government guidelines, we've had to lock our beautiful churches and also temporarily stop work on the rebuild at St. Peter's. The church though, is not just a building; it's a group of people and each Sunday we've been meeting virtually at 10am – praying together using a "worship at home" booklet and I've even managed to preach from my kitchen table thanks to the wonders of a simple mobile phone. If you would like to join in all our online worship resources can be found at

<https://www.stpetersropley.org.uk/worship-at-home> which is being updated regularly or if you know someone who would like a paper copy please do let me know on 773075 or by emailing ropleyvicarage@gmail.com

I'm praying for all our villages as always and if there is anyone or anything you would like me to pray for in these unsettling times please do get in touch. I feel hugely blessed to be living in such a beautiful place surrounded by so many supportive and caring people during this strange time. We have a huge list of volunteers ready and willing to help anyone who needs practical or emotional support or maybe just someone to chat to, so please do get in touch if we can help you in any way.

With love and prayers

Clare

Revd Clare Welham

Priest in Charge (part time)

Bishop's Sutton, Ropley and West Tisted

CHURCH IN THE WOODS

The May 10th Songs of Praise service – needless to say is now cancelled.

David Ottley

FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S

Our thoughts go to everyone in the BMRT circulation area during this difficult time, and our thanks to all those people who have been helping relatives, friends and neighbours. Special thanks go to The Courtyard Shop and all their volunteers.

Fundraising events

We have no events planned for April or May. Should the Coronavirus 'lockdown' be lifted by the end of May then we plan to hold the following events:

***Open Garden at Kitwood Cottage, Kitwood Lane, Ropley** (by kind invitation of Maurice and Jill Shakespeare). **Sunday, 14th June from 2 – 5pm.** £5 entry plus tea and cakes and raffle.

***Friday, 17th July – AGM at 6pm and Summer Drinks Party (6.30 – 8pm at Town Street Farm House, Church Street, Ropley** (by kind invitation of Jonathan and Anne Dawson)
(Note: Alternative date for this is Friday, 11th September)

***Sunday, 2nd August from 12.30pm – Lamb Roast Lunch at Maddocks Hill House, Maddocks Hill, Ropley** (by kind invitation of Charles and Martine Louisson)

In the Autumn, we currently have 2 talks planned:

***Saturday, 3rd October at 7pm in Cheriton Church – talk on art by Douglas Skeggs**

***Saturday, 24th October at 7pm in Ropley Parish Hall – Talk by Dr Helen Geake on 'Behind the Scenes at Time Team'**

Art for St Peter's

Thank you to Nicky Cambrook, Sarah Stogdon, Vicky Ramsden and their team of helpers for organising Art for St Peter's on 22nd February, and to all the artists who generously donated their artwork. It was a fantastic evening and over £8,500 was raised for the Church Appeal.

How to Join The Friends

It's very easy. Contact Ken Ingle (01962 772230) or Alison Wood (01962 773603) for more details. A minimum donation of £10 is all that is required.

St Peter's Aprons

A great present for cooks and gardeners alike. Dark green with the Raise St Peter's logo. £12.50 each or £20 for two. You can buy them at The Courtyard Shop or from Jules Flory (01962 772169).

Raise St Peter's little ways you can help

Sign up to easyfundraising and generate donations every time you shop online from over 3,000 retailers. Search for Raise St Peter's on [easyfundraising.co.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.co.uk) and remember to activate your donation every time you shop.

Leftover currency: together we have already raised over £1,700 with this initiative – thank you! Donations of current or obsolete notes and coins are still being taken at The Courtyard Shop or you can give them direct to Georgie Nicholl (e-mail ecwhart@yahoo.co.uk).

Alison Wood

ROPLEY SOCIETY UPDATE

Village Spring Clean Thank You

Much of the village clean up was completed this year before the Covid 19 restrictions were put in place with about 30-40 villagers participating over 6 neighbourhoods each with a coordinator. We thank them all for their collecting efforts. There was a wide variety in the amount of rubbish found from 21 full bin liner sacks in the A31 area to one sack in the cleanest area. The centre of the village seems to be getting cleaner though there still plenty of beer cans discarded particularly around the tourist area near the railway.

Society's Annual Photographic Competition reminder

Calling all amateur local photographers, despite the Covid 19 lockdown as you are out in the fresh air for you daily exercise there are some beautiful scenes of Spring all about us. We still hope to produce a calendar for next year so please remember to take your camera with you when you are out and about and think about the pictures you would like to submit for the 2021 village calendar.

Photographs can be from anywhere within the BisMonRopTis area and the competition is open to anyone who normally receives BisMonRopTis.

Dates for your diaries

The Society has postponed its AGM from 2nd April and now hopes to hold it on Thursday 15th October – current restrictions permitting.

All Ropley Society meetings are open to all so please come along and bring your friends and neighbours.

Visit our website www.ropleysociety.org for more details on all our social events and updates on other items of interest.

Carole Oldham

YOUR COMMUNITY SHOP COMES INTO ITS OWN!

This is being written in time for the BMRT copy date of 12th April, but at the rate at which things have been changing over the last few weeks, by the time this is printed and distributed, no doubt things will have changed yet again.

With the need for so many of our over 70's volunteers to self-isolate (truth will out in Ropley!!) either for their own sake or for the sake of another member of their household, our usual numbers were severely depleted. Despite all the dire warnings and advice to close the shop for health reasons, the Committee took the decision (via a whirlwind of emails) to try to keep open as long as possible – after all, surely this is just when a village needs its community shop, run by the village for the village. It wasn't long before lots of the young and not so young from the village kindly offered their help and were soon put to work confronted with the terrors of the till, shelf-stacking, cleaning, record keeping, unpacking deliveries, stock control, freezer-checking etc. etc. Thanks to all our brilliant volunteers, we managed to cope with the initial sudden surge of buying – we even had loo rolls and pasta on our shelves – unobtainable for miles around! New customers appeared from nowhere.

As more stringent health regulations have come into force, we have adapted accordingly. Our noble cleaning fairies come in first thing every day before the shop opens to disinfect everything, disposable gloves are now worn, the 2 metre social distancing has been introduced, one customer in/one customer out has been enforced, customers happily chat and dutifully queue in the courtyard, stocks have had to be limited, new suppliers have been sourced. As a temporary measure we've now reduced our shop and post office opening hours to mornings only, so that we can offer an order and delivery service in the afternoon and replenish the shelves. And yes, at the time of writing, *we still have loo rolls, eggs, milk, bread, wine, meat, fresh fruit and vegetables in stock!*

This has indeed been a steep learning curve for us all - fully justifying that extra glass of wine in the evening after a long day in the shop, we maintain! None of this could have happened without the enormous amount of help from all our volunteers, working as a team together and with the indomitable Vonnie in charge, filling so many different roles, we lose count.

A big THANK YOU to all our volunteers, behind the counter, behind the scenes and to our loyal customers. With your help and custom, we hope to be able to keep both the shop and the post office open for as long as we are needed.

You can visit us at

ropleycourtyardshop.com

You can like us on Facebook

[Ropley Courtyard Shop](#)

You can telephone us on

01962 773666 (post office 773190)

You can email us at

the-courtyard@btconnect.com

You can reach us through

MyRopley.org.uk

Hilary Lloyd

COURTYARD OPENING TIMES

Courtyard Opening Times

Shop (01962-773666)

Monday – Sat 'day incl. 8.30am-1pm

Sunday 9am – 12 noon

Friday 8th May and Monday 25th May

8.30 am – 1 pm

Subject to change nearer the time

Post Office (01962-773190)

Monday – Friday incl. 9am-1pm

Closed Saturday & Sunday

Closed

N.B. These hours are a temporary measure and we hope to revert to our normal hours asap.

The Courtyard, Church Street, Ropley SO24 0DS

the-courtyard@btconnect.com

Hilary Lloyd

TISTED TALES

The last time we wrote about remaining positive in uncertain times we were referring to the weather and the effects of Brexit. Well, what a difference a few weeks make. The sun has been out long enough to get on the fields to put some much needed fertiliser on the crops that have suffered so much over the extremely wet winter months. We have also been able to get our spring crops in most of the fields so now we just need to have the weather on our side to give these crops a chance. However, with recent events around the world, even on the farm we have felt the implications of the coronavirus, but we must remain positive and above all we must remain safe.

The first few weeks of the lockdown period saw many people drive into the countryside to go for walks rather than staying local as advised by the Government. People that had never been to the area before were parking their cars quite inconsiderately sometimes in gateways obviously not realising that farming cannot stop during this time.

The estate has many farm tracks that are not open to the public. These tracks are private property and can be dangerous places when farm machinery travels along them. In recent weeks we have seen many people walking along these tracks and where we can we have redirected them to the public paths. We just do not want anybody hurt.

Deliveries of basics such as fuel and other farm essentials have all be affected by the lockdown but we are glad that they have continued up to now and we are able to operate the farm as near normal as possible.

To see how the residents in the village have been supporting each other is lovely. Just one email from us to all our tenants to inform them of changes we needed to make with regards to how we would be responding to any maintenance or repairs of the properties triggered such a lovely response with offers of help to pick up supplies or look after animals.

We decided to put together a small newsletter to inform the Estate's tenants of all of these offers. From a resident being able to supply eco-friendly household products, one of the farm workers arranging deliveries from a local brewery to the residents whose business of selling cheese now being able to supply meat, vegetables as well as their cheeses to those who cannot leave their properties, it has been amazing to see how this small community has been able to help each other.

Then the unfortunate incident where a resident's car burnt out on the driveway showed this community spirit once again, with more offers of transport and help and all when everyone is having to be extra careful due to the fear of catching and spreading the virus.

Let's hope the fight against the coronavirus is soon won. If it is teaching the world anything at all then it is that we cannot take anything for granted and that we must be grateful for what we have. And above all we need to be ready to support each other in times of need, something that farming communities have done so well for so long now.

Margot Smith, for West Tisted Manor Estate

ROPLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY – MAY AND JUNE 2020

I hope you and your families are all well and will remain that way through this uncertain time. How lucky we are to have our gardens to keep us busy and give us solace.

The last meeting of the Society was way back on 24th February and since then we have had to cancel both Wilf Simcox 'Looking after your Lawn' on 30th March and Stewart Pocock 'The Production and Seduction of Growing Roses' due on 27th April both of which we hope to rebook for 2021. Sadly our Spring Show on 4th April also fell victim to the shutdown.

However we are hoping we might be able to have our Plant Sale in May but run it another way. Details will be sent to members when we know more if and when the current Government restrictions can be slightly lifted.

Sadly I have just heard also that our Summer Party and cream tea scheduled for 29th June at Uppark, South Harting has also been cancelled. This means our next scheduled meeting will be on 27th July when Ray Broughton will be giving us 'Gardener's Question Time' and we will hold our Sweet Pea Competition. Let's hope by then we will be more or less back to normal. The Horticultural Society sends its good wishes to you all, keep safe and well.

Happy Gardening!

Jill Shakespeare

www.ropleyhs.org.uk

ROPLEY HISTORY NETWORK AND ARCHIVE – UPDATE

Facebook Page – We have recently set up a Facebook page to broaden the awareness and appeal of the Network and Archive. You are invited to join the page if you would like to receive current news of the activity of the Network and Archive. The forum's posts will hopefully invite discussion, share information and knowledge. The page will also post material from the archive and promote events.

Find us under our name on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/907273653059061/>

Lottery Heritage Grant Application – The writing of the application is continuing and we hope to put in a bid sometime in early summer. World events have somewhat limited group discussions, but we will endeavour! To remind everyone what we are attempting to achieve –

The RHN&A are a group for people who have an interest in the history of the village of Ropley and the local area. The purpose of the group is to research and archive information and or material covering the history of Ropley and the local area that will be accessible via a shared digital platform. It is intended that we digitise as much of the existing archive as possible and provide a platform for the cataloguing, storage of, and investigation of future digitised records. Funding will enable the creation of a digital community archive and website.

The Website will also provide a platform for future involvement and contributions that will be drawn from a number of local history projects, 6 of which are already running on an informal, self-managed and voluntary basis with individuals from the group meeting occasionally to share and discuss areas of interests and projects of their own and perhaps link up with other individuals that may have a shared interest in a subject of study.

Our list of current and emerging projects is:

Ropley Gravestones: Investigating and documenting the over 1,000 graves both marked and unmarked in the graveyard at St Peters.

Stapley Lane and Parkstone Road: Investigation of the William Carter Homestead development and the new developments in Parkstone Road.

Railway and Canal: Investigating and documenting the history of the development of the railway at Ropley and investigation into the possible site of a canal and its excavations.

History of the medieval centre of the village: concentrating initially on Pond Cottage (traced back to 1620's) the three adjoining cottages at the top of Church Street near the pond (Bell Cottage, Five Bells and 3 Sunnyside). To be followed by investigation of Church Cottages.

Monkwood: Investigation of its farming heritage and development as an agricultural settlement post WWI.

Farming Heritage: Investigation of the evolution of farms and farming in the parish and the surrounding area. Investigation of the 1890's OS maps of the parish has identified that there were 17 different farms in Ropley at that time.

Digitising the existing archive: Once funding has been secured, there will initially be a concerted effort to digitise the existing archive to make available to all on the website. Then to continue to document, conserve and digitise ongoing contributions to the archive including research documented by the project teams. Anyone with experience and/or enthusiasm for this kind of work would be greatly welcomed.

If you would like to get involved in any of the projects listed please send us your details to ropleyhistory@gmail.com and we will put you in touch with project(s)

Caroline Ludgate

Heritage Walks – Latest

Due to social distancing restrictions the invitation to join in a series of walks in and around Ropley had to be postponed. As soon as they have been lifted we will contact all those who have shown interest with further details of the first of these walks

The aim of the walks would be to follow a different circular route once a month exploring aspects of the heritage and natural history of our local area. With a combination of luck and planning we would hope to have people joining us and able to share their knowledge of features of interest on the way.

If you are interested, please contact us on RopleyHistory@gmail.com and we will add your details to our list.

Whether venturing out on your own or thinking of joining this walking group it is worth purchasing a copy of the new Ropley Walks book from the Courtyard shop.

Graham Flatt

SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO

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With so many popular Village activities not taking place due to the very necessary lock down, including this year's VE Day commemorations, the Ropley Fayre Committee would like to give everyone something to look forward to with a 'Community Celebration Weekend'. This would embrace the many regular events that we have all been missing and would take place in September or whenever mass gatherings are permitted. It will be a huge undertaking and we want to involve all aspects of the community so if you would be willing to help in any way please get in touch, we would love to hear from you.

*Norma Day for Ropley Fayre Committee
772267 or email tramonto@hotmail.co.uk*