



Looking to God, Looking to Care, Looking to Grow

About Upper Stour

serving the villages of

Bourton
Kilmington
Stourton
Zeals



March 2023

Parish Contacts

Clergy

Rev Mac MacCormack *Associate Priest*

07470667118 (day off: Friday)

Email: revmac@upperstour.co.uk

CONTACT REV MAC FOR PASTORAL CONCERNS ONLY

Licensed Lay Minister

Mona Tyler 01985 844509

Lay Pastoral Assistants

Caroline Worthington 01747 840266 (*also Lay Worship Leader*)

Barbara Borwell 01747 840141

***Enquiries regarding Baptisms/Christenings, Weddings and Funerals
to the Parish Administrator, Emma Chandarana***

Email: parishoffice@upperstour.co.uk

Parish website www.upperstour.co.uk /Facebook Group Parish of Upper Stour

The day-to-day management of the Parish is the responsibility of the Churchwardens and the PCC. Our Parish Administrator, Emma Chandarana, works part time. Contact her by email: parishoffice@upperstour.co.uk

For urgent matters such as arranging a funeral etc, you could contact your churchwarden in the first instance. Contact details below:

Bourton	Margaret Martin	01747 840433	bookworminbourton@gmail.com
Kilmington	Chris Reeves	01985 844894	c.reeves110@btinternet.com
	Celia Cotton	01985 844613	celiacotton1@outlook.com
Stourton	Jane Parker	01985 844248	jane.homefarm@gmail.com
	Crin Fearon	01747 841400	fearoncrin@hotmail.com
Zeals	Sue Evans	01747 840600	smebad@btinternet.com

About Upper Stour Magazine : Contacts

Editor: Celia Cotton 01985 844613 **Deputy Editor:** Sue Evans 01747 840600

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tel 01985 844613

new email → celiacotton1@outlook.com

All items for the April 2023 issue by noon on Fri 17th March please

The Paradoxical Commandments

This version, credited to Mother Teresa, was found inscribed on the wall in her home for children in Calcutta.

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centred
Forgive them anyway

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives
Be kind anyway

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and
some genuine enemies
Succeed anyway

If you are honest and sincere, people may deceive you
Be honest and sincere anyway

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight
Create anyway

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous
Be happy anyway

The good you do today will often be forgotten
Do good anyway

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough
Give your best anyway

In the final analysis. It is between you and God
It was never between you and them anyway

St George's 100 Club

Results for the
February 2023 draw

1st Drina Taylor

2nd Simon Firbank

Enquiries to
Ruth Burrows
01747 840371

St Martin's Millennium Club

Winners for
January and February

C Blackmore	G Jackson
R Pitts	D O'Malley
M Hart	D Tadd
J Davis	N Maidment

The March draw will take place
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Contact Nigel Blackmore
01747 841110
SDC Lott 842



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News from Stourhead

National Trust

The snowdrops are making way for the daffodils, and across the garden splashes of colour are beginning to emerge from early flowering rhododendron blooms to delicate pelargonium petals. Butterflies have even made an appearance, basking in the warm winter sun. From mid-March, the garden temples will also be looking their seasonal best, adorned with the florals and foliage of spring.

The pelargonium display has now reopened in the Walled Garden. Head to the glass house and take a walk through the arrangement of pelargoniums ordered by date they were first introduced to England.

Stourhead House reopens on Saturday 11 March, including a new archaeology exhibition named *Early Pioneers and Monumental Mysteries*. The exhibition will focus on Sir Richard Colt Hoare and his collection of modern archaeology and notebooks. In the Temple of Flora, we will be celebrating 650 years of the Bristol Cross with a temporary exhibition that tells the story of why it was moved from a busy crossroad in Bristol to the landscape garden at Stourhead and how we care for the oldest structure at Stourhead.

On Saturday 25 March, the Easter trail at Stourhead will begin. Children can enjoy pinning the tail on the bunny, helping buzzy bees find their way back to the hive and swooping like a swallow in lively Easter-themed activities.

The Stourhead Trust10 will begin on Sunday 26 March, and will run on the fourth Sunday of every month until October. This challenging, multi-terrain run takes you through the beautiful surrounds of the wider Stourhead estate, including some public roads. For more information about our upcoming events for March, visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/wiltshire/stourhead/events

Lucy Fenna, Marketing & Communications Officer
lucy.fenna@nationaltrust.org.uk or 01747 842021



Stourton Memorial Hall

Located in the courtyard on the beautiful Stourhead Estate, the hall offers a wonderful, fully equipped venue for your special occasion.

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St George's School, Bourton Governor Vacancies

St George's School, Bourton is looking for two enthusiastic, committed individuals to join our Governing Body. We currently have two vacancies:

Foundation Governor – as a VA Church of England School, Foundation Governors must meet specific requirements around faith to be appointed and more details can be found here:

<https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/schools/schoolmat-governance/>

Authority Governor – can be anyone in the community with the rights skills. Nominated by the school they are appointed by the Local Authority.

The full Governing Body meets six times a year and Governors are also expected to sit on one or two sub committees which meet a similar number of times.

We welcome applications from any member of the community but previous experience as a Governor or Trustee or skills in finance, premises management or project development and management would be of particular interest.

If you would like an informal chat about the role please contact the Chair of Governors Jane Frederick on 07889590255 or via the school office on office@bourton.dorset.sch.uk



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Country Calendar: March 2023

We have got round to March: how quickly the weeks fly by! At last, the days are stretching out, birds are singing, a little spring sunshine gives a much-needed boost to one's spirits and enthusiasm for a good farming year. As we know March can still surprise us with harsh weather - remember the Beast from the East? Well, I have planted my few early potatoes and perhaps I should grow more, after hearing and reading about the future of our potato and fruit industries. Rising energy costs have led some British farmers to decide not to plant potatoes at all this spring. Hard economic decisions have had to be made by these farmers: some are reducing their acreage, and others have decided to abandon growing potatoes entirely. The cost of producing a potato increased by 20%, rising energy costs are up 165%, fertiliser up 40% and workforce costs up 13%. Potatoes need to be stored in cold stores which use a lot of electricity.

The same issues are affecting our fruit growers who are also on a knife edge - so much so that fruit growers are scrapping plans to replant with saplings. Without long-term investment and tree planting, orchards will quickly go into decline. The massive rise in production costs, the unknown end price for the fruit, difficulties of getting labour for picking, energy, haulage, and packaging have all shot up in price. Supermarkets have kept the average amount they pay "almost static". Unfortunately, half of the apples bought during the peak growing season last year came from abroad. Our fruit growers cannot compete with the cheaper production costs of South America, Australia and New Zealand, leaving our British fruit growers fearing for the future of apple and pear growing. As it stands at the moment it is seriously in doubt. It is all very worrying but, if the economics do not add up, no one can continue to produce food at a loss.

These are real issues facing these two particular industries, a stark reality for UK potato and fruit growers. I suspect there will be many more UK producers doing their sums. Especially now, due to the end of payments to farmers as a result of leaving the EU, this is a serious real game changer for England's farmers as Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales will still receive these full payments, funded by the UK government. Payments for England's farmers have been reducing on a phased basis since 2021 and the government has been clear that they will be gone completely by 2028. England's farmers will instead be paid to participate in schemes that benefit nature and the environment, not for food production. This puts England's farmers at a huge financial disadvantage against our Welsh, Scottish, and Northern Irish neighbours.

Historically food prices were much higher. For instance in the 1950s a third of one's income was spent on food, and most of it was seasonal; in 2016 the figure was 10.5%. Over the last three decades, when food was cheap and plentiful, produced from all over the world, we became complacent : no one cared how it was raised or where it came from as long as it was cheap. The cost-of-living crisis is very real and our food security has yet to be addressed. Thérèse Coffey (Environment Secretary) rules out help for farmers and consumers facing higher costs. She told MPs it is 'not the role of government to provide free food' or to intervene in markets. I suspect higher food prices are here to stay, and trade with countries who can produce food cheaper due to cheap labour and questionable practices will be increased, regardless of the carbon footprint in bringing it here! The general feedback on these new rules is that they are not viable and there are dark times ahead. It is a very uncertain future for those of us who farm in England.

Happy Days ...!

Jane Parker



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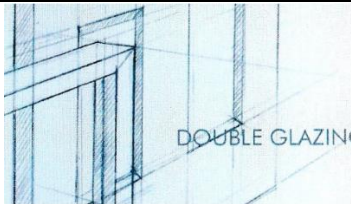
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Historic Slavery

Questions - Church Commissioners investment fund to invest in a better future for communities affected by historic slavery

Questions were asked from the floor about the Church Commissioners £100 million investment fund to improve the lives of communities affected by historic slavery. The Church Commissioners announced the establishment of a £100m fund over the next nine years to help right the wrongs caused by its historic links to transatlantic slavery, through the Queen Anne's bounty, a fund established in 1704. The research into the Church Commissioners links to transatlantic slavery can be read on the Church of England website. (hyperlink <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/church-commissioners-england/who-we-are/church-commissioners-links>)

The £100m is not new money nor is it taken from donations via parish share, but part of the overall fund that the Commissioners already manage for pension and investment purposes to support the mission and ministry of the Church. The £100m will not be given away but invested in schemes which make a positive impact on communities affected by historic slavery. This money was always earmarked for responsible investment. Some of the money will be used for grants and research, but the majority of it will be invested in order to make a profit. It is simply that the criteria for where the Commissioners make investments from this new fund will change – they'll be investing to try to make a positive social impact in communities impacted by historic slavery. Synod members asked for this information to be shared more widely to enable parishes and members of congregations to understand the fund.

This article is a contribution from Malcolm Affleck, the Upper Stour PCC representative on the Deanery Synod

Fancy a New Experience?

Enjoy a weekend in beautiful scenic Normandy. Taste delicious wines, cheeses and typical French fayre. Then return the favour and host one person, a couple or a family to give them a taste of English favourites and show them our amazing villages, vales and stunning scenery. We have members of all ages in Mere, Motcombe, Bourton, Zeals and Gillingham. Why not join us? We organise fun activities throughout the year - skittles, petanque, walks, BBQ, quizzes and other social get togethers. The main event is our traditional Exchange Visit, normally in May. Our French friends are visiting in May this year – would you like to join in and host? The ability to speak French is not an issue! It's fun with or without. Any French you do have will soon be revived! We look forward to hearing from you. Contact our Secretary at Gillingham Town Twinning Association via email: muriel.cliff@hotmail.com.

SERVICES FOR MARCH 2023

Sunday 5th **2nd Sunday in Lent**
10.00 am Family Service with Baptism at St George's Bourton

Sunday 12th **3rd Sunday in Lent**
10.00 am Morning Worship at St Mary's Kilmington

Weds 15th Evensong with Bishop Stephen at St Martin's Zeals
6.00pm (*see page 13 opposite*)

Sunday 19th **Mothering Sunday**
10.00 am Parish Communion at St Peter's Stourton

Sunday 26th **5th Sunday in Lent: Passion Sunday**
10.00 am Parish Communion at St Martin's Zeals

APRIL 2023

Sunday 2nd **Palm Sunday**
10.00 am Parish Communion at St George's Bourton

Weekday Services

Mondays: 9.00 am	Morning Prayer at St George's Bourton
Wednesdays: 4pm	Midweek Service at St Martin's Zeals
Thursdays: 9.00 am	Morning Prayer at St Mary's Kilmington

From the Registers

Funerals

On 2nd February at Yeovil Crematorium: **Caroline Bridget**
On 15th February at St Mary's Kilmington: **Anthony Keith Paul**
On 15th February at St George's Bourton: **Alan David Baylis**
On 22nd February at St Martin's Zeals: **Donald Durrant**

Visit from the Bishop of Salisbury Wednesday 15th March 6pm

The Bishop of Salisbury, The Rt Rev Stephen Lake will take Evensong at St Martin's Zeals on Wednesday 15th March at 6pm. The collection will be in aid of the Sudan and South Sudan Appeal

Bishop Stephen will stay on afterwards in order to meet people. Cheese and wine will be served in the church between 7 and 8pm.

Everyone is welcome to come and meet the Bishop.

Church Electoral Roll

The Electoral roll is only due for revision this year. If you are **NOT** ready on the roll and wish to be included for 2023/2024, forms are available in the churches or from Elizabeth Hames 01985 844971 or elizabeth.hames@hotmail.co.uk or from the Parish Office parishoffice@upperstour.co.uk. The last day to complete a form is Thursday 16th March and the revised roll will be displayed in the churches on Thursday 30th March 2023. If you miss this date, you can always put your name on after the Annual Parish Church Meeting, on Thursday 13th April

Posies for Mothering Sunday

There will be an all age posy-making workshop on **Saturday 18th March** at 10 am at St Peter's Stourton in advance of the Mothering Sunday Service the following day. Everyone is invited, and donations of flowers and foliage will be welcomed. Buckets will be left in St Peter's porch. Refreshments will be served

In memory of Jolyon Waterfield



An amelanchier tree was planted in St Mary's Kilmington churchyard opposite the west door, in memory of Jol Waterfield. He left a legacy to the PCC and the parish decided to plant a tree in his memory in each of our churches and this exercise is now complete.

Jolyon is much missed in the parish.

CORONATION BIG LUNCH

STREET PARTY on ZEALS GREEN

SUNDAY 7th MAY 12.30pm

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Dennis brings Queen's Green Canopy to Stourton

A Japanese maple tree has been planted by the people of Stourton and Gasper at Stourhead as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. The scheme provides grants to local groups to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and this tree joins millions that have been planted up and down the country. The tree was planted by Dennis Chapple, now in his 90s, who has lived in the village for most of his life. Dennis first worked on the estate at age 14 for the Hoare family and then worked as Head Forester for the National Trust from 1951 to when he retired. He has planted thousands of trees across the estate in his lifetime but he said being asked to plant this one on the main drive to Stourhead House was a special privilege.



Stourton with Gasper Parish Council obtained a grant for the tree and worked with the National Trust team to find a prominent position to place it, which is at the start of the main drive to Stourhead House and will provide stunning autumn colour as it matures. A plaque commemorates the planting.

Camouflage Nets for Ukraine



A good number of volunteers from the Upper Stour villages turned up at the Home Guard Club on Sunday 5th February to help make camouflage nets for Ukraine. Much was achieved over the 3 hours from noon, but more work is available. To find times and places please contact Peter Booth whose contact details are:

01985 845379 camnetsukraine@gmail.com
<https://sites.google.com/view/camnets4ukraine>



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News from Parish Councils

Bourton

I am currently starting work on a new Parish Council website. It was agreed at the January meeting that the PC needed a website that was independent and specific to the PC. I will be the administrator but supported by councillors. I am looking forward to creating this new site and being able to reach out to more of the community. More news on this will follow over the next month or so.

We finally have a new bench in-situ which looks very smart, with a plaque in place. Dorset Council's Tony Burden and his Road Safety Team are in the process of considering the results from our submitted Speed Reduction Petition with supporting documents, all as part of an overall consideration of the current speed limit through Bourton.

Progress is being made in connection with the proposed aim of installing pedestrian gates in lieu of existing stiles, to make Bourton's footpaths more accessible to those with mobility issues

At the January meeting councillors discussed the proposed precept request. At that time the inflation rate was 10.5%. If this increase had been applied to the PC's precept the total amount raised would be £22689.76 x 10.5% = £25,072.18. However, in view of the cost-of-living crisis, it was proposed that we should keep bills as low as possible by increasing the precept by just 2.5%: £23,256.99 - this was agreed by all councillors. I have submitted the precept request, and this has been accepted by Dorset Council.

Household Support Fund – this fund re-opens on 9th January 2023 for applications. Low-income households in the Dorset Council area can apply for help with rising costs. Support will be in the form of supermarket vouchers. Citizens Advice will be allocating this fund on DC's behalf and vouchers will be issued to residents who meet the eligibility criteria. Residents to apply online. The webpage will be updated at 9am on 9th January with the application form <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/household-support-fund>. Applicants needing help with completion of their form can telephone Customer Services on 01305 221000 or visit a customer access point (closest to us is Nordon Lodge, Blandford, 58 Salisbury Road, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7LN. Open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10am to 4pm.)

We still have approximately 20 copies of the book "Bourton Village" written by Brian Martin. These cost £5 each and can be obtained by calling Councillor Firbank on 01747-840848 or by emailing the clerk.

Planning applications continue to trickle through and can be viewed at <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning/planning-application-search-and-comment-clerk@bourton-pc.gov.uk> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/639361217139818>

/continued on page 19 ...

Kilmington

We are still awaiting information from Wiltshire Highways in connection with the additional pedestrian signage on order for The Street, data collected from the speed limit assessment on Kilmington Common which took place w/c 23 January and a sketch plan of possible landowners at Norton Ferris in connection with a future realignment of the B3092. We are hopeful there will be news on these items at our next PC meeting which will be held on Monday 20 March.

The Parish Council has undertaken to donate £500 toward King Charles III Coronation celebrations which the Home Guard Club (HGC) are organising. An extra public holiday has been declared for Monday 8 May **but Sunday 7 May** is the day when the village events at the HGC will be taking place. There will be BBQ food, a band in the evening and various events for the children. Full details will be available over the next month or so. The HGC encourages local people to become involved and welcomes volunteers – please contact Cllr Chris Webster if you are interested in helping. *Ruth Burrows, Clerk: parishclerk@kilmingtonwiltshire.org*

Stourton with Gasper

There will be a road closure at Gasper Street from 8 – 11 March. A diversion will be in place. For more information <https://one.network/?tm=132790644>

Surviving Winter Grant - you could be entitled to one off grant to help with towards heating -related cost. See website for details of criteria required

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/wiltshire/our-services/surviving-winter/>

A reminder our community defibrillator is now in situ under the archway to the Spread Eagle courtyard from the car park. The defibrillator is accessible 24/7 and the 'What Three Words' address for its location is: **fish.traffic.unloaded** .

Thank you to all who took part in the Stourton litter pick on Saturday 11 February. Twenty bags of litter were collected.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Wednesday 1 March at 6pm. Members of the public welcome to attend. *Fran Hill: clerk@stourton.org.uk*

Zeals

Our next meeting will be Thursday 30 March at the Village Hall. Please note that our agendas and minutes are available on our website at <https://www.hugofox.com/community/zeals-parish-council-10408/home/> . This can also be found by googling Zeals Parish Council.

Surviving Winter Grant - There is a grant available for people who meet the criteria to help through the winter. You could be entitled to this one off grant to help towards heating-related cost. Please see the website <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/wiltshire/our-services/surviving-winter/> for details of the criteria required to claim this grant.

For anyone with a problem to report to Wiltshire Council, the easiest way is to use the MyWilts App. <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting>.

/continued on page 20

You can report things such as abandoned vehicles, fraud, weather emergencies, fly tipping, dog mess and graffiti. The more people who log issues the more likely they will be addressed.

Please note I only work part time so leave a message on 01747 823699 or email clerk-zealspc@outlook.com.

Fran Hill, Clerk

<https://www.hugofox.com/community/zeals-parish-council-10408/home/>

Stourton Film Nights

We are screening films once a month throughout the winter in Stourton Memorial Hall. The Spread Eagle provides a meal at a very reasonable price, served in the hall before the film - food served at 7.15pm, film starts at 8pm

Our next film is the highly acclaimed "Living" starring Bill Nighy on Thursday 16th March, and then the next on Friday 14th April, film yet to be confirmed.

For more details, joining the mailing list and booking for film and food or just the film please email: stourtonfilm@gmail.com



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Green Fingers

Notes from a Fairweather Gardener : March 2023

As the days grow longer and warmer, we can expect to see a wonderful variety of bulbs springing up in our pots and borders. The snowdrops, which seem to grow in the most unlikely places, are past now, but March is the month for daffodils, grape hyacinths, crocuses and early tulips. Although the year starts in white, by March there is a riot of colour.

This is the month to start preparing for colourful displays later in the year. If you haven't already pruned your roses, this is a good month to do so in order to get the best from your bushes later on. It can be quite daunting to prune a rose bush, but judicious pruning will help to prolong the life of any rose. As with all shrubs, it is a good idea to cut out any dead wood first and then cut away any stems that cross over each other to let some air into the middle of the bush. Keep looking at the shape of the bush as you prune, standing a little distance away so that you can see it properly. Cut to an outward facing bud and angle the cut downwards so that water doesn't collect on it.

March is also the best time to prune dogwoods so that they will produce colourful stems in the autumn and winter. You can cut established bushes quite close to the ground, but new bushes need a couple of years to establish. Dogwoods come in a variety of colours from flame red through bright orange to all shades of yellow. They make a striking addition to the winter garden.

Sadly, spring is the time for some garden pests to wake up, in particular slugs, the enemy of hostas. There are few scientifically proven ways of controlling slugs other than slug pellets or nematodes. If you have a strong stomach you can set natural slug traps such as upturned grapefruit halves, but you will need to check and empty them every evening, which isn't a very pleasant task. You can put down coffee grounds or use a copper collar, but these are not always effective. If all else fails, perhaps hostas are not for you, but there are plenty of plants that the slugs are not so keen on, so don't despair. *Daphne Knott*

Kilmington and Stourton Women's Institute

Kilmington and Stourton WI hold their meeting every fourth Tuesday of the month at Stourton Memorial Hall at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. For more information contact Bernie Isted bernieisted@gmail.com or Jane Parker 01985844248

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 28th March when the Speaker will be John Jameson-Davies, a handwriting expert.



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Bourton Village Hall

LUNCH AT THE HALL – MON 6th MAR

Homemade soups, bread & cheese, cake & coffee, still only £3. Doors open 12:30pm until 2pm. All welcome. Pay cash or contactless on the day.

FILM NIGHT – MRS HARRIS GOES TO PARIS (PG) – WED 8th MAR

In 1950s London, a widowed cleaning lady (Lesley Manville) falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress and decides she must have one. She works, starves and gambles to raise the funds to pursue her dream and embarks on an adventure to Paris. Doors and bar open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start. Tickets £6 from Bourton or Zeals shops or pay cash/contactless on the door.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 3rd April – Lunch at the Hall

Wed 12th April – Film: See How They Run (12A) comedy mystery

HIRE THE HALL

Large hall with raised stage and fully equipped kitchen perfect for parties. £8 per hour for Bourton residents, otherwise £10 per hour. Contact Heather for more information - 07849 673670 or h.j.ransley@outlook.com

Mobile Library Times : March 2023

Mar 9, 23	Zeals	School	10.00-10.40 am
		Zeals Rise	10.45-11.05 am
Mar 9, 23	Kilmington	Home Guard Club	11.25-11.35 am

Dates for your Diary March 2023

Mon 6 th	BVH Lunch, 12.30 BVH	page 24
Weds 8 th	Film Night Mrs Harris goes to Paris, 7pm, BVH	page 24
Weds 15 th	Bourton Gardening Club, 7pm BVH	page 16
Thurs 16 th	Stourton Film Night, 7.15 for 8pm, SMH	page 20
Tues 28 th	S&K WI meeting 7.30pm, SMH	page 22

All Items for the April 2023 issue by Friday 17 March latest please